



In This Issue...

- Premier's Award for Agri-food Excellence
- Bringing Local Foods to the Table
- Using Food Safety Eyes
- Don't Forget the Cover Crops
- Budgeting and Measuring Pasture Production
- Summer is Over...
- Quest for New Farm Value—Value Plus™
- Growing Forward Business Development for Farm Businesses
- Season Extension and High Tunnel Webinar Series Offered
- Organic Seed Survey
- Food Bulletin
- Training
- Factsheets
- Events

Welcome to “ON Organic”

Hugh Martin, Organic Crop Production Program Lead, OMAFRA

As the growing season fades it is time to get ready for next season. There are also many opportunities for learning new skills and in some cases about new programs to enhance your farm. This week marks the first annual national Organic Week. Thanks to those who have organized it and look for events to participate in it.

Thanks to the contributing authors and to OCO and EFAO and others who pass it on to other colleagues in the organic sector. We always appreciate your comments.

Subscription to this newsletter is easy and no cost. For details go to the webpage: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/subscribe/index.html#organic>

The newsletter is also posted on the OMAFRA website at: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/organic/news/newsorganic.html>

The French version of these newsletters is available at: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/french/crops/organic/news/newsorganic.html>

The OMAFRA Organic pages are linked from: <http://www.ontario.ca/organic> and <http://www.ontario.ca/biologique>

The ON Organic Team

Hugh Martin – editor, OMAFRA, Organic Crop Production Program Lead

Jack Kyle – OMAFRA, Grazier Specialist

Dorene Collins – OMAFRA, Customer Service and Marketing Program Lead

Hugh Berges – OMAFRA, Manager Horticultural Technology

Katie Meagher – OMAFRA, Marketing Specialist

Mario Mongeon – OMAFRA, Livestock Specialist

Linda Cooper – OMAFRA, Client Service Representative

Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence

PREMIER'S AWARD FOR
AGRI-FOOD INNOVATION EXCELLENCE

McGuinty Government Invites New Applications For Innovation Awards

Innovators in the province's agriculture and food industry are encouraged to apply for a Premier's Agri-Food Innovation Excellence Award.

Applications http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/premier_award/app_info.htm will be accepted until **November 15, 2010**. The awards program includes the Premier's Award, the Minister's Award and up to 55 regional awards.

WHO CAN APPLY?

A farmer, primary producer, groups of farmers, combination of agri-food businesses, or agri-food related organizations are all eligible for recognition under this initiative. A farmer must be one of the applicants in any group (i.e., eligible to obtain an Ontario Farm Business Registration number).

The innovation must have been developed and have been in use on an Ontario farm, or be in the planning stages of development with a plan towards implementation. The innovation must also have the potential for use on a broader basis and demonstrate a positive effect on the agricultural industry.

Bringing Local Foods to the Table

McGuinty Government Helping Public Sector Connect With Local Farmers

October 4, 2010 More local food will soon be available in the cafeterias of hospitals, schools and other public institutions. The Broader Public Sector Investment Fund will help connect farmers, food processors, and distributors with schools, hospitals, and municipalities to increase the amount of Ontario food purchased by the broader public sector. This will help support Ontario farmers and the agri-food industry.

The initiative will include:

- Funds for local projects that encourage business between institutions and farmers.
- The development of an electronic marketplace that links buyers with sellers across Ontario
- A provincewide report to track positive support of local foods in the public sector.

The fund will be administered by the Greenbelt Fund, a sister organization of the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation. The first round of applications will be accepted until November 1, 2010. Learn more about the fund and out how to apply by visiting <http://www.Ontariofresh.ca>.

A strong agri-food industry that supports local farmers is part of the Open Ontario plan to create jobs and opportunities that will boost the province's economy.

Using Food Safety Eyes

By Sandra Jones, On-Farm Food Safety Program Lead

There are many quality and yield decisions that producers face each day during the growing season. Whenever producers observe their crop, they make decisions about how to proceed with activities that address production issues. Looking at food safety risks requires a different set of eyes and it is just as important for producers to view their farm operation with food safety in mind as it is for production. Having a food safety plan can help you grow your customer base and increase your sales.

Throughout the Province, we are seeing growth in direct farm marketing, Farmers' Markets, organic and community shared agriculture. Who is buying product at these venues? Typically mothers with young children.

And what is on the minds of these consumers? According to an Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada report, quality is one of the most important factors on Canadian consumers' minds when they purchase food. Food quality is a complex issue and it means different things to different people but it is most often associated with freshness, nutrition and food safety. Food safety remains a top priority for consumers.

As Theodore Levitt, a renowned marketing expert, stated, "if you are not thinking about the consumer, you are not thinking". Consumers want to know that you take the health and safety of their families seriously. As part of your commitment to providing consumers with safe, nutritious products, show the consumer how you have devoted considerable attention to food safety.

A recent study by Ontario Farm Animal Council found that over 50% of non-farming Canadians indicated they knew "very little" or "nothing" about farming practices (OFAC, Canadian Food & Farm Issues Study 2009). Take the time to educate and engage the consumer in food safety talk. Tell them what steps you are taking on your farm to protect them and their family and that you take food safety seriously. Not only will you strengthen public confidence in Ontario's food supply but there is a great chance you will have repeat and loyal customers.

If you want help on learning more about what are good food safety practices, contact Sandra Jones at 519-826-3289 (sandra.jones@ontario.ca) or Jan Schooley at 519-426-5694 (jan.schooley@ontario.ca). From HortMatters Newsletter <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/hort/news/hortmatt/2010/25hrt10a2.htm>

Don't Forget the Cover Crops!

Anne Verhallen, Soil Management Specialist

In the rush of the fall don't forget to plant those cover crops. It is easy to get busy and postpone cover crop planting but in the long run that is going to cost you. You can lose important growing time for those cover crops – those warm days in the fall when we can get the maximum growth out of the plants.

This is a common problem in any area where winter can come suddenly but achieving maximum growth from cover crops is important. Here is what Sjoerd Duiker a Soil Management Specialist from Pennsylvania says about cover crops in a recent field crops newsletter:

“Why is this important? Cover crop biomass accumulation and root growth depend on when the cover crop is established. This determines how much cover the cover crop provides and this is important for erosion control, especially when establishing a cover crop in a tilled seedbed, or with no-till in low residue situations (e.g. after corn silage, after soybeans, or when corn fodder is removed). Early establishment is also important so that the cover crop can absorb soil nitrate before it leaches to groundwater. In a study in the Mid-Atlantic region (see figure), cover crop nitrogen accumulation was about 120 lbs N/A in December when rye was established early, but was negligible in December if the cover crop was established late. The nitrogen that is absorbed by the cover crop is protected against leaching and is released next year when the cover crop biomass decomposes.”

So it pays to have the spreader or the drill ready to go with cover crop seed!

From OMAFRA HortMatters newsletter <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/hort/news/hortmatt/2010/25hrt10a1.htm>

Budgeting and Measuring Pasture Production

Jack Kyle - Grazing Specialist/OMAFRA

Pasture is a feeding system. Like any feeding system it is important to know the needs of your livestock and the

amount of feed you are offering. Think of your pasture field as a feed bunk. When feeding in a bunk or manger you offer your livestock the quantity of feed they need to get to the next feeding while maintaining feed quality at the highest possible level. Estimating the pounds of feed on a pasture may seem like a tall task, but it is important if you are going to achieve the potential of the pasture and livestock.

There are two steps to this process:

1. determine the nutritional needs of your livestock, and determine how much forage is available for grazing each day.

Step 1 - Determine Livestock Requirements

The nutritional needs of livestock are generally calculated in terms of dry matter (DM). Dry matter intake of 3% of body weight is frequently used for growing and producing livestock. A 1,200 lb cow requires 36 lbs of DM per day ($1,200 \times 0.03$), and a 1,500 lb cow requires 45 lbs of DM per day ($1,500 \times 0.03$). This may be slightly more than their actual needs, but it allows for some feed refusal. If we take the total weight of the herd multiplied by 3% we get the feed required per day on pasture.

Step 2 - Determine Pasture Available

The second step is to determine how much grass or forage is available on a given area for the livestock to graze. This can be done by one of 3 methods:

Grazing Stick

A grazing stick enables you to measure the height and density of the grass by how visible the stick is on the ground. Using a table of height and density printed on the stick, you can estimate the forage DM available.

Rising Plate Meter

An 18 inch square plexiglass plate 1/8th inch thick is used to slightly compress the grass to a constant density. The height of the compressed grass is measured and a chart is used to estimate the DM available per acre.

When calculating the amount of forage in the field, remember that you want to leave 3-4 inches of residue to re-grow and start the development of the grass for the next grazing cycle. Subtract this 3 or 4 inch height from the total height to get the usable height.

Sample & Weigh

A more accurate method is to harvest 2 or 3 square feet of grass, weigh the amount harvested and dry a representative sample to determine the amount of DM. (Note - 2 sq ft is 1'-5" $\times$ 1'-5".) You should sample several areas of the pasture to get a representative value. The sample can be dried in a microwave oven. Weigh a sample of approximately 100 grams and microwave for a couple of minutes. Re-weigh,

microwave again for a minute and weigh again. Repeat this procedure until the weight does not change. Put a cup of water in the corner of the microwave to avoid damaging the microwave. Percent DM is determined by dividing the dry weight by the wet weight multiplied by 100.

For example, with a wet weight of 100 grams, and dry weight 20 grams, the DM will be 20% ($20/100 \times 100$). If the weight from two square feet is 200 grams and the DM is 20%, then there is 20 grams of dry matter per square foot ($200 \times 0.2 \div 2$). An acre (43,560 square feet) would have 871 kg of forage available for grazing ($0.02 \text{ kg/square foot} \times 43,560 \text{ square feet}$). If we multiply this number by 2.2, the 871 kg is converted to 1,916 lbs.

Calculating Head / Acre / Day

If the grass you measured indicated that there was 1,916 lbs of DM available for grazing, then this would support 63,873 lbs of animal per acre ($1,916 \div 0.03$). For every 63,873 lbs of animal you need to offer one acre of pasture for each day that they are going to be in the pasture. Ideally this will be one day, and should not be more than 5 days because intake will drop. The best grass is eaten the first day, and by the fourth or fifth day the pasture is pretty well picked over. This is very important for stocker cattle where you are looking for good gains, because you want to have them eating the maximum amount of forage each day. Stocker cattle that are moved to fresh pasture every one or two days throughout the grazing season should gain 300 lbs in a 5 month grazing season. Knowing how much forage and dry matter that you are offering to your pasture animals will allow you to get maximum performance from both the livestock and the pastures.

From OMAFRA CropTalk newsletter at
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/news/croptalk/2010/ct-0910a7.htm>

Summer is Over...

Mario S. Mongeon—Livestock Specialist/OMAFRA

Well, as usual it went by too fast: summer is over. With winter just around the corner, the first frost and cold rain, pastures are not growing as fast as they were and soon, harvested forages will need to be offered to the cows in order to maintain production.

Yes, summer is over. Overall, I think it was a good one and we were able to harvest reasonably good forages. We had our fair share of sun and heat but as the days are getting shorter and colder, it is now time to think about bringing the cows back in the barn for the cold months. In fact, fall can be

considered a transition period for the organic dairy herd: the pasture to barn transition. The way this period is managed could alleviate milk production drops, as well as related problems. As the pasture growth declines, the amount of harvested forages offered to the cows should increase and the concentrate type and amount should be revised. In order to operate a seamless transition from the pasture to the barn, one must carefully formulate the ration.

The first aspect to consider is which forages will be offered. In order to answer this question, one must have detailed analysis of what is available. A good habit is to sample forages as soon as possible, throughout the summer so that when the time to use them comes, you have all the information on hand to make a wise decision. Obviously, some forage systems will allow a lot more flexibility when it comes to choosing the right forages. Round bales for example can easily be marked individually with a number that will indicate their field of origin and date of cut. These could be grouped in batches. Silage stored in a tower silo is a different story. Depending on the type of silo, what comes out is either the latest in or the oldest in. There is little you can do about the stuff in the middle.

Generally, the best forages available on the farm should be used to prepare the ration for lactating animals. This is true for silage as well as for hay. In the fall, when animals still have access to some pasture, it takes a bit of instinct and experience to evaluate how much dry matter coming from the pasture the cows are getting. This value will decrease over the course of the fall months at a variable rate, depending on the weather and the composition of the pasture. The amount of dry matter grazed will also influence how much harvested forages need to be offered to the animals. If too much hay and silage is offered, the amount of pasture consumed could well decrease. If not enough is offered, milk production can be affected as well as other parameters.

Having a complete analysis of the hay and silage which cows are eating will help identify the best protein concentrate to match the requirements of the ration. This is true for grain as well. In general, high quality legume haylage will be complemented by a grain readily available for the rumen bugs such as high moisture corn, barley or wheat. If the main source of forage consists of dry grass hay, a grain with a slower rate of degradation in the rumen, such as dry cracked corn would be best. When formulating the fall ration, we need to keep in mind that the Canadian Organic Standards state that a minimum of 25% of the forage portion must be in the form of dry hay.

When the cows leave the pasture this fall, keep in mind to figure out if internal parasites or worms are a problem. Discuss with your veterinarian if fecal egg counts can be done

and according to the results; ask for advice for the best course of action.

Quest for New Farm Value – Value Plus™

Farmers exploring organic production as a value added enterprise and existing organic growers looking to further develop value added products and markets have found the Quest for New Farm value – Value Plus workshops valuable in understanding the business dynamics of starting and growing a value added farm business.

The Business Management Unit of the Agriculture Development Branch is delighted to announce that we will once again be offering up to **10 Quest for New Farm Value – Value Plus™** workshops this coming fall and winter.

The workshops continue to receive enthusiastic reviews from farmers and rural entrepreneurs seeking to tap into new and expanding marketplace opportunities through value-adding their farm products or services. Over the two day workshop, participants identify their specific value-added idea, evaluate market channels, examine business plans, explore how to finance the stages of the business and manage risk. Participants also value the networking opportunities and sharing lessons learned and best practices among participants. Workshop leaders include Ontario farm business owners, entrepreneurs and advisors supported by OMAFRA Client Services and Agriculture Development Branch staff.

Here are just a few testimonials from previous workshops:

“Invaluable – well worth the investment – very supportive and nourishing opportunity being with experienced like minded people”

“Great information on planning your business from start up to exit including growth opportunities”

“Wow, this was really well done ... One of the best seminars I've been to”

“Great course and many valuable contacts and ideas were gained”

Through the generous sponsorship of the Canadian Farm Business Management Council, OMAFRA and local stakeholders, the 2 day course is being offered at a low rate of \$75 per participant. Registration includes 2 fun-filled days of learning, work-book, related print resources, refreshments and lunch. Limited to only 25 registrants per location.

This training opportunity is eligible for cost-share funding through the Agricultural Skills Development program of the Growing Forward Business Development for Farm

Businesses program. For more information on program requirements, please visit: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/about/growingforward/busdev.htm> or call 1-877-424-1300.

Please contact Carl Fletcher at 519 826-3235 or carl.fletcher@ontario.ca if you feel a Quest workshop would be successful in your area or client sector, or know of local stakeholders that would be interested in becoming a host partner for 2010/11.

As workshops are developed you will find them listed at: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/conference/quest/index.html>

Growing Forward Business Development for Farm Businesses...what's in it for you?

By Anne-Marie Diotte, OMAFRA Business Development Program Coordinator

Are you a new or beginning farmer, wanting to get into organics?

Do you need to develop an advanced business plan to transition into organics?

Are there learning opportunities that you may want to take advantage of?

Growing Forward Business Development for Farm Businesses makes it easy to start the business planning process.

By attending a Growing Your Farm Profits Workshop in your county, you have the opportunity to do a self-assessment of your operation and then develop an action plan which is unique to your farm. Workshops are available free of charge for all Ontario producers, as well as farm families and farm management teams.

Based on the needs you have identified in your Action Plan, you will now find it easier to incorporate beneficial business management practices through a range of cost-share advisory services and skills development opportunities to help you reach your farm business goals.

You may decide that a farm financial assessment or a cost of production would be beneficial to your farm business. You may need to engage in specific training or skills

development to support the viability of your farm. Growing Forward Business Development for Farm Businesses provides cost-share funding for tuition, text books and travel expenses up to 50 per cent to a maximum of \$3,000.

You may want to work with planning consultant to focus on a succession plan, a diversification, expansion or marketing plan. Eligible farm businesses may now receive cost-share funding up to \$20,000 to support the development of up to three different business plans for a farm business.

An eligible farm business may also receive cost-share funding for up to 50% to a maximum of \$3,000 for first time business costs that relate to an advanced business plan such as specialized contracts, business agreements, legal documentation, trademarks or one-time set up fee for first-time costs associated with a management system.

There are now improved cost-share opportunities for new farmers to help set business goals, improve farm related skills and develop actionable business plans.

The first step of Growing Forward Business Development for farm businesses is to register for an upcoming Growing Your Farm Profits workshop, provided in your area.

Contact the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association 1-800-265-9751 www.ontariosoilcrop.org

Season Extension and High Tunnel Webinar Series Offered

Learn more about pest management in season extension production systems such as high tunnels by registering for a new webinar series sponsored by the Great Lakes Vegetable Working Group, the University of Illinois Extension, and a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Professional Development grant. There will be five 1-2 hour webinars produced on November 1st, 3rd, 8th, 16th, and 18th. The first three webinars will focus on an introduction to pest management in various season extension systems, focusing on tomatoes and winter crops. The last two webinars will be geared toward soil, water, and nutrient management, plus a summary of the U.S. Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) high tunnel pilot project initiated in 2010.

Why consider participating in the season extension and high tunnel production webinar series? Pest complexes in season extension production systems like high tunnels are different than field grown fruits and vegetables, and an understanding of that difference is needed to capitalize on early and late season markets. High-tunnel production can lengthen the growing season and provide producers with a means to enter

the market earlier with high value crops. As U.S. Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan says “The adoption of growing crops using high tunnels provides ‘great potential’ ... to expand the availability of healthy, locally-grown crops”.

Webinar One is titled **“Introduction to Pest Management for Season Extension”** and will air on **November 1, 2010** at 6:30-8:30 pm EST (5:30-7:30 pm CST). Bill LaMont from Pennsylvania State University, will provide an overview of season extension methods and the pros and cons of getting into season extension: low tunnels, row covers, high tunnels, greenhouses, extended storage and basic economics. Judson Reid and Meg McGrath with Cornell University will speak on basic pest management considerations in high tunnels for insects, mites and diseases, respectively. Brad Bergefurd at The Ohio State University will discuss best weed management options in high tunnels.

Webinar Two is titled **“Pest Management of Tomatoes in High Tunnels”** and will be offered on **November 3, 2010** at 6:30-8:30 pm EST (5:30-7:30 pm CST). Matt Kleinhenz, with The Ohio State University will start with an overview of production systems and economics for tomatoes and other solanaceous crops. Shubin Saha, with Purdue University will address cultural controls, pesticide use, biocontrols, and organic methods for pest and mite management of tomatoes under high tunnel production. Sally Miller, with The Ohio State University will discuss cultural controls, pesticide use, grafting, and organic methods for disease management.

Webinar Three is titled **“Pest Management in Winter Crops”**. This webinar will be held on **November 8, 2010** from 6:30-8:30 pm EST (5:30-7:30 pm CST). An overview of winter crop production systems including a discussion of economics, sanitation, plastic management, production sequences, crop selection, sanitation for simple hoophouse, greenhouse, in-ground, in container, row covers, and low tunnels will be given by Adam Montri from Michigan State University. Judson Reid will cover pest and mite management for winter crops and Ann Hazelrigg, with the University of Vermont will offer disease management options for winter crops. Vegetable storage management will be covered by Matt Kleinhenz.

Webinar Four is titled **“Management of Nutrients, Water, Soil, and Other Production Considerations in High Tunnels”** and will be broadcast **November 16, 2010** at a different time than the previous three webinars. This will be a brown-bag lunch webinar airing from 1-2 pm EST (noon-1 pm CST). Mike Orzolek with Pennsylvania State University will be the presenter for this topic. The first 50 participants or organizations to include webinar four as part of their registration, will receive a free copy of the *High Tunnel Production Manual* published by Penn State.

Webinar Five is titled “**Interpreting NRCS High Tunnel Project Guidelines**”. This will also be a brown-bag lunch webinar on **November 18, 2010** at 1-2 pm EST (noon-1 pm CST). This is a U.S. program, not available to Canadian growers. The guidelines pertaining to their high-tunnel production pilot project will be outlined and discussed by Ruth Book, State Conservation Engineer, Ivan Dozier, Assistant State Conservationist, and Brett Roberts, State Agronomist, with NRCS in Illinois.

Pre-registration for this webinar series is mandatory and can be found at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/season_ext. The cost for the series is \$30 whether you attend one or all five webinars. Each webinar will be recorded and available on several state IPM or vegetable oriented websites for viewing soon after its original airdate. For people who do not have a broadband connection, we are identifying several sites throughout each state to host the webinar series. *Ontario participants: contact Janice LeBoeuf, OMAFRA (see below) if you are interested in participating at a host site in your area (please provide the dates you are interested in and your location). Ontario host sites will be arranged based on demand.*

For more information and detailed agendas for the webinar series, please visit the Great Lakes Vegetable Working Group website at <http://glvwg.ag.ohio-state.edu/index.php>, and click on *Projects* at the top of the page.

For more information (Ontario) contact:

Janice LeBoeuf, Vegetable Crop Specialist, OMAFRA, Ridgetown
Ph: 519-674-1699 Email: janice.leboeuf@ontario.ca

Register for the webinars online at:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/season_ext

Organic Seed Survey

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, through the Organic Value Chain Roundtable, has commissioned a study to examine the market for organic seeds and to make recommendations that will be used to help build the Canadian organic seed sector. As an organic producer, your participation is crucial to the success of this study. If you complete the on-line survey by October 22, your input will be included in the study.

If you have already completed the survey, you can ignore this request and we thank you for your contribution.

To complete the on-line seed survey in English, please click on the following link
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9HV7SJP>

To complete the survey in French please click on the following link

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9HDRQ9V>

Food Bulletin

Building an edge: the Toronto region agri-food cluster

The Toronto-Guelph-Waterloo corridor is the hub of agri-food research in Southern Ontario. But how does it compare to other centres in North America? What are its strengths and weaknesses in terms of innovation? How well can it compete on the world stage?

Over the past year, the Toronto Region Research Alliance has been working to answer those kinds of questions. This has involved investigation and outreach to:

- regional development agencies in Guelph, Mississauga and Toronto
- government agencies
- food-related research institutes and associations across the corridor.

As a result, the region is now armed with asset maps of the sector and a report on North American agri-food cluster activities and international best practices. This coordinated response to business development marks a change in the way local businesses work to attract international investment.

Learn more now at <http://www.trra.ca/en/about/W10Feature.asp>

Report on Canada's Sodium Reduction Strategy

Will new sodium rules affect your operation? The ***Sodium Reduction Strategy for Canada*** is now available online. This document presents the Group's recommendations to reduce the sodium consumption of Canadians. It was presented to the Minister of Health by the Sodium Working Group. Read the report now at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/nutrition/sodium/strateg/index-eng.php>

Interested in solar energy? Read the Solar Roof Report

Why are the commercial and industrial sectors in Ontario slow to adopt rooftop solar projects? A study released by ***Partners in Project Green*** identifies some of the common barriers. It also proposes solutions and best practices to address them. Read the study now at <http://www.partnersinprojectgreen.com/files/PPG%20Rooftop%20Solar%20Study.pdf>

Partners in Project Green is a multi-municipal initiative located on over 12,000 hectares of commercial/industrial area surrounding the Greater Toronto Airport. The study is based on rooftop solar projects and interviews with market

participants and stakeholders from the Pearson Eco-Business Zone.

Canada moves to list BPA as toxic

Canada is in the process of a historic move to add bisphenol-A to its list of toxic substances. Environment Canada confirmed the decision in August 2010. “We expect to conclude the process of having bisphenol-A added to the List of Toxic Substances in Schedule 1 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 in eight to 10 weeks,” said department spokesman Henry Lau. The next step would be to publish the notice in the [Canada Gazette](#).

The chemical used in making plastic has become increasingly controversial since Ottawa promised two years ago it would label it a toxic substance. Canada was the first country in the world to do so. Why?

BPA’s estrogen-like effects are suspected in creating havoc with hormone levels. The chemical can leach into **food** from tin-can linings, plastic **food** covers and water bottles. Used to harden plastic, it is found in hundreds of household items, including CD liners and, most recently, sales receipts.

Funding to hire a graduate: the Career Focus Program

Does your company need to hire staff for a specific project or initiative? Agriculture and AgriFood Canada’s **Career Focus Program** will match up to \$20,000 to help you hire a graduate of a Canadian:

- university
- college
- CEGEP (*Collège d’enseignement général et professionnel*)
- provincially certified program focusing on biological, agricultural or veterinary science or applied technology.

Employers must provide meaningful job experience, and significantly increase the graduate’s chance of securing long-term employment or self-employment. Graduates need to be between 15 and 30 years old. Learn more now at <http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1183567066815>

Funding to Hire a Graduate: the Small Business Internship Program

Enhancement to the Small Business Internship Program

Are you looking for resources to support an e-business project? Do you have less than 500 employees? If so, look into Canada’s Small Business Internship Program. The program now offers 165 additional internships for post-secondary graduates across Canada. You may qualify for up to \$10,000 to hire a graduate who is not returning to school.

Graduates must have completed school in the last 3 years.

[Learn more now](#)

If your business is in the Toronto area, contact:

University of Waterloo
200 University Avenue West
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1
Telephone: 1-877-928-2667
Fax: 519-746-6019
E-mail: coop@uwaterloo.ca

If your business is in the Kingston area, contact:

Kingston Economic Development Corporation
945 Princess Street
Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6
Telephone: 613-544-2725 ext 7228
Fax: 613-546-2882
E-mail: dines@kingstoncanada.com

For all other rural businesses, contact:

Ontario Association of Community Futures Development Corporation Inc.
300 South Edgeware Road
St. Thomas, Ontario N5P 4L1
Telephone: 519-633-2326 ext 22
Fax: 519-633-3563
E-mail: slong@oacfdc.com

Grocery Innovations Canada 2010

October 25 and 26, 2010
Toronto Congress Centre, 650 Dixon Road, Toronto, ON
See the latest innovations, learn from industry leaders and check out the future of the grocery industry at Canada’s premier grocery conference and trade show. This premier national event is the only one in Canada dedicated to the entire grocery industry. It is also the largest one of its kind in the country.

Visit <http://www.groceryinnovations.com/index.html> or contact Irina Costachescu at ICostachescu@cfig.ca or call 416-492-2311 ext. 234.

Winning Together: Insights to Action

Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors Conference
November 17, 2010

This yearly event will give you insights into key industry issues, trends and topics most relevant to the food industry in Ontario. This year’s high profile speakers include:

- Dr. David Suzuki, in a rare keynote presentation on environmental initiatives
- Kevin Martin, skip of Canada’s gold medal Olympic curling team, on teamwork

- Retail briefings from David Cheesewright, Walmart; David Jeffs, Sobeys; Grant Froese, Loblaw's; and an executive from Metro.

You will:

- hear new research from Nielsen on the impact of social media on marketing to consumers
- connect with your key customers and learn about their expectations
- enjoy networking opportunities with more than 300 retailer reps in attendance.

Cost: special OMAFRA fee of just \$325 if you register by October 29, 2010 (regular \$725)

[Register now](#) at **Winning Together: Insights to Action Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors Conference** November 17, 2010

This yearly event will give you insights into key industry issues, trends and topics most relevant to the food industry in Ontario. This year's high profile speakers include:

- Dr. David Suzuki, in a rare keynote presentation on environmental initiatives
- Kevin Martin, skip of Canada's gold medal Olympic curling team, on teamwork
- Retail briefings from David Cheesewright, Walmart; David Jeffs, Sobeys; Grant Froese, Loblaw's; and an executive from Metro.

You will:

- hear new research from Nielsen on the impact of social media on marketing to consumers
- connect with your key customers and learn about their expectations
- enjoy networking opportunities with more than 300 retailer reps in attendance.

Cost: special OMAFRA fee of just \$325 if you register by October 29, 2010 (regular \$725). Register at:

https://ccgd.ca/index.php?id=421&event_id=ontario

Training

Food Safety Training for You: Ontario's Food Processors

Food safety is no small task. As food processors, you want to ensure your product is safe. You take pride in what you produce. You do everything you can to create safe food for your customers. And your customers expect it.

We can help! The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) provides training workshops for you. These workshops explain food safety practices and help you apply them at your facility. Using real-life, practical examples, you will learn how to improve food safety where you work from instructors with industry experience.

Upcoming Workshops

Workshop	Date	Cost
Developing a HACCP Plan	November 26, 2010	\$95 plus HST
Personnel Practices/ Handling	February 1, 2011	\$45 plus HST
Sanitation/ Receiving and Shipping	February 22, 2011	\$45 plus HST

For more details, please visit: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/foodsafety/processors/events.htm>

To register, please call: 1-877-424-1300

Institute of Food Processing Technology

Food Safety (Apprenticeship Level 1)

The first in-class component for the new apprenticeship Process Operator - Food

Manufacturing program will be offered by Conestoga College this fall.

When: October 18th to December 6th on Mondays and Thursdays, 8 am until 3:00 pm

Where: Doon Campus, Conestoga College, 299 Doon Valley Drive, Kitchener, ON

What you will learn: You will gain a general knowledge of food safety, including food safety hazards, Good Manufacturing Practices and food safety systems. Learn about food plant security and the impact of food manufacturing on the environment.

Cost: \$145 for apprentices, \$590 for non-apprentices

[Learn more and enrol](#)

http://blogs1.conestogac.on.ca/news/2010/07/food_processing_institute_to_o.php

Sustainable Ag program at Fleming College

This new program is taking registrations for a January 2011 start.

Visit <http://www.flemingc.on.ca/index.cfm/go/programs/sub/display/code/SAG.cfm>

Ready to farm? Want to restructure your farm? Have you got a plan?

Everdale's Farmers Growing Farmers (FGF) is a multi-week program that takes you through the step-by-step development of a comprehensive farm plan to help make your business a successful one. FGF offers:

- one-on-one mentorship with expert farmers
- access to a network of other farmers who are at the same stage as you are
- potential funding and support for your farm launch

FGF is accepting registrations for fall and winter sessions. For more detailed information or to register please click the link below. Space is limited.

<http://www.everdale.org/node/173>

Everdale Programs

<http://www.everdale.org/node/222>

Biodynamics

<http://www.rsct.ca/index.cfm?>

[pagePath=Biodynamic Agriculture&id=949](http://www.rsct.ca/index.cfm?pagePath=Biodynamic+Agriculture&id=949)

Environmental Farm Plan EFP Workshop Dates <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/en/programs/workshops/programscalendar.htm>

Growing Your Farm Profits GYFP Workshop Dates <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/en/programs/gyfp091.htm>

Factsheets

10-061: Programs and Services for Ontario Farmers,
Order No. 10-061, Agdex 871 (will be posted online shortly)

Events

OMAFRA Sheep Seminars “Keeping Lambs Alive”

November 16 (Atwood) and 18 (Napanee). This is the Provinces’ premier information vehicle for the commercially-focused lamb producer. The topic this year is surrounding lamb survival and features 2 American and 1 Scottish expert in addition to local talent: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/sheep/20091110.htm>

Organic Small Berry Production Workshop

John Wise will lead this workshop which will focus mainly on organic strawberry production, with some discussion of raspberries as well. General topics such as site, soil type, planting, varieties, renovation and mulching will be dealt with, as well as specific organic techniques such as the use of geese for weeding and using trap crops and parasitoids for bug

control. We will also touch on aspects of tree fruit management.

When: November 20th (Saturday) - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Whole Village Farm, 20725 Shaws Creek Rd., Caledon <http://www.wholevillagefarm.ca>

To register: EFAO office, 1 877-822-8606 or info@efao.ca
Pot luck lunch.

Sheep Infrastructure Workshops repeating every 4 months, the next two offerings are slated for Western (December 1,2) and then Eastern Ontario (April 6,7): <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/sheep/20081211.htm>

Forage Focus 2010

Tuesday November 30, Shakespeare

Wednesday December 1, Winchester

Contact Ontario Forage Council 1-877-892-8663

Email: info@ontarioforagecouncil.com

Website: <http://www.ontarioforagecouncil.com>

Registration Deadline: November 26th

Conference cost: \$35

Feature Speaker: Tom Kilcer, New York (formerly Cornell University Extension)

- “Maximizing Quality With Wide Swath Haylage”
- “Enhancing Drying Techniques For Baled Hay”
- “Companion Grass Species With Alfalfa”

Making the Transition to Small Scale Organic Produce Farming

This course is intended for existing produce farmers who want to transition to certified organic production. It walks each producer through the development of an organic plan specific to their farm, including: soil assessment, fertility plan, pest management plan, weed management plan, cropping plan and plans for monitoring and record keeping. Course facilitator: Theresa Schumilas

When: Pre-register by October 5. The course will begin October 18, 2010.

Where: distance extension course. Participants will receive a workbook, individual support (phone and email), and opportunities for group networking. Participants will meet at the Guelph Organic Conference for the final part of the workshop.

Cost: \$50 (includes workbooks)

To register: <http://www.cog.ca> or by calling 1-888-375-7383

EFAO Western Region Fall Seminar and AGM

When: November 17th (Wednesday), 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Where: St Brigid Villa, Ignatius College, 5420 Hwy 6 N. Guelph

For more information: check the EFAO website or email Karen info@efao.ca.

Co-operation will be the theme of the day with speakers and discussions on how farmers can work together on the local scale to the larger scale. Lunch will be available either by catering or potluck or a co-operative mix of both.

Oct 14, Cover Crop Open House, Ridgetown

Directions: (look for the signs)

9:00 am at OSCIA demonstration site - 10595 Fairview Line. between the Mull and Harwich Roads

10:30 am across the road of 911# 20701 Victoria Rd (formally 21 Hwy), north of Gosnell Line – at the back Ridgetown Campus research plots.

Lunch provided after the tour

- No cost. No pre-registration required. CCA credits have been applied for

- Underseeding cover crops in seed or sweet corn
- Cover crops were planted after wheat, tomatoes, and cucumbers
- Comparison of early vs. late cover crop growth
- Many different cover crops (alfalfa, vetch, crimson clover, winter pea, oilseed radish, buckwheat, sorghum and other grasses, as well as mixtures)

For more information, contact Prof. Laura Van Eerd at the Ridgetown Campus University of Guelph at 519-674-1644 lvaneerd@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca

Nov 23-24, Essex County Associated Growers' Bounty of the County Trade Show

Kinsmen Recreation Complex, 246 Sherk Street, Leamington

For more information visit

<http://www.bountyofthecounty.ca>

Dec 7-9, Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market Expo, Grand Rapids, MI

<http://www.glexpo.com>

Jan 27-31, Guelph Organic Conference, Guelph

<http://www.guelphorganicconf.ca>

Feb 23-24, Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Convention, St. Catharines, ON

<http://www.ofvc.ca>

Links to Organic Agriculture Information

Organic Council of Ontario (OCO)

<http://www.organiccouncil.ca>

Canadian Organic Growers (COG)

<http://www.cog.ca>

OMAFRA Organic Agriculture

<http://www.ontario.ca/organic>

Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario (EFAO)

<http://www.efao.ca>

Organic Agricultural Centre of Canada (OACC)

<http://www.oacc.info>

Agricultural Information Contact Centre: 1-877-424-1300

E-mail: ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca

Northern Ontario Regional Office: 1-800-461-6132

www.ontario.ca/omafra