



ISSUE # 39 –

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This update is designed to provide you with concise, up to date agricultural business information with links to where you can find the details.

Farm Tax and Business Seminars – still time to register!

*Please note the date change to the **Hamilton and Chatham Seminars!***

For Professional Advisors

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) is pleased to present the 2007 Farm Tax and Business Seminar.

This year the topics include the legal and taxation aspects of trusts along with the CAIS and Farm Tax Update. We are again this year offering the seminar as a Webinar, for those interested in attending the seminar via the web.

You can register either by mail, fax or by phone as outlined in the brochure. The registration fee is \$150 per person on or before October 5, 2007 and \$180 per person after October 5, 2007.

If you have any questions about the Farm Tax and Business Seminar please feel free to contact either OMAFRA's Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300 or OMAFRA's Brighton Resource Centre at (613) 475-1630.

Attend the Seminar by Webcast

In addition to being offered in 11 locations across Ontario, this year's seminar will be available at your computer screen by webcast - for those who want to take in the seminar without the travel. The seminar will be webcast on Tuesday, October 16th from the Guelph location. The cost is \$150 (early registration) and includes the proceedings.

Seminar Locations and Dates

Location	Address	Date	Directions
Guelph (Also Webinar)	Holiday Inn 601 Scottsdale Drive	Tuesday, October 16	Guelph
Ingersoll	Elmhurst Inn	Wednesday, October 17	Ingersoll
Hanover	Royal Canadian Legion Br. 130 493 8th Avenue	Thursday, October 18	Hanover
Alliston	Nottawasaga Inn 5 km East on Hwy. 89	Tuesday, October 23	Alliston
Kemptville	W.B. George Centre Kemptville College, University of Guelph	Tuesday, October 23	Kemptville
Stratford - Full	Army Navy Air Force Veterans Hall, 151 Lorne Ave. East	Wednesday, October 24	Stratford

Seminar Locations and Dates cont'd

Belleville	Ramada Inn 11 BayBridge Road	Wednesday, October 24	Belleville
London	Hellenic Community Centre 133 Southdale Rd. West	Thursday, October 25	London
Peterborough	Baker's Hill Banquet Centre 555 Parkhill Rd. East	Thursday, October 25	Peterborough
Hamilton	Michelangelos 1555 Upper Ottawa Street	Wednesday, October 31	Hamilton
Chatham	Country View Golf Club, Oungah 12 km North on Hwy 40	Thursday, November 1	Chatham

Continuing Education Credits
6.0 CAFA Credits Available

Traction: Skills to Grow Workshop

Looking for ways to gain more personal and business success? Traction is for farmers and farm couples who may want to take a deeper look at overall their business and personal strengths, strengthen their business communications, learn how to identify new business opportunities, determine their long term family and business goals, and develop a plan to attain those goals.

The two day Traction: Skills to Grow workshop focuses on helping farm families look at:

- How is your farm doing as a business?
- What do you want out of your business?
- What Blocks Performance?
- How to improve your negotiations skills
- Innovation: Ideas that Work
- Taking Stock: Assessing Your Strengths and Skills
- Improving family communications for business and succession planning decisions

Dates and Locations:

Guelph	November 28-29, 2007
Chatham	December 3-4, 2007
Kemptville	December 6-7, 2007
Belleville	December 10-11, 2007
Hanover	January 7-8, 2008
Exeter	January 10-11, 2008
Ancaster	January 17-18, 2008

Registration Fee:

\$895 per person – includes two day workshop, hot breakfast, lunch and refreshments, program materials

Traction may be particularly useful for farmers and spouses who are eligible for the **Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS)**, including those who are participants in the **Canadian Farm Family Options Program**. Provided Traction addresses identified learning objectives, farmers and their spouses may qualify for funding to cover the cost of Traction under the CASS program. For Options Participants, CASS participation will meet your Options Year 2 Renewal Program requirement.

Details about Traction are available on their web site at www.tractionskills.ca

Information on the CASS Program is available on the website at www.ontario.ca/cass

Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence



To recognize and further foster innovation in the agri-food industry, the government established the Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence in 2006 to reward outstanding farmer-innovators. This five year program will award \$2.5 million to outstanding farm innovators.

There will be up to 55 regional award winners annually, with a cash prize of \$5,000 each. From these winners a Minister's Award of up to \$50,000 and a Premier's Award of up to \$100,000 will be selected.

Examples of innovation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- improved farm practices (e.g. technology, business practices, processes, etc.)
- response to consumer demands (e.g. value added, marketing, strategic alliances, etc.)
- environmental stewardship
- health and safety on the farm
- energy innovations
- education and marketing of agriculture to society.

Details of the process, as well as applications and guidelines, are available at: www.ontario.ca/agrifoodinnovation or by calling **1-877-424-1300**

Applications deadline is **5 p.m. on October 31, 2007**.

Ontario Biogas Systems Financial Assistance Program

The Ontario Biogas Systems Financial Assistance Program is a \$9-million investment that will help farmers and agri-food businesses develop and build generating systems that produce clean energy, reduce electricity costs and contribute to local economies.

There are two phases to the program. Phase 1 funding will cover up to 70 per cent of the eligible costs of carrying out a feasibility study, to a maximum of \$35,000. Phase 2 funding will cover up to 40 per cent of eligible construction and implementation costs. The maximum total feasibility and construction cost funding is \$400,000 for each anaerobic digester system.

For more information on biogas systems, please visit the [Energy Opportunities](#) web page.

For more information on this program, check the OMAFRA webpage at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/biogas/index.html> or contact the Agriculture Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300 or email: ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca. You can request that the AICC adds your name and contact information to a list if you would like to receive program updates.

Local Food Forum

Capturing Local Food Opportunities – What's the Hype, Making it Happen and Current Innovations

Two locations:

December 4th – Scugog Community Centre – Port Perry (Durham Region)

December 6th – Nassagawaya Community Hall – Campbellville (Halton Region)

For agenda details and registration information contact: The Ontario Rural Council (TORC) at www.torc.on.ca

Calendar

October 3 – 4, 2007 – Canadian Greenhouse Conference, International Centre, Hall 5, 6900 Airport Rd Mississauga (Toronto).

For details visit www.CanadianGreenhouseConference.com

October 26th & 27th - Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency Annual General Meeting in Guelph. Visit <http://www.ontariosheep.org/EVENTS.HTML> for more information

October 26 – 28, 2007 – North American Beef Congress, Western Fair, London. Further details available at <http://www.northamericanbeefcongress.com/>

November 2 – 11, 2007 – Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. Complete details available by clicking on <http://www.royalfair.org/>

November 18 & 19, 2007 – Ontario Young Farms Forum. Full details, registration and accommodation information at <http://www.oyff.ca/>

November 19 & 20, 2007 – Ontario Federation of Agriculture Annual Convention. For further information e-mail perth@ofa.on.ca or visit www.ofa.on.ca

November 30, 2007 – Western Region Symposium and Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario Annual General Meeting, Gencor Building [site of Organic Meadow offices], Highway 6 North of Guelph. Speakers will include Wally Secombe, Janet Duncan on rare breeds and slow food and will also include a renewable energy panel. For further details contact, EFAO, 5420 Highway 6 North, Guelph, Ontario, info@efao.ca

December 4 & 5, 2007 – Annual Forage Focus Conference, to be held in Napanee and Shakespeare respectively. Confirmed keynote speaker is Dan Undersander, University of Wisconsin. Further details will be available by visiting <http://www.ontarioforagecouncil.com/>

Thanks for reading the OMAFRA Business Update. If you have any questions or comments about this email update contact the editor, Rob Gamble at rob.gamble@ontario.ca.

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Looking for more information? Visit the OMAFRA website at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca> or the Business Development site at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/agbusdev.html>