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Welcome to ON Organic

Evan Elford, New Crop Development Specialist, OMAF & MRA

This month the 33rd Annual Guelph Organic Conference and Expo will take place at the University of Guelph on Thursday, January 30 to Sunday, February 2, 2014. The ever expanding conference agenda and trade show have a full lineup of workshops and exhibitors covering many aspects of organic and biodynamic production and marketing topics. This year the conference theme is 'Catching the Wave – Are You on Board?!'

In this issue, we have highlighted the two OMAF and MRA workshops within the livestock and market-gardening themes. For more information on all conference workshops and sessions, please visit the website at www.guelphorganicconf.ca

We look forward to seeing you there!

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 OMAF and MRA 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 OMAF and MRA Organic pages are linked from:

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

The ON Organic Team

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Jack Kyle – OMAF and MRA, Grazier Specialist

Hugh Berges - OMAF and MRA, Manager Horticultural Technology

Katie Meagher – OMAF and MRA, Marketing Specialist

Mario Mongeon – OMAF and MRA, Livestock Specialist

Melanie Filotas - OMAF and MRA, IPM Specialist for Specialty Crops

Jacque De Fields – OMAF and MRA, Client Service Representative

Patti Arts – OMAF and MRA, Client Service Representative

Pasturing Your Beef or Poultry

Al Dam, Poultry Specialist, OMAF and MRA

Taking place at the Guelph Organic Agriculture Conference, Saturday February 1, 1:30-3pm.

It is at the beginning of the pasture season that you can take the steps to optimize pasture performance on your farm. Pasture is the lowest cost feed source available, and the opportunity for improved production is significant on most farms. A well-managed pasture will be very competitive with any other crop use that you might consider for that land base if the forage and livestock are both well managed and have a good rotational system.

OMAF and MRA Livestock specialists Jack Kyle (Grazier Specialist), Brian Pogue (Beef Cattle Program Lead) and Al Dam (Poultry Specialist) will share their knowledge and ask you to share yours when it comes

to pasture management of cattle and poultry during this session at the 33rd Annual Guelph Organic Conference and Expo

Topics will cover; forage management, rotation and timing, fencing, supplementation of other feedstuffs if needed and how to manage biosecurity challenges with a variety of pastured poultry including disease, parasites, wild bird exclusion and predation.

Knowing your pasture and your animals can ensure that you maximize the growing season and the benefits to your animals. There will be free materials at the session and if you can't make it to the session, more information about Organic Livestock Production can be found on the OMAF Website at: <http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/organic/>

Best Management Practices for Market Garden Pests

Anne Verhallen, Soil Management Specialist – Horticulture, OMAF and MRA

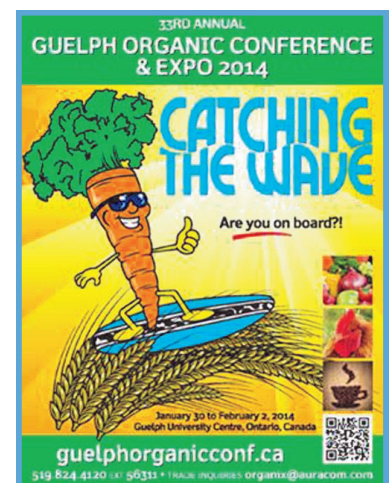
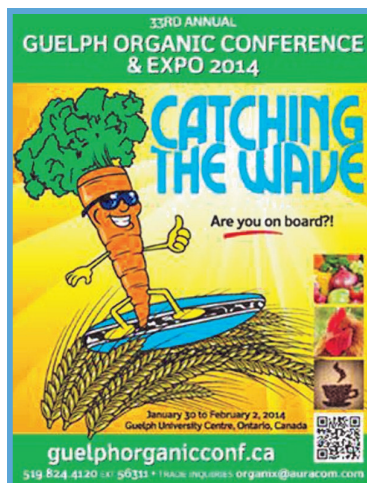
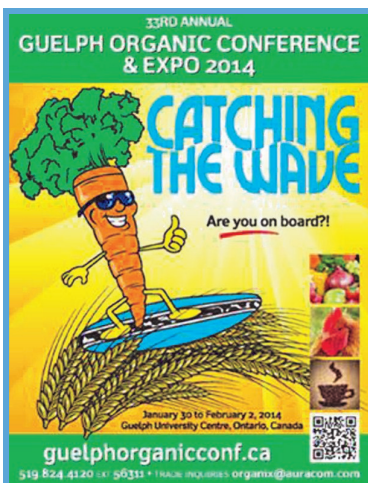
Taking place at the Guelph Organic Agriculture Conference, Saturday February 1, 1:30-3pm

Don't miss the session – Best Management Practices for Market Garden Pests at the 33rd Annual Guelph Organic Conference and Expo. This session focuses on common pests of market garden vegetables; things like Tomato Late Blight, insects in sweet corn, nematodes and many more. OMAF and MRA Vegetable Crop Specialists, Elaine Roddy and Janice LeBoeuf will cover identifying vegetable pests with lots of pictures and examples. They delve into the biology of key pest species to aid growers in developing better management strategies.

In particular they will feature the on-line tool Ontario

CropIPM (<http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/IPM/english/>) which has a wealth of information on pest identification, biology and control strategies suited to a variety of crop production systems. Cheryl Trueman, the vegetable pest management researcher at the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus will zero in on management strategies. Through a series of case studies she will look at the options available to growers for pest control in market gardens; particularly managing predisposing conditions where possible, crop rotations, cover crops, trap crops, companion planting and more.

Bring your questions and your farm experiences to share!



ON Organic JANUARY 2014

Funding Opportunities

Canada Summer Jobs Wage Subsidy - Deadline: January 31st, 2014

Canada Summer Jobs provides funding to help employers create summer job opportunities for students. It is designed to focus on local priorities, while helping both students and their communities.

Canada Summer Jobs:

- provides work experiences for students;
- supports organizations, including those that provide important community services; and
- recognizes that local circumstances, community needs and priorities vary widely.

Canada Summer Jobs provides funding to not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers and small businesses with 50 or fewer employees to create summer job opportunities for young people aged 15 to 30 years who are full-time students intending to return to their studies in the next school year.

Wage Subsidy

Not-for-profit employers are eligible for up to 100% of the provincial/territorial adult minimum hourly wage. Public and private-sector employers are eligible for up to 50% of the provincial/territorial adult minimum hourly wage. Refer to your provincial or territorial legislation to confirm the minimum wage.

An employer may choose to pay more than the minimum wage; however, the percentage reimbursed through CSJ will apply only to the applicable provincial/territorial adult minimum wage rate. For example, if a private-sector employer pays a student \$10.00 per hour in a province where the adult minimum wage is \$8.50, the subsidy that will be provided through CSJ will be 50% of the minimum wage, i.e. \$4.25.

Eligible Student Participants

To be eligible to participate in the CSJ initiative, individuals must:

- be between 15 and 30 years of age at the start of the employment;
- have been registered as full-time students in the previous academic year and intend to return to school on a full-time basis in the next academic year;
- be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or person to whom refugee protection has been conferred under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*²; and,
- be legally entitled to work in Canada in accordance with relevant provincial/territorial legislation and regulations.

For more information on the Canada Summer Jobs wage subsidy, please visit the Service Canada website at: www.servicecanada.gc.ca

Local Food Fund

The Local Food Fund is a three-year initiative with funding of up to \$10 million per year to support innovative local food projects that reduce barriers to regional economic development; result in sustainable regional economic development; and have a positive impact on the Ontario economy.

The Fund will support projects in four categories:

1. Regional and Local Food Networks
2. Enhanced Technologies, Capacity and/or Minor Capital
3. Research and Best Practices
Education, Marketing and Outreach

For more information and guidelines, please visit the OMAF and MRA website at:

www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/about/localfood.htm

Growing Forward 2 Funding Assistance Program for Producers, Organizations and Collaborations

Growing Forward 2 (GF2) is a federal-provincial-territorial program aimed at encouraging innovation, competitiveness and market development in Canada's agri-food and agri-products sector. In Ontario, farm, food and bioproduct businesses, collaborations and organizations can build their own plan and select opportunities to help grow their profits, expand their markets and manage risks.

Areas of Focus for GF2 Funding Assistance

Producers, organizations and collaborations can apply for funding assistance in six focus areas, with an emphasis on innovation:

- Environmental and Climate Change
- Assurance Systems (Food Safety, Traceability and Animal Welfare)
- Market Development
- Animal and Plant Health
- Labour Productivity Enhancement
- Business and Leadership Development

Capacity Building Funding Assistance

Cost-share is available to support eligible clients to acquire additional skills, to undertake in-depth assessments and audits, and to develop business plans.

Funding Opportunities (Cont'd)

Building capacity helps prepare clients to apply for further cost-share to implement a project. Applications for capacity building funding assistance will be accepted on a continuous basis.

Some examples of Capacity Building activities are:

- Cost-share fees for qualified consultants (e.g. Professional Engineer) to conduct an assessment.
- Produce a written report and plan that provides recommendations for implementing improved irrigation and fertigation management BMP's (e.g. field and greenhouse operations).
- Energy Use Assessment for existing farm buildings that will reduce the dependency on power and fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Prevention plan for Wildlife Damage - help reduce crop, livestock or property damage caused by managed wildlife species.
- Market Assessment, Marketing Plan, Communication Material Design.
- Integrated Pest Management Planning.
- Cost of Production Assessment.
- Succession Plans, Expansion Plans, Human Resources Plan, Business Plan.

Implementation Funding Assistance

Clients may be eligible for cost-share for projects that help to achieve their business goals. Applications for project implementation will be reviewed and assessed based on merit.

Having a detailed business and/or workplan, budget and applicable permits and approvals in place prior to submitting an application will increase your success in securing cost-share.

Individual farm businesses may be eligible to receive up to \$350,000 over the five-year program (April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2018)

Producers are strongly encouraged to attend a free capacity building workshop such as Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan (New 4th edition) and Growing Your Farm Profits.

Important Dates:

December 16, 2013 to January 30, 2014 – Application intake for Implementation Funding Assistance from all eligible clients including, producers, organizations and collaborations.

Please visit the GF2 website at: www.ontario.ca/growingforward2

OMAF and MRA have a full listing of programs and services for Ontario farmers on the website and in the Factsheet 'Programs and Services for Ontario Farmers'. For more information please visit: www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/facts/progserv.htm or call the OMAF and MRA Agricultural Information Contact Centre to request a hard copy of the Factsheet at 1.877.424.1300.

Learning Opportunities

Certificate in Sustainable Agriculture – Hosted by Agriculture Solutions Inc.

Date: January 27-30, 2014 (four day course)

Location: The Delta Hotel, 50 Stone Road West, Guelph, Ontario

For more information and to register please visit www.agriculturesolutions.ca/events or call 1.855.247.6548.

EFAO Kitchen Table Meetings

There are numerous Kitchen Table Meetings taking place through the winter. Please visit the EFAO website **for more information** at www.efao.ca

C.R.A.F.T. (Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training in Ontario) Internship Opportunities

Fulltime Seasonal and Other Organic Farming

Internships in Ontario.

If you're ready for a full, hands-on experience that will immerse you in ecological farming then you've come to the right place. CRAFT Ontario is your gateway to a farming internship experience that will change your life. Whether your dream is to have your own organic farm one day or just want to learn some food growing and hands-on skills that can be applied in other careers and lifestyles, a farming internship is a powerful experience that will equip you with the tools and insights to make a real difference in the world. Each CRAFT farm operates independently and offers its own internship with individualized agreements around such things as living and eating arrangements, stipends, work hours, and training methods. **For more information** please visit the website at www.craftontario.ca

Conferences, Meetings and Tours

EFAO Winter Workshop Series

1. Diversified Ecological Heritage Grain Production - Panel Discussion

Date: Wednesday January 29, 2014 (10:00 am - 3:00 pm)

Location: Dublin St. United Church, 68 Suffolk St W Guelph, ON

Member Cost: \$80.00

Non-Member Cost: \$105.00

Register and pay online at www.efao.ca/upcoming-events or call the EFAO office 519-822-8606

This session is made possible by the [Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security](#)

There are a growing number of farmers producing heritage field crops in small-scale diversified farming operations. Farmers have been cultivating heritage grains for centuries and these crops are the backbone of the varieties used today in modern agriculture. However bringing these varieties back into circulation while sustaining an economically viable farming operation is unclear. Learn from three diversified heritage grain producers as they share their best practices and discuss how they are responding to the agronomic and economic challenges of growing diversified heritage grains in ecological farming conditions.

Panelists:

Paul Spence: [LoMaximo Meats](#), Chatam-Kent, ON.

Chris Wooding: [Ironwood Organics](#), Gananoque, ON.

Thor Oechsner: Oechsner Farms, [Farmer Ground Flour](#), and [Wide Awake Bakery](#), Trumansburg, NY.

2. Like it, Pin it, Tweet it! Exploring Social Media and Online Direct Marketing for Farmers

Date: Friday January 31, 2014 (1:00 pm - 4:00 pm)

Location: OMAF Building, 1 Stone Rd. Guelph ON

Member Cost: \$40.00

Non-Member Cost: \$65.00

Register and pay online at www.efao.ca/upcoming-events or call the EFAO office 519-822-8606

Explore the world of social media and online direct marketing techniques for promoting your farm business. Participants will get tips to help develop their online presence through various social media and online marketing platforms and learn from the experiences of other farmers about how to best create and effective online communications strategy for direct marketing. This course is best suited for farmers who are already familiar with social media tools and would

like to take their online marketing strategy to the next level.

Moderator: Jennifer Kucharczyk, Communications Coordinator, Sustain Ontario

Panelists:

Erica Lemieux; [City Seed Farm](#) Toronto, ON.

Dana Thatcher; [Thatcher Farms](#), Rockwood, ON.

3. Farmstead Cheese Making Panel Discussion (Plus a Cheese Retail Tour at [Ouderkirk & Taylor](#) and a cheese tasting at [OX Restaurant](#))

Date: Friday January 31, 2014 (9:45 am - 2:30 pm)

Location: 10 Carden St. Guelph ON

Member Cost: \$65.00

Non-Member Cost: \$90.00

Register and pay online at www.efao.ca/upcoming-events or call the EFAO office 519-822-8606

This introductory session is geared towards those exploring the idea of starting a small-scale sheep or goat dairy and would like more information on how to produce farmstead cheese for market. The panel discussion will be followed by a tour of [Ouderkirk & Taylor](#), and a cheese tasting and social at [OX Restaurant](#). The following topics will be discussed; on-farm infrastructure, costs and considerations when starting out, equipment, opportunities and challenges for new farmers, appropriate breeds, and animal husbandry. This session will be appropriate for those who are in the exploratory phase, or already keeping a small flock of milking animals.

Panelists:

Elisabeth Bzikot: [Ewenity Dairy Co-operative and Best Baa Farm](#), Fergus, ON

George Taylor: [C'est Bon Cheese](#), St Mary's, ON

Julie Belli: [Harmony Tree Farm](#), Uxbridge, ON

4. Biologically Intensive Market Garden Design

Date: Friday January 31, 2014 (9:00 am - 12:00 pm)

Location: OMAF Building, 1 Stone Rd. Guelph ON

Member Cost: \$50.00

Non-Member Cost: \$75.00

Register and pay online at www.efao.ca/upcoming-events or call the EFAO office 519-822-8606

Jean-Martin Fortier, author of the [The Market Gardener](#), recently translated into English with the help of FarmStart's online campaign, is returning to Guelph for another EFAO workshop!

Conferences, Meetings and Tours

Last year we learned how he and his wife manage to sell more than \$130,000 worth of vegetables grown on 1.5 acres of land. This year Jean-Martin will focus in on explaining his proven low-tech, high-yield methods of production. You will hear detailed information on the techniques, tools, and appropriate technology that make [Les Jardins de la Grenlinette](#) a productive and profitable micro-farm. In this session you will receive information which you can directly apply to your market garden, and help you grow better before you grow bigger. *This event is part of an Ontario speaker tour hosted by FarmStart. For other locations and dates check the FarmStart website www.farmstart.ca.*

Jean-Martin Fortier and his wife Maude-Hélène Desroches are the founders of Les Jardins de la Grenlinette, an internationally recognized micro-farm known for its high productivity and profitability using low-tech, high-yield methods of production. He has written articles about his work for popular magazines such as *Canadian Organic Grower*, *La Terre de Chez Nous* and *Growing for Market*, and he has facilitated more than fifty workshops and conferences in Europe, Canada and the US. Jean-Martin also contributes occasionally as a tool and equipment advisor for companies such as Johnny's Selected Seeds and Dubois Agri-Innovation. His first book, *Le Jardinier-Maraîcher* sold more than 15,000 copies in the original French language since its release in the fall of 2012.

Catching the Wave - Guelph Organic Conference & Expo 2014

Date: January 30-February 4, 2014

Location: Guelph University Centre, Ontario

OMAF and MRA will be presenting two workshops at the 2014 conference.

For more information please visit the conference website at www.guelphorganicconf.ca or call 519.824.4120 ext 56311

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention (OFVC)

Date: February 19 & 20, 2014

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

Organic Session will include:

- Eric Gallandt, University of Maine: A systems perspective on weed management: cultivation, rotation, cover crops, and the weed seedbank.
- Jason Deveau, OMAF and MRA: Application of organic amendments and pest control products.

- Melanie Filotas, OMAF and MRA: Late Blight, Downy Mildew and Invasive Insects – What's an Organic Grower to do?"

Biopesticide Session "Biopesticides – Making them work in the field", to be held in the afternoon after the organic session.

Topics include:

- Liette Lambert (Quebec Ministry of Agriculture): Biopesticides: Experiences in Quebec.
- Matt Karuse (Bioworks, Inc.): Biopesticides for management of root and foliar diseases.
- Claude Dubois (AEF Global): Effective fungicides for strawberries, apples and other crops.
- Mary Ruth McDonald (University of Guelph): Using biopesticides in Ontario vegetables – a researcher's perspective.

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

Eco Farm Day, 2014

Date: February 22, 2014

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

Advance registration available online or by mail.

Registration fee includes lunch:

Regular Adult – \$56.50 (\$67.80 at door)

COG/Organic Meadow Member – \$45.10 (\$56.50 at door)

Student – \$28.25

Senior – \$33.90

For more information and a complete conference brochure, please visit the website at www.cog.ca/ottawa/eco-farm-day

COG Toronto 8th Annual Organic Conference

The Organic Vision: In Search of Change

Date: Saturday, February 22, 2014 9:00am-5:00pm

Location: University of Toronto Conference Centre, 89 Chestnut St., Toronto

Registration: \$65 (\$85 after Feb. 15); COG members, seniors and students \$55 (\$65 after Feb. 15)

For more information and registration please call 647.367.7706 or visit the website at www.cogtoronto.org.

Links to ON Organic Information & Staff Contacts

OMAF and MRA Horticulture Staff

Horticulture Technology

Mike Celetti	Pathologist, Hort Crops Prgm Lead	519-824-4120, x58910
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Hannah Fraser	Entomologist, Hort Crops Prgm Lead	905-562-1674
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Vacant	Organic Crop Production	519-826-4587
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Wendy McFadden-Smith	Tender Fruit & Grape IPM Spec.	905-562-3833
Jennifer DeEll	Fresh Market Quality	519-426-1408
Pam Fisher	Berry Crop Specialist	519-426-2238
Janice LeBoeuf	Vegetable Crop Specialist	519-674-1699
Elaine Roddy	Vegetable Crop Specialist	519-674-1616
Kathryn Carter	Tender Fruit & Grape Specialist	905-562-1639
Leslie Huffman	Apple Specialist	519-738-1256
Kristy Grigg-McGuffin	Pome Fruit IPM Specialist	519-426-4322
Marion Paibomesai	Vegetable Crop Specialist	519-826-4963

Greenhouse, Agroforestry & Specialty Crops

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Melanie Filotas	Specialty Crops IPM Specialist	519-426-4434
Sean Westerveld	Ginseng & Medicinal Herbs Spec.	519-426-4323
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Graeme Murphy	Greenhouse Floriculture IPM Spec.	905-562-4141, x106
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Gillian Ferguson	Greenhouse Vegetable IPM Spec.	519-738-1258
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Todd Leuty	Agroforestry Specialist	519-826-3215
Mahendra Thimmanagari	Crop Bioproducts Specialist	519-826-4593

OMAF and MRA Field Crop & Livestock Staff

Field Crops

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Ian McDonald	Applied Research Coordinator	519-482-5129
Peter Johnson	Cereals Specialist	519-271-8180
Albert Tenuta	Pathologist, Field Crops Prgm Lead	519-674-1617
Tracey Baute	Entomologist, Field Crops Prgm Lead	519-674-1696
Scott Banks	Emerging Crops Specialist	613-258-8359
Gilles Quesnel	IPM Field Crop Program Lead (Bil)	613-258-8250
Bonnie Ball	Soil Fertility Specialist	519-271-9269
Adam Hayes	Soil Management Specialist	519-674-1621
Greg Stewart	Corn Industry Program Lead	519-824-4120 x54865
Michael Cowbrough	Weed Mgmt Field Crps Prgm Lead	519-824-4120 x52580
Joel Bagg	Forage Specialist	705-324-5856
Christine Brown	Nutrient Mgt Field Crops Prgm Lead	519-537-8305
Brian Hall	Canola & Edible Bean Specialist	519-271-0083

Livestock

Tom Wright	Dairy Cattle Nutritionist	519-824-4120 x56281
Jaydee Smith	Swine Prod Systems Program Lead	519-674-1542
Mario Mongeon	Livestock Specialist (Bil)	613-679-0937
Albert Dam	Poultry Specialist	519-824-4120 x54326
Brian Lang	Dairy Cattle Prod Systems	519-537-8786
Doug Richards	Swine Grower-Finisher Specialist	519-482-3133
Ron Lackey	Feed Ingredient & By-product Specialist	519-271-7407
Vacant	Sheep & Goat Specialist	613-258-8299
Brian Tapscott	Alternative Livestock Specialist	519-846-3400
Chisptoph Wand	Beef Sheep & Goat Nutrition	519-824-4120 x53670
Brian Pogue	Beef Cattle Program Lead	519-826-5106
Nancy Noecker	Beef Cow/Calf Specialist	613-258-8476
Delma Kennedy	Sheep Specialist	519-846-3398
Steve Naylor	Aquaculture Specialist	519-826-3172
Tom Hamilton	Beef Cattle Production	705-647-2087
Jack Kyle	Grazier Specialist	705-324-5855

Links to Organic Agriculture Information

Organic Council of Ontario (OCO)

<http://www.organiccouncil.ca>

Canadian Organic Growers (COG)

<http://www.cog.ca>

OMAF and MRA Organic Agriculture

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

Ecological Farmers of Ontario (EFO)

<http://www.efao.ca>

Organic Agricultural Centre of Canada

<http://www.oacc.info>

FarmStart

www.farmstart.ca

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