

**For release: July 1, 2009.**

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This Information Bulletin highlights topics of interest for rural individuals and organizations, municipalities and communities in Lambton. Bulletins are distributed as information is compiled. To be added to or removed from the mailing list, send a message to [bryan.boyle@ontario.ca](mailto:bryan.boyle@ontario.ca)

This bulletin is divided into 3 sections, with items of interest to:

- 1) Lambton specifically
- 2) South-Western Ontario
- 3) Ontario

### **Highlights...**

#### **1) Lambton**

1. Bryan's TIP...Spray Damage
2. EFP information and Application Night
3. Farm Safety Day
4. 4-H Judging Day
5. Lambton Pork BBQ
6. Lambton Beef BBQ
7. Tree Tour
8. Post Secondary Scholarships

#### **2) South West Ontario**

9. SW Crop Diagnostic Days
10. Vegetable Open House

#### **3) Ontario**

12. Farm Stewardship Program (New EFP!!)
13. Food Safety and Traceability Initiative
14. FarmSmart Events
15. Non-Agricultural Source Material
16. Forage Expo
17. Organic Check List
18. Horse, Animal Health, Veg & Organic Newsletters
19. Coming Events
20. OMAFRA Contact Centre

## **1)Lambton**

### **1. BRYAN'S TIP (TIMELY IDEA TO PRACTICE)**

As a result of some requests in my e-letter evaluation for some more of my personalized input for readers, especially young farmers, I have initiated a little feature each month called Bryan's TIP (Timely Idea to Practice). I base this feature on an issue or challenge that I have helped a client address during the previous month. I choose situations where I think the results will be of interest or value to other clients. Of course there will be no names mentioned! I hope you find this of value to you.

#### **This month's inquiry...**

My neighbour planted "Roundup Ready" soybeans beside my field of conventional soybeans. There is no line fence between us, so our crops almost touch. He recently sprayed his beans when it was a bit breezy. Several rows at the edge of my soybeans closest to my neighbour look like they are showing spray damage now. What should I do?

#### **Bryan's TIP:**

Keep communication open with your neighbour. In most cases producers have liability insurance, where damage to neighbour's crops or property are covered. In this case it may just involve negotiating suitable compensation with their insurance claims adjuster.

If you need verification that this is in fact spray damage or if you feel that there was definite negligence by your neighbour, the Ministry of the Environment in Sarnia will inspect your field. A good contact there is Chris Hutt (519-336-4030) If the situation happens to still be unresolved at harvest time, plan to harvest in strips, so you can document yield loss.

...Bryan.

### **2. EFP INFORMATION AND APPLICATION NIGHT**

Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2009

Place: Wyoming Legion

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Highlights: Many Lambton producers have been waiting patiently for this funding announcement that came last week. This is your opportunity to pick up your completed work book and apply for cost share.

Cost: No Cost

Contact: Call Al Butler 519-692-5399 or better yet just show up!

### **3. LAMBTON PROGRESSIVE AGRICULTURE SAFETY DAY**

Date: Thursday, July 2, 2008

Place: Brigden Fairgrounds

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Highlights: Fun filled day of learning designed for children aged 6-12.

Water Safety, Tractor Safety, Chemical Safety, Lawn Mower and Fuel Safety, Safety in Sun, 911, Fire Safety, OPP MADD Track

Special Guest Speaker- Darda Sayles, Coping with Accident Disabilities

Cost: Children 6-12 only...\$5.00

Participants all receive lunch, snacks, a T-shirt, and take-home goody bag.

Contact: Call Donna Moore 519-844-2562, Agnes Dickenson 519-344-7858 or  
Earle Woolaver 519-882-1180

#### **4. LAMBTON 4-H JUDGING DAY**

Date: Monday, July 6, 2009

Place: Wyoming Fairgrounds

Time: Registration at 6:30 p.m. Event starts at 7:00 p.m.

Highlights: Judging a Variety of Classes

We are having *Child Find Ontario* doing a fingerprinting clinic. This is open to anyone, not just 4-H members. Parents MUST attend with children or fingerprinting cannot be done.

Cost: No Cost

Contact: Debbie Anderson 519-864-1161

#### **5. LAMBTON PORK PRODUCERS' BBQ**

Event: Lambton County Pork Producer's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity BBQ

Proceeds: Proceeds go to Lambton County Developmental Services.

Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2009

Time: 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Place: Brooke, Alvinston, Inwood Community Centre, Hwy 79 at Alvinston

Highlights: All You Can Eat Pork with all the Trimmings  
Entertainment and Doorprizes

Tickets: Adults \$12.50, Children 6-12 \$6.00, Children 5 & under FREE

Contact: Any Lambton Pork Director or Secretary Anna –Lee Straatman 519-849-5611  
[annalee@brktel.on.ca](mailto:annalee@brktel.on.ca)

## **6. LAMBTON CATTLEMEN'S BBQ**

Event: Lambton County Cattlemen's Association's 26th Annual BBQ

Proceeds: To support 4-H, community and producer education programs

Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2009

Time: 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Place: Brooke, Alvinston, Inwood Community Centre, Hwy 79 at Alvinston

Highlights:

All You Can Eat...Lambton County Beef, Salads, Baked Potatoes, Beans, Sweet Corn, Pie and Ice Cream, Beverages.

Special Musical Entertainment by "Manfredo" and the "Lambton MainStreet Players"

Tickets: Adults \$12.50 Advance, \$15 at door, Children 6-11 \$5.00, Children 5 & under FREE

Contact: Any Lambton Cattlemen Director or Secretary

## **7. TREE GROWERS INFORMATION DAY & BUS TOUR**

Date: Wednesday, August 19th, 2009

Place: Starts at the A.W. Campbell Conservation Area 8477 Shiloh Line  
Take Nauvoo Rd formerly (Highway 79) to just north of Alvinston to  
Shiloh Road. Follow signs east for about 3 km until road turns right.

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Highlights: A.W. Campbell Conservation Area 8:30-8:45 am Coffee & registration  
Program begins at 9:00 am A.W. Campbell Conservation Area 8:30 - 8:45 am -  
registration and coffee

Program begins at 9:00 am with Tour Stops:

A.W. Campbell Conservation Area Christmas tree farm, wholesale and  
retail tree nursery operations.

Windbreaks Turin Paw Paw Woods Clear Creek Forest

Topics

The new Species at Risk Act and woodlot management Visit an  
emerald ash borer out break.

Tree transplanting Changes in the Christmas tree and tree nursery  
industries over the last 20 years.

Reforestation natural succession Use of plastic mulch for weed control  
Using pit and mound vs conventional planting Big trees, rare species  
and much more.

Cost: Registration: \$25 per person before August 14 (\$35 after August 14)  
Please make cheques payable to the Lambton Woodlot Owners Association

Contact:

Please register by August 14, 2008 - seats are limited.

For information contact: Tim Payne at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

Ph: (519) 245-3710 Fax: (519) 245-3348; email - tpayne@scrca.on.ca

Or

Donald Craig Ph: (519) 695-2028; email - dcraigtreeman@sympatico.ca

Sponsored in part by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

in conjunction with the Lambton Woodlot Owners Association.

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH (soft drinks provided)

Everyone Welcome!!!

Wear clothing appropriate for walking in woodlots, fields  
and long grass which may be damp.

### **8. POST SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE IN LAMBTON- 2009**

*As our college and university students return home for summer jobs, many are already thinking of funding sources for their return to college or university in the fall. Check out these scholarships...*

There are a number of scholarships available to post secondary students in rural Lambton. The scholarships administered by Lambton Federation are available at [www.lfawebsite.org](http://www.lfawebsite.org). Completed application forms will be submitted to various locations that are all indicated on the specific application forms.

**Lambton IPM 91 Scholarship...** four awards of \$1200, to students who have completed one year post secondary training. Deadline September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Applications are available from [bryan.boyle@ontario.ca](mailto:bryan.boyle@ontario.ca).

**Bell Scholarship...** \$500 for a student entering into second-year of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. Parents must be active farmers in Lambton. Deadline Oct. 31st 2009.

**Joyce Anderson Memorial Scholarship...** \$500 for a student from Lambton farm enrolled in second or third year of any post secondary course. Deadline Oct. 31st 2009.

**Dona Stewardson Scholarship...** \$500 for a student from Lambton farm enrolled in second or third year of any post secondary course. Deadline Oct. 31st 2009.

**Lois Wakefield Scholarship...** \$500.00 for students enrolled in the second or third year of any secondary course of 2 years or more in length. You must reside in Lambton County. Deadline Oct. 31st 2009.

**Bell Scholarship...** \$250 for a student entering into second-year of a two-year diploma agriculture course. Parents must be active Lambton farmers. Deadline Oct. 31st 2009.

**Bill and Dorothy Abraham Scholarship...** \$250 to student from an active farm family in Lambton enrolled in a diploma or degree agriculture course. Deadline Oct. 31st 2009.

**Patrick and Timothy Kerrigan Scholarship...** \$200 for a student from Lambton farm entering their second year of a diploma program at any college or university. Deadline Oct. 31st 2009

**Mid Western Ontario Horseman's Society...** \$500 for each of three applicants age 16-20, who have demonstrated an interest in horses. Deadline September 1, 2009 Contact, Donna Klapak, RR3 Oilsprings, Ont. N0P 1P0

**Lambton County Women's Institute Scholarships...** \$300 and \$150 for students whose permanent address is in Lambton County and are entering their first year towards a degree or diploma. Deadline October 31, 2009. Contact: Anne McGugan (amcgugan@hotmail.com) R. R. # 7, Alvinston ON N0N 1A0 519-847-5606 for criteria and applications.

## 2.)Southwestern Ontario

### 9. SOUTH WEST CROP DIAGNOSTIC DAY

The diagnostic day is designed specifically to improve the problem solving skills of seed, fertilizer and chemical industry personnel and agricultural consultants.

The Diagnostic Day is an annual event that highlights current topics of interest. The goal of the day is to provide quality, state-of-the-art training in all aspects of crop production and management.

The Southwest Crop Diagnostic Day provides agribusiness personnel with "hands-on" learning experiences to assist in the correct identification and treatment of crop problems common to southern Ontario. The program provides a "real-world" environment where agriculturists can hone their crop trouble-shooting skills and evaluate new and alternative management strategies.

To facilitate discussion with speakers, participants will be broken into small groups of approximately 20 people.

Each group will rotate through the various stops. Individuals will have the opportunity to customize their Diagnostic Day experience. 12 of the 13 topics offered will be completed.

Technology transfer, research and teaching staff from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Ag Industry will conduct the sessions.

Topics...

**Cereal Physiology** – The impacts of timing and rates of herbicides, fungicides and growth regulators on growth stages (CM)

**Fungicide Application in Corn** – Tackling the challenges of spraying full height corn and achieving good spray coverage (IPM)

**Weed Competition, Nitrogen and Corn Roots** – A close look at how weeds interfere with corn roots and nitrogen update (CM)

**Herbicide Injury in Corn** – Identify and discuss common herbicide injury symptoms (IPM)

**Insect Pests of 2009** – Western bean cutworm, soybean aphids and more. What you need to know to tackle the pests of 2009 (IPM)

**Diagnostic Tools and Tests for Vegetable Crops** – Hands-on demonstration of quick tests for soil pH, nematodes bioassays, herbicide residues and more (IPM)

**Corn Disease Management** – Investigating the impacts of fungicides, nematodes, hybrid interactions and more (IPM)

**Herbicide Injury in Soybeans** – An interactive demonstration of herbicide injury symptoms commonly seen in soys (IPM)

**Desiccants in Dry Beans** – Let's talk products, tank mixes and potential residue issues (CM)

**The Wonders of Soybean Breeding** – Try your hands at breeding new varieties while learning about the new traits in the pipeline (CM)

**Detrimental Weeds for Export** – Learn to identify which ones limit export options, why and what crops are affected (IPM)

**Insect ID Workshop** – From the basics to advanced – understanding how to identify different types of insects (IPM)

**Getting the most from Manure, Compost and Biosolids** – Find out why they are an increasingly valuable source of nutrients and organic matter (SWQ)

**Gadgets Galore** –The Newest tools and gadgets available to make diagnostic work easier (CM)

The cost for the day is \$85.00 per person (GST included). This includes the program, lunch, refreshments and an information package.

BY PHONE: OMAFRA Agricultural Information Contact Centre  
Toll free: 1-877-424-1300 or 519-826-4047  
(Visa, MasterCard, and American Express)

## **10. VEGETABLE OPEN HOUSE**

Monday July 20, 2009

Ridgetown area

Choose an afternoon or evening tour

*Come see the research "in your own backyard"!*

Hosted by OMAFRA & University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus

Your choice of: 2:00 – 4:30 pm or 6:30 – 9:00 pm

For commercial vegetable growers and agribusinesses

- vegetable variety trials
- biodegradable mulch
- starter & foliar fertilizers
- season updates from OMAFRA
- tomato rooting characteristics
- tomato breeding – new characteristics for processing tomatoes
- weed control research in sweet corn, tomatoes, vine crops, peppers, red beets, & carrots
- cover crops before sweet corn – can you save on N?
- slow release fertilizers and N rates on cabbage – do they work in time?
- pest management trials for bacterial disease & more!
- wheat/tomato rotation – does it make a difference?
- cover crop and nitrogen managements trials – cucumber, broccoli

**Directions:** 2:00 or 6:30 pm - Meet at the Ridgetown College tomato breeding plots on Highway 21 (Victoria Rd.) between Selton Line and Botany Road. Look for the signs. Selton Line is between Thamesville and the 401. The tour will continue on campus in Ridgetown, starting at 2:45 or 7:15 pm and will wrap up with refreshments.

No cost. No preregistration required. CCA credits have been applied for.

Hope to see you there!

For more information, contact Janice LeBoeuf at the Ridgetown OMAFRA office (519) 674-1699.

### **3)Ontario**

#### **11. CANADA-ONTARIO FARM STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (COFSP)**

Beginning April 1, 2009 Environmental cost-share opportunities for farmers are available through the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan. Ontario agricultural producers who satisfy the program eligibility criteria may be eligible to apply to COFSP to gain cost share for the implementation of environmental projects identified in their Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Action Plans.

The programs are administered by Ontario Federation of Agriculture, acting on behalf of the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition. The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) delivers the programs to agricultural producers. Consult Al Butler, Lambton's OSCIA Program Representative 519-692-5399 or visit the OSCIA web site for information on scheduled EFP workshops.

All cost-share funds are available on a first come, first served basis up to the available annual funds for each year of the program. Applicants must meet the program eligibility criteria and adhere to all program terms and conditions and project claim submission deadlines to qualify for cost share.

Canada and Ontario will provide \$42.3 million over the next four years for the program, on top of \$14.8 million provided during the continuity year. The new program builds on the internationally recognized success of the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan program, first introduced in 1992.

For more information contact:

Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

Telephone: 1-800-265-9751 Fax: 519-826-4224

[www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org)

Both EFP and COFSP are funded through Growing Forward, supported by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), under the Best Practices

suite. Growing Forward supports the development of best practices in four key areas: environment and climate change; food safety and traceability, business development; and biosecurity. Participants are encouraged to develop strategies across all these areas to meet their business goals through a variety of information sessions and workshops, as well as one-on-one training and technical assistance.

For more information on Growing Forward, please visit [www.ontario.ca/growingforward](http://www.ontario.ca/growingforward).

#### **12. FOOD SAFETY AND TRACEABILITY INITIATIVE**

Ontario food producers and food processors are increasingly aware of the constant need to improve food safety and traceability within their operations. This will strengthen Ontario's ability to provide safe, high quality food and provide economic advantages to our farmers and food processors.

The Food Safety and Traceability Initiative (FSTI) provides cost-share funding to individual facilities to support the implementation of written food safety programs and working traceability systems through the purchase and installation of equipment, the certification of Recognized Food Safety Programs and/or the training of employees.

There are three options for funding under FSTI which include:

- *Project Option 1: Implementing a Food Safety Program or a Traceability System*
  - An applicant can receive up to \$20,000, with 75 per cent of eligible costs reimbursed by the government, to develop, write and implement a food safety program, individual food safety practices, or a working traceability system.
  
- *Project Option 2: Supporting Investment in an Existing Food Safety Program*
  - An applicant can receive up to \$20,000, with 75 per cent of eligible costs reimbursed by the government. Only applicants currently certified, audited or verified under a Recognized Food Safety Program and whose project involves further food safety improvements to their existing food safety program may apply under this option.
  
- *Project Option 3: Improving Food Safety or Traceability*
  - An applicant can receive up to \$5,000, with 75 percent of eligible costs reimbursed by the government, to purchase equipment, engage in training, or obtain certification, audit or verification (first time only) of a Recognized Food Safety Program

Under the FSTI, an applicant may submit separate applications to carry out more than one project. However, there is a maximum total funding limit of \$20,000 per applicant under the FSTI. The maximum funding available under Project Option 3 is \$5,000 per applicant.

To sign up for a workshop today or for more information, please contact:

- [www.ontario.ca/growingforward](http://www.ontario.ca/growingforward)
- [growingforward@ontario.ca](mailto:growingforward@ontario.ca)
- or call us at 1-888-479-3931

### **13. FARMSMART EXPO EVENTS THIS SUMMER**

#### Details

Event: FarmSmart Farming Systems Expo 2009

Theme: Focus on Fertility

Date: Thursday July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

Time: 8.30am start of registration with 9.30 session start, ending at 4.00pm

Location: Elora Research Station, 6182 2<sup>nd</sup> line (1 block east of Cty Rd 7 between Side Rd 4 and 10)

Information: [www.uoquelp.ca/farmsmart](http://www.uoquelp.ca/farmsmart), 877-424-1300

Registration: 877-424-1300

Event: FarmSmart Youth Expo 2009

Theme: Focus on Fertility

Date: Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

Time: 8.30am start of registration with 9.30 session start, ending at 4.00pm  
Location: Elora Research Station, 6182 2<sup>nd</sup> line (1 block east of Cty Rd 7 between Side Rd 4 and 10)  
Information: [www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart](http://www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart), 877-424-1300  
Registration: 877-424-1300

#### **14. NEW RULES FOR GREEN ENERGY PROJECTS**

The province is proposing a one-window approvals process and standardized requirements for renewable energy projects.

The government is seeking the public's input on approval requirements for renewable energy projects, including setbacks for wind, solar, hydro, biogas and biomass projects, which build on and strengthen the environmental and health protection components of current regulatory requirements.

Proposed approval requirements for renewable energy projects include the following:

- Wind turbines would not be permitted less than 550 metres from the nearest dwelling, and this minimum setback would increase with the number and loudness of turbines. It is also proposed that wind turbines be set back from roadways and property lines, and there would be ongoing requirements to monitor and address low-frequency noise and vibrations.
- Natural heritage features, such as significant wetlands or significant wildlife habitat, would be protected by a setback of 120 metres, with development only being able to move closer where there is a study demonstrating the ability to mitigate negative impacts.

The province will hold information meetings in six locations across Ontario in June to get public input. Visit the [Ministry of the Environment's website](#) for dates and locations. Ontarians can also comment on the proposals of the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources, which will be posted on the Environmental Registry until July 24.

- The new requirements would support implementation of the *Green Energy Act, 2009*. It's part of Ontario's plan to create green jobs and bring economic growth to Ontario, and will help address climate change.
- Renewable sources of energy will help the government meet its commitment to phase out coal-fired generation by 2014, the single largest greenhouse gas reduction initiative across Canada. Eliminating coal-fired generation will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 30 megatonnes.
- [See a backgrounder](#) for a brief synopsis of the proposed approvals process, and [details on setbacks for wind turbines](#).
- Want to comment on the ministries' proposals? Go to the [Environmental Registry](#). To comment on:
  - the Ministry of the Environment's proposed Renewable Energy Approval, search for 010-6516
  - the Ministry of Natural Resources proposed Approval and Permitting Requirements Document for Renewable Energy Projects, search for 010-6708
- Read about [Ontario's Green Energy Act](#).

<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/news/2009/060901.php> (news release)

<http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?noticeId=MTA2NDQ5&statusId=MTU5NjQ1&language=en>  
(EBR posting)

## **15. NON AGRICULTURAL SOURCE MATERIALS**

The posting of proposed amendments to the General Nutrient Management Regulation (O. Reg. 267/03), under the *Nutrient Management Act, 2002*, (NMA) for the management of non-agricultural source materials (NASM), milking centre washwater and anaerobic digestion on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry (EBR #: 010-6515) occurred on June 29, 2009. NASM includes sewage biosolids, food processing residuals and other materials not generated by an agricultural operation that can be used as a nutrient on agricultural lands.

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) are working to complete the second stage of a two stage initiative to improve the regulatory framework governing the application of NASM on agricultural land. This initiative proposes to manage NASM as a nutrient instead of as a waste when used to enhance the productivity of agricultural land.

The ministries have developed a framework that would strengthen Ontario's already strict land application standards for these materials. The proposed framework supports MOE's waste diversion goals, as it encourages the proper beneficial use of organic materials through land application that will enhance the productivity of soils, rather than sending these materials for disposal.

The proposed regulatory framework would:

- manage non-agricultural source material on agricultural land as a beneficial nutrient;
- establish and revise existing standards and approval requirements for NASM, under O Reg. 267/03, to focus on the quality of the materials;
- streamline the regulatory process by removing overlapping approvals;
- provide notification to the local district office of the MOE prior to the land application of NASM;
- ensure environmental protection by extending the existing framework to include all agricultural land where NASM is applied in Ontario, as opposed to just those farms that are already required to have a nutrient management strategy;
- require approval under the NMA for the land application on agricultural land of materials with higher metal or pathogen concentrations, that are still within acceptable levels (e.g. sewage biosolids and pulp and paper biosolids); and
- amend requirements for anaerobic digestion facilities to allow for the inclusion of a wider variety of off-farm biomass sources and revise storage requirements.

The standards in the proposed regulatory framework focus on the quality of the NASM being land applied. A companion regulatory exemption would be added to Regulation 347 under the EPA, which would exempt the application of NASM on agricultural land that meets certain quality standards criteria, from the requirements of Regulation 347 and Part V of the EPA.

Responsibility for the proposed framework will be shared by OMAFRA and MOE. OMAFRA will administer and approve nutrient management strategies and plans. MOE will continue to be responsible for providing compliance and enforcement activities under the NMA, EPA and the *Ontario Water Resources Act*.

Further details of this proposal and the proposed regulatory amendments can be found on the Environmental Bill of Rights registry which is posted for public comment until July 29, 2009. You may view the proposal at <http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/> (EBR Registry # 010-6515). Comments must be submitted in writing with reference to the EBR 010-6515 and received prior to July 30, 2009.

In addition to the posting MOE and OMAFRA and are hosting a series of sessions to review the proposed regulatory framework, provide an opportunity for discussion, and receive your feedback. The meetings will be held at the following locations and dates:

- o Kemptville – July 8, 2009
- o Newcastle – July 9, 2009
- o London – July 13, 2009
- o Barrie – July 14, 2009

If you would like to attend one of the meetings, please RSVP at least 24 hours prior to the meeting with your preferred meeting by contacting the Agriculture Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300 or email [ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca](mailto:ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca). The address and time will be provided upon registration. Please note that these consultation sessions will not discuss milking centre washwater or anaerobic digestion. Please contact Sharon Johnston (OMAFRA) at (519) 826-3118 or Michelle Whitbread (MOE) at (416) 314-9398 for further information on these topics.

Your involvement and input is appreciated as we continue working towards the government's commitment to the protection of public health and the environment without placing undue burden on businesses and municipalities.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

## **16. ONTARIO FORAGE EXPO**

*“Find the keys to making the best quality hay for all livestock - Including the horse industry!”*

“Ontario Forage Expo” will be held in Wentworth County on Wednesday July 15th, on the farm of Fritz & Gise Trauttmansdorff, Dunlea Farms at 400 Field Road, Jerseyville. This major event will present a wide array of demonstrations and activities related to the forage industry. It is co-sponsored by the Ontario Forage Council and Wentworth & Brant County's Soil & Crop Improvement Associations.

- Watch major equipment companies demonstrate the latest in forage technology, including diskbines, conditioners, rakes, tedders, balers, preservative applicators, baleage wrappers & others.
- Listen to keynote speakers on forage related topics, including “Quality Hay Production, Processing and Marketing”.
- Visit with forage related trade show exhibitors.

BBQ on site.

This promises to be a great day, with no admission charge for the farming community. Bring your friends and neighbours - Everyone Welcome!

“Field demonstrations start at 10:00 am”

## **17. CHECKLIST FOR BEING AN ORGANIC FARMER**

*by Hugh Martin, Organic Crop Production Program Lead, OMAFRA*

The following are some of the basic requirements for organic farms:

- Only used inputs that are listed on the “Permitted Substances List” of the Canadian Organic Standard on the field during the past 36 months (prior to harvest) of the organic crop;
- Do not use genetically modified inputs (seed, inoculants, etc.);
- Must have a farm plan detailing inputs and practices for each field and livestock group;

- Maintains excellent field records and daily journals to permit traceability of the farm products and on-farm practices;
- Does not grow the same crop as organic and non-organic, unless it is visually distinguishable;
- Maintains an identification system for distinguishing organic and non-organic crops, livestock and products during production, processing, handling and storage;
- Soil fertility and biological activity of the soil is maintained by using crop rotations, incorporating plant and animal matter (cover crops) and animal manure as appropriate according to the farm plan;
- Manure management practices should minimize soil and water degradation;
- Crop pest management enhances crop growth using preventative methods and uses a combination of cultural and mechanical methods, and botanical and biological measures when necessary;
- The operator shall establish and maintain preventative health care measures;
- Livestock shall be managed responsibly with care and respect. Stress shall be minimized in all handling practices;
- Organic livestock operations shall establish and maintain animal living-conditions that accommodate the health and natural behaviour of all animals;
- Organic livestock shall be fed organic feeds and have access to the outdoors whenever weather conditions permit. Herbivores must have access to pasture during the grazing season (minimum 30% of total forage intake);
- An organic system must maintain the organic qualities of the product from production, preparation, storage, handling and labelling, to point of sale;
- Processing methods can be mechanical, physical or biological (e.g. fermentation and smoking) and minimizes the use of non-agricultural ingredients, food additives and processing aids;
- During the transition to certified organic, the operator should apply for certification to an accredited organic certification body at least 15 months prior to harvest of the organic products;
- Protect the environment, minimize soil erosion and soil degradation, and maintain water and air quality as much as possible;
- Encourage biological diversity within the farm system; and
- Recycle materials and use renewable resources whenever possible.

This is a very brief synopsis of over 60 pages of the organic standards and on using organic farm practices. For more details, refer to [www.ontario.ca/organic](http://www.ontario.ca/organic).

### **18. HORSE NEWS AND VIEWS**

Horse News and Views is prepared by Dr. Bob Wright, Animal Health and Welfare, OMAFRA, in cooperation with the staff and researchers of the University of Guelph.

The column is circulated monthly to horse magazines, periodicals, rural newspapers, radio and television stations, and placed on our OMAFRA website (<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/horses/news.html>). It highlights research topics, extension resources, reminders of common poisonings, disease or production concerns and coming events.

### **18. ANIMAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER**

OMAFRA's Animal Health and Welfare Unit and the Office of the Chief Veterinarian of Ontario compile and publish an excellent newsletter called CEPTOR highlighting Animal Health Issues. You can find current and all past issues at...

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/ceptor/news.html>

## **18. VEGETABLE NEWSLETTER**

The current edition of Vegetable Viewpoint is now available for distribution. The newsletter is produced bimonthly, printed in The Grower and posted on-line at [www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/hort/news/news\\_vegview.html](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/hort/news/news_vegview.html).

## **18 ORGANIC NEWSLETTER**

The current issue of the Organic newsletter is posted on the OMAFRA website at: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/organic/news/news-organic.html>

## **19 COMING EVENTS**

**July 2 & 3, 2009 – Farm\$mart Exposition**, Elora Research Station. Watch for details at <http://www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart/expo/>

**July 8 & 9, 2009 – Southwest Crop Diagnostic Day**, Ridgetown Campus, University of Guelph. Check <http://www.diagnosticdays.ca/> for updates.

**July 10 – 12, 2009 – Ontario Family Fishing Weekend.** If you or someone you know would like to try fishing in Ontario waters for the first time (or the first time in a long time), circle the weekend of July 10-12, 2009 on your calendar. For those three days only (12:01 a.m. Friday to 11:59 p.m. Sunday), Canadian residents can enjoy the fun of fishing in Ontario without a license during the annual Ontario Family Fishing Weekend. For complete details, visit <http://www.familyfishingweekend.com/Welcome.cfm>

**August 11 – 13, 2009 – International Goat Symposium**, Lindsay, Ontario. Complete details at <http://www.goatsymposium.com/main.htm>

**August 24 – 28, 2009 – Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario 2009 Bus Tour – Illinois.** Check for details at <http://www.ifao.com/IFAO-Events.html>

**September 15 – 17, 2009 – Canada's Outdoor Farm Show**, Canada's Outdoor Park, Woodstock, Ontario. Check often for details at <http://www.outdoorfarmshow.com/>

**September 22 – 26, 2009 – International Plowing Match and Rural Expo**, District of Temiskaming [near Earlton, Ontario]. Visit <http://www.ipm2009.net/> for regular updates.

**November 6 – 15, 2009 – Royal Agricultural Winter Fair**, The Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place, Toronto. Watch for details at <http://www.royalfair.org/>

## **20. OMAFRA AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION CONTACT CENTRE**

OMAFRA Agricultural Information Contact Centre agents are available to answer questions, provide valuable information to help farm, agribusiness and rural business managers make decisions, and if needed, put them in touch with one of the ministry's provincial experts. Access the AICC at 1-877-424-1300, [www.omafra.gov.on.ca](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca) or [ag.info@omafra.gov.on.ca](mailto:ag.info@omafra.gov.on.ca).