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## Welcome to ON Organic

*Evan Elford, New Crop Development Specialist, OMAFRA*

This month, Eco Farm Day 2013 will be highlighting the importance of water management in organic agriculture. Keynote speakers include Maude Barlow of the Council of Canadians speaking on Water – Emerging Issues for the Organic Farmer; and Ralph Martin from the University of Guelph addressing issues of Managing Too Much or Too Little Water at Inconvenient Times. For more information about Eco Farm Day 2013, please visit the website at [www.cog.ca/ottawa/eco-farm-day/](http://www.cog.ca/ottawa/eco-farm-day/).

At the end of February, the Midwest Cover Crops Council will be hosting their 8<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in London, Ontario. A grower workshop is scheduled as part of their meetings on Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.

To learn more about both of these events please refer to the events section and fliers at the end of the newsletter.

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

Evan Elford – Editor, OMAFRA, New Crop Development Specialist

Jack Kyle – OMAFRA, Grazier Specialist

Hugh Berges - OMAFRA, Manager Horticultural Technology

Katie Meagher – OMAFRA, Marketing Specialist

Mario Mongeon – OMAFRA, Livestock Specialist

Melanie Filotas - OMAFRA, IPM Specialist for Specialty Crops

Jacquie De Fields – OMAFRA, Client Service Representative

Julie Gamache – OMAFRA, Client Service Representative

# Frost Seeding to Improve Forage Stands

*Gilles Quesnel, Field Crop IPM Program Lead &  
Jack Kyle, Grazier Specialist, OMAFRA*

Frost seeding is used to improve productivity and forage quality of pastures and hay fields by broadcasting seed on frozen ground. Conventional tillage, minimum tillage and no-till usually have higher establishment success rate than frost seeding. However, frost seeding can be an economical way of rejuvenating an existing forage stand when tillage or no-tilling seeding are not viable options because of soil depth, variable soil drainage, stoniness, risk of soil erosion, cost or immediate forage needs.

## Time of Seeding

For most of Ontario, the best time to frost seed is from mid-March or early April, once the snow is all or nearly all melted. Ideally, the ground freezes and thaws at least 2 to 3 times after the seed is broadcast. This freeze-thaw action helps to incorporate the seeds into the soil surface. Avoid frost seeding on top of snow where any run-off from rapid snow melt will wash the seed away.

## Equipment

Frost seeding is often done using a spinner-spreader on an all terrain vehicle (ATV), a snowmobile or a tractor. In particularly rough or small areas, a hand-held broadcaster may be the preferred option.

## Site Selection

**For the seeds to germinate there needs to be good seed to soil contact.** The best sites for frost seeding are thinning grass stands with some soil exposed. Seedling establishment can also be improved by overgrazing or clipping to 5 cm the previous fall to open the stand, weaken the existing plant growth and allow for better freezing and thawing action. Frost seeding is least successful in fields with thick sod.

## Species Selection and Seeding Rates

Red clover is the easiest species to frost seed. The seed is dense, which improves seed-soil contact, it germinates at low temperatures and has high seedling vigour, allowing it to start growing early in the spring. Birdsfoot trefoil and white clover have been frost seeded with varying degrees of success. Birdsfoot trefoil is more difficult and slower to establish than red clover, but it is non-bloating. Once established, it will grow well under a wide range of growing conditions, and will persist longer than red clover.

Grasses are rarely frost seed successfully. However, research at the University of Wisconsin by Dr. Dan Undersander demonstrated greater establishment

success with orchardgrass and Italian (annual) ryegrass than with timothy or reed canarygrass. Smooth brome grass was intermediate for establishment, but is more winter hardy than orchardgrass and Italian ryegrass.

Because of auto-toxicity, which will prevent new alfalfa seedlings to grow in the presence of a mature alfalfa plant, alfalfa is not well suited to frost seeding.

## Frost Seeding Rates

| Species           | Seeding Rate<br>kg/ha (lbs/acre) |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Red clover        | 3 – 6 (2.7-5.3)                  |
| White clover      | 2 – 3 (1.8-2.7)                  |
| Birdsfoot trefoil | 3 – 6 (2.7-5.3)                  |
| Orchardgrass      | 3 – 4 (2.7-3.6)                  |
| Italian ryegrass  | 4 – 8 (3.6-7.1)                  |

**Frost Seeding Rates:** Use the higher seeding rates when significant bare ground is visible

## Soil Fertility

The success of the new seedling establishment will be improved if there is adequate soil fertility to support plant growth. If the soil fertility is low consider applying compost or other nutrient sources to enhance the soil fertility.

## Harvest Management

Once the new seedlings are established, regular grazing or harvest will reduce competition from existing grasses and allow light penetration into the canopy. In the year of establishment, avoid overgrazing by keeping at least 5 to 8 cm (2 to 3 inches) of top growth.

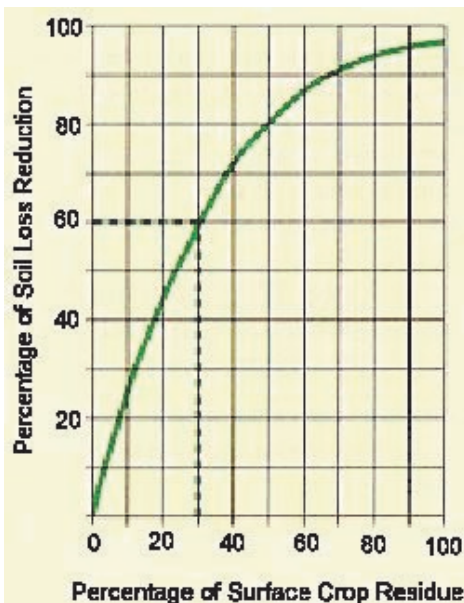
# Soil is Meant to be Covered

Anne Verhallen, Soil Management Specialist, Horticulture, OMAFRA

I recently heard Gabe Brown speak. He is a rancher in North Dakota and is probably best known for his aggressive cover cropping strategy using highly diverse mixtures. One thing he said really stands out though – he said “When we farm in Nature’s image, everything gets easier”. By this he meant farming with diverse cover crop mixtures and keeping the soil constantly covered just as Nature does.

In recent years we have seen a lot more erosion across the province – both wind and water erosion. Just think back to April 2012, we had two Mondays in particular with extended high winds. There was soil moving off fields that typically are not prone to erosion but were bare and open to the wind.

Cover crops are an integral part of organic crop rotations, barring late harvested crops with no window for fall cover crop growth. However, because these systems often rely on tillage to control weeds and cover crops and to prepare a seed bed, there are critical times where the soil is bare. Unfortunately, the bare soil time is generally in the spring after planting. Spring and early summer is also a time of intense rainstorms, making fields quite vulnerable to erosion.



**Figure 1:** Percentage of surface residue to soil loss reduction. From <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/>

Research has shown that 30% or more cover can reduce erosion by 60% or more, **Figure 1**. This is significant in terms of keeping soil in place and maintaining overall soil health and productivity.

Beyond erosion protection, there are other benefits from 30% cover. Cover, particularly with a density greater than 30%, can help with weed control. Another key benefit is soil temperature and moisture moderation. Bare soil is somewhat like a desert. The surface layers dry out readily and are prone to wide temperature swings between day and night. In early summer, dry, bare soils like sands can easily get above 40°C during the day. Much of the life in soil, for example the bacteria that drives the nitrogen cycle, is highly sensitive to temperature fluctuations. The optimum temperature range for most biological processes is 20-30°C. Keeping soil covered can help to moderate temperature changes and support more active cycling.

It is a challenge to achieve 30% cover at all times – let’s consider the options.

- Use careful cover crop selection and management/ planning. Choose cover crops that will grow well in the fall but die over winter, leaving residues for cover in the spring. Practise strip cropping to leave strips of undisturbed cover crop or residue between rows of emerging crop to achieve 30% cover. Consider using cover crops to create bio strips rather than tillage.
- Consider tillage tools that do not bury a lot of residue. Vertical tillage systems and chisel ploughing will bury less residue than a mouldboard plough operation (see chart below for comparison). Choose secondary tillage systems like cultivating that are less aggressive in residue burial.
- Explore the use of dense cover crop mixtures like cereal rye and hairy vetch that can be controlled with a roller crimper operations for late planted crops like edible beans or pumpkins where there is enough time to get sufficient growth on the cereal rye for successful rolling.

Sometimes we have to accept the trade- offs. In some crop rotations or seeding systems it can be very difficult to achieve 30% cover. Aim for 30% cover but also recognize that at least 90% of the time your fields are covered and that there are just a few weeks after planting and between cover crops where the soil may be bare and vulnerable. Work to ensure that cover crops are planted promptly and seed densely to achieve fast ground cover.

## Soil is Meant to be Covered (Cont'd)

Anne Verhallen, Soil Management Specialist, Horticulture, OMAFRA

| Tillage and planting implements                                                                                                                                                             | Cover remaining after each operation*            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Mouldboard plow                                                                                                                                                                             | 3 to 5%                                          |
| Chisel plow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Straight points</li> <li>• Twisted points (disk chisel)</li> </ul>                                                                     | 50 to 80%<br>30 to 60%                           |
| Disk (tandem or offset) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 inch deep</li> <li>• 6 inch deep</li> </ul>                                                                              | 40 to 80%<br>30 to 60%                           |
| Field cultivator                                                                                                                                                                            | 50 to 80%                                        |
| Cultivator / disk combination tool                                                                                                                                                          | 30 to 60%                                        |
| Planter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smooth or no coulter</li> <li>• Narrow ripple coulter</li> <li>• Wide fluted coulter</li> <li>• Sweeps or double disk furrowers</li> </ul> | 90 to 95%<br>85 to 90%<br>80 to 85%<br>60 to 80% |
| Drills<br>Disk openers                                                                                                                                                                      | 90 to 95%                                        |
| Winter weathering                                                                                                                                                                           | 75 to 85%                                        |

\* Use higher values for corn residue and lower values for fragile residue, such as from soybeans. Adapted from a chart in the Purdue Extension publication – Estimating Corn and Soybean Residue Cover at <http://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/AY/AY-269-W.pdf>



**Figure 2:** Strip tillage operation prior to sweet corn planting. Source D. Brainard MSU  
A non- organic system – but similar could be achieved with the use of a dense oat cover crop from the previous year.



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# Risk Management Program Update

## Production Insurance Update – May 1, 2013 Organic Deadlines

It's that time of year again and Production Insurance (PI) deadlines for spring-seeded crops are fast approaching. Agricorp offers PI coverage for both organic and conventional crops. Here are some PI options for your organic crops:

- Specialized organic plans are available for organic corn, organic soybeans, organic fresh market carrots, organic fresh market cabbage, organic winter wheat and organic winter spelt.
- Proof of certification is required to receive a claim payment at the organic claim price.
- The forage rainfall plan works equally well for both organic and conventional producers.
- As always, other crops or crops in transition can be insured under the general production insurance plans.

The deadline to apply for organic corn, organic soybeans and coverage, without winterkill, for organic winter wheat and organic winter spelt, and the forage rainfall plan is **May 1, 2013**.

For more information on these production insurance plans or other business risk management programs delivered by Agricorp please visit [agricorp.com](http://www.agricorp.com) or contact us at 1-888-247-4999.

## Farm Business Registration Update

Producers receiving FBR invoices

This month, producers are receiving their 2013 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.

For more information on deadlines please visit the deadlines page on the Agricorp website at: <http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/AllDeadlines/Pages/Default.aspx>

For more information on Agricorp's current adhoc programs please visit:

- [Canada Ontario Forage and Livestock Transportation Assistance Initiative: http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/News/Pages/AgriRecovery-ForageLivestockTransportationSupport.aspx](http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/News/Pages/AgriRecovery-ForageLivestockTransportationSupport.aspx)
- [Canada and Tender Fruit Weather Risk Mitigation Strategy Initiative: http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/News/Pages/GF-AppleTenderFruitAppAvailable.aspx](http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/News/Pages/GF-AppleTenderFruitAppAvailable.aspx)

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## Food Safety Snippets

### ON FARM FOOD SAFETY: YOUR BUSINESS ADVANTAGE

#### *Proper Sewage Removal is Imperative to on-Farm Food Safety*

**Sandra Jones, On-Farm Food Safety Program Lead, OMAFRA**

Proper removal of waste from portable toilets is a very important part of food safety on your farm. As a food safety best practice always take precautionary measures to hygienically remove waste on your farm. Portable toilets are often situated close to production areas and therefore require extra care to avoid contaminating produce or a water source (e.g. irrigation water pond). Another step to minimizing the risk of contamination on your farm is to have a plan in place to address a potential accident.

For more information on how to develop your sewage removal plan contact the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs by phone 1-877-424-1300 or visit our website at [www.ontario.ca/goodagpractices](http://www.ontario.ca/goodagpractices). Food safety practices keep agri-food businesses competitive, productive and sustainable.

#### *Maintaining Proper Water Quality*

**Wayne Du, Pork Quality Assurance Program Lead, OMAFRA**

Water chlorination is an effective treatment method often used by producers to maintain proper water quality. There are two recommended methods of water chlorination:

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## Food Safety Snippets (Cont'd)

**Shock chlorination** is used to treat wells, through a process of flushing the well and water system with a chlorine solution. Water should be tested for total coliforms and *E. coli* 2-5 days after the treatment to confirm that both counts are 0 cfu/100 ml.

**Continuous chlorination** is used for the treatment of dump tank water, through a process of adding chlorine to the water continuously. The chlorinated water must be monitored for free chlorine and pH levels to ensure effective water chlorination. At the start before any produce is added, free chlorine levels in the dump tank

water should be 100 -150 ppm. After adding produce, maintaining 2-7 ppm free chlorine and a pH around 6.0 –7.5 at all times will ensure the system is working properly.

Maintaining proper water quality can reduce the potential for contamination of food products on your farm. Food safety practices keep agri-food businesses competitive, productive and sustainable. For more information, visit the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs website at [www.ontario.ca/goodagpractices](http://www.ontario.ca/goodagpractices) or call us at 1-877-424-1300.

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## Funding Opportunities

### Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP)

The Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC) making a **FINAL** call for applications to the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). The program will fund short-term, innovative projects that fit the CAAP project objectives.

**Deadline to Submit Application:** March 14, 2013

**Date of Meeting:** April 25, 2013.

Please Note: All CAAP projects must be completed by **October 31, 2013**. Submit application(s) as soon as possible to ensure the optimal lifespan for your project (s).

CAAP funds projects that help the sector remain competitive and adapt to:

- **Seize opportunities**
- **Respond to new and emerging issues**
- **Pathfind or pilot new solutions and opportunities to on-going issues**

For complete details about CAAP, please refer to the CAAP Guide or contact a program coordinator regarding the fit of your project under CAAP.

**Telephone:** 519.822.7554

**Fax:** 519.822.6248

**Email:** [info@adaptcouncil.org](mailto:info@adaptcouncil.org)

**Website:** [www.adaptcouncil.org](http://www.adaptcouncil.org)

### Export Market Access: A Global Expansion Program

#### What is it?

Export Market Access (EMA) is a \$5 million initiative, jointly sponsored by the Government of Ontario and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC). It is designed to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) increase their access to global markets.

#### What is the benefit to your company?

Generally the EMA program will cover 50% of the eligible costs in four specified areas. Non-repayable contributions generally range from a minimum of \$5,000 to a maximum of \$30,000 (with the exception of capital bidding projects which generally would not exceed \$35,000).

#### Who Qualifies?

- SMEs in Ontario currently offering a product or service
- A new or emerging exporter - minimum of five employees to a maximum of 500 employees - or partnerships/consortium of small to medium sized new or emerging exporters meeting the following criteria:
  - Annual sales of \$500,000 or more.
  - Currently established and operating in Ontario.
  - Registered (federally or provincially) for minimum of two years.
  - In full compliance with all government laws and regulations.
  - Not receiving any other contributions from public funds towards the activities contained in the funding application.

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## Funding Opportunities (Cont'd)

### How do I apply?

All of the forms required to submit an application can be accessed, completed and submitted online at <http://exportaccess.ca/howtoapply.shtml>.

You can apply for more than one category and you can apply more than once in a 12-month period.

You will be advised within 30 business days regarding your eligibility for EMA and will receive 25% of the projected eligible costs when you sign your contract. When you have completed the activities/ project, you will submit a final report along with other required documents. Upon approval and acceptance of the final report, the OCC will provide you with the balance of their contribution.

### Where can I find more information?

General information can be found on the OMAFRA website: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/industry/exp-mkt-access.htm>

More detailed information, a guide and application forms can be found at the Export Access website: [www.exportaccess.ca](http://www.exportaccess.ca)

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## Learning Opportunities

### Exploring Value Added Opportunities

#### ADD NEW VALUE TO YOUR BUSINESS

*For Farmers and Rural Business Owners Interested in Adding Value to their Business - Learn How to Turn Your Idea Into Reality*

#### VIDEOS \* WORKSHOPS \* E-LEARNING

To start adding value, learn how to:

Generate ideas

Select your best idea

Assess your idea's business potential

Turn your idea into reality.

For videos, workshops, E-Learning and more go to <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/diversifyfarmbus/valueadded.htm>

#### Upcoming Workshops and Webinars

Workshops are being planned in different locations throughout Ontario for Winter 2013.

Registration fliers and dates of all scheduled workshops will be posted at: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/diversifyfarmbus/valueadded.htm>

#### Workshops to date:

[February 26](#), 2013, Clinton OMAFRA Resource Centre  
March 5, 2013, Lions Club Hall, 554 Main Street, Wyoming

[March 7](#), 2013, Cobden Community Centre

[March 13](#), 2013, Macaulay Church, Picton

[Webinar Series - Feb. 27 and 28, 2013](#)

A webinar is basically a workshop or seminar offered over the web and teleconferencing for audio.

Why choose the webinar format? If you prefer the convenience of learning from your own home, being able to participate regardless of weather, and you have access to a reasonable Internet bandwidth and are comfortable using the Internet-this is an ideal option for you. Take advantage of this facilitated online session to exchange ideas with others as you learn how to turn your idea into reality.

To be notified of upcoming workshops contact the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300 or at [ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca](mailto:ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca).

### 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](mailto:beth@cog.ca) or phone 613.216.0741. Information is also available online at [www.cog.ca/news\\_events/inspector/](http://www.cog.ca/news_events/inspector/).

## Conferences and Events

### 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 63<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.cog.ca/ottawa/eco-farm-day)

### MAKING SEN\$E WITH COVER CROPS

**Date:** Thursday, February 28, 2013.

**Time:** 8:30 am to 6 pm

**Location:** Four Points by Sheraton, 1150 Wellington Road South, London, Ontario

Register by Feb. 22, 2013

### Agenda Topics

- Why Cover Crop?
- Putting a Value on Cover Crops
- From Planting to Killing
  - Sourcing seed
  - Getting established
  - Cover crop selection and mixtures
  - Fertility – in and after cover crops
  - Herbicide residues
  - Termination and after
- Why and how I use cover crops
- Lunch
- The view from the field – successes and cautions (panel discussion)
- Applied Cover Crop Research and Your Bottom Line

Choose from:

1. Cover crops and Field Crops
  - a.Re-considering red clover
  - b.Fitting cover crops into field crop rotations

2. Cover Crops and Livestock
    - a.Opportunities for forage production
    - b.Pasturing with cover crops
  3. Specialty Crops and Cover Crops
    - a.Opportunities with specialty crops niches
    - b.Pest control strategies and concerns
- Cover crop question period – all speaker question period
  - Cover Crop Cocktail Reception – a chance to discuss cover crops and management strategies further

On-line registration: <https://oscia.wildapricot.org/Events>

**For more information** please refer to the flier attached to this newsletter.

### Profitable Pastures 2013 Conference & Trade Show Dates/Locations:

**March 4, 2013** – Strathacona Paper Centre, Napanee, Ontario

**March 5, 2013** – Drumbo Agricultural Hall, Drumbo, Ontario

The Ontario Forage Council is proud to announce our upcoming annual **Profitable Pastures 2013**

**Conference & Trade Show**, this years' theme is:

**"Each Pastured Acre Must Generate a Profit"**. The conference will be held in **Napanee on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>** at the Strathacona Paper Centre, and in **Drumbo on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>** at the Drumbo Agricultural Hall. Presentations are CEU accredited.

This years' keynote speaker is Dr. Darrell Emmick, University of Vermont Extension. Dr. Emmick is the USDA-NRCS Grazing Land Management Specialist, New York State, holds a B.S. degree in Wildlife Biology and Management, a M.S. degree in Resource Management and Ecology, and a Ph.D. in Range Science from Utah State University. Darrell has worked for over 30 years researching, promoting, and helping farmers implement grazing-based livestock production systems in the Northeast region of the U.S., with special emphasis on grass-based dairy production. His primary research interests include understanding the foraging behavior of livestock, the use and management of species diverse naturalized pastures, evaluations of grazing management methods, matching livestock type to forage management strategy, evaluations of various forage species for use as pasture.



## Conferences and Events (Cont'd)

We are also building an excellent slate of local presenters to compliment the key note speaker that will provide a beneficial pasture management experience to a broad cross section of our producers.

The cost of this years' conference is \$40, and includes a hot roast beef lunch. Books of 10 tickets are available at a reduced rate to treat customers, or staff. Registration deadline is February 25<sup>th</sup>, registrations will be accepted at the door, but may not include the hot roast beef lunch. Please call the Ontario Forage Council to register, Visa and Mastercard accepted by phone. Please make cheques payable to the Ontario Forage Council.

Tradeshow and sponsorship opportunities are still available for both days of this conference. Spaces will fill quickly, so please don't hesitate. Profitable Pastures is an excellent opportunity to advertise your business.

**For more information** on sponsorship/tradeshow opportunities, or to register, please contact:

Ontario Forage Council  
Ray Robertson, Manager or Patricia Ellingwood,  
Executive Assistant  
**Phone:** 519.986.1484, OR 1.877.892.8663  
PO Box 463  
Markdale, Ontario  
N0C 1H0  
**E-mail:** support@ontarioforagecouncil.com

### **Please see Agenda and Registration Details on following pages**

#### **Organic Council of Ontario Annual General Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2013

**Time:** 9am-4pm

**Location:** Loyola House, 5420 Highway 6, Guelph,  
Ontario

#### **Registration:**

Free for OCO members; \$45 for non-members (HST included)

*Includes an organic lunch.*

**Please RSVP by March 15th, 2013**

Tel: 519.827.1221 or by email mary @organiccouncil.ca

#### **Agenda Topics**

9:00 am OPENING REMARKS Board Chair Matt  
LeBeau

9:15-9:30 ED Report: OCO's Year in Review

9:30-10:00 OMAFRA Update: Growing Forward and the

New Ministry of Agriculture

10:00-10:30 The State of the Organic Sector in Ontario  
by Theresa Schumilas

- *Results from our Direct Marketing review, sales data, consumer trends, and more*

- *Next steps for characterizing our markets, keeping data current*

10:30-10:45 BREAK

10:45-11:00 Resources for OCO Members: Insurance  
Program proposal

11:00-11:30 Regulatory Update from Organic Federation  
of Canada Chair Ted Zettel

11:30-11:45 Building Bridges: Lessons from the Bhoomi  
Conference, India

11:45-12:30 Co-Farmer Update: Strategy Proposal

12:30-1:45 LUNCH KEY NOTE ADDRESS 1PM:  
RICK SMITH, Environmentalist, Author, ED at the  
Broadbent Institute

1:45 – 2:30 BUSINESS MEETING

*Board Elections: Certifier, Retail/ Direct to Consumer,  
Distributor, NGO, Co-Farmer*

2:30 – 4:00 Sector Caucus Meetings

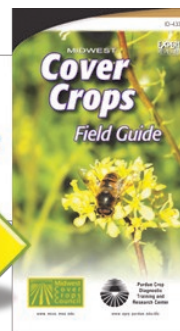
4:00 ADJOURNED

# MAKING SENSE WITH COVER CROPS

## Thursday, February 28, 2013

### Four Points by Sheraton – London, ON 1150 Wellington Road South

**First 100  
Registrants  
Receive**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm/Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

**Advance Registration — \$65.00 Per Person / \$55.00 for OSCIA Members**

**On-Site Registration — \$90.00 Per Person**

On-Line Registration courtesy of OSCIA: <https://oscia.wildapricot.org/Events>

Check a Payment Method: ☐ \*Cheque ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Cheques payable to: University of Guelph – Cover Crop Workshop

**Registration Deadline — February 22, 2013**

### REGISTRATION OPTIONS

| MAIL<br>Cheque or Credit Card                                                                       | PHONE/FAX/EMAIL<br>Credit Card                                                                                                 | ON-LINE<br>Credit Card                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Anne Verhallen<br>Midwest Cover Crop Council<br>c/o OMAFRA<br>P.O. Box 400<br>Ridgetown, ON N0P 2C0 | Phone: 519-674-1614<br>FAX: 519-674-1564<br>Email:<br><a href="mailto:anne.verhallen@ontario.ca">anne.verhallen@ontario.ca</a> | Go to:<br><a href="https://oscia.wildapricot.org/Events">https://oscia.wildapricot.org/Events</a> |

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS:** If you require overnight accommodations, **please call the Four Points Sheraton at 519-681-0600.** Room rates are **\$99.00** (plus tax). Be sure to quote **“Cover Crops”** in order to receive this special room rate.

# Profitable Pastures 2013

Conference & Trade Show

“Every Pastured Acre Must Generate a Profit”

Monday March 4th, 2013

Strathacona Paper Centre, Napanee

Tuesday March 5th, 2013

Drumbo Agricultural Hall, Drumbo



**Featuring Key Speaker:**

**Dr. Darrell Emmick**

**USDA-NRCS Grazing Land Management  
Specialist,**

**New York State**

**Author of “Managing Pastures as a Crop”**

To register phone 1-877-892-8663.

Tickets \$40 — includes hot roast beef dinner

Visa or Mastercard.

Pre-registration required by February 25th

For more information check out our website

[www.ontarioforagecouncil.com](http://www.ontarioforagecouncil.com)

# Links to Organic Agriculture Information

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

**E-mail: [ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca](mailto:ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca)**

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

**[www.ontario.ca/omafra](http://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](http://www.farmstart.ca)