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Welcome to "ON Organic"

Evan Elford, New Crop Development Specialist, OMAFRA

In a new year we look at new beginnings. In agriculture, we typically associate seeds with the beginning of a crop. Seeds provide a method of plant dispersal and nourishment for germinating seedlings. They also provide a method of dormancy if conditions are not appropriate for germination of the seedling.

Likewise, ideas and knowledge require methods of dispersal, nourishment and occasionally a time of dormancy until conditions exist for them to take root. This month the 31st annual Guelph Organic Conference will take place at the University of Guelph. The conference theme, 'Seeds of Co-operation', is a fitting title as a forum to share, nourish, and ruminate on new ideas.

Also on the theme of seeds, the Perth-Waterloo-Wellington chapter of the Canadian Organic Growers (COG) recently launched their new website FindOrganicSeed.ca. This new database has been developed to assist organic growers in locating the seed they require for their farms. Follow the link www.FindOrganicSeed.ca for more information or read more about the database on the COG blog at localorganic.wordpress.com.

Thank you to our contributing authors and those who pass along our newsletter. We always appreciate your comments and feedback. 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/onorganic2012>

Wishing you 'seeds of success' during this season of learning and planning.

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

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Poultry Farm Biosecurity Workshops

The Ontario organic poultry sector is a thriving and growing sector of the organic spectrum. Like all livestock species, the organic poultry sector has challenges when it comes to biosecurity. There is a program that can offer up to \$10,000.00 of funding at a 50% cost-share to make biosecurity improvements to your operation.

The Farm Biosecurity Program (FBP) is a cost-share program designed to build capacity in the poultry sector to implement sound biosecurity management practices based on national standards (the National Avian On-Farm Biosecurity Standard). Through educational workshops and a self-assessment exercise, poultry producers and holders will be able to identify their current level of biosecurity and develop plans to adopt new and/or additional measures to heighten their existing level of biosecurity.

Producers *must* attend a Poultry Farm Biosecurity Workshop before applying for cost-share funding under the Farm Biosecurity Program. These workshops are open to all holders of poultry: commercial and non-commercial; large and small.

Upcoming Workshops are scheduled for:

**Brodhagen Community Centre, 6708 Perth Line 44
Brodhagen**

Wednesday, February 1
Wednesday, February 29
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**The Arboretum, University of Guelph
Guelph**

Thursday, February 2
Tuesday, February 28
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Mt. Forest and District Sports Complex, 850 Princess
St
Mt. Forest**

Wednesday, February 22
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

A special Webex / telephone conference call workshop has been arranged for producers in the designated northern region (north of Manitoulin Island, Parry Sound and Nipissing) for **Friday February 24, 2012** from 9am to 2pm. Only producers or bird holders in this region are eligible to register for this special workshop. All other producers must attend one of the scheduled regular workshops. There is no cost to participate in the workshop, but you must register. **To register, call toll free 1-888-479-3931.** Details of how to participate in the workshop will be provided after registration. All necessary workshop materials will be mailed to registered participants prior to the workshop.

A French language workshop is scheduled for:

University of Guelph – Alfred Campus (Room 264)
31 St-Paul Street, Alfred
Thursday, March 22
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

NOTE: This will be the **final** series of workshops for the Farm Biosecurity Program. The deadline for submitting applications is August 31, 2012. All claims and invoices for approved projects must be submitted by December 31, 2012.

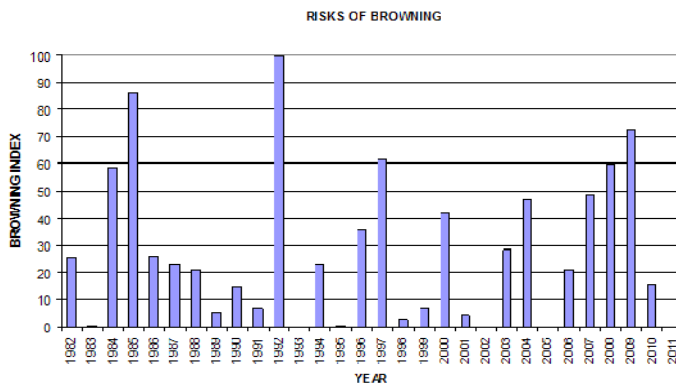
There is no cost to attend these workshops, but you must register. To register for a workshop, call toll free 1-888-479-3931 or complete the online registration form at www.ontario.ca/growingforward. The Farm Biosecurity Program is one of the Best Practices suite of programs under Growing Forward, a federal, provincial, territorial initiative. For more information on the program and upcoming workshops, call toll free: 1-888-479-3931 (1-888-GRWFWD1) or email: biosecurity.omafra@ontario.ca

Low Risk of Chilling Disorders for 2011-12 Storage Season in Ontario

By Dr. Jennifer DeEll - Fresh Market Quality Program Lead, OMAFRA

CIPRA is a computer-based program developed by the research team of Dr. Gaétan Bourgeois (AAFC-QC) that uses weather data to predict the risk susceptibility of apples to certain storage disorders (Bourgeois, DeEll, and Plouffe). According to the CIPRA program, the figure below shows the results from 1982 to 2011 using weather data from Norfolk County, Ontario.

The model indicates that there is <1% risk of chilling-related disorders developing during the 2011-2012 storage season (i.e. flesh browning, low temperature breakdown, soft scald). Although the risk is low, it is still important to use the recommended storage temperatures for all cultivars. 'Empire', 'McIntosh', and 'Honeycrisp' are especially susceptible to chilling-related disorders.



*Graph supplied by D. Plouffe, AAFC-QC

Attention To Detail Can Help Increase Raspberry Yields

By Pam Fisher, Berry Crop Specialist, OMAFRA

Raspberries are notorious for not reaching their yield potential. Yields vary tremendously from farm to farm and from year to year. Researchers estimate less than 20% of the potential yield is actually realized. Figure 1 provides a possible scenario of what happens to the rest.

There are many production practices that affect raspberry productivity and yield. This discussion will focus on three areas where attention to detail is important: microclimate and irrigation, pruning, and pest management. Trellising is another important management practice and will be discussed in a future article.

Microclimate and Irrigation

"Warm roots, cool shoots" simplistically describes the conditions raspberries like for optimum growth. When air temperatures are too warm, (i.e. > 25C), photosynthesis slows dramatically. However, raspberry roots appear to grow better in warm soils. Growers can use black plastic mulch over the raspberry row in the planting year to warm the soil. This mulch helps conserve soil moisture, control weeds, and encourage strong root development. After the first year, the benefits of plastic mulch are reduced, because of shading. As the plastic breaks apart, primocanes are able to grow up and fill the row. Straw mulch is not as useful for raspberries, partly because it keeps the soil cool, and partly because damp conditions around the crown can encourage Phytophthora infection.

Windbreaks are important around a raspberry planting. Plants in windy sites have shorter canes and smaller foliage. Fruit can be easily damaged by wind. However, last year we saw the worst winter injury near windbreaks and hedgerows. Plan your windbreak so it breaks the wind but doesn't prevent cold air drainage out of the planting. There should be about 50% barrier and 50% airspace in a good windbreak.

Generally, berries benefit nine years out of 10 from irrigation. Trickle irrigation is preferred to overhead irrigation, because overhead irrigation spreads diseases. Raspberry roots typically extend 45-120 cm deep. Most water is taken from the top 10 cm. If the soil in this area dries out, the lower roots cannot increase water uptake to make up the difference. Growers should monitor soil moisture on a regular basis to provide just the right amount. An inch of water/week is only a guideline for irrigation amounts. The actual water needs go up or down depending on the soil type, weather conditions and stage of crop growth. The most critical time for irrigation in raspberries is from pre-bloom through the green fruit period. Primocanes, fruit and roots are all competing for resources at this time.

Pruning

In a typical planting of floricanes –producing varieties, where rows are 2.5-3 m apart, prune out raspberry canes in late winter or early spring to approximately 15-18 canes per m of row. Where rows are further apart, cane numbers should be increased. Over the whole area, the optimum cane number is about 6-8 canes per square metre. In primocane fruiting systems, cane density can be much higher, typically 25-30 canes per metre. (For more details on cane density, refer to "The Ideal Red Raspberry Cane Density", by Becky Hughes and Adam Dale, University of Guelph, in the Ontario Berry Grower January 2011.)

Cut back the fruiting cane tips to a convenient height for picking. Be sure to cut off dried up fruiting clusters from the tips of Nova and Prelude.

Use a mower for your summer pruning. Keep unnecessary primocanes mowed off from the row edges. The earlier these shoots are removed the better.

After harvest, old fruiting canes should be removed from the row. We used to think that this job should be done as soon as possible after harvest. However we now know that nitrogen and other nutrients are transported out of fruiting canes after harvest, back to the crown. There is also anecdotal evidence that, in a marginal year, winter injury can be worse on varieties pruned right after harvest. On winter sensitive varieties you should probably delay pruning out the fruiting canes until the plants are dormant.

Finally, make sure that canes are pruned close to the ground. Do not leave long pruning stubs. Several insects overwinter in the lower portion of fruiting canes, and careful pruning can help control these pests. Also, old cane stubs are a source of spores for some diseases.

Pest Management

Four cane diseases are common in Ontario. These include cane blight, cane botrytis, spur blight and anthracnose. Controlling cane disease is very important. Winter injury can be much more serious in plantings with significant levels of cane diseases.

Lime sulphur should be applied between bud break and 1/4 inch green. This organic fungicide works on the overwintering fungus as it starts to grow. Application too early is not as effective. Application too late can cause leaf burn.

Another pest that can cause harvest losses is two-spotted spider mite. Outbreaks of this pest are more likely in hot dry weather. Autumn Britten is very susceptible to two-spotted spider mite, and this cultivar should be monitored carefully for mites.

Raspberry crown borer is probably the most serious insect pest of raspberries. Typically, populations build up gradually but are mis-diagnosed for several years. Canes infested with raspberry crown borer wither and die or are stunted with small fruit. Canes that grow out of infested crowns can sometimes be pulled or tugged away from the crown to reveal borer damage and insect frass. Eventually, primocanes become so few in number that the planting dies out. At the first sign of damage, dig up suspected plants to look for crown borers in the crown. Look for more information in OMAFRA publication #360 *Guide to Fruit Production*.

From OMAFRA Newsletter The Ontario Berry Grower

Update on Brown Marmorated Stink Bug in Ontario Hannah Fraser - Entomology Program Lead (Hort), OMAFRA

The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is an invasive alien species native to China, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan. It was introduced to North America in the mid 1990s, and was first detected in Allentown, Pennsylvania in 2001. While BMSB is capable of natural spread, the pest is also an excellent hitchhiker and can be moved over large distances in cargo and vehicles. At present it has been found in at least 35 states, though many of these are simply detections rather than confirmed as established in the field.

BMSB has a very broad host range that includes tree fruit, berries, grapes, vegetables, agronomic crops, ornamental trees and ornamental shrubs. Damage results when nymphs and adults feed on either vegetative or fruiting plant parts. The pest is highly mobile and can readily switch hosts, moving between crops throughout the growing season. In 2010 and 2011, BMSB was seen in extremely high numbers in the mid-Atlantic region of the US, where growers reported significant economic loss in multiple crops (particularly tree fruit).

Adults overwinter in sheltered areas that may include homes and other heated buildings. As they can aggregate in very large numbers, the BMSB has become a considerable nuisance pest for home owners where established. While the bugs do not bite humans, they will release a foul smell when handled or otherwise disturbed. They do not lay eggs or reproduce inside structures. Aggregation in artificial structures is not common among stink bugs, and is a behaviour that may provide an early warning of where BMSB has become established.

Earlier this year, we reported on a homeowner find of BMSB in an urban centre in Ontario. In the fall of 2011, there were four additional homeowner interceptions, including two in early December. We have also learned of two confirmed finds in late 2010. All of the finds - a total of seven adult specimens - have occurred in Hamilton, ON. While we have yet to find BMSB in the field, the presence of several specimens in a small geographic area and over multiple years implies that a population of this pest may have already become established in Ontario. At the very least, these interceptions provide important information on where to target surveys in 2012.

How Can You Help?

BMSB was identified by numerous commodity groups as a pest of significance during the 2011 Canadian Minor Use Pesticide Priority Setting Conference. OMAFRA and

OMAFRA Articles (cont'd)

other provincial agricultural ministries, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Pest Management Centre and United States counterparts (U.S. IR-4 minor use program) are working together to find pest management solutions for BMSB, in anticipation that this pest could become an agricultural nuisance following its establishment. If BMSB has become established in Ontario, early detection is important to the long term success of management programs. There is a monitoring network for this pest; however, we have a better chance of finding pockets of small populations if more people are looking. Tracking the distribution and spread is essential. If you

think you have found BMSB, contact the Agriculture Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300 or email ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca. Place the insect in a leak proof container and add rubbing alcohol, or freeze to kill it.

For more information and for updates on BMSB, visit our website at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/insects/bmsb-resources.html>.

From OMAFRA newsletter HortMatters

OMAFRA Food Safety Snippets

Preparing for an Audit – do you have what it takes?

Colleen Haskins, On-Farm Food Safety Program Lead

....the short answer is “yes, you do”. Knowing what it takes however, may be a bit more challenging. Whether you are considering implementing an on-farm food safety program, or know you will be participating in a 3rd party audit, there are some key things you should do, to help navigate and assist you with this process.

1. Know your food safety program
 - Obtain the corresponding manual and checklist
2. Ensure all areas of the program are complete
 - Write your procedures and records
3. Prepare and organize required information
 - Properly train workers & keep organized records
4. Have product traceability
 - Practice a Mock Recall & keep documentation
5. Annually review your food safety program and practices
 - Review, update and sign off on your program documentation

If the above items are still leaving you with questions on how you start to implement a food safety program or prepare for an audit, contact us 1-877-424-1300 or visit our website at www.ontario.ca/goodagpractices for more information and food safety resources.

Grocery Loyalty Cards Help Solve Food Safety Sickness Sources

Don Blakely, Beef Quality Assurance Program Lead

Most grocery retail chains now offer loyalty cards to customers as a way of offering discounts and encouraging them to shop at their stores. The retailer benefits by obtaining data on what consumers purchase.

Recent foodborne illness outbreaks in the United States have uncovered another benefit to loyalty cards. When someone gets food poisoning tracing the food source cause can be a big challenge. Most people cannot remember everything they consumed in the previous weeks to being sick. By getting permission from those who were sick, trace out teams were able to access their grocery purchasing data from their loyalty card accounts. The result was finding common purchases across several sick individual's accounts and quick identification of the food product causing the problem. This new tool has not been utilized yet in Canada but it is good to know we have a new method for discovery if faced with a foodborne illness outbreak.

For training and other resources, call 1-877-424-1300, or visit our website www.ontario.ca/good-ag-practices. Food safety questions? Ask us. We can help.

Food Industry Update & Training Opportunities

NEW - Online Food Safety Workshop—Register Today!

Reduce your risk of food contamination and expand your customer base by putting in place a food safety program. OMAFRA is here to help you keep up to date on the latest food safety practices! Join these online workshops from the comfort of your home or business. All you need is an internet and phone connection.

- **Pre and Post Harvest Water Use** – February 14, 10:30 am – 12:00 noon. A pre and post harvest water use program is an important step in reducing risks of produce contamination. Evaluate your risks and learn how to construct and monitor a water sanitizing program.

Register today! Call 1-877-424-1300 or register online at <http://omafra.webex.com>.

Risk Management Program Update

Premium Rates Set for RMP Livestock Plans

For livestock producers who are thinking about their risk management options for 2012, premium rates are now set for the new Risk Management Program (RMP). Three coverage levels are available for the cattle, hog, sheep and veal plans. Premium rates and the 2012 handbook are now posted on agricorp.com. More information about the 2012 program, including application and renewal forms, will be available in February. The deadline to apply for 2012 RMP for livestock is March 16, 2012.

Other Upcoming RMP Deadlines

February 1, 2012 – Last day to submit deposit request for 2011 SDRM: Edible Horticulture

Farm Business Registration Update

Producers Receiving FBR Invoices

This month, producers are receiving their 2012 FBR invoice. The FBR fee is \$220.35 and is due by March 1. To remain eligible to apply for the farmland property class tax rate, all farms that gross \$7,000 or more must register and pay the annual registration fee, under the Farm Business Registration (FBR) program.

The annual fee pays for a membership in an accredited general farm organization (GFO) of the producer's choice.

New Publications

Growing Strawberries Organically

"Growing Strawberries Organically" is the newest handbook published by Canadian Organic Growers (COG) in its Practical Skills series of technical manuals for organic agriculture. The book and the series continue COG's commitment and success in educating organic and transitioning growers.

A highlight of COG's handbooks are success stories from organic growers across Canada. The strawberry growers profiled here share their experiences with tarnished plant bugs, weeder geese, cover crops, marketing and more. To order this publication, visit the Canadian Organic Growers website at www.cog.ca and look under Publications.

CAAP Call for Proposals - Sustainability

As a catalyst for innovation, adaptation, and advancement for a profitable and sustainable agriculture and agri-business industry, the Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC) is issuing a Call for Proposals (CFP) to encourage projects that address agricultural sustainability in Ontario.

Proposal Submission Deadline: Thursday, March 15, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

The Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC) is seeking projects under the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). The AAC is interested in innovative projects that:

Seize opportunities – projects that develop a new idea, product, niche, or market opportunity to the benefit of the sector.

Respond to new and emerging issues – projects that address issues that were not of concern previously, or were not known about at all.

Pathfind and pilot solutions – projects that test ways of dealing with new issues, or find new ways to deal with existing issues. Under CAAP, this is done in two ways:

- Pathfinding projects – projects that look at different options to prepare the sector to face the future and remain competitive.
- Piloting projects – projects that test ideas or approaches to see if it is effective enough to use in everyday applications in the sector.

CAAP information, project and application requirements are available in the CAAP guide. Have an idea that you think would fit for funding under the CAAP program? We're here to help. Contact an AAC staff member to discuss your project idea, or click the links on the right (under important information) to get started.

CAAP is funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and administered by the Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC).

For more information please visit the AAC website: <http://adaptcouncil.org/program-details.php?id=2n2p5h0d2z7n>

Agricultural Innovation Program (AIP)

The Agricultural Innovation Program (AIP) is a \$50 million initiative designed to accelerate the pace of innovation; facilitate the commercialization and adoption of innovative products, technologies, processes and/or services that will enhance economic growth, productivity and competitiveness of the sector; and help the sector capture opportunities in domestic and global markets.

The program has two streams:

1. Accelerate the creation, availability, application and transfer of knowledge and technologies to the sector.

Applicants can be not-for profit or for-profit organizations and can apply up to \$4 million per project of non-repayable funding. Not-for profit organizations can target up to 75% of eligible costs and for-profit organizations can target up to 50% of eligible costs associated with a project.

2. Increase the successful commercialization or adoption of agriculture, agri-food and agri-based innovations.

For-profit organizations, co-operatives, and Aboriginal groups can seek interest free, repayable funding up to \$10 million per project.

Projects must be completed by March 31, 2013. For more information and to review the application process and checklists please visit the Agricultural Innovation Program website at:

<http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1320767853009&lang=eng>

Record Keeping for Organic Farming - Workshop

Record keeping is a key component of organic certification for farmers, yet farmers commonly cite the necessity to keep records as a barrier to going organic. In this day long workshop, participants will learn different tools and techniques to maintain efficient records, providing benefit to both the organic certifier and overall farm management.

Record Keeping for Organic Farming workshop is geared towards both conventional farmers wanting to learn more about organic certification as well as organic farmers wanting to improve this aspect of their farm management. Specific information for crops, livestock and fruit/vegetable producers will be covered.

Date/Location:

- Jan 21, 2012 (Carleton University, Ottawa)
 - March 10, 2012 (Guelph region)
- Cost: Includes lunch and a copy of COG's Practical Skills Handbook *Record Keeping for Organic Growers*
- \$60 COG members
 - \$70 for non-members
 - \$35 for additional people from the same farm business (excludes book).
 - Additional books \$15 ea (reg. \$21-\$25).

Facilitated by: Maureen Bostock, organic farmer, organic inspector and more

Register with Canadian Organic Growers:

- online at www.cog.ca/shop/ (click "Events")
- by email office@cog.ca
- by phone 1-888-375-7383.

More info:

(Ottawa) Colin Lundy, colin@cog.ca, 613-493-0020
(Guelph) Tegan Renner, outreach@cogwaterloo.ca, 226-251-3012

Funding for these workshops comes in part from the Agricultural Management Institute, part of the Best Practices Suite of programs for Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

The Record Keeping for Organic Farming workshop is eligible for cost-share funding through the Business Development for Farm Businesses program, one of the Best Practices suites of programs under Growing Forward, a federal-provincial, territorial initiative. For more information on program requirements, please call 1-800-265-9751 x64213 or visit: www.ontariosoilcrop.org/en/bdfbhome.

14th Annual FarmSmart Conference & Beef Symposium

Date: Saturday, Jan. 21, at Rozanski Hall, University of Guelph.

Location: Rozanski Hall, University of Guelph

Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.

For more information and program updates please visit the conference website at www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart or on Twitter at [www.Twitter.com/GHSCIA](https://twitter.com/GHSCIA).

The conference is a joint project of the Golden Horseshoe Association and Heartland Regional Soil and Crop Improvement Association, in partnership with the Ontario Agricultural College, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and various agribusiness partners.

Seeds of Co-operation - Guelph Organic Conference

Date: January 26-29, 2012

Location: University Center at the University of Guelph

For a full listing of events please visit the website:

www.guelphorganicconf.ca.

Conference Program

January 26, 2012

- EFAO Courses
- Symposium: Building local organic value chains using co-operative structural models
- Climate Change Charette: Community input leading to workable solutions

January 27, 2012

- EFAO Courses
- Successful Agriculture
 - Introduction to seed production
 - The whole farm approach to managing crops and livestock
- OCO Trade symposium
- Financial viability of small-scale farming
- Organic Food & Wine Dinner
- Keynote Forum

January 28, 2012

- Organic Trade Expo & Tasting Fair
- 20 Workshops

January 29, 2012

- Organic Trade Expo & Tasting Fair
- 8 Seminars

Events (cont'd)

EFO Workshops at the Guelph Organic Conference

Date: January 26-27, 2012

Location: OMAFRA Building, 1 Stone Road, Guelph (NW corner of Stone Rd. and Gordon St.)

Essentials of Ecological Farming – New Farmer Focus (Jan 26 & Jan 27) 9 am – 4 pm

Learn the basic principles that are essential to successful ecological farming! We'll cover soil biology and fertility, basic crop rotation and weed control, livestock husbandry and manure management/composting, and touch on farm business economics and organic certification. Two successful new farmers will share case studies of their farms, presenting how they apply many different organic management strategies for successful growing!

Cost: \$120 EFO members, \$140 for non-members.

Digging Deeper into Soils – Exploring and Understanding Different Approaches to Monitoring Soil Health and Fertility (Thurs Jan 26) 10 am – 4 pm

Many different approaches to soil testing have been used and promoted by organic farming practitioners. How does a farmer make sense of the conflicting info these approaches present? How do you interpret an analysis so it tells you the real story, or fits with what you're seeing in the field or bin? Explore the various approaches and methods of soil testing and analysis such as Reams, Albrecht, Bio-dynamic, Soil Food Web and others. Bring your soil tests!

Cost: \$35 EFO members, \$50 for non-members.

Ecological Beekeeping (Fri Jan 27) 10 am-4 pm

Pollinators are one of the most essential parts of a healthy agro-ecosystem, and are critical to both farming and food. Learn some of the most important ways that you can keep and encourage healthy bees using ecological apiculture practices, and troubleshoot with other beekeepers. Join us for this participatory session!

Cost: \$35 EFO members, \$50 for non-members.

For more info and to register please contact Karen in the EFO office at 1-877-822-8606 or email info@efao.ca.

2nd Annual Ontario Organic Awards and Dinner

Date: January 28, 2012 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Location: River Run Centre, 35 Woolwich Street, Guelph
Cost: \$45 general public, \$40 students and OCO members

Nomination forms will be available November 15, 2011 and will be accepted until December 20, 2011

For more information or to order tickets please contact: info@organiccouncil.ca or call 519.827.1221

N.A. Farm Direct Marketing Conference

Date: February 10-16, 2012

Location: Williamsburg, VA, USA

For more information visit the website at www.nafdma.com or contact Charlie Touchette 413-529-0386.

Your Food, Your Choice: The Value of Organic

Hosted by: Canadian Organic Growers - Toronto Chapter

Date: Saturday, February 18, 9 am - 5 pm

Location: U of T Conference Centre, 89 Chestnut St., Toronto

Cost: \$65 (after Feb. 5, \$85); COG members \$55 (after Feb. 5, \$65)

Keynote speaker: Kristin Kimball, author of *The Dirty Life*, recounting her journey from high-heeled urbanite to hoe-wielding farmer.

Topics include:

- Is Organic Too Extreme?
- Something Fishy Here, - GE Salmon
- Your Food - Your Health
- Our Organic Neighbours
- Is Organic for Everyone
- Growing Desserts
- Organic for Schools,
- Deconstructing Organic Pricing, and more!

Join us for practical answers to serious questions that won't be green washed. It's not about the money; it's about your health and the future.

For more information or to register please visit the website at www.cogtoronto.org/COG_Toronto/Conference_2012.html

Canadian Organic Growers – Toronto Chapter 6th Annual Organic Conference

Date: February 18, 2012

Location: Toronto

Elizabeth Chrumka

COG Toronto

Ontario Berry Growers Association Annual Meeting

Date: Feb 21, 2012

Location: Embassy Suites Hotel, Niagara Falls (during the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention). Watch the conference website for details at www.ofvc.ca

Condensed version of the berry program:

Tuesday, February 21, 2012 - Embassy Suites Hotel, Niagara Falls

- Introducing Summer Evening – A New June Bearing Strawberry Selection, Adam Dale
- Grower Profile – Avonmore Berry Farm, David and Pam Philips
- Virus Diseases in Strawberry and Raspberry, Pam Fisher, OMAFRA
- Innovation and Project Results for Raspberries in California, Mark Bolda, University of California
- The Do's and Don'ts with Herbicides in Plasticulture, Kristen Callow, OMAFRA

OBGA Annual Meeting & Lunch

- New Regulation 119/11 - Implications for labelling and packaging berry crops, Suzete Moniz, OMAFRA
- Employee Recruiting and Management, Michelle Herrle, Herrle's Country Farm Market
- How to get day-neutrals ready for winter and other research results, B.Hughes University of Guelph

Round Table Discussions:

1. Food Safety Audits and Traceability – What you need to know, Colleen Haskins, OMAFRA
2. Labelling and Packaging Regulations, Suzete Moniz, OMAFRA
3. Wildlife Management, Mike Gatt, MNR
4. Employee Recruiting and Management, Michelle Herrle
5. Dealing with Charitable Donations Paul Ralph, Cedar Hill Farm and Alf Krause, Krause Berry Farms

Wednesday, February 22, 2011 – Scotiabank Convention Center, Niagara Falls

- Why Raspberries Like Tunnels, Dr. Adam Dale, University of Guelph
- Marketing and Promotion Opportunities for Berries, Jenn VanDeVelde, Wholesome Pickins, Delhi
- Managing Wildlife on the Farm, Mike Gatt, MNR
- Management of Nematodes in Berry Crops (with or without fumigants), Dr. George Bird, Michigan State University
- Farm Profile – Krause Berry Farms, Alf Krause, Krause Berry Farms, Langley, BC
- National Berry Marketing Initiative Update Karen Fenske, StratPoint Solutions, B.C.
- California Strawberry Production and Innovations, Mark Bolda, University of California

- Biology and Management of Spotted Wing Drosophila in Berry Crops, Rufus Isaacs, Michigan
- Managing Black Root Rot in Strawberries, Michael Celetti, OMAFRA, Guelph

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention (OFVC)

Date: February 22-23, 2012

Location: Scotiabank Convention Centre, 6815 Stanley Ave., Niagara Falls, Ontario (*NEW LOCATION*)

For more information visit the website at: www.ofvc.ca

Eco Farm Day 2012

Hosted by the Canadian Organic Growers – Ottawa Chapter

Theme: "Vibrant Business in Organic Agriculture"

Date: February 25-26th, 2012

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

For more information visit the website at www.cog.ca/ottawa/ecofarmday/ or email enquiries to: info@ecofarmday.ca

Society of Ontario Nut Growers Technical Meeting

Date: March 6, 2012. 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Location: The Simcoe Research Station, 1283 Blueline Rd., Simcoe, Ontario.

Cost: \$15 includes lunch. Call Bruce Thurston at 519-740-6220 to register for lunch or visit the website for more information www.songonline.ca.

Organic Council of Ontario (OCO) Annual General Meeting

Date: March 7th, 2012. 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Loyola House, Guelph

Lunch provided. Free to OCO members in good standing, \$35 for non-members.

Come learn about OCO's activities over the past year, review OCO policy, and set our priorities for the coming year.

Keynote Speaker: John Ikerd, Professor Emeritus of Agricultural & Applied Economics, University of Missouri Columbia. Author of "Small Farms are Real Farms", "Sustainable Capitalism", and "Revolution of the Middle". Professor Ikerd spoke at the 2005 Guelph Organic Conference. His talk will be determined by the attendees! Please review John's work and let us know what you'd like his talk to focus on:

<http://www.johnikerd.com/johnikerd.com/Home.html>

Board elections for the following member groups: Producer, Marketer, Processor, Certifier. OCO members (new members welcome) can nominate themselves or others. Please contact the OCO office to learn more about the role of the Board and the expectations of its members. Tel: 519-827-1221.

Outreach Sessions – Changes to Greenhouse Wastewater Management Regulations

When operating a greenhouse in Ontario there are certain legal requirements to ensure the environment is protected. Depending on your greenhouse operation practices, you may need several approvals from the Ministry of the Environment.

The ministry issues permits, licenses and Certificates of Approval that permit various activities to proceed in compliance with environmental laws.

Section 53 of the *Ontario Water Resources Act* requires an approval for sewage works that collect, transmit, treat or dispose of sewage. Under the act, “sewage” refers to all types of wastewater, including leachate, stormwater, and sanitary wastewater. Sewage systems are classified as either municipal/private sewage works or industrial sewage works. Wastewater from greenhouses falls under the industrial sewage classification.

Two informational workshops will be held regarding the changes to greenhouse wastewater management regulations:

Niagara Area

Date: January 31, 2012

Location: Best Western Beacon Harbourside Inn

2 sessions: 1:30-4:30 pm and 6 -9 pm

Leamington Area

Date: February 6, 2012

Location: Roma Club of Leamington

2 sessions: 1:30-4:30 pm and 6-9 pm

For more information please contact your regional Ministry of the Environment office:

Eastern Regional Office (Kingston) Tel: 613-549-4000 or 1-800-267-0974

Central Regional Office (North York) Tel: 416-326-6700 or 1-800-810-8048

Northern Regional Office (Thunder Bay) Tel: 807-475-1205 or 1-800-875-7772

South-western Regional Office (London) Tel: 519-873-5000 or 1-800-265-7672

West-central Regional Office (Hamilton) Tel: 905-521-7640 or 1-800-668-4557

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