

OMAFRA Ag Business Update

ISSUE # 71 – May 2011

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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Announcements

Farm business planning increases growth, new survey shows



Baseline study soon to be released by Agricultural Management Institute

Guelph ON, May 4, 2011 - Farmers actively engaged in business management planning practices are seeing increased growth while their counterparts who generally do not undertake farm business management planning activities are faced with less or declining incomes. This is according to a new study by Ipsos Reid, recently previewed at a meeting of the Agricultural Management Institute (AMI), which surveyed Ontario farmers on their farm business management practices and attitudes. The study included six focus groups and 20 in-depth interviews with farmers as well as telephone interviews with 500 farmers of various farm types across the province. [more>>](#)

Ontario egg farmers take names for new-entrant plan

Egg Farmers of Ontario (EFO) will accept applications from would-be egg producers until the end of May to borrow quota from a new province-wide pool.

The group launched its New Entrant Quota Loan Pool program at its recent annual meeting in Toronto, with chair Carolynne Griffith describing the plan as "a great way to ensure constant renewal of our industry."

Mississauga-based EFO has pledged 50,000 units of egg production quota to the program to be loaned to first-time producers over a 10-year period. After 10 years, a program participant would return his or her loaned quota to the program in five instalments of 20 per cent each.

[more>>](#)

Interested producers are asked to contact EFO at 905-858-9790.

STEP UP - WHERE ENTHUSIASM MEETS EXPERIENCE.



The [Canadian Farm Business Management Council](#), [Canadian 4-H Council](#), [Canadian Young Farmers' Forum](#), and [Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers' Program](#) have joined forces to present: **The All New STEP UP Mentorship Program!**

STEP UP is an on-farm learning placement that matches those planning or considering a farming career with an experienced farm manager so that they can learn critical aspects of farm business management in a hands-on setting.

We are accepting applications for Mentors and Mentees now!

Are you ready to STEP UP? To apply visit the STEP UP webpage at www.farmcentre.com today!

A joint partnership between:



Canadian Farm Business
Management Council



Canadian Young Farmers' Forum
La Table pancanadienne de la relève agricole



Funded in part by:

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Growing Forward 
A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

CFBMC Awards Agricultural Students



This April, three winners were selected by the **Canadian Farm Business Management Council** to receive a \$1000 scholarship each to further their education in agriculture. Students from all across Canada pursuing an education in a field related to agriculture or agri-food at a post-secondary educational institute were asked to submit a video answering the following question *"As a future farm manager, how will you balance the environmental stewardship necessary for the safeguarding of our water, air and soil with the need to be productive and competitive in a global economy?"*

The 2010-2011 winning videos are now available for viewing at www.farmcentre.com/Features/TheNewFarmer/Resources/StudentAwards/winners.aspx

By offering the **Excellence Award for Students in Agriculture**, CFBMC aims to help agricultural students develop their communications skills and let their opinions be voiced by providing them with the opportunity to give an oral presentation on a subject related to farm management.

Publications and Online Resources

New/Updated OMAFRA Publications



Farm Partnerships, Order No. 11-019: replaces Order No. 02-047

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.



Getting Started...

If you are new to agriculture, planning for a farm business can be a daunting task. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) has developed **Starting a Farm in Ontario, Business Resource Guide for New Farmers** to help you through this process. The guide is also for farmers looking for new information and resources available in Ontario.

Successful farmers have well thought out plans. Farming is a complex business, and there are many aspects to consider and plan for before you get started. This guide will help you identify these items and recommend additional resources.

For more information or to order copies contact:
Agriculture Information Contact Centre
Tel. 1-877-424-1300
Email: ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca
Website: www.ontario.ca/OMAFRA



Urban Agriculture Business Information Bundle

Producing Food in Cities

This [Business Information Bundle](#) serves as a central website for information about urban agriculture for you, whether you're a city-dweller who wants to produce fruit or vegetables or raise livestock, or you're a municipal policy maker exploring the topic.

Urban agriculture refers to food production in urban areas, whether it is for personal consumption, commercial sale, education or therapy. It can take a variety of forms, including:

- gardening and livestock raised in backyards
- container gardening on balconies or rooftops
- community gardening and city allotments

[more>>](#)



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS AVAILABLE FROM OMAFRA

Crop Pest Newsletter

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

Horse News and Views

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

Animal Health Newsletter

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

Vegetable Newsletter

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

Ontario Berry Grower

http://www.omafra.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



Human Resources – Health and Safety

Ministry of Labour – New and Young Workers: Stay Safe On The Job

Ontario is launching a four-month safety blitz to help protect new and young workers who are often vulnerable to hazards on the job.

Beginning May 1, health and safety inspectors will ensure employers are complying with regulations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act and that young workers are:

- Instructed, trained and supervised on jobs
- Using proper safety measures, equipment and procedures to prevent injuries
- Meeting minimum age requirements for the work they are doing.

Inspectors will focus on workplaces where many new and young workers are employed, including restaurants, landscaping sites, arenas, mills, nursing homes, low-rise construction projects and farming operations.

This is the fourth annual blitz focusing on new and young workers in Ontario. Protecting young people on the job is part of the government's continued commitment to preventing workplace injuries through its Safe at Work Ontario strategy.

[more>>](#)

Statistics and Market Information

Statistics Canada

March intentions of principal field crop areas – released April 26, 2011

2011, Prairie farmers anticipate planting a record area of canola, and expect to plant more rum wheat, barley and oats compared with 2010. In the East, Quebec and Ontario farmers expect to seed the largest area of corn for grain since 2007. [more>>](#)



Stocks of principal field crops at March 31, 2011

As of March 31, total stocks of canola and barley fell significantly compared with the same date in 2010. By contrast, total stocks of corn for grain rose slightly above March 2010 levels, the result of increased production in 2010. [more>>](#)

Farm Input Price Index – Third quarter 2010

The Farm Input Price Index increased 0.3% and 0.6% for Canada and Ontario respectively in the third quarter compared with the previous quarter. [more>>](#)

U.S. Energy Information Administration:

Country Analysis Brief - Canada

- Canada is the most significant source for U.S. energy imports, providing the highest foreign volumes of primary energy and electricity.
- Canada's 175.2 billion barrels of proven reserves of oil places it third globally, behind Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, and is the only non-OPEC member in the top five.
- Canada is the world's third largest natural gas producer and exporter.
- Canada is one of the world's largest producers of hydroelectricity.

[more>>](#)



Conferences, Workshops and Seminars

Canadian Association of Farm Advisors (CAFA) CAFA's 7th Annual Ontario Provincial Conference

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Quality Inn & Suites, Woodstock

Featured Speakers:

- Dr. Brian Evans, Chief Veterinary Officer, Chief Food Safety Officer, CFIA, Ottawa: Food safety: good is not good enough
- Dr. Lauren Baker, Ph.D., Director, Sustain Ontario: Good food gap - 4-H Ontario
- OSCIA, on Growing your farm profits
- Andrew Campbell, Fresh Air Media: The social shift – and where agriculture fits

Farmer Panel with:

- Martin & Teresa Van Raay: The whole pig
- Patty Thompson: King Cole Ducks Limited
- Trish Fournier, General Manager Lake Erie Farms
- Dr. Glenn Fox, University of Guelph: Implications of the Green Energy Act for Ontario

Growing Your Farm Profits workshops

Growing Your Farm Profits is the place to start planning for your business success.

The two-day workshop will give you the tools needed to assess your current farm management practices and understand how proactive planning can influence effective decision making.

[Workshop dates, locations and more information>>](#)



Thanks for reading the OMAFRA Ag Business Update.

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

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