

THE BUZZ



News about the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs – University of Guelph Partnership

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IN THE NEWS

Grooming young scientists. Along with creating breakthrough research in stone fruit, University of Guelph scientist Jay Subramanian, who works out of the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, is growing the next “crop” of University of Guelph students. This year, Subramanian has mentored four elementary and high school students who have competed across the country in regional and Canada-wide science fairs. Later this summer one of the high school students, Supriya Nilam, will continue to compete in North Africa, showcasing a project that has already been granted a provisional patent through the Business Development Office at the U of G. Nilam, a grade 11 student, worked with Subramanian last summer on a project that showed plant antioxidants added to soil can make flowers and vegetables grow faster and larger. This summer, thanks to the encouragement of “Dr. Jay,” Nilam will be showing off this research in Tunisia. Read the full story [here](#).

OVC opens large animal isolation unit. A state-of-the-art large-animal isolation unit that will set a new standard in patient housing and infection control is now open at OVC. The 9,000-square-foot facility includes 12 separated stalls -- each supported by its own nursing station -- video monitoring from a central station, and sophisticated diagnostic equipment. Each stall has dual access with interior and exterior doors, which will improve the efficiency and working conditions for staff and clinicians. "It's very exciting to be opening the doors of this long-awaited facility," said OVC dean Elizabeth Stone. "We've always provided innovative health-care services, and this new unit gives our clients yet another reason to be confident in our ability to provide the best care possible." Construction of the isolation centre was funded through infrastructure grants from the federal and provincial governments, with additional support from the University. Read the full story [here](#).

Super tomatoes boost nutritional value. Lycopene, a powerful antioxidant found in tomatoes, is being bumped up in new varieties being developed at the University of Guelph's Ridgetown campus. Prof. Steven Loewen, a researcher at the Ridgetown campus,

says enhanced levels of this antioxidant will further elevate the health virtues of one of nature's most perfect foods. His goal is to create the ultimate tomato for processing -- for ketchup, tomato sauce and tomato paste. Loewen says these new varieties will benefit farmers' bottom line, and exceed consumers' nutritional expectations for tomato products. "This research is going to help sustain the processed tomato industry, by helping farmers produce a highly nutritious product for the consumer's benefit," Loewen says. Read the full article [here](#), written by Ridgetown-SPARK writer Paulo LaBerge.

RESEARCH STATIONS

Improved efficiency at Research Station Operations (RSO). Growing 1,700 acres of crops for animal feed and bedding will be easier now that RSO is keeping cropping lines straighter with a satellite controlled guidance (or autosteer system) in some of its tractors. This new satellite technology works by controlling the steering of the tractor to avoid overlaps or misses, regardless of the equipment's width. Manager Peter Milton says the system saves time, fuel, seed, fertilizer and chemical inputs – and it means less down time as well. "Now we can work in the dark or fog and continue to be accurate" he says. Continuous improvement in labour and equipment efficiency at RSO has been made possible through new equipment purchases from the ARIO minor capital fund.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Guelph food technologies highlighted on CBC radio. Some of Guelph's latest food innovations were highlighted on CBC Radio's Fresh Air on June 7 by Elora's Anita Stewart, popularly called Canada's Culinary Goddess and always known as a friend of the University of Guelph. The innovations highlighted were developed as part of the OMAFRA - U of G partnership agreement, and included the plum variety *Violet* developed at Vineland Research Station, the peach variety *Volley* developed at Simcoe Research Station, the Miniberry™ miniature strawberry and a spearmint variety that fights inflammation. In addition, the Project SOY competition was showcased along with the company YOSO, which started as a result of the annual competition to discover new uses for Ontario soybeans. The segment can be heard [here](#). Stewart will next be promoting Canadian and Guelph's food innovations at the 7th annual World's Longest BBQ at 6 p.m. on August 1, 2009. This event encourages all Canadians to barbeque local food and share their recipes and stories [here](#).

NEWS

Students help quantity and quality at the AFL. As part of an ongoing federal program to help eradicate Plum Pox Virus in the Niagara region, 90 students have been hired by the Agriculture and Food Laboratory to test 750,000 tree samples -- in just 16 weeks. John Melichercik, Co-Executive Director, Laboratory Services and project manager Todd Marrow say one of the challenges in a project of this importance and magnitude is to create a process that allows the lab to employ students and have the proper quality control in place. With well-documented quality control, standard operating procedures and training processes in place, the program has achieved six sigma -- or less than 3.4 errors per one million tests performed -- four times in the nine years it has been running. "Over four million samples have been processed over the course of this program, with large numbers

of students involved in the work. The multiple six sigma ratings are the glowing achievement of it all,” says Melichercik.

SPARK AIR posts first video. The SPARK program has expanded to include video stories. Sponsored by the Partnership, and in partnership with Farms.com, interviews featuring OMAFRA-U of G partnership research have been set to take place over the summer months. The first video has been posted at Farms.com and features Dave Wolyn's asparagus research. Upcoming videos include other research at the Simcoe Research station, Ridgetown campus and Cedar Springs Research Station, the Guelph Turfgrass Institute and the Woodstock Research Station.

STAFF AND STUDENT NEWS

Leader for Mission 2050 announced. Prof. Vern Osborne has been reappointed to lead the next phase of the development for the Mission 2050 infrastructure project. Mission 2050 will be a world-class livestock and environmental research facility combining agricultural, life science and bio-engineering research with technology development. The interdisciplinary, collaborative research centre will provide economic and environmental solutions for agricultural livestock enterprises, while generating new knowledge in many related fields of research, including green technologies, farm-based renewable energy systems and innovative fossil fuel replacement products. In his role, Osborne will continue to be responsible for the coordination and selected management of various activities related to the ongoing development of the project.

COMING EVENTS

12th annual Eastern Ontario crop diagnostic day. This event provides growers and agri-business personnel with hands-on learning experiences to assist in identifying and treating crop problems common to eastern Ontario. It takes place on Tuesday July 21, 2009, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Winchester Research Station. For more information contact the Kemptville Resource Centre at 613-258-8295.

Summer tree fruit orchard meeting. On Wednesday July 22, 2009, from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m., at Cedar Springs Research Station, growers and industry representatives are invited to an informal orchard meeting where tree fruit research on peach, pear, cherry, and apple will be presented. Speakers from the University of Guelph, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Michigan State University, and OMAFRA will discuss new management techniques, cultivars, advanced breeding selections, pest control and weed management strategies, new approaches to chemical thinning, and growth control using plant bioregulators. For further information, contact John Zandstra at jzandstr@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca or 519-674-1627.

Simcoe vegetable and alternative crop open house. On August 18, 2009 from 1:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. at the Simcoe Research Station, learn tips and tricks for managing new crops. Hands-on demonstrations on alternative crops will be held, and participants will have the opportunity to talk with U of G staff and OMAFRA specialists. For more information about this event, go [here](#). RSVP is requested by August 14.

2009 Canada's Outdoor Farm Show. This year's farm show takes place September 15-17 on the grounds of the Woodstock Research Station. It features demonstrations of innovative production systems, and energy and healthy living expos. For more information go to www.outdoorfarmshow.com.

About The Buzz

The Buzz is the electronic community news vehicle for the OMAFRA-University of Guelph partnership.

Editor: Liz Snyder, OMAFRA-UofG programs, 519-826-3376, lsnyder@uoguelph.ca. To contribute, contact Liz or contributing editors Robyn Meerveld, (519-826-4191, robyn.meerveld@ontario.ca) or Owen Roberts (519-826-5207, owen@uoguelph.ca).

Contributors to this issue: Simon Berge, Paul Brine, Natalie Carter, Rob Cunnington, Steve DeBrabandere, Stacy Favrin, Anna Formusiak, John Forsyth, Gillian Garydon, Elin Gwyn, Rajib Hazarika, Paulo LaBerge, Stefan Larrass, Duff MacKinnon, Robyn Meerveld, Hayley Millard, Peter Milton, Rich Moccia, Helen Neals, Remo Pallottini, Owen Roberts, Jeff Schieck, Li Sijing, Lise Smedmor, Liz Snyder, Daphne Tot, Sarah Van Engelen, Carla Verwijs, Mary Visser Kerr, Andrew Vowles, Tyler Whale, Oswald Zachariah.

Find out more about the OMAFRA-UofG Partnership at:
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