

ISSUE # 63 – September 2010

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



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2010 Farm Tax and Business Seminars

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) presents the [2010 Farm Tax and Business Seminar](#) for Professional Advisors. As in the past, this is an excellent opportunity to update your knowledge of tax, business and legal matters related to agriculture and farm business activities. We are again this year offering the seminar as a Webinar, for those interested in attending the seminar via the web.

The locations and dates are:

Dates and Locations			
Week 1	Guelph	Webinar	Tuesday, October 26, 2010
	Woodstock		Wednesday, October 27, 2010
	Hanover		Thursday, October 28, 2010
Week 2	Alliston	Kemptville	Tuesday, November 2 , 2010
	Stratford	Belleville	Wednesday, November 3, 2010
	London	Peterborough	Thursday, November 4, 2010
Week 3	Hamilton		Wednesday, November 9, 2010
	Chatham		Thursday, November 10, 2010

The topics this year include:

- AgriFood Trends & Drivers
- Business Risk Management Update
- Green Energy on the Farm: The Do's and Don'ts of Energy Project Contracts
- Farm Tax Update
- Tax Planning for the BioEconomy
- Growing Forward Update
- OMAFRA Update

The registration fee is \$175.15 per person (includes HST) on or before **October 18th**, \$209.05 per person (includes HST) after October 18th.

For complete agenda, speaker and registration information, including a registration form, visit the OMAFRA Business Development website under conferences and workshops at www.ontario.ca/agbusiness or call the **OMAFRA Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300**.

Program Updates

[Cattle and Pork Producers Have More Time to Repay Cash Advances](#)

Some cattle and hog producers facing hard financial times now have extra time to repay cash advances under the Advance Payment Program (APP). A stay on the repayment of livestock advances was announced.

Two new Stays of Default come into effect on October 1, 2010. Cattle producers will have until March 31, 2012 to repay amounts owed, with regular repayments to begin eight months from the start of the Stay. Hog producers will have until March 31, 2013 to repay amounts owed, with regular repayments to begin eighteen months from the start of the Stay. Producers can contact their [Program Administrator](#) for more details.

[Final price for microFIT ground-mounted solar PV projects](#)

On August 13, the Ontario Power Authority announced that it has finalized the price for the new microFIT ground-mounted solar price category at 64.2 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). This price applies to eligible microFIT ground-mounted solar applications submitted after noon on July 2, when a new price category was proposed.

Eligible ground-mounted solar applications submitted prior to noon on July 2, 2010, will receive the original price of 80.2 cents/kWh whether or not they have received a contract or conditional offer.

Publications and Newsletters

Guide to Custom Farmwork and Short-Term Equipment Rental, Order No. 10-049, Agdex 825 (will be posted online shortly)

Factsheet update includes the results of the Survey of Ontario Custom Farmwork Rates Charged in 2009.

All Ontario publications can be ordered through ServiceOntario

Online at www.publications.serviceontario.ca

Telephone the ServiceOntario Contact Centre

Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

416-326-5300

416-325-3408 (TTY)

1-800-668-9938 Toll-free across Canada

1-800-268-7095 TTY Toll-free across Ontario

In person at ServiceOntario Centres throughout the province.

Other Electronic newsletters available from OMAFRA

Crop Pest Newsletter

<http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/croppest/>

Horse News and Views

<http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/horses/news.html>

Animal Health Newsletter

<http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/ceptor/news.html>

Vegetable Newsletter

www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/crops/hort/news/news_vegview.html

Ontario Berry Grower

http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/crops/hort/news/news_berrygrower.html

Pork News and Views Newsletter

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/swine/news.html>

Hort Matters Newsletter

http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/hort/news/news_hortmatt.html

On Organic

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/organic/news/news-organic.html>

Foodland Ontario

<http://www.foodland.gov.on.ca/> for some great recipes using Ontario's fresh fruits and vegetables

Grain Farmers of Ontario: The Bottom Line E-Newsletter

On July 7th, GFO launched a new communications initiative for its farmer members. A weekly email newsletter titled "The Bottom Line" is sent every Friday to members who have provided their email addresses.

The email newsletter provides synopses of news related to GFO's Marketing, Production, Research, and Government Relations pillars as well as updates about the work of the board. The content is brief, covering only the latest news and information and members are able to view the newsletter on their mobile devices.

To sign-up for the newsletter, go to: <http://www.gfo.ca/About Us Main/Publications and Media>

Statistics and Market Information

Machinery and equipment price indexes - Second quarter 2010

The Machinery and Equipment Price Index (MEPI) fell by 0.9% in the second quarter. Crop and animal production machinery price index fell 1.0%

Livestock Estimates - Statistics Canada

The hog inventory in Canada fell 2.4 per cent to 11.8 million between July 1, 2009, and July 1, 2010. Ontario's breeding herd increased from the April inventory levels, but remains nearly 5 per cent below last year's levels. Canada's cattle herd fell by 4.9 per cent to 14.0 million between July 1, 2009, and July 1, 2010 and has been in a steady decline since its peak of 16.9 million in 2005.

Conferences and Workshops





[Value Chain Management Forum - Promoting Profitable Partnerships](#)

The Value Chain Management Forum can help you turn your competitors, suppliers and customers into partners.

Join agri-food industry leaders and value chain management experts in this business-to-business discussion on **Tuesday, October 5, 2010 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at Holiday Inn, Guelph, Ontario.**

The Value Chain Management Forum is hosted by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.



The [18th International Farm Management Congress](#) **Thriving in a Global World - Innovation, Co-operation and Leadership** is to be held in Christchurch New Zealand on March 20-25, 2011. The International Farm Management Association (IFMA) is an international body of about 400 members primarily academics, consultants, advisors, farmers, government, administrators and policy analysts. The common thread running through the membership is an interest in farm management. [Registration](#)
[- Now open for booking!!](#)

Contributed Papers and Posters reminder – just THIS MONTH remains to submit your paper or poster – Deadline September 30, 2010. The Call for Papers, Paper and Poster Specifications as well as MS Word templates can be downloaded from the [‘Call for Papers Page’](#).

Thanks for reading the OMAFRA Business Update.

Questions or Comments: contact the editor, John Molenhuis at john.molenhuis@ontario.ca.

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