

THE BUZZ



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

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RESEARCH

Organic pesticides not always “greener”. A recent U of G [study](#) advises



Soybeans at Huron Station

consumers to not assume a product is environmentally friendly because it's organic. Environmental Sciences Prof. Rebecca Hallett and her team found some organic pesticides can have a higher environmental impact than conventional pesticides. Organic products may kill more than just targeted pests -- they can also affect the good predator insects who naturally protect the crop, reducing the amount of pesticide needed. “In terms of making pest management decisions and trying to do what is best for

the environment,” says Hallett, “it's important to look at every compound and make a selection based on the environmental impact quotient rather than if it's simply natural or synthetic.”

Using cloning to overcome Dutch Elm disease. U of G researchers in the Department of Plant Agriculture hope to repopulate American elms by developing new techniques for cloning and producing trees resistant to its biggest killer - Dutch elm disease. Profs. Praveen Saxena and Alan Sullivan are working with trees in the U of G Arboretum and across Canada to identify and develop a germplasm that is completely resistant to Dutch elm disease. Using tissue-culture based techniques will allow them to grow a variety of elms with disease resistance, and gradually reintroduce them into their natural environment. [This research](#) was featured in the [Globe and Mail](#), and on [CBC.ca](#).

Horses feel heat more than riders. Prof. Michael Lindinger, University of Guelph, researched the effects of heat stress on horses and people, concluding that horses are more susceptible than their riders. An animal and exercise physiologist and faculty member in the Department of Human Health and Nutritional Sciences, Lindinger became interested in this topic as a lead researcher on the Canadian research team that contributed relevant information for the Atlanta Summer Olympics. On a hot, humid day, a horse's temperature increases three to 10 times faster than in humans, after less than 20 minutes of moderate intensity exercise. Horses suffering excessive heat stress may experience hypotension, colic and renal failure. Read the full story [here](#).



Prof. Michael Lindinger

RESEARCH STATIONS

World crops research at Vineland. Vineland Research and Innovation Centre is working to identify ethnic vegetable varieties that can be grown locally to help meet demand from diverse Ontarians. Currently these crops are imported from South and Central America and Asia. Displacing just 10 per cent of imported ethnic vegetable product with locally grown produce would create a new market worth \$73 million for Ontario farmers. Read more about this research [here](#).



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BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

International Food Expo provides opportunities for future research.

The Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) annual meeting and food expo was held recently in Chicago, and the [Business Development Office](#) was in attendance to promote University of Guelph innovations and research collaboration opportunities. The expo regularly attracts the leading innovators in food technology from around the world and many useful connections were made with key decision makers who were interested in Guelph's research programs relating to food. "There was no shortage of interest in the innovative food research that is done at the University of Guelph", said the BDO's Tyler Whale. "I anticipate several positive outcomes after inviting the industry contacts to campus to more closely evaluate the impressive variety of opportunities our researchers provide."

AGRI-FOOD AND RURAL LINK

Fostering KTT for the next generation. [Agri-Food and Rural Link](#), the hub for knowledge translation and transfer (KTT) for the OMAFRA-U of G Partnership, is funding a pilot program this summer that connects OAC undergrad students with OMAFRA specialists to work on KTT projects. The Undergraduate Student Experiential Learning Pilot program (USEL) is intended to provide an opportunity for senior undergraduate students at the University of Guelph to be engaged in knowledge mobilization activities by working on a day-to-day basis with OMAFRA specialists in the Agriculture Development Branch. The program is further enhanced by connecting students with faculty advisors at the University with the intention of creating linkages with the work completed during the summer with

course work in subsequent semesters. According to Joanne Handley, Manager – Sustainable Production/Dairy Cattle, Swine and Poultry - OMAFRA, “the USEL program will help undergraduate students to develop key skills in KTT for future career opportunities while also assisting in the enhancement of current KTT activities in the agriculture sector in Ontario.”

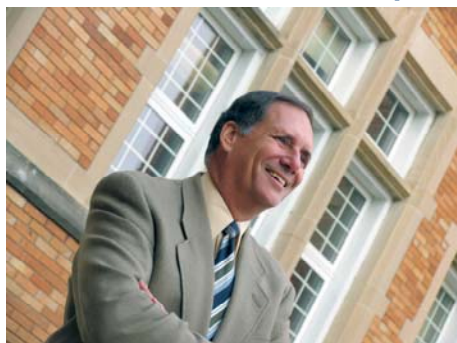
STAFF AND STUDENT NEWS

SPARK ACEs awards. The Students Promoting Awareness of Research Knowledge (SPARK) program [was honoured](#) in June 2010 by the Association for Communication Excellence (ACE) with six awards - four silver and two bronze - for publications and other communication initiatives over the past year. Several of the awards had an OMAFRA-UofG Partnership connection including awards for a full-page ad based on Partnership water research, a photo of Prof. Vern Osborne and graduate student Carolyn Borsy which supported an article on research into nutrient sources for dairy cattle, an article on Steve Lowen's tomato research, and the re-designed SPARK logo. The awards were presented at the ACE annual conference in St. Louis, Missouri. SPARK student [Natalie Osborne](#) was also recently recognized by the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists (IFAJ) with a Star Prize for Broadcast Runner-up award for her story on Prof. Brian McBride's feed efficiency research.



[Natalie Osborne](#) and Rich Moccia

New Director for Kemptville Campus. Dr. Claude Naud has been [appointed](#) to the position of Director for the University of Guelph's Kemptville Campus. In this role, he will provide vision and direction for all activities at the main campus of Kemptville and its affiliated research station locations at Winchester, New Liskeard, and Emo. His five-year term begins August 23, 2010. A consultant in the areas of strategic planning, leadership, organization renewal and program development, Dr. Naud served as Senior Vice-President Academic at the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology and prior to his retirement from the Canadian Forces in 1998, he held several command appointments, including Station Commander, Squadron Commander, Commandant and Vice Chancellor at Royal Roads Military College, and Director of Space Development.



[Dr. Claude Naud](#)

COMING EVENTS

News@Noon. Stay tuned, the next News@Noon will be in September.

Master Gardeners of Ontario course at VRIC. Vineland Research and Innovation Centre and Master Gardeners of Ontario present an educational short course, Sunday, September 12, 2010, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The cost is \$50 to learn about leading edge horticultural science and innovation and its practical applications in the garden. For more information and to receive a registration package, contact [Kathryn Goodish](#), 905-562-0320 x777.

2010 Canada's Outdoor Farm Show. This year's farm show takes place September 14-16 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.

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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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