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Welcome to "ON Organic"

Hugh Martin, Organic Crop Production Program Lead, OMAFRA

Happy New Year! January is here along with all of the winter conferences and meetings. I have once again listed many of them but also check organization websites for updates and new listings. Many of you are also checking seed catalogues to get the organic seeds that you will need for the coming season. Enjoy the winter, spring will be here before you know 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. Thank you for subscribing to ON Organic. Help us to improve our service to you by providing feedback which will be used to direct our focus for the upcoming year. This should take one to three minutes of your time. Click here to start <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/onorganic> to the survey monkey evaluation.

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/organic.html>

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

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

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Monitoring Body Condition Score of Dairy Cows

By Mario S. Mongeon, Livestock Specialist, OMAFRA

Body condition score (BCS) assessment is a recognized management tool used to estimate the body fat reserves of an animal. The scale used in North America is the five point scale where 1 is a very thin cow and 5 is an over conditioned animal.

In early lactation, when dairy cows cannot get enough energy through their daily ration to support high milk production, the animals will utilize body fat reserves to compensate for the energy deficit. This phase can last from 50 to 100 days post calving.

During the first 30 days post calving, management and feeding will have little effect on BCS loss. This is mostly due to hormonal adjustments. After that four week period, management and diet can play an important role at reducing the length of time during which the cow will use her body reserves. Eventually, when the conditions allow it, the animal will replenish what was lost. In organic dairy herds, the organic standards state that the amount of concentrates fed to cows cannot exceed 40% of the total daily dry matter. This limitation may impact on the degree of body fat mobilized by cows in early to mid lactation, especially those cows producing significant amounts of milk. A cow losing too much body fat in early lactation may encounter some problems later on so, close monitoring is crucial.

The BCS profile is very similar to an inverted lactation curve. The lowest point of the BCS curve usually shows up around the time of peak lactation. Cows with superior genetics for milk production will have a higher lactation curve and will tend to have a depressed BSC profile. The genetic make up of a particular cow will tend to dictate the target level of BCS a cow will strive to achieve at a certain point in lactation. Usually, dry matter intake will increase when the BCS deviates from cow specific BCS targets. This dry matter intake increase will persist until body reserves are replenished.

Even though dry matter intake will be greater for animals in the process of replenishing their reserves, when formulating the ration for an organic dairy herd, it is important to account not just for milk production but also for the increased energy requirements in order to allow the animals to replenish their body reserves before drying off. This is why monitoring BCS in mid to late lactation is so critical since it is during this period that the intended calving BCS can be more efficiently managed to achieve the optimal objective. It is less efficient to adjust the BCS in the dry period.

Bear in mind that this fluctuation of BCS score is perfectly normal and cannot be completely eliminated by improved

feeding in the first few months of lactation. Traditionally, nutritionists used to come up with early lactation rations that would provide all the energy required by the cow to prevent as much as possible any body reserve losses. We know now that it may not be economical, practical or even achievable under organic standards. BCS change is a genetically regulated process that is in fact, beneficial as long as it is not drastic (less than a point of BCS).

For first calf heifers, their inability to achieve a rapid gain of BCS after the lowest BCS point highlights the necessity for specific management practices for these animals in order for them to attain optimal BCS at their second calving. This includes factors such as the use of a separate milking heifer group, ensuring adequate bunk space and minimizing situations that permit competitive behaviours from boss-cows towards subordinate animals. We need to keep in mind that optimal BCS at calving is an important factor influencing the fertility outcome later in lactation.

The effect of energy status (BCS at a specific point in time) and energy balance (BCS gain or loss and rate) on reproductive performances is well documented. In fact, energy balance is probably the most important non-management factor to influence reproductive performance. The most recent studies tend to demonstrate that successful pregnancy can be achieved earlier when the BCS low point and reserve replenishment happens early in lactation. Furthermore, it seems that the optimal BCS at the onset of the breeding period should lie between 3.0 and 3.5. When BCS is above or below the 3.0 to 3.5 range, the proportion of cows detected in heat decreases rapidly.

We know that cows with high BCS at calving were more at risk of coming down with metabolic problems post-calving. Recent research demonstrates that the extent of over-conditioning does not need to be significant to substantially affect the odds of metabolic problems showing up. For example, a 2006 study reported a 30% increase risk of milk fever if a cow BCS was greater than 3.5 at calving. Similarly, another study reported a doubling of the risk of ketosis in dairy cows when calving BCS was greater than 3.5 compared to cows calving at 3.5. In general, it appears that over-conditioning (BCS greater than 3.5), not low BCS predisposes cows to an increased risk of metabolic disorder around calving time. BCS has also been linked to lameness.

In light of recent findings, it seems that previous BCS recommendations need to be thinned down a bit. Optimal BCS at calving should be between 3.0 and 3.25 and the loss of BCS after calving should be no more than 1 point of BCS to a lowest score of 2.25.

Monitoring Body Condition Score of Dairy Cows (cont'd)

- Optimal BCS at calving should be between 3.0 and 3.25.
- Extent of BCS after calving should be no more than 1 point of BCS
- Lowest BCS achieved during lactation should be greater than 2.25.

Management practice	Positive outcomes
Optimal BCS at calving 3.00 to 3.25	• ↑Dry matter intake • ↓Post-calving BCS loss • ↓Size of negative energy balance • ↑Milk yield • ↑Successful return to oestrus • ↓Risks of ketosis • ↓Risks of milk fever • ↓Risks of lameness
BCS variation of 1 point and lowest point greater than 2.5	• ↑Pregnancy rate on first AI • ↓Days open • ↓Metabolic disorders

Organic Horticulture Expands Globally

Organic agriculture is expanding worldwide, driven by consumer demand in North American and European markets, as well as its claimed potential to address resource conservation, food security, and farm income issues in developing countries. Organic systems often build soil organic matter, sequestering carbon to help mitigate greenhouse gases (Niggli et al., 2007; Raviv, 2010). Horticultural crops, especially fruits and vegetables, are being promoted as a critical part of a healthy diet that can help avoid problems such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. Not surprisingly, consumers interested in healthy diets are often also attracted to organic foods (Hartman Group, 2006), and thus organic horticultural crops play a prominent role in consumer purchases.

The Organic Trade Association recently reported organic fresh produce sales at 11.4% of all USA fresh produce sales in 2009, up from 9.8% in 2008 (OTA, 2010). Organic produce accounted for 38% of all USA organic food sales in 2009. Statistics on organic production are continually improving, particularly with the world-wide annual survey conducted by the Research Institute for Organic Agriculture

(FiBL) and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) (FiBL/IFOAM, 2010a), the main results of which are published annually in the yearbook "The World of Organic Agriculture" (Willer and Kilcher, 2010). In this article, we attempt to characterize the extent of organic horticulture production around the world, including its share of production and its diversity. Various agriculture statistics bodies use differing definitions for crop groupings and for what is defined as "horticulture." Merriam-Webster's On-line Dictionary (2010) defines horticulture as "the science and art of growing fruits, vegetables, flowers, or ornamental plants." The International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) takes a broader view, including crops such as nuts, olives (technically a fruit, but classified separately), medicinal and aromatic plants, root crops such as potato and cassava, and beverage crops such as coffee and tea and cocoa. For this article, we take a broad view with more focus on fruits and vegetables.

For full report <http://www.actahort.org/chronica/pdf/ch5004.pdf>

Current World Status of Organic Temperate Fruits

Consumption of organic food has steadily increased in the primary markets of the European Union and North America. However, the statistical information base to describe this growth is either incomplete or inaccessible and sometimes inaccurate. In the USA, fruits and vegetables make up 40% of organic food sales, implying that the expanding overall market has also increased demand for organic temperate fruits such as apple, grape, and strawberry. Organic fruit in several European countries comprises over 5% of all fruit sales. Data on organic temperate fruit production have been compiled by FiBL and Washington State University. In 2006, there were at least 250,000 ha of organic temperate fruit (pome, stone, grapes, and berries) under production worldwide (fully

converted plus in conversion). Expansion rates vary by the fruit type and geographic location. In Washington State, USA, a leading producer of apple, pear, and cherry, organic production will soon comprise 10% of all apple hectares. Over 5% of the grape hectares in Italy are under organic management. Major organic temperate fruit production is spread around the globe but often is most successful with semi-arid, dry summer climates due to reduced disease problems. Leading producers include Italy, Turkey, USA, France, Spain, Poland, and Germany, which together accounted for about three-quarters of the global organic temperate fruit hectares in 2006.

For full article go to: <http://orgprints.org/18186/>

Linking Organic Knowledge: Let OACC Help You

By Joanna MacKenzie, Organic Agricultural Centre of Canada

The Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC) was established nine years ago, with a vision of promoting sustainable and science-based organic agricultural systems supporting healthy Canadian communities. In short, we are here to help you, the practitioners of organic agriculture in Canada. Some of you may already know us, some of you may need a gentle reminder about us, or maybe we haven't yet made your acquaintance. Regardless, OACC wants to remind you of the resources that are available to you. No need to make a trip to Nova Scotia to visit the OACC offices, we provide an abundance of information with a just a few taps of the keyboard and clicks of the mouse.

The OACC website is a veritable on-line library of organic resources. We invite you to visit www.oacc.info and explore the extensive list of extension materials, newspaper articles, research abstracts, animal welfare information and more. We aim to collect organic resources from across Canada and around the globe, and make them accessible to you on the website. Interested in the effects of organic agriculture on biodiversity? Want to learn more about organic greenhouse production? Need some help interpreting the new organic standards as they pertain to animal welfare? You'll find it all! Searchable and indexed by resource type, category or province, information is easy to access. The website is also the go-to place to find out more about the recently announced Organic Science Cluster.

The OACC Organic Friends' E-zine highlights the new materials posted on the OACC website each month, making it easy for you to stay even more in-tune with recent happenings, new research results and extension materials. If you haven't already signed up, we invite you to visit our website or e-mail oacc@nsac.ca to join the over 14,000 people already on our mailing list.

Established to provide an on-line meeting place for organic farmers in Canada to discuss topics of interest, share details on on-farm trials and experimentation, communicate and collaborate with fellow farmers, and share success stories or frustrations, the OACC Discussion Forum is our newest on-line tool and resource. This venue will also provide organic researchers in Canada with insight into the research needs and desires of organic farmers. Visit today, explore the discussions, and sign up for an account to share your thoughts and perspectives with the organic community of Canada at <http://www.oacc.info/phpbb3/> We hope to see you soon!

Looking for Participants in an Organic Dairy Research Project

Are you an organic dairy farmer in Ontario? Would you like to participate in a year-long organic research project? If so, see this flyer for more information. http://www.oacc.info/DOCs/organic_dairy_participant_ad.pdf

Benefits to Producers:

- **FREE** analysis of samples for 1 year including:

- Identification of pathogens contribution to **ALL** clinical mastitis cases
- Quarterly feed analysis
- Quarterly milk **fatty acid profile** analysis
- On farm evaluation and consultation of animal health and welfare
- Analysis of herd health data for a 1-year period

The Census of Agriculture and Canada's Organic Producers

by Erik Dorff, Census of Agriculture

Agricultural sustainability, environmental concerns and consumer preferences have all contributed to the growth of organic farming in Canada. Yet, as with most of the country's agriculture, organic producers face a range of challenges.

When farm operators complete their 2011 Census of Agriculture questionnaire on May 10, 2011, they will be updating Canada's definitive national agricultural profile. The co-operation of those producing organic products in completing their census forms is now more important than ever. The agricultural sector as a whole is facing many challenges. With the squeeze between the prices of inputs and agricultural products, farmers are seeking ways to minimize input costs while maximizing returns. For some, a move to organic production is the answer.

The 2001 Census was the first to ask about certified organic production. At that time 2,230 farms, or just under 1% of the total, produced at least one category of certified organic agricultural products. In 2006, the number of farms that reported producing certified organic products climbed to 3,505, or 1.5% of total farms.

A category collecting data on farms that are in transition to becoming certified was added to the 2006 Census. There were 640 farms on May 16, 2006 that reported that they were in the process of converting all or part of their farm operation to certified organic standards.

Farmers were also asked to report "organic but not certified" products on the 2006 Census of Agriculture. This provided a chance for the nearly 12,000 producers who use organic practices but do not go through formal certification to identify themselves. Many sell through farmers' markets, community-supported agriculture or other direct-sales ventures.

Federal regulations that came into effect July 2009 require that all organic products marketed interprovincially or internationally be certified by a certification body accredited by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). For this reason, the 2011 Census of Agriculture will collect data only on certified and transitional organic products.

Although organic farming is often associated with fruit and vegetable production, hay and field crops (such as grains, oilseeds or dry beans) are the predominant certified organic commodity in Canada. In 2006, a total of 2,462 farms with certified organic production, more than two-thirds of the national total, grew field crops organically. For this reason Saskatchewan, which has over 40% of the country's oilseed and grain farms, is also the province with the highest number of farms producing certified organic products.

Certified organic fruit and vegetables were produced on 916 farms, according to the 2006 Census. British Columbia's mild climate helped make it an ideal spot for organic fruit and vegetable production, and almost 40% of farms reporting organic fruit or vegetables were located in that province. However every province showed growth in the number of farms reporting under this category since the last census.

Information with which to make informed decisions is an important tool for producers, their agencies and the government in trying to stay competitive in an increasingly uncertain world. The ability to understand where we are now — and indeed where we have come from — allows us better informed approaches to face tomorrow's challenges. Participation by producers in the 2011 Census of Agriculture will also allow them to give a local as well as national voice to their present situation, informing Canadians of the crucial role the diverse agricultural sector plays in shaping our national picture.

The Census of Agriculture and Canada's Organic Producers (cont'd)

The Census of Agriculture, the backbone of Canada's agricultural statistics program, identifies trends and helps to illuminate issues, opportunities and challenges within the agricultural community. Questions cover topics such as land use, crops, livestock, agricultural labour, machinery and equipment, farm finances and land management practices. The depth of coverage allows the census to be the definitive source of information on the agricultural sector, giving voice to farmers' situations.

On May 10, 2011, add your voice to those of Canada's organic producers by counting yourself in on the Census of

Agriculture. Fill out your questionnaire on paper and mail it back in the prepaid envelope or take advantage of the internet application which automatically adds totals and skips you through the parts of the questionnaire that you indicate don't apply to your operation.

For more information on the 2011 Census of Agriculture visit the website at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/ca-ra2011/index-eng.htm> or contact Erik Dorff (by telephone at 613-951-2818 or by e-mail at erik.dorff@statcan.gc.ca).

Nitrogen Deficiency and Carbon: Nitrogen Ratios of Organic

By Christine Brown, Nutrient Management Program Lead/OMAFRA

"Carbon to nitrogen ratio imbalance" is a term used to describe a type of nitrogen deficiency. Farmers from my grandfather's generation called it "sour soil".

A field recently had pulp and paper biosolids applied. The newly planted crop looked great, until the seedlings ran out of seed reserves and started utilizing soil nutrients. The crop then turned a neon shade of yellow. What happened?

Organic-N & Ammonium-N

When an organic amendment is applied to a field, it adds nutrients and organic matter to the soil. The organic matter contains about 60 percent organic carbon. The carbon:nitrogen (C:N) ratio shows the proportion of organic carbon to total nitrogen of a manure or organic material.

Nitrogen is a food source for the micro-organisms ("soil bugs") while they break down organic carbon. The nitrogen can come from the added organic material or it can come from the soil. During the process of carbon breakdown soil microbes die and decompose. The microbial nitrogen is then returned to the soil and becomes available to the plants. This adds to the organic nitrogen pool within the soil along with the added organic material. How long the carbon breakdown process takes depends on the ratio of carbon to nitrogen in the material and in the soil.

Pulp & Paper Biosolids C:N Ratios

Liquid hog manure has a C:N ratio near 10:1. The nitrogen in liquid hog manure will become quickly available when the

soil microbes are active in the soil. Pulp and paper biosolids have a C:N ranging from 25:1 to 200:1, depending on how much nitrogen is added by the company producing the biosolids material. Pulp and paper biosolids without added N could have a C:N ratio of 200:1. The nitrogen contribution from this paper biosolids could take considerably more than one growing season to become available. To compensate for the high C:N ratio, some pulp and paper processors will add nitrogen to balance the carbon and reduce the ratio down to about 25:1. Each company provides a different product, so analysis of individual products is important.

High C:N Ratios

The carbon to nitrogen ratio of soil is about 10:1. When solid manure or other organic material has a C:N ratio of greater than 30:1, there is a higher risk that the soil bugs will "steal" nitrogen from the soil and tie it up. Therefore this nitrogen is unavailable to a crop while breaking down the carbon material. A crop with higher nitrogen requirements, such as corn or wheat, will show nitrogen deficiencies in that situation. When a material has a C:N ratio less than 20:1, there is generally enough nitrogen in the organic material to break down the carbon without causing a nitrogen deficiency in the crop. Table 1 lists approximate C:N ratio of various organic materials applied to soils.

From OMAFRA CropTalk Newsletter <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/news/croptalk/2010/ct-1110a7.htm>

Nitrogen Deficiency and Carbon: Nitrogen Ratios of Organic (cont'd)

Material	C:N Ratio Range
Soil Microbes	4:1 to 9:1
Soil Organic Matter	10:1 to 12:1
Solid Cattle Manure	20:1 (light bedding) to 40:1 (heavy bedding)
Horse Manure	27:1 (straw bedding) 60:1 (sawdust bedding)
Solid Poultry Manure	5:1 layers 10:1 broilers and turkeys
Liquid Hog Manure	< 8:1
Liquid Dairy	15:1
Legume Residues	20:1 to 30:1
Corn Stalks	80:1
Wheat Straw	80:1
Sawdust	500:1
Pulp & Paper biosolids	25:1 (nitrogen added during process) to 200:1 (little or no nitrogen added)

Food Safety Workshops

OMAFRA is pleased to introduce a new, one-day comprehensive workshop for agricultural producers scheduled early in 2011. Each workshop focuses on the following five food safety topics:

1. Getting Started in Food Safety

Not sure where to start? This workshop will help you evaluate food safety programs and practices, write a basic food safety plan and help you find resources.

2. Hygiene and Sanitation

Learn how to examine risks and discuss how to develop and implement a hygiene and sanitation program in the field and pack house, and develop a hygiene and hand washing plan.

3. Pre and Post Harvest Water Use

Did you know that water can carry some pathogens to up to five new sites? Evaluate your risks, and discuss

how to construct and monitor a water sanitizing program in this workshop.

4. Manure, Compost and Compost Teas

Learn about the Good Agricultural Practices that help reduce the risk of contamination, and write guidelines that fit into a farm food safety program.

5. Food Safety on Multi-Commodity Farms

Do you know where your risks lie? In this workshop, construct a map linking farm practices to food safety to determine where cross-contamination could occur. Discuss and develop a risk reduction program for your farm.

Registration information can be found on our website at: www.ontario.ca/foodsafety.

Now available: New food safety resources to grow your business!

Want to increase your sales and profits? OMAFRA's new food safety manuals are easier to use and will help you grow your business.

Book 1: [Free!](#) Introduction to the Advantage Series of Food Safety Programs™

This introductory book will help you get started. Learn how the **Advantage Series of Food Safety Programs™** can grow your business.

Book 2: Advantage Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)

This book describes the good manufacturing practices and gives you lots of practical suggestions to help you start using them. Price \$50.

Book 3: Advantage HACCP

Many buyers require you to have a HACCP plan. The **Advantage HACCP** book will help you meet audit standards. Price \$40.

To order, or for assistance with any food safety concern, please contact OMAFRA at 1-877-424-1300.

Providing Tax Relief for Farmers—Tax Classification for Farm Bunkhouses

Ontario is changing the farm bunkhouses property tax classification from residential to farm beginning January 1, 2011. Farmers with residences that house temporary workers will pay the farm property tax rate, which is 75 per cent lower than the residential rate. [more>> http://news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2010/12/providing-tax-relief-for-farmers.html](http://news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2010/12/providing-tax-relief-for-farmers.html)

Publications

2011 Field Crop Budgets, Pub 60 [available online](#), ([PDF](#))
Crop budgets are a management tool to estimate costs and evaluate cropping alternatives.

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/facts/pub60.pdf>

Canada Pension Plan, Order No. 10-075, Agdex 051/800
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/facts/10-075.pdf>

Food Bulletin Industry News

A Canadian First: Manufacturers form cooperative buying group

Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium (EMC) announces the first cooperative buying group for manufacturers in Canada. It will enable those in the industry to leverage their combined purchasing power and to receive better prices and terms on the common products they buy. Although the Co-op is an EMC initiative, it is separately incorporated and owned entirely by the participating member manufacturers. "This latest industry driven initiative is something our members have been asking for," said Al Diggins, EMC President and General Manager.

"Purchasing has become more and more complex and the Co-op is another tool to help manufacturers compete on the world stage, through strategic collaboration."

Applications for the inaugural membership group are being processed now. See more details at: http://www.emccanada.org/group_spaces/purchasingcoop

Funding and Related Opportunities

Tap into funding for summer students

It might be cold outside, but summer is coming – and so is the opportunity to apply for funding from Canada Summer Jobs 2011. You can help students between the ages of 15 and 30 gain valuable work experience while saving up to 50 per cent of labour costs. To qualify, you must be a private sector employer with 50 or fewer employees. Not-for-profit organizations and public-sector employers are also eligible.

Learn more: call the Youth Info Line toll-free at 1-800-935-5555, or visit a Service Canada Centre. Information is posted on the Service Canada's.

Canada Summer Jobs website. The application period is from February 1 to February 28.

Training

Guelph Food Technology Centre

Supervision Skills for the Food Industry II

Date: January 20-21, 2011

What you will learn: Increase your effectiveness as a supervisor. This course focuses on building your skills for problem-solving, decision-making, team-building and hiring.

Cost: Member: \$677; Regular: \$752

Certified Manager of Quality and Organizational Excellence (Part 1 of 2)

Date: January 26-27, 2011

What you will learn: This course is the first of two that will lead to certification. You will learn how to facilitate and lead team efforts to assure quality and achieve continuous organizational improvement.

Cost: Member: \$780; Regular: \$867

Learn more now about these and other GTIC courses – including HACCP and other food safety trainings at all levels at <http://www.gftc.ca/courses-and-training/default.aspx>

Events

January 20th Oxford Organic Growers Winter Meeting

8 pm at the home of Tom and Stella Boon, 593780 Hwy 59, Burgessville.

Speakers will be Dan Konzelman and Paul Leeds on their unique farming experiences. There will be time for questions and answers. Call (519) 424 -3113 for more information.

January 26th - Organic Grain Marketing Seminar

Loyola House, Ignatius Jesuit Centre, Guelph (1:00-4:00pm)
Come learn about local grain markets and explore the opportunities

Speakers: Dave Reibling, Oak Manor, Jon Steinman, Kootenay Grain CSA; Sean McGivern, Grass Roots Organics

Cost \$20 at the door, RSVP by January 19th to office@cogwaterloo.ca or 226-251-3012
Sponsored by COG (PWW) and EFAO

2011 Guelph Organic Conference – Generation Organic

For a full listing of events for the 30th annual conference go to <http://www.guelphorganicconf.ca/> or you can follow on Twitter or Facebook. Registration online or at the door.

January 27, 2010

- OCO Ontario Organic Awards
- EFAO courses
- COG Crop Planning for Organic Vegetable Growers
Soil Food Web

January 28th, 2010

- EFAO courses
- Equipment for Organics
- Participatory development and Agro-Ecological Farming for Food Security: International Perspectives
- Financial Sustainability on Small Diversified Farms
- Organic Branding, Marketing, Trade and Equivalency
- Organic Food and Wine Dinner (advance tickets needed)
- Guelph Public Forum

January 29th, 2010

- Organic Trade Show (~170 exhibitors)
- Feature Speaker Tom Manley and family
- 15 workshops

January 30th, 2010

- Organic Trade Show (~170 exhibitors)
- 8 workshops

OCO Events

January 27th, Ontario Organic Awards,

River Run Centre, Downtown Guelph 7pm-11pm
Tickets \$25 students/ OCO members, \$35 general public
Come celebrate the sector! Ontario's first annual Organic Awards, with local foods, beer sampling, and music. Tickets available from Organic Council of Ontario 519-827-1221, Jodi@organiccouncil.ca

January 28th, 2011 "Branding and Trade" Industry Seminar

Canada Organic Brand Strategy 1:00-2:45

Speakers: Gunta Vitins, Chair, OVCRT Marketing Working Group and JP LeCroix, LeCroix Shikanti

Get an overview of the 150 page Marketing Strategy developed by the OVCRT Working Group and LeCroix Shikanti. Discussion on collaborative marketing opportunities, and potential uptake of the strategy by the sector.

US/ Canada Equivalency Agreement and Stream of Commerce 3:00-4:00

Speakers: Miles McEvoy, USDA's National Organic Program, Michel Saumur, Canada Organic Office, moderated by Kelly Monaghan, Chair of the Standards Committee on Organic Agriculture.

This part of the seminar deals with the closing of the stream of commerce period in June of 2011, as well as general issues/ questions on organic trade between the US and Canada and "hot topics" in trade.

Register for both seminars on the Guelph Organic website: www.guelphorganicconf.ca

Call Organic Council of Ontario for more details:
519-827-1221

January 27, 2011 Crop Planning for Organic Vegetable Growers

Location: Guelph Organic Conference, University of Guelph, University Centre, Room UC103

Time: 9:00 - 4:00

Description: This workshop provides a much-needed structure for figuring out how to make money on a market garden. It hones in on the core issues of farm success: which crops to grow, when to plant them, and in what quantities. Then it provides a logical, linear process for getting it all done, on time.

Facilitators: Daniel Brisebois is one of the founding members of Tourne-Sol cooperative farm. He farms in Les Cèdres, Qc near Montreal. Tourne-Sol produces certified organic vegetables, flowers, seeds, seedlings and herbal teas on 12 acres. Tourne-Sol's produce is distributed mainly through a 250 share CSA and a farmers market. Daniel is President of the COG Board of Directors, and is also a co-author of COG's Crop Planning for Organic Vegetable Growers book. Frederic Theriault is one of the 5 co-managers of Ferme Cooperative Tourne-Sol of Les Cedres, Qc.. Frederic studied Plant Sciences, Agricultural Economics and Ecological Agriculture at McGill and completed a Masters of Science . He taught Principles of Plant Sciences and Ecological Agriculture at McGill University, and is co-author of the book Crop Planning for Organic Vegetable Growers.

Price: \$60 + HST per person. Includes a copy of Crop Planning for Organic Vegetable Growers, and snacks. Bring your own lunch.

Register: <http://www.guelphorganicconf.ca/register/>

January 27 - Soil FoodWeb

Focus: An introduction to the Soil Foodweb approach to composting for farmers, home gardeners and all who are interested in soil health. Thursday, January 27, 2011, 6.00 pm-9.00 pm, Guelph University Centre Room 442, \$60 general admission, \$20 student (add HST onto both prices).

Register: <http://www.guelphorganicconf.ca/register/>

Jan 27-28th Ecological Farmers of Ontario Courses

- Intro to Ecological Agriculture (2 days - Jan 27th and 28th)
- Composting (1 day - Jan 27th)
- Field Crop Rotation and Weed Management (1 day - Jan 27th)
- Market Garden Crop rotation (1 day - Jan 28th)
- Finding the Balance – Interpreting Soil Tests for Organic Farmers (1 day – Jan 28th)

Fees are \$70 per day (\$20 discount for members). Contact EFO to register at info@efao.ca, 519-822-8606, www.efao.ca.

Exploring Your New Farm Dream (January/February 2011)

When: Tuesdays (6:30 pm – 9:30 pm), Jan 18, Jan 25, Feb 1 (snow day), Feb 8, Feb 15

Farmer Panel Discussion: Saturday February 5 (9:30 am – 4 pm)

Where: Kingston Sustainability Centre, 193 Princess Street. This 5-part course developed by Farm Start helps new and aspiring farmers explore their new farm dream – from developing the vision and self-assessment, to networking and exploring funding and market opportunities. The NFU New Farm Project is excited to bring this popular course to Kingston in response to demand in Eastern Ontario.

For more information on the course, and to register, please visit the Farm Start Explorer Course page at <http://www.farmstart.ca/explorer/>.

Course cost: \$300. Please note there are a few bursaries available to applicants in need in the Kingston area (within 100 km) to cover part of the cost of the course – contact Ian Stutt at the NFU New Farm Project for details (<http://www.newfarmproject.ca/contact-us/>).

February 4 & 5 Introduction To Ecological Agriculture

9 am to 4 pm, Barr Line Community Centre, Douglas, Renfrew County

Cost is \$80 per person and \$60 for each additional person from the same household for the 2 days, and includes an ecological local lunch both days. Pre-registration and \$40 deposit is required. Sponsored by the Ottawa Valley Food Co-operative, the Renfrew County National Farmers Union, and the Renfrew County Stewardship Council, with facilitators from the Ecological Farmers of Ontario. For more information or to register contact Cheryl Keetch 613-756-3884 ckeetch@webhart.net or Christina Anderman 613-757-3044, christina@ottawavalleyfood.org.

February 19, 2011, COG Toronto Conference

Place: U of Toronto Conference Centre, 89 Chestnut St., Toronto

Time: 9 am to 5 pm

Theme: Your Food Your Choice, the Promise of Organic

For full details go to http://cogtoronto.org/COG_Toronto/Conference_February_2011.html

February 25-26, 2011 Eco Farm Day

Theme: "For the Sake of Food Safety and Security"

Eco Farm Day - Eastern Ontario's premier farm conference.

Over 350 people come back every year for the social event, the networking, the positive atmosphere, and the great food! Eco Farm Day is hosted by [Canadian Organic Growers - Ottawa Chapter](http://www.canadianorganicgrowers.ca).

Friday evening, February 25th, 2011 – organic gala dinner with Margaret Webb; Cocktails at 6 pm. \$50 per person, in advance only.

Saturday, February 26th, 2011 – full conference with Dr. Shiv Chopra at 9AM and 12 workshops. \$50 per person in advance or \$60 at the door. Register online at www.ecofarmday.ca.

Location: The Ramada Inn, 805 Brookdale Ave., Cornwall, ON.

February 23-24, Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Convention

Located at Brock University, St. Catharines, ON

Large Trade show and multiple sessions on fruit and vegetable production and marketing including a session on Organic Fruit Production:

- 2:00 p.m. Ontario Consumers' Motivations for Buying Local and Organic Produce, *Dr. Ben Campbell, Vineland Research & Innovation Center*
- 2:30 p.m. Economics of Organic Agriculture, *Dr. Gregory Peck, Cornell University, NY*
- 3:00 p.m. Orchard Floor Management Options for Organic Fruit, *Dr. Ron Perry, Michigan State University*
- 3:30 p.m. Grower Panel - the Challenges of Growing Organic

For full program and to register go to www.ofvc.ca

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.

OMAFRA's new food safety training topics will help provide practical suggestions on how you can improve food safety at your facility.

Upcoming Workshops – Guelph

Personnel Practices/Handling - February 1, 2011 \$45 plus HST

Sanitation/Receiving and Shipping - February 22, 2011 \$45 plus HST.

Learn more at www.ontario.ca/foodsafety or call 1-877-424-1300 for more information.

February 17, 2011 6th Annual I.E. Canada Food Forum

Canadian Association of Importers and Exporters (I.E. Canada)

Stay up-to-date on emerging food safety and other industry initiatives. At the Food Forum, you will hear from a range of high profile speakers, including senior staff from:

- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- Health Canada.
- You will learn about:
- New food safety compliance requirements for Canadian companies exporting food to the U.S.
- What the pending U.S. Food Safety Modernization Act means to Canadian exporters.
- CFIA mandatory requirements for the licensing of food imports.

New Health Canada rules for allergen labelling, sodium reduction targets for processed foods, mandatory *Listeria* product and environmental testing for ready to eat foods and the modernization of Canada's food and nutrition labelling regime.

It's also a great opportunity to network with:

- other domestic food manufacturers
- food importers and exporters
- service providers
- federal and provincial government officials.

When: February 17, 2011

Where: Delta Toronto Airport West

To learn more and register, contact Jesse Arsenault at jesse@iecanada.com or 416-595-5333 ext. 37.

February 24, 2011 Safe Food Canada 2011

Mark this premiere networking and informational event on your calendar now.

The agenda for this full-day program is jam packed with the latest food safety information. In addition to a compelling line-up of speakers and topics, there will be an exciting panel discussion featuring Canadian business leaders in food safety management.

When: February 24, 2011

Where: Pearson Convention Centre, Brampton

Cost: \$225 GFTC members; \$275 non-members

[Learn more and register now http://www.gftc.ca/courses-and-training/course-details.aspx?course=TRS042](http://www.gftc.ca/courses-and-training/course-details.aspx?course=TRS042)

March 4 - 5, 2011 Meat and Food Processing Expo

If your business is meat and food processing, don't miss this one-of-a kind show. This 2-day event showcases innovations, connections and solutions to industry processors and suppliers. You'll have an opportunity to network, create successful business relationships and find solutions to challenges facing your company.

Where: International Centre, Hall 6, Toronto

Learn more and register now at <http://www.foodindustryexpo.ca/Default.aspx>

Information session: tax credit for Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED)

Is your organization taking advantage of a major tax break to support your research and development (R&D) efforts? The SR&ED program is a federal tax incentive program. It encourages Canadian businesses of all sizes to conduct R&D in Canada. It offers cash **refunds and/or tax credits** for your expenditures on eligible R&D work done in Canada.

Ready to learn more? Plan to attend a free public information session. The following chart shows the fall 2010 schedule.

Other Training (cont'd)

General information sessions (English)

City	Date
Hamilton	January 20
London	December 7
Ottawa	March 21
Toronto	January 18
	February 17
Waterloo	March 15
Windsor	February 15

Financial issues seminars (English)

City	Date
Ottawa	January 24

[Learn more now and enrol](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/txcrdt/sred-rsde/smnr-eng.html)
<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/txcrdt/sred-rsde/smnr-eng.html>

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 of Ontario (EFO)
<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