

Welcome to ON Organic

Evan Elford, New Crop Development Specialist, OMAFRA



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During the harvest season many farmers across the province have been facing the challenges associated with excess weed pressure. A helpful tool to keep on hand for future use is the cover crop selection tool produced by the Midwest Cover Crops Council. The tool includes Ontario based information on a variety of cover crops and their best function in the field (including weed management applications). To access the tool, please visit the website at www.mccc.msu.edu/selectorINTRO.html.

Nominations for the 3rd annual Ontario Organic Awards are now open. Please contact the Organic Council of Ontario to learn more about the awards and how you can nominate a deserving, innovative person or business in the organic sector (www.organiccouncil.ca/awards2013).

Coming up next month is the Eastern Ontario Local Food Conference taking place on November 22 in Kemptville. For more information please see the events section of the newsletter or to register visit the website at: <http://2012eolfc.eventbrite.ca>.

Although we are now past Thanksgiving weekend, I wish everyone a fruitful end to the growing season and hope you have time to reflect on the many things to be thankful for.

As always we welcome your comments and any suggestions for topics in the newsletter.

Thank you once again to our contributing authors and to EFAO, OCO and others who pass along our newsletter on a regular basis.

Subscription to this newsletter is easy and free. For details go to the webpage:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/subscribe/indx.html#organic>

The newsletter is also posted on the OMAFRA website at:

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

The French version of these newsletters is available at:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/french/crops/organic/news/news-organic.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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Evaluating a Cow's Manure Output Can Provide You With Valuable Input!

Mario S. Mongeon, Livestock Specialist, OMAFRA

Simple manure observations can tell a lot about rumen function and ration digestion. Taking a few minutes on a regular basis to look at the manure excreted by your cows can help in identifying potential problems. There are three aspects of manure that can be considered: colour, texture and content.

Manure Colour

The colour of the manure can be influenced by factors such as type of feed, passage rate (the amount of time the feed remains in the animal), health disorders and so on. Depending on the type of forage, the colour can vary from dark green (fresh forages and pasture) to brown (dry hay).

A total mixed ration with a substantial level of concentrates can turn the manure to a yellow-olive colour. Amongst a group of cows receiving a similar ration, manure colour should be uniform between animals. If the manure colour from one particular animal is significantly different than the rest of the group, further investigation is suggested.

Manure Texture

The texture of the manure can provide key information as well. Manure consistency is linked to water and fibre content and is influenced by factors such as feed moisture content, type of feed and rate of passage. Under normal conditions, manure from lactating cows should have a porridge-like consistency and forms a dome-shaped pile of 2.5-5 cm high when freshly dropped. Nevertheless, many factors will affect the consistency of manure which can range from very liquid (like pea soup) to very firm (horse like).

Cows with liquid or runny manure may have too much protein, high levels of rumen degradable protein or starch in their ration. It may also be caused by a lack of effective fibre, excess salt or mineral imbalance. When extensive hind gut fermentation of carbohydrates takes place, the increased acid production can lead to runny manure. In this case, fine gas bubbles can give a foamy appearance to the manure. Foamy manure should be investigated promptly as it can be a sign of rumen acidosis (when rumen pH becomes too acidic). Cows grazing on lush pasture can produce runny manure as well with distinctive colour. Loose manure may have non nutritional origins such as heat stress, poisoning, infection and parasites.

If the manure consistency is thick or even firm, like horse droppings, this could be an indication of too little protein or starch in their ration or a very fibre rich ration. Dehydration could also lead to firm manure.

Manure content

Technically, what ends up in the manure is considered

non digestible. Sometimes though, some of the material could have been digested but was not because of various factors. Potentially digestible material that ends up in the manure might suggest problems with rumen function, feed processing, or feeding management. This undigested feed never had a chance to be converted to milk, and so costs of production are increased. Grains should not show up in the manure, especially when grain prices are high.

Rumination and digestion by microbes in the rumen break down fibre and feed particle size. If the cow does not eat enough fibre to maintain rumination and rumen function, feed can pass out of the rumen more quickly and in larger particles than it should; if this happens, digestibility can be reduced. High producing cows do eat more and rumen contents pass down the digestive tract more quickly, so more undigested feed may show up in the manure. The ration can be managed to minimise this though.

Under optimal conditions, most feeds are fermented in the rumen and less passes to be digested in the small intestine or fermented in the hindgut (cecum and large intestine). When the rumen is not working well, more undigested feed escapes rumen fermentation and the amount of feed fermented in the hindgut can increase. Increased hindgut fermentation generates an increase in gas and acid production that can change the consistency and appearance of manure. Excessive hindgut fermentation can cause diarrhea and foamy manure. The hindgut is not as buffered and can't handle the acidity as well as the rumen can.

Washing Manure

An effective way to evaluate the content of manure is to wash it down with water. Washing manure through a screen or a kitchen sieve (dedicated for this purpose!) allows one to quickly find if feed processing and digestion is optimal. The procedure is quite simple. A representative sample of manure is collected in a container and thoroughly mixed. A cup of the mix is then placed in the sieve (*Figure 1*) and washed with a stream of water through the screen to remove the digested material. Once the water runs clear, observe the remaining material. Look for feed particles, pieces of grain containing starch or whole hard grains. Fibre particle size should be evaluated as well (*Figure 2*).

Ideally, few feed particles in the manure should be more than 1.25 cm (0.5 inches) long. There should be little, if any, recognizable feed present. Presence of long particles or undigested material can be an indication that cows are sorting feed, receive too much grain in one meal or lack effective (long) fibre.

Manure is more than a source of nutrient for your fields. It can be used as an indicator of feed efficiency and animal health. Next time you are with your herd, take a few minutes to observe your cow's manure and wash some down in a sieve. You could be surprised of you will see and learn. Your herd nutritionist can help you make some adjustments to the cow ration in order for your animals to be healthy, efficient and productive.



Figure 1: Mixed manure sample placed in a sieve for washing and inspection.



Figure 2: Evaluating fibre particle size in manure sample.

OMAFRA Articles and Updates

HORTICULTURE

A New Leaf Spot Disease - Is This What We are Seeing?

Kristy Grigg-McGuffin, Pome Fruit IPM Specialist, OMAFRA

A recent report from Dave Rosenberger at Cornell University described yellowing and defoliating symptoms on Golden Delicious similar to what some apple growers have been experiencing in Ontario this year. After further inspection, it was determined this may not be the suspected necrotic leaf blotch, but a fungal disease, Glomeralla leaf spot. This is the same pathogen that causes bitter rot (see Hort Matters Volume 11 Issue 28 for [Bitter Rot in Apples by Michael Celetti](#)). Although it tends to be more common in warmer climates, such as the southern US, with the very warm summer, it appears to be causing leaf spots in more northerly states, such as West Virginia and New York. Diagnostic symptoms include leaf spots with concentric rings, commonly on Gala and Golden Delicious. The lesions start as purple spots, but turn brown with time (*Figure 1*). This can occur on both old and young leaves, eventually yellowing and dropping prematurely (*Figure 2*).

For more information and pictures of this disease, visit: Dave Rosenberger's article in Cornell Fruit News and Events:

<http://blogs.cornell.edu/fruit/2012/08/31/glomerella-leaf-spot-a-new-disease-affecting-golden-delicious-apples-in-ny/>

Keith Yoder's article in Virginia Tech Agricultural Research and Extension Center Tree Fruit Disease Update: <http://treefruitdisease.blogspot.ca/>



Figure 1. Early lesions of Glomeralla leaf spot are small purple spots which enlarge with concentric growth rings that may coalesce.

OMAFRA Articles and Updates (cont'd)



Figure 2. Leaf yellowing and defoliation caused by glomeralla leaf spot.

(From OMAFRA newsletter Orchard Network)

One-Stop Apple Information

Leslie Huffman, Apple Specialist, OMAFRA

Is it a challenge to find information about apples on the OMAFRA website? Maybe you lost your bookmarks in a computer upgrade. Or maybe you just don't know where to start looking.

Fortunately, we've created a shortcut URL that is easy to remember. In your browser, just type in this shortcut: ontario.ca/apples - or in French - ontario.ca/pommes. Your computer will do the rest, and take you directly to our main Apple page.

At the top, you will find links to:

- Ontario AppleIPM module
- Planting New Apple Orchards in Ontario
- Publication 360, Guide to Fruit Production online (apples are chapter 4)
- Publication 310, Integrated Pest Management in Apples
- Orchard Network newsletter - and an index of all past articles
- Factsheets and articles
- Business information, links, statistics, etc.

(From OMAFRA newsletter Orchard Network)

FIELD CROPS & FORAGES

2012 Grain Corn Ear Mould and Vomitoxin Survey

Greg Stewart, Corn Specialist and Albert Tenuta, Field Crop Pathologist, OMAFRA

The annual corn ear mould and vomitoxin survey by the OMAFRA Field Crops team indicates that the 2012 Ontario corn crop is distinctly low in ear moulds and vomitoxin. However, stakeholders are reminded that individual field conditions (environmental, hybrid, tillage, rotation, etc.) are important in ear mould and mycotoxin development. Growers should [scout for visual moulds](#) and test for vomitoxin as warranted.

Mycotoxins, particularly vomitoxin (DON) produced primarily by Gibberella/Fusarium ear moulds [can be disruptive when fed to livestock](#), especially hogs.

A total of 171 samples were collected from September 18 to 25 from corn fields across the province. In each field, 2 random areas were selected and in each area 10 consecutive ears were hand harvested and bagged. In fields with several hybrids, representative samples were taken again from two areas for each hybrid (maximum of 4 hybrids per field). The 20 ear samples were then immediately dried and shelled. The resultant sample was thoroughly mixed and a sub-sample was provided to A&L Canada Laboratories in London for vomitoxin (DON) and aflatoxin analysis.

Of the 171 samples collected:

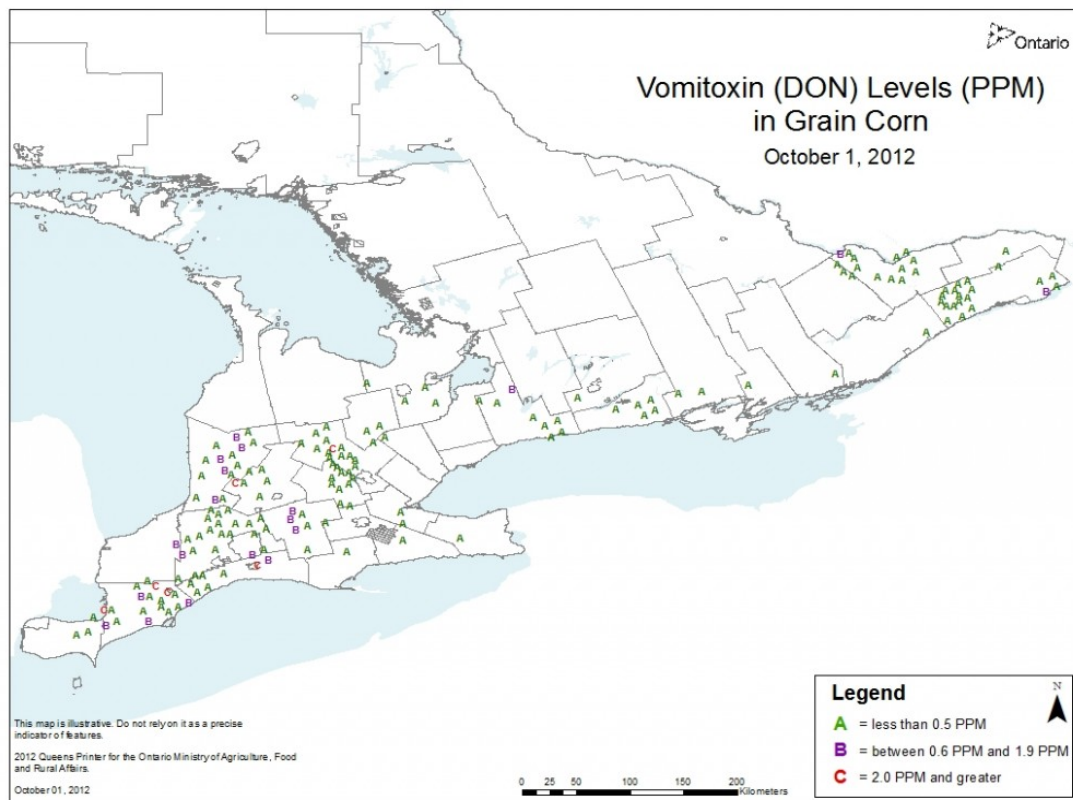
- **85%** (146) had a DON level of less than 0.5 PPM
- **11%** (19) had DON concentrations of 0.6 to 1.9 PPM; and;
- only **4%** (6) were found to have DON levels of 2.0 PPM or greater; with no sample being above 3.0 PPM DON.

In comparison, [the 2011 OMAFRA survey](#) showed **23 %** of samples had DON levels of 2.0 PPM or greater. Clearly the incidence of Gibberella/Fusarium ear moulds and DON is minimal this year; perhaps the lowest levels that we have encountered in the past decade. Samples that had slightly elevated DON levels were generally in the southwest part of the province but no specific area could be identified as having a concern for elevated DON.

What about Aflatoxins?

The concern in the United States surrounding another mycotoxin, called "aflatoxin" has not gone unnoticed in Ontario. In corn, aflatoxin is produced by the fungal pathogen *Aspergillus flavus* which causes *Aspergillus* ear

OMAFRA Articles and Updates (cont'd)



A map of southern Ontario depicting the levels of vomitoxin (DON, PPM) found in 171 grain corn samples collected from September 18 to 25, 2012

rot. The hot dry conditions across much of the corn growing area of North America have been favourable for *Aspergillus* ear rot and unfortunately aflatoxin production as well. In Ontario, environmental conditions are often more favourable for *Gibberella*, *Fusarium*, *Diplodia* and other ear rots rather than *Aspergillus*. Although *Aspergillus* ear rot and aflatoxin production is rare in Ontario corn, OMAFRA determined due to the concern and environmental conditions this year to test for aflatoxin as well. A subset of 26 samples from the total 171 collected was tested for aflatoxin. All 26 samples (100%) were found to have no detectable aflatoxin.

Acknowledgement

Appreciation is extended to the [Grain Farmers of Ontario](#) and [A&L Canada Laboratories](#) for their support of this survey and analysis.

(From OMAFRA newsletter *Crop-Pest*)

Fall Control of a Red Clover Cover Crop **Mike Cowbrough, Weed Management Field Crops,** **OMAFRA**

A beautiful stand of red clover can provide as much as 75

kg of nitrogen per hectare (when at 40 cm tall) for next years corn crop. However, if the clover crop is not “killed off” in the fall, then preparing a suitable seedbed to plant next years crop in is often significantly delayed resulting in reduced yields. A review of different strategies to control red clover in the fall are presented below.

When is the best time to retire the red clover stand?

A research project conducted by Dr. Steve Bowley (University of Guelph) demonstrated that red clover gains significant root biomass during the month of October. Therefore killing off the stand in September could be short changing your nitrogen credit for next spring. Results of Dr. Bowley's study is nicely summarized in this short 10 min presentation (<http://fieldcropnews.com/2012/08/when-is-it-time-to-retire-your-red-clover-cover-crop/>).

Management options for red clover

Fall ploughing is the only effective tillage operation for managing red clover (*Figure 1*). Less aggressive tillage options (e.g. chisel plough – *Figure 2*) are much less effective in controlling red clover the following spring.

OMAFRA Articles and Updates (cont'd)



Figure 1. Control of red clover in the spring following fall tillage with a mouldboard plough.



Figure 2. Control of red clover in the spring following fall tillage with a chisel plow.

(From OMAFRA newsletter *Crop-Pest*)

SOIL MANAGEMENT

Cover Crop Questions & Answers

Adam Hayes, Soil Management Specialist, OMAFRA

Cover crops are a hot topic these days. There is always the usual seedings of red clover in winter wheat in the spring and other cover crops after wheat harvest. Cover crops are increasingly being planted in many other situations. Interest is growing in interseeding cover crops into seed corn, silage corn and grain corn. Cover crops are also being seeded after silage corn, edible beans and early harvested soybeans.

There are many reasons to plant cover crops, including scavenging nitrogen from the soil or tying up nitrogen after a manure application. Cover crops can help suppress weeds, reduce nematode populations, improve soil structure and help open up compacted soil. Most importantly, cover crops help protect the soil from wind and water erosion.

Some answers to some common cover crop questions:

What is the difference between the named oilseed radish brands (such as Tillage Radish, Tilth Pro NitroRadish, GroundHog Radish) and common oilseed radish?

A "named variety" is a variety or selection that has been refined for certain characteristics. Most selections currently available are a diakon radish. The chief characteristics of these are a large root and delayed flowering. Common seed oilseed radish is often a mixture of seed varying characteristics. Seed will vary from year to year giving a range of root size, from small to large.

How late can I seed a cover crop?

Seeding dates for cover crops vary by crop type and region of the province. Winter cereals can be seeded later than those killed by frost. Cover crop success will be high for crops planted up until the end of August. In many areas, the risk of frost killing the cover crop before it has enough growth increases up until the middle of September. After the middle of September in southern Ontario, it is usually not worth planting cover crops like oilseed radish.

Why did my cover crop have poor growth?

Cover crops that scavenge nitrogen, such as oilseed radish, oats, mustards and spring wheat, when planted after winter wheat may not do well. These cover crops require nitrogen for growth and there may not be a lot of nitrogen left after the wheat crop. They often end up competing with volunteer wheat for what little nitrogen there is.

What about termination of the cover crop?

Many of the common cover crops are killed by frost so there is no need to terminate them. There are a few cover crops that could provide some surprises. The first is annual ryegrass. The name is a bit misleading as many of these will survive the winter. Usually it is terminated in the fall. If left until the spring, be aware that it can grow to 60 - 90 cm (2-3 feet) in height during a warm wet spell in the spring. The others are oilseed radish, buckwheat and the mustards. If they are allowed to go to seed, they could become a weed problem for years to come. Of course the winter cereals will have to be killed in the fall or spring depending on the situation.

OMAFRA Articles and Updates (cont'd)

Go to <http://www.mccc.msu.edu> to find the Cover Crop Selector tool for information on planting, seeding dates and answers to many other questions. Think about cover crops as part of your cropping system, use the resources available to you and your chance of success will be much greater.

(From OMAFRA newsletter CropTalk)

LIVESTOCK

Water Management

Jaydee Smith, Swine Production Systems Program Lead, OMAFRA

Water is an essential element in livestock production. It's important to manage this natural resource carefully for best production and financial results. Here are five ideas on how to do that.

Start by doing a water audit. Wasted water costs money to pump and to dispose of. If you're serious about water management, install a meter and compare consumption with what the animals need, as a means of detecting problems. For grower and finisher pigs water requirements have been found to be 2.3L for every kilogram of feed consumed. For sows on a farrow to finish farm, average daily usage has been found to be about 20L per sow (see table, from "Water Requirements of Livestock", OMAFRA Factsheet 716/400).

Second, check drinker placement. Mounting nipple drinkers correctly reduces wasted water. For drinkers pointed straight out pigs should drink from shoulder height. For drinkers mounted downward at 45° the drinker should be 5cm above the back of the pig. Mounting lower will increase water wastage because the pigs can't access the drinker properly. Generally, drinkers should be set for the height of the smallest pig in the pen. In research trials, however, providing a step for smaller pigs instead of mounting the drinker lower resulted in a 13% reduction of water waste, and reduced manure volume by 10% compared to a conventional setup.

Third, check drinker flow rates. Flow rates determine time spent at the drinker, water intake and water wastage, but too little is just as costly as too much since it will adversely affect feed intake and animal growth performance. Recommended flow rates are 1,500 ml/min for lactating sows, and 700 ml/min in the grow-finish barn.

Fourth, consider alternatives to nipple drinkers. Cup or bowl drinkers have been shown to waste less water,

reducing spillage by 10-15%. Wet/dry feeders in the grow finish phase reduce water used by 34%, and slurry volume by 20-40% compared with dry feeders and a bowl. Wet/dry feeders also increase consumption of mash diets compared to dry feeders and a separate drinker, resulting in a 5% improvement in average daily gain. Be sure they are properly adjusted.

Finally, assess the diet. Feeding a diet containing excessive protein or excessive mineral levels results in increased water usage.

Of course, remember that temperature impacts water requirements. For example, every 1° above 20°C results in a sow drinking 0.2L more water each day. For more information, refer to the OMAFRA Factsheet "Water Requirements of Livestock" (Agdex 716/400).

Water Consumption by Swine			
? Swine Type	Weight Range (kg)	Water Requirement Range ^a (L/day)	Average Typical Water Use ^b (L/day)
Weaner	7-22	1.0-3.2	2.0
Feeder pig	23-36	3.2-4.5	4.5
	36-70	4.5-7.3	4.5
	70-110	7.3-10	9
Gestating sow/boar	-	13.6-17.2	15
Lactating sows	-	18.1-22.7	20

^a A result of the animals' environment and management.

^b Typical consumption over a year on a daily basis under average agricultural conditions in Ontario.

^c Includes unweaned piglets.

Related Links

[Water Requirements of Livestock](#)

(From OMAFRA newsletter Pork News & Views)

From time to time I receive questions from organic producers regarding production requirements that are not clearly defined under the Canada Organic Standard. In an ongoing effort to better understand the application of the organic standard, questions posed to the Organic Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) and their accepted answers will be included in this section of the newsletter. The Organic SIC is an advisory body set up by the Canadian Organic Office (COO) with representatives from the organic sector in Canada. A full listing of Q & A's posed to the SIC are available on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) website (www.inspection.gc.ca) and on the Organic Federation of Canada's (OFA) website (www.organicfederation.ca). Please note that some certification bodies may have additional requirements to the Canada Organic Standard and you should always contact your certification body for clarification.

Livestock Production

Section 6.8: Livestock Living Conditions

Question: If an operator arbitrarily confines turkeys for one week prior to slaughter, does this constitute non compliance with the Standard? (39)

Answer: The standard sets out a number of legitimate reasons for denying outdoor access. Turkeys or other livestock cannot be denied outdoor access for any reason other than those outlined in 6.8.2. Compliance with the minimum of 1/3 of the total life of the bird does not relieve the operator from the requirement for constant outdoor access where conditions permit.

(Reference - Section 6.8.2 states: The operator of an organic livestock operation may provide temporary confinement for livestock owing to

- a. inclement weather;
- b. animal's stage of production;
- c. conditions where the health, safety or well-being of the animal could be jeopardized given its stage of production;
- d. risks relating to soil, water or plant quality.)

Crop Production

Section 5.1 Land Requirements for Organic Crop Production

Question: Can parallel production be allowed if management to avoid co-mingling is documented? (1)

Answer: The standard (Section 5.1.2) prohibits parallel production of most non distinguishable crops by the same enterprise. Some exemptions do exist (e.g. perennial crops (already planted), agricultural research facilities,

production of seed, vegetative propagating materials and transplants) with conditions. Refer to Section 5.1.2 for further details. Post harvest operations are not subject to this prohibition.

(Reference – Section 5.1.2 states: The enterprise shall aim at a complete transition of its production. During the transition period, the enterprise can maintain, in addition to the production in transition, a non-organic system of production (split operation) that shall be entirely separate and identified separately, pending its incorporation into the overall transition process.

The enterprise can be converted one unit at a time, and each converted unit shall respect the requirements of this standard. The exception to this norm, parallel production, is only allowed in the following cases: perennial crops (already planted), agricultural research facilities, production of seed, vegetative propagating materials and transplants.

The following special conditions shall be observed for parallel production;

- a. The operator shall clearly demonstrate that the identity of the crops so produced can be maintained during their production, harvesting, storage, processing, packaging and marketing.
- b. The operator shall maintain verifiable, accurate records of both non-organic and organic produce and product storage, transportation, processing and marketing.

Note: Parallel production crops both organic and non-organic must be inspected just prior to harvest and an audit of all parallel production crops must occur after harvest.)

Food Safety Snippets

Wearing Proper Clothing and Footwear

Clothing and footwear have the potential to cause cross contamination. Wearing clean, intact, proper clothing and footwear are especially important for workers who milk livestock, or handle eggs, honey, fruit or vegetables. To ensure food safety:

- Workers must wear clean and suitable clothing and footwear when entering the farm, field, barn or packing house.
- Workers must have access to storage areas to separate clean from dirty work clothing and footwear

as well as a place to keep personal belongings.

- Designated clothing and footwear are required where clothing or footwear have the potential to cause cross contamination (e.g. spreading manure or applying pesticides).

Food safety practices keep agri-food businesses competitive, productive and sustainable. For more information, visit the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs website at www.ontario.ca/goodagpractices or call us at 1-877-424-1300.

New Publications

The following paid publication and free Factsheets are now available from www.serviceontario.ca/publications:

Crop Protection Guide for Greenhouse Vegetables 2012-2013, Publication 835; cost is \$15.00; please recycle all former editions.

12-045: Controlled Atmosphere Storage Guidelines and Recommendations for Apples, Agdex 211/66; replaces 03-073, which should be recycled.

12-046: Recommandations pour l'entreposage des pommes en atmosphère contrôlée, Agdex 211/66, replaces 03-074, which should be recycled.

12-038: Rudiments de la reproduction et des taux de conception chez les ovins, Agdex 433/30; New.

12-042: Recommandations pour la cueillette et l'entreposage des poires, Agdex 215/50; New.

12-044: Conversion des véhicules au gaz naturel ou au

biogaz, Agdex 760, New.

For the first time, the following publication has been produced on CD (no printed book) and was released at the greenhouse conference this week; copies will be shipped to ServiceOntario on Oct. 9 and should be available from www.serviceontario.ca/publications by Oct. 12:

Guide to Greenhouse Floriculture Production, Publication 370; cost for CD is \$10.00 (vs. \$20.00 for the former book); please recycle all former editions. Note: An accessible (tagged PDF) will also be available on the OMAFRA website.

For a complete listing of OMAFRA products, see our online catalogue at: www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/products/index.html

Funding Opportunities

Limited Time for New Cost-Share Opportunities with the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan

New cost-share opportunities exist under the Best Management Practices (BMPs) category of the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan. The funding is available to commercial greenhouse, landscape nursery and vegetable farms and must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a legal farm entity with a unique Farm Business Registration Number (FBRN) or equivalent;
- Have a Third Edition Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) deemed appropriate through peer review;
- Have selected a BMP from the eligible list in this brochure that relates directly to an action identified in their EFP, and effectively moves a "1" or "2" rating towards a "3" or "4" (best) rating; and

Funding Opportunities (cont'd)

- Will authorize a declaration stating that the farm business in the 2011 year included a commercial greenhouse floriculture farm, commercial greenhouse vegetable farm, commercial landscape nursery farm or commercial vegetable farm, involved in the production of a horticultural crop(s)

Cost-shares are set at either 30 per cent or 50 per cent, up to the BMPs category caps during the 2012 cropping year. **Applications are being accepted beginning July 19, 2012 on a first come, first served basis** with a Growing Forward maximum contribution per legal farm entity of \$30,000. Invoices dated September 15, 2011 or later will be accepted with a project claim submission deadline of December 15, 2012.

For more information contact the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association by mail at 1 Stone Road West, Guelph, Ontario N1G 4Y2, telephone: 1.800.265.9751 or visit their website at www.ontariosoilcrop.org.

Agricultural Management Institute (AMI) Event and Speaker Funding

The AMI currently has funding for speakers and events related to farm business management. Registered organizations, associations, and groups located in Ontario can apply for up to \$5000. For more information on the funding program and to download an application form, please visit the AMI website at www.takeanewapproach.ca/

Conferences and Events

Bio-Dynamics Workshop 101 & Pot Luck Lunch

Date: Saturday October 27th, 2012, 9am-4pm

Location: The Farm of Chris and Gabi Boettcher, 44046 Moncrieff Road, Brussels, Ontario

A 'how-to' workshop and discussion for farmers and gardeners wishing to get started using bio-dynamic preparations 500 (horn manure), 501 (horn silica) and Barrel Compost (BC). This workshop is geared toward those who have heard of the theory of bio-dynamics and would like more practical help.

Chris Boettcher and Uli Hack will discuss what, when and why of spraying the preps. We will mix the preps, stir and apply them to field and garden, weather permitting. A compost pile will also be inoculated. Bring all your questions and concerns!

Note: For farmers who are interested in field spraying, the speakers will discuss equipment, nozzle settings and any modifications that may be needed. (Feel free to bring your sprayers along for hands on modification suggestions)

Cost: Donation to the BD Society

Pot Luck: Don't forget your dishes, cutlery, cups etc., along with your pot luck dish.

The workshop will be held in a heated shed.

Registration: Please register no later than October 25th. To reserve a space in the workshop or for further information, call the BD Society Secretary, Laurie McGregor at 519-426-9021 or e-mail her at lmcgregor@sympatico.ca

Ontario Pest Management Conference

Date: November 8, 2012

Location: Victoria East Golf Club, Guelph, Ontario

For more information visit: www.opmconference.ca/index.php

Ontario Lavender Conference: The Business of Lavender

Date: November 14 and 15, 2012

Location: Quality Inn and Suites, Woodstock, Ontario

Early Bird Registration Date: October 29, 2012

Regular Registration: Up to November 14, 2012

This event will explore practical approaches to help you successfully run and market your agri-tourism business. Learn from the perspective of worldwide lavender experts. Topics will include lavender production requirements, value-added product development (e.g. soaps, essential oils, and culinary products), product labelling and label claims, legal considerations (e.g. liability, bylaws), food safety and traceability, and marketing.

For more information and to register visit: www.ontariolavenderassociation.org

Organic Dinner & Jazz Night hosted by the Organic Council of Ontario

Date: November 16, 2012 from 6pm – 11pm

Location: Hart House, Toronto, Ontario

For more information, please visit the website at: www.organiccouncil.ca/dinnerjazz

2012 Eastern Ontario Local Food Conference

Date: November 22, 2012

Location: University of Guelph, Kemptville Campus.

This year's theme is **"Collaborating for Success"**. A keynote address will be given by Terry Ackerman entitled **"Collaborating for Success – the Value Chain Model and Profitability"**. This address will

Conferences and Events (cont'd)

provide a practical guide to creating and building profitable value chains based on real life examples of successful value chains in Canada.

The purpose of this event is:

- To provide a forum for Eastern Ontario local food practitioners to network
- To address challenges to local food that is specific to Eastern Ontario
- To share technical information that will help to build the local food sector in Eastern Ontario

For more information and to register please visit the website at: <http://2012eolfc.eventbrite.ca/>

20th Annual Southwest Agricultural Conference

Date: January 3-4, 2013

Location: Ridgetown Campus, University of Guelph

For more information, please visit the website at: www.southwestagconference.ca

32nd Annual Guelph Organic Conference Organics...What's The Buzz?

Date: January 31-Feb 3, 2013

Location: University of Guelph

For more information please visit the website at: www.guelphorganicconf.ca

Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Convention, Niagara Falls, Ontario

February 20, 21, 2013

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

Eco Farm Day, 2013

Date: February 23, 2013

Location: Cornwall, Ontario

Theme: "Water - Emerging Issues for the Organic Producer".

Keynote Speaker: Maude Barlow is the National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians and chairs the board of Washington-based Food and Water Watch. In 2008-2009, she served as Senior Advisor on Water to the 63rd President of the United Nations General Assembly and was a leader in the campaign to have water recognized as a human right by the UN. She is also the author of dozens of reports, as well as 16 books, including the international best seller *Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crisis and The Coming Battle for the Right to Water*.

For more information please visit the website at: www.cog.ca/ottawa/ecofarmday/

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

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

Ecological Farmers of Ontario (EFO)
<http://www.efao.ca>

Organic Agricultural Centre of Canada (OACC)
<http://www.oacc.info>

FarmStart www.farmstart.ca