

Welcome to ON Organic

Evan Elford, New Crop Development Specialist, OMAFRA



Season's Greetings From Your Friends At ON Organic!

As we enter the winter meeting season there are many opportunities to learn more about organic production in Ontario. Starting off the New Year for field crop producers is an organic session available during the Southwest Agriculture Conference (SWAC) in Ridgetown on January 3 & 4. Following close behind are the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario (EFAO) workshops on January 31 & February 1 in Guelph during the Guelph Organic Conference taking place from January 31-February 3.

Horticultural producers also have the opportunity to learn more during the organic session at the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention (OFVC) in Niagara Falls on February 21. And don't forget to check out Eco Farm Day in Cornwall on February 23. More information on session topics and registration information for all of these events are outlined in the Conferences and Events section of the newsletter.

Canadian Organic Growers will also be running an inspection training course in Ontario from March 4-8 in Guelph. More information is available in the Learning Opportunities section of the newsletter.

We hope to see you at one of these great learning events. Until then, we wish you and your family a safe and happy Christmas and holiday season.

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/index.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>

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Water: Are Your Cows Getting Enough?

Mario S. Mongeon, Livestock Specialist, OMAFRA

Because it is all around us, we tend to take water for granted. Nevertheless, water is the most important component for dairy cattle nutrition. Water intake can be affected by various factors such as milk production, dry matter of the ration, sodium intake, and ambient temperature. It is a good thing to keep in mind that 87 percent of the make-up of milk is water. A typical dairy cow can consume an average of 115 litres of water daily. A cow can fulfill up to sixty percent of her daily requirements for water in the hour following milking. It is therefore crucial that water availability be adequate.

A cow can ingest up to 16 litres of water per minute when she has access to a water trough. Flow rates in water bowls should be monitored to make sure that the delivery rate is at least 4 litres per minute. Behaviour studies have shown that cows will spend less than 30 minutes a day drinking. High producing cows are known to absorb up to 160 litres of water during that short period of time and so, good access to water and adequate flow rates are key. One should remember that in tie-stall barn designs, just after milking, many cows will be drinking at the same time and the last bowl on the line should deliver as much water as the first one. In order to achieve this goal, delivery pressure and size of piping are critical.

The longer the waterline, the less the pressure and flow rate will be at the end. Similarly, the smaller the diameter of the pipe, the faster the pressure and flow will drop along its length. This is why it is important to avoid any restriction on the line, especially close to the pump, since it will have an impact on the downstream system. Remember, the water pump is the heart of the system and should be chosen according to the pressure and flow rate required. It also needs to be inspected and serviced regularly.

Water pipes should be checked for clogging regularly, especially if the delivery system is made from galvanized pipes. For example, the clean pipe in Figure 1 is 1 inch in diameter. The clogged pipe has the same original diameter but now with an aperture of a quarter of an inch, 25% of the original the original diameter.



Figure 1. On the left is a clean, 1 inch diameter galvanized water pipe while on the right is a clogged pipe of the same diameter which has water flow restricted to approximately 25% or the original diameter.

For a similar water pressure, the clogged pipe will deliver 15 times less water than a similar size clean pipe. This can seriously impact cow productivity.

Water bowls and water troughs should be cleaned regularly to make sure that water consumption is not affected simply by deficient hygiene.

Several factors can affect water quality and thus consumption including: dissolved minerals; bacteriological contaminants; chemicals and organic matter. On most farms, water comes from private wells. Do you know what is in the groundwater under your farm? It is a good idea to have water from your well tested regularly. The test should include both bacteriological and mineral aspects. Many laboratories offer water testing services. Have a look at your watering system today. What you find might surprise you.

Bt 101

Melanie Filotas, Specialty Crops IPM Specialist, OMAFRA

Bacillus thuringiensis-based biopesticides are well known to growers of many organic products. While they can be an effective tool in reducing populations of certain insect pests, a lack of understanding of how these products work and how they are best applied can lead to insufficient

control. Over the last couple of years we have received a number of calls from growers who have experienced problems associated with applying these products either too late in a pest infestation, or in a way that did not adequately target the pest. Now that we are in the lull

between growing seasons, it seems like a good time to review how these products work and how they are most effectively used.

Bacillus thuringiensis, or *Bt*, is a naturally-occurring bacterium that is commonly found in the environment. The main activity of *Bt* comes not from the bacterial cells themselves, but from protein crystals, called endotoxins, which are produced as by-products of cell growth and sporulation. These crystals are inactive in the environment and can be rapidly degraded by exposure to ultraviolet radiation. However, when they are eaten by an insect, they dissolve in the alkaline conditions of the insect gut and the protein toxins become activated. The toxins then bind to specific receptors on the insect's gut cells, punching holes in the stomach wall through which the gut contents and *Bt* spores can leak out into the body cavity. As the spores and toxins multiply in the insect's body, it stops feeding and dies in 2-5 days.

Bt toxins must bind to specific gut wall receptors which allows *Bt* to be specific to only certain species or groups of insects possessing receptors the toxins are capable of attaching to. This makes it possible to target specific groups of pests without affecting beneficial insects that do not possess the same gut receptors. Furthermore, there are different strains of *Bt*, each binding to the specific receptors of different groups of insects. *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki* affects a number of Lepidoptera (caterpillar) pests, *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *israelensis* affects certain species of flies, and *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *tenebrionis* certain beetles. The *kurstaki* strain is currently the only one with products permitted for use on organic crops in Canada.

Bt products do not contain bacterial cells, but rather the crystal proteins, sometimes in combination with spores. While *Bt* itself is considered organically acceptable, it is important to note that sometimes *Bt* is formulated with inert ingredients that may not be organically acceptable, so consequently not all *Bt* products are allowed for use on organic crops. A list of potentially acceptable organic *Bt* products can be found in OMAFRA's vegetable and fruit protection guides (Publications 838 and 360, respectively), however growers should always check with their certifying bodies before applying any product.

The fact that *Bt* proteins only become activated in an insect's gut and that they can be degraded by sunlight has important implications on the effective application of *Bt* products. First, they must be eaten by the insect to take effect. This makes it somewhat different from many other insecticides, which kill insects on contact. Second, because many insect pests only feed at certain times of day and on certain locations on the plant, it becomes very important that *Bt* products be applied where and when the target pest is actually feeding. We have seen examples

of growers encountering problems when a *Bt* application against leafrollers is made during the morning. Why? Leafrollers feed only at night. Applying *Bt* in the morning, several hours before feeding begins, allows time for sunlight to break down some of the proteins before the pest encounters them.

For a similar reason, adequate spray coverage will also be very important when using these products. Sprays need to be directed at the part of the plant on which pests are feeding. For some caterpillar pests, this can be the leaf underside. There are a number of articles available on the OMAFRA website on the topic of spray coverage. Because these focus more on conventional products, they may receive less attention from organic growers. However because the success of *Bt* and certain other organic products depends on adequately targeting the pests, spray coverage is equally important to organic growers planning to use them. Many of the practices for achieving good spray coverage with conventional products also apply to organic. For instance, placing water-sensitive paper in the locations you want to target (for example, the underside of leaves) will allow you to evaluate what your coverage actually looks like. Selection of adequate nozzles, adjusting water volumes and spray droplets are other factors that can influence spray coverage. These topics are too broad to cover in this article, however a number of articles written on these subjects by OMAFRA's Application Technology Specialist, Jason Deveau, can be found in past issues of the OMAFRA newsletter, HortMatters.

Younger insects are generally much more susceptible to *Bt* than older ones, and *Bt* generally works best if it is applied earlier in a pest infestation. Regular scouting is therefore very important, in order to detect insect pests at a stage when they are best controlled by these products. If you wait until the damage becomes noticeable, the target insect may be too big, or populations too large, to be adequately controlled. Sometimes, repeat applications will be required, as permitted by the label, to achieve adequate control.

Other general guidelines to ensure best results with *Bt* products include: applying products in the evening, on cloudy days, and when no rain is forecast for 24-48 hours before application; avoiding storing *Bt* products under extremely hot (> ca. 25°C) or cold (< ca. 0°C) (specific temperatures vary with the product) and ensuring spray mixtures are applied within 12 hours of preparation. Due to the specific enzymes required to activate the proteins, *Bt* products are not equally effective against all pests within a group (e.g. not all caterpillar pests are equally susceptible). Remember that *Bt* products are not registered on all organic crops, and may not be labelled against all pests you want to control. Refer to the product label for instructions on pests, on crops and rates.

OMAFRA Articles and Updates

HORTICULTURE

Recommended Berry Varieties for Ontario

Pam Fisher, Berry Crops Specialist, OMAFRA

Reviewed by Ontario Coordinated Berry Crops Variety Trials Committee

Many factors go into decisions about what varieties to plant. All varieties have strengths and weaknesses, which make them more or less suitable for certain sites. Before choosing varieties consider location, soil type and intended market.

Each year a team of researchers, growers, OBGA representatives and OMAFRA specialists, meet to discuss performance of berry varieties in Ontario and to suggest varieties which might be suitable for trial.

We use the following definitions to group varieties as suited for general planting, limited or regional planting, or something to try on a small scale.

General Planting

Well-known varieties of proven performance and market value grow well in most locations but not necessarily the best variety for all locations.

Limited/Regional Planting

These varieties have value but should be limited in extent of planting. Some may have proven valuable in trial plantings and warrant further commercial experience. Others may be adapted to a specific region or be useful only for selected markets.

Trial Planting

These are promising, newer varieties which require further testing to establish their commercial value.

Species	General Planting		Limited/Regional Planting	Trial Planting
Blackberry				Chester Thornless Illini Hardy Triple Crown
Blueberry	Bluecrop Duke		Bluejay Blueray Elliot Jersey Patriot	Aurora Bluegold Draper Huron Liberty Northblue
Currant, Black			Ben Alder Ben Sarek Titania	
Currant, Red	Red Lake			Rovada
Gooseberry				Invicta Hinomakki Red
Raspberry, Black			Jewel	
Raspberry, Fall bearing	Autumn Britten Polana		Heritage** Polka	Anne (yellow-fruited) Caroline** Joan J Josephine Himbo Top
Raspberry, Red Summer bearing	Boyne		Killarney Nova Prelude Reveille Royalty (red-purple) Titan*	Chemainus** Cowichan** Encore Glen Ample Tulameen***
Strawberry, June bearing	<i>For pick-your-own and retail markets</i> Annapolis Jewel	<i>For pick- your-own</i> Cavendish Kent	Brunswick Cabot Governor Simcoe Mira Mohawk Sable * Sapphire Wendy	Donna L'Amour Laurel Record St. Pierre St. Laurent Summer Dawn Summer Rose Summer Ruby Valley Sunset
Strawberry day-neutral	Seascape		Albion	Portola San Andreas

*Extremely susceptible to *Phytophthora* root rot and/or crown gall. Should only be grown from tissue-cultured plants on raised beds.

Southwestern regions only * Greenhouse production only

OMAFRA Articles and Updates (cont'd)

Learn more

[Variety Descriptions: Strawberry](#)

[Variety Descriptions: Raspberry](#)

(From OMAFRA newsletter Ontario Berry Grower)

SOIL MANAGEMENT

Manure Sulphur - Digging Deeper

Christine Brown, Nutrient Management Lead – Field Crops, OMAFRA

The addition of sulphur (S) gave many positive yield responses in the 2012 growing season. Was it the dry growing conditions? Was it part of continuous improvement in industrial pollution control?

Whatever the reason, the impact from the positive responses to crop yields will increase the interest in sulphur use in fertilizer programs. The good news is that manure and other organic amendments contain sulphur!

Why Is Sulphur Important?

Sulphur is a part of several protein enzymes that regulate photosynthesis and nitrogen fixation in plants. It is also a component of key essential amino acids for livestock.

What Form Of Sulphur?

Sulphur comes in many forms. Sulphate (SO₄²⁻) is the form needed for uptake by plants. The sulphur cycle diagram (Figure 1) shows that sulphur is present in the atmosphere as sulphur dioxide, and hydrogen sulphide. Rainwater, crop residues and animal residues (manure) deposit sulphur to the soil, mainly as organic sulphur. Other forms of sulphur in the soil include sulphides (S⁻), elemental sulphur (S), and sulphate. Sulphur moves through its various forms in a similar method as nitrogen in the nitrogen cycle.

Most of the sulphur in soil is tied up in the soil organic matter and has to be mineralized by soil micro-organisms

to the sulphate form. In the sulphate form, leaching becomes a risk, similar to nitrate nitrogen. Sulphur volatilization is also a form of loss that increases with soil disturbance.

How Much Sulphur Is There In Manure?

Until recently, sulphur content in manure was not tested regularly. The estimates in Table 2 are based on a limited number of samples. There are differences between livestock types and within livestock types. Sulphur content in manure is impacted by the sulphur in livestock rations and in harvested feed, as well as livestock housing and manure storage facilities. Accurate estimates can be made from sulphur analysis as part of a manure sample.

Manure analysis information gives total sulphur. Approximately one-third of manure sulphur is in the sulphate form. The remainder is organic sulphur which becomes available more slowly with bacterial activity in warm and well aerated soils. In Wisconsin sulphur recommendations are more routine, and sulphur availability from manure has been studied. Approximately half of the manure sulphur is assumed available to crops in the year of application. When manure is applied to the same field in consecutive years, there is residual sulphur from the previous application(s), just as with the organic nitrogen from manure. An additional credit of 10 percent is given after the second application and a 15 percent additional S credit after the 3rd application. For example, where 20 tons of dairy manure is applied to the same field every year with an analysis of 3 lbs/ton total S, the available sulphur estimate for crop production would as shown below.

Manure @ 20 ton/ac with 3 lbs/ac Total Sulphur	Available S (50% of total)	Residual Sulphur Credit	Total Available Sulphur
Year 1 application	30 lbs/ac	---	30 lbs/ac
Year 2 application	30 lbs/ac	3	33 lbs/ac
Year 3 application	30 lbs/ac	4.5	35 lbs/ac

Table 1: Example of residual sulphur available after three consecutive manure applications over three years.

OMAFRA Articles and Updates (cont'd)

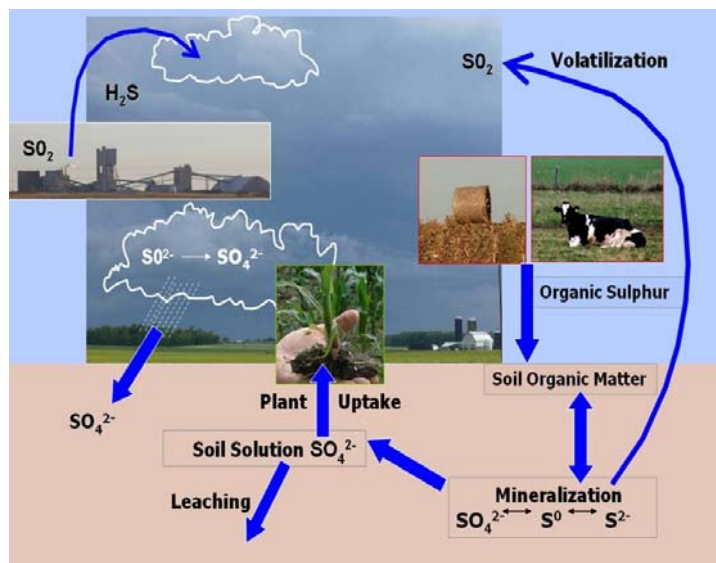


Figure 1: Agriculture Sulphur Cycle

Table 2:
Approximate Sulphur Content from Various Manure Types (as-applied)

Manure Type	Solid lbs/ton (kg/T)	Liquid lbs/1000 gallons (kg/1000 L)
Hog	---	4 to 7 (0.4 - 0.7)
Dairy	1 to 2 (0.5 - 1)	2.5 to 4 (0.25 - 0.4)
Beef	2 to 4 (1 - 2)	3 to 5 (0.3 - 0.5)
Poultry	4 to 6 (2 - 3)	9 (0.9)
Biosolids	~ 5 (2 - 3)	----
Biosolids Pellets	15 to 20 (7 - 10)	----
N-Viro	55 to 60 (27 - 30)	----
Greenbin Compost	2.5 to 5 (1.3 - 2.5)	----

How Much Sulphur Do Crops Remove?

High yielding crops that fix nitrogen remove the highest amount of sulphur. Table 3 shows the approximate amount of sulphur contained in common field crops assuming average yields. Manure sulphur is not always sufficient for high producing crops. However, crop response to commercial sources of sulphur is less common where manure or other organic amendments are applied regularly.

Table 3: Approximate Amount of Sulphur Contained in Field Crops

Crop	Yield /acre	Sul-phur lbs/ac	Crop	Yield /acre	Sul-phur lbs/ac
Grain Corn	150 bu	10	Wheat grain	80 bu	6
Corn Stover	4.5 ton	15	Wheat straw	3 ton	10
Soybeans	40 bu	4	Barley grain	60 bu	4.5
Canola	45 bu	15	Barley Straw	1.5 ton	6
Dry Beans	30 bu	5	Oats grain	80 bu	5
Alfalfa	5 ton	25	Oats Straw	2 ton	9
Red Clover	2.5 ton	7	Rye grain	45 bu	10
Timothy hay	2.5	5	Rye Straw	2 ton	4

From Table on pg 26 - Managing Crop Nutrients BMP

(From OMAFRA newsletter CropTalk)

OMAFRA Articles and Updates (cont'd)

LIVESTOCK

Mobile (Robotic) Barn Cleaner Leaves Some Floor Un-cleaned

Michael Krystolovich, Veterinary Student, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, and OMAFRA Summer Student and Neil Anderson, Veterinary Science and Policy Unit, OMAFRA

Risk assessments for lactating cow mastitis include evaluations of cow, bedding and floor cleanliness. It is common belief that cleaner floors contribute to cleaner claws, beds, bedding, teat ends, and a reduced risk of mastitis or high somatic cell counts. This report describes seasonal variation and selective exclusion of floor cleaning in a slatted-floor barn with a mobile floor cleaner.

The study farm used a Lely *Discovery* 90SW mobile barn cleaner that has an onboard water spray system. With this model, Lely advertises intelligent cleaning without cow disturbance, flexible routing, an option for more frequent cleaning of some areas during specific times of the day, and enhanced floor cleaning and grip with water spray. Additional claims include optimum hygiene, less manure in the cubicles, cleaner claws, tails and udders, and prevention of claw and udder diseases. Certainly, results may vary with the operator's programming or the machine's performance under conditions in a barn.

During an initial cool-weather (May) visit to the three-row barn, the *Discovery* was cleaning about 60% of the floor area as shown in Figure 1. It cleaned the entire floor in the two crossovers and the 10-footwide outside alley. It also cleaned about five feet (i.e., two passes) of floor adjacent to the stall curb in the 14-foot-wide feed alley and some of the floor in the collection area adjacent to the two robotic milkers. It did not clean the floor where cows stood to eat at the bunk or the collection area closest to the automated milkers.

At a later visit in June, the *Discovery* was cleaning less floor area. It cleaned a single pass (about 34 inches) adjacent to the stall curbs for each of the three rows of stalls. (Figure 1) Overall, *Discovery* cleaned about 38% of the floor area and left the remaining 62% for cows to manage with their feet.

Discovery navigates by a combination of a gyroscope, ultrasound and wheel revolutions. The gyroscope maintains orientation; ultrasound determines the distance from walls and curbs; and wheel revolution measures distance. Disruption to the navigational program happens when the wheels spin on slippery floors. Human intervention is needed to get *Discovery* reoriented. This

well-ventilated study barn had wide alleys, low cow densities, and open curtains. Warm days caused the floors to be slippery. *Discovery* spun its wheels and parked in unwanted places. The solution was to program it to clean only the wettest, heavily contaminated floor areas. Ultimately about 62% of the floor was not cleaned because of practical problems including *Discovery*'s incapacity (e.g., grip/traction), labour (e.g., fetching *Discovery*), cow well-being (e.g., eating undisturbed, traction), or milking opportunities (e.g., undisturbed entry to automated milkers).

We need to be aware of changes in floor cleaning when consulting about mastitis or milk quality. As in this study barn, the risk of dirty floors, claws, beds or mastitis may be greater for several days, weeks or a few months each year. During times of reduced floor cleaning, more frequent and complete cleaning of the beds may counterbalance some risk.

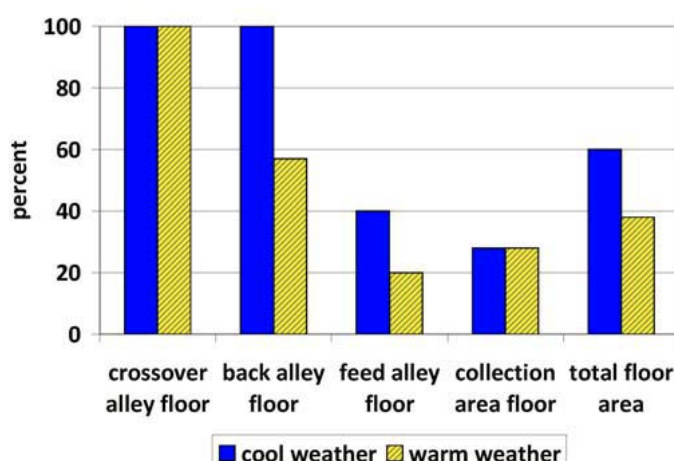


Figure 1. Percentage of floor area cleaned by a mobile floor cleaner in a slatted-floor free-stall barn was greater in cool weather (60%) than in warm weather (38%).

(From OMAFRA newsletter CEPTOR – Animal Health News)

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Update

Under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), Ontario operators with 20 or more employees must file a report on their accessibility plan and actions by December 31, 2012.

The report must demonstrate compliance with the Accessibility Standard for Customer Service that took effect this past January. This standard requires businesses to create a plan and train staff regarding accessible customer service.

Businesses with 20 or more employees in Ontario must also put the plan in writing, provide it in an accessible format to customers on request and report progress to the government online.

The AODA Compliance Wizard is a five-minute online computer quiz that helps you find out what you must do to comply with this law.

For more information please visit: <http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/accessibility/>

Funding Opportunities

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/

Ontario's Regional Development Funds for Job Creation

The new [Southwestern Ontario Development Fund](#) (SWODF) and renewed [Eastern Ontario Development Fund](#) (EODF) are now receiving applications from companies for projects that drive innovation, grow Ontario's economy and create local jobs.

The Funds are discretionary, non-entitlement programs with limited funding. There are two funding streams, one for established businesses and a regional stream for economic development organizations including municipalities.

Under the business stream, the Funds may provide up to 15% of eligible project costs to a maximum grant of \$1.5 million. For project investments of \$10+ million that create 50+ jobs, funding may be available in the form of a secured repayable loan, to a maximum of \$5 million in provincial support.

In order to be eligible for the **business stream**, businesses must:

- Employ at least 10 people and meet minimum job creation thresholds as outlined in the Business Application Guide
- Be able to provide 3 years of financial statements
- Be part of an eligible sector
- Be located in, or plan to locate in southwestern or eastern Ontario
- Have a multi-year project that involves a minimum investment of \$500,000 in eligible project costs.

Smaller businesses with 5-10 employees may be eligible under the Small Community Pilot, in either the east or southwest regions. Not sure which fund your company can apply to? Check out the [EODF map](#) or the [SWODF map](#).

If your project is a food processing initiative, I would be pleased to provide you with guidance in developing your application. Please don't hesitate to contact me for assistance.

EODF: www.ontariocanada.com/ontcan/1medt/econdev/en/ed_eodf_main_en.jsp

SWODF: www.ontariocanada.com/ontcan/1medt/en/swodf_en.jsp

Learning Opportunities

Basic Crop Inspection Training – Ontario

Date: March 4-8, 2013

Location: 1 Stone Road, Guelph, Ontario
Canadian Organic Growers (COG) and IOIA will cosponsor basic crop inspection training in Ontario. The course includes comprehensive training on the Canadian Organic Standards and four days of instruction including a field trip to a certified organic operation, plus one-half day for testing.

This training is geared primarily for inspectors, but others such as certification agency staff, regulators, industry consultants, and educators are also welcome.

For more information: Contact Beth McMahon at COG, e-mail beth@cog.ca or phone 613.216.0741. Information is also available online at www.cog.ca/news_events/inspector/.

Conferences and Events

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

Beef Symposium

Date: January 19, 2013

Location: University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario
The Beef Symposium is part of the annual FarmSmart Conference.

For more information: Please visit the website at
www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart/conference/

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

Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario – Workshops

Date: January 31 & Feb 1, 2013

Location: 1 Stone Road, Guelph

Workshops include Direct Marketing, Soil Tests for Organic Farmers, Labour on the Market Garden (Panel Discussion), Intro to Beekeeping, Working with your Butcher, and Techniques for Small Scale Intensive Organic Market Gardening.

Cost: \$50 for members, \$70 for non-members. Please note that EFAO workshop registration and parking is separate from the Guelph Organic Conference.

For more information: Please visit the EFAO website at www.efao.ca or contact Karen Maitland at 1.877.822.8606.

Ontario Organic Awards

Date: February 2, 2013, 6pm-10:30pm

Location: River Run Centre, Guelph, Ontario

The Ontario Organic Awards recognize and celebrates innovation in organic agriculture in Ontario. Awards will be given to individuals and businesses which show consistent and pioneering efforts within Ontario's organic sector.

For more information: Please contact Mary Ellen Wales at the Organic Council of Ontario by phone 519.827.1221 or visit the website at www.organiccouncil.ca/awards2013

Ontario Berry Growers Association – OFVC Pre Conference Berry Program

Date: Tuesday, February 19, 2013

Location: Embassy Suites, 6700 Fallsview Blvd., Niagara Falls, Ontario

For more information: Please contact Pam Fisher, OMAFRA Berry Crop Specialist at pam.fisher@ontario.ca

Agenda

9:00 am

Introducing Summer – A New June Bearing Strawberry Selection

9:15 am

Grower Profile – Raymont Berry Farm

10:00 am

Selling The Farm Story - How to Deal with the Media

10:30 am BREAK

11:00 am

Working Together for Strawberry Research and Promotion - National Strawberry Council

11:30 am

Spotted Wing Drosophila in Berry Crops: The Pest, and the B.C. Experience

12:00 pm

How We Manage Spotted Wing Drosophila on Our Farm

12:15 pm

OBGA Annual Meeting & Lunch 12:15 - 2:00 p.m.

Conferences and Events (Cont'd)

Ontario Berry Growers Association – OFVC Pre-Conference Berry Program

Agenda - Cont'd

2:00 pm

Cost of Production – Day Neutral and Matted Row Strawberries

2:30 pm

Temperature Inversions and Pesticide Drift

3:00 pm

Round Table Introductions

3:15 pm

Round Table Discussions

1. Dealing with the Media
2. Preparing for a Farm Safety Audit
3. Offshore Labour Program
4. National Strawberry Council
5. Spotted Wing Drosophila

5:00 pm

Adjourn

7:30 pm

OBGA social time and refreshments

Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Convention

Date: February 20-21, 2013

Location: Scotiabank Convention Centre, 6815 Stanley Avenue, Niagara Falls, Ontario

The Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention is an annual gathering of horticultural crop producers, primarily involved in the production of fruits and vegetables, from across Ontario.

The 2-day convention is located at the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls, Ontario, and features a great line-up of horticultural experts, topical sessions, trade show exhibitors and great networking opportunities. Now entering its 11 year, discover for yourself why it is called Canada's Premier Horticultural Event.

Registration is now available online.

For more information: Registration by phone please call Glenna Cairnie at 905.945.5363 or 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/eco-farm-day

Links to Organic Agriculture Information

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>

Ecological Farmers of Ontario (EFO)

<http://www.efao.ca>

Canadian Organic Growers (COG)

<http://www.cog.ca>

Organic Agricultural Centre of Canada (OACC)

<http://www.oacc.info>

OMAFRA Organic Agriculture

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

FarmStart www.farmstart.ca