

THE BUZZ



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

May 20, 2010

Vol. III, No. 4

RESEARCH NEWS

This mite be the problem in hives. Varroa mites are the main culprit behind mysterious die-offs of honeybee colonies that have alarmed beekeepers, crop producers and the general public, according to a new study by School of Environmental Sciences Prof. Ernesto Guzman. The study found these parasitic mites were responsible for more than 85 per cent of honeybee colony mortality in Ontario. He spoke about this research at the April 7, 2010 [News@Noon](#), and was also featured in a story on the Discovery Channel show, [Daily Planet](#), on April 26, 2010. Read more about this research [here](#).

Infrared camera tells the inside story. Profs. Stephen Miller, Kendall Swanson and Brian McBride of the Department of Animal and Poultry Science and post-doctoral researcher Yuri Montanholi are using infrared cameras to determine how much heat and methane beef and dairy cattle release from their bodies. Those measurements will help reveal which animals use feed most efficiently, so farmers can capitalize on using those animals in their breeding programs.

KTT program underway. The OMAFRA-U of G Partnership has launched Agri-Food and Rural Link, the hub for Knowledge Translation and Transfer (KTT) at the University of Guelph, funded by the Partnership. Agri-Food and Rural Link has put out a call for proposals for projects to be funded under the KTT program. All University of Guelph faculty and professional staff and OMAFRA staff are eligible to submit, and the deadline for this first call is June 28, 2010. Find out more about Agri-Food and Rural Link, including this call for proposals, [here](#).

RESEARCH STATIONS

Bee centre buzzing with research. Apiculture research and education at the University of Guelph are internationally renowned and have been part of a long beekeeping tradition that started at OAC in 1894. The Bee Research Station is unique to the University

of Guelph -- no other university or research centre in the country has one like it. The station, also featured in the [Daily Planet story](#), includes a laboratory for molecular biology studies, housed in the Bovey building, and apiculture facilities located adjacent to the Arboretum. Staff maintain 200-300 honey bee colonies primarily for research and teaching purposes.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

New director for Business Development Office. Erin Skimson takes the helm at the BDO starting May 17, 2010. Erin has served in various senior management roles at medical device company Stryker Canada LP since 2003. Erin brings with her a strong background in management, technology and business development, and marketing, with a focus on building partnerships. "We look forward to having Erin's leadership and enthusiasm in the role of Director, which will further advance our mission of enhancing innovation outcomes across the University," says the office's Associate Director Steve De Brabandere.

NEWS

Soy muffins rise to the top. Biodegradable food packaging made from soybeans and soybean powder muffin mix were among the winners at this year's Project SOY (Soybean Opportunities for Youth) competition. The 14th annual event, held this year in Peter Clark Hall, showcased 18 projects from 37 University of Guelph students. The competition is sponsored by Dekalb Brand Seeds, SOY20/20, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the Grain Farmers of Ontario. Go [here](#) for a story about the winners.

All about the partnership and OVC. The summer 2010 issue of Ontario Veterinary College's alumni publication *The Crest* features many of current initiatives with OMAFRA. The 16-page issue highlights research, innovation and education supported by OMAFRA funding over the years. These include a patent for an effective vaccine against shipping fever, emergency management research, the health and welfare of dairy herds and research that enhances the profitability of the agricultural sector. The edition will be available soon and posted on line at www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/crest.

STAFF AND STUDENT NEWS

New foreperson at Ponsonby. Jeff McFarlane is the new research facility foreperson at Ponsonby Research Station. He started his new role on April 1, 2010. Jeff has worked for a number of years in different areas of the Elora/Ponsonby research operations, most recently at the Ponsonby Research Station in the sheep facility, as well as assisting in the dairy and general facilities.

Promoting agricultural awareness. Ontario Agri-Food Education (OAFE) is entering a partnership with the Canadian Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (CanACT) club at the University of Guelph, to bring youth onto the education organization's board of directors. OAFE hopes this will enable it to keep promoting awareness about the importance of agriculture and food to classrooms across the province. CanACT president Amanda Brodhagen said that this partnership is important because "it gives youth a voice in how agriculture education is presented."

COMING EVENTS

Equine Expo. Canada's Outdoor Equine Expo launches June 4–7, 2010 at the Arkell Research Station. The inaugural event, hosted by Canada's Outdoor Shows Ltd., will include indoor and outdoor exhibits, interactive clinics hosted by top-tier experts. Young horse lovers can enjoy Equine Guelph's interactive EquiMania! education area. For more information visit www.equineexpo.ca or call Canada's Outdoor Shows at 1-800-563-5441.

About The Buzz

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

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Find out more about the OMAFRA-U of G Partnership at:

www.uoguelph.ca/research/omafra/index.shtml

www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/about/uofg/

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