



OSCIA News...

September 2009

A NEWSLETTER TO UPDATE OSCIA MEMBERS,
PRESIDENTS, SECRETARIES, TREASURERS, DIRECTORS,
AND OMAFRA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT CONTACTS —

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OSCIA 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

Date: February 2 & 3, 2010
Place: Sheraton Fallsview
Niagara Falls

Message from the President

Congratulations to Barry Hill (OSCIA 1st Vice President) and his wife Cheryle for hosting a very enjoyable and successful summer meeting. Brantford and the Brant County area is very rich in history. Both Barry and Cheryle are a wealth of knowledge. As tour guides, they did an excellent job of narrating the tour and exposing us to their local history and culture, and we thank them for their warm hospitality.



Murray Cochrane

OSCIA Directors conducted a full day of business as part of the summer meeting. Congratulations to Barry as he was acclaimed as the President-Elect for OSCIA and will officially begin his one-year term at the OSCIA Annual Meeting in February 2010. OSCIA Executive, Directors and staff will continue to be challenged with exciting new crop technology and new programs. OSCIA is investing more time in working with research and extension in considering the implications to soil quality if biomass is removed for energy production. OSCIA wishes to strengthen its relationship with research and extension and is in discussion with both OMAFRA and University of Guelph on outreach opportunities through Knowledge Translation and Transfer (KTT), which is part of the OMFRA/U. Of G. agreement.

Since our last newsletter, the next generation of the Environmental Farm Plan and associated cost-share programs has been introduced as part of the Growing Forward Program. Funding is limited and very strict deadlines are in place. Similarly, Growing Your Farm Profits as part of the Growing Forward Business Development for Farm Businesses initiative is under way. OSCIA wishes to thank Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, OMAFRA and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (on behalf of the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition) for their contributions and support. ♦

2009 Ontario Forage Masters Program

Members from 22 local SCIA's participated in this year's Ontario Forage Masters Program.

Results are being tabulated and distributed to the contact persons as they arrive. Only a few county results have yet to come in.

The first-place winner in each county is being invited to enter the final provincial competition to determine the 2009 Ontario Forage Master. This event is taking place in conjunction with the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November.

If you are a participant in the program and have not yet received information of your results, please contact the organizer in your county.

Complete results will be posted on the OSCIA website when all county results are in.

Once again, we wish to thank our sponsors:



OSCIA Regional NM Outreach Grant

OMAFRA has allocated funding to support new communication activities of regional SCIA's that promote the adoption of NM BMPs to the non-regulated (NM Act) farm population.

Up to \$4,000 per project is available on a first-come, first-served basis to support regional activities directly related to increasing awareness and adoption of nutrient management regionally.

This grant is available to all regions each year. Contact the provincial office at 1-800-265-9751 with questions. ♦

OSCIA Summer Directors' Meeting

The 2009 OSCIA Summer Directors' Meeting began on a Sunday with socializing among the Directors, their families, OSCIA Past Presidents, provincial office staff, local dignitaries, and friends and family of the Hills, and of the Brant SCIA.

The following day, while family members toured area attractions, the Directors conducted the business meeting.

Results of the membership survey conducted recently were reviewed by the Board in detail, with

recommendations that your feedback be the focus of the next Directors' meeting.

Updates were provided on numerous projects and programs that OSCIA administers. The OSCIA Directors will be meeting in late September for a strategic planning workshop.

The final day of the summer meeting included a tour of Brantford and surrounding area, including a tour of the Brant Major Grant project site for tillage of red clover establishment in winter wheat. The project's objective is to determine the impact of pre tillage ahead of wheat planting on wheat performance and red clover establishment.



Ian McDonald, Applied Research Coordinator, Field Crops, OMAFRA, provides details of the research plot to OSCIA Directors.

The Hills are to be commended for the superb job in organizing this major event on OSCIA's calendar. ♦

OSCIA / OMAFRA Grant Guidelines

The 2010 Grant Guidelines are currently being prepared for the coming year.

Although there will be many similarities to 2009, local and regional SCIA's must take care in reading the entire section regarding the grant they are contemplating to ensure they fully understand what the benefits and obligations are.

Local and regional SCIA members are encouraged to begin the thought process now, and include discussions at upcoming events on the type of trials they wish to undertake in 2010.

The 2010 Grant Guideline package will be mailed to local and regional SCIA presidents and secretaries in the Fall. ♦

Did you know...?

the air in the upper eight inches of well-drained soil is completely renewed approximately every hour!

PLAN TO GROW YOUR FARM PROFITS

- Angela Leach, Program Manager

As farmers, you are certainly no strangers to planning. Whether it's next season's crop and or a barn renovation, planning is just something you're always doing. What about the big picture? How will the farm look in 5 or 10 years? How will it be managed, what will be produced, and how much profit will be made? These questions are often in the back of your minds, so why not put it to paper?

Well I believe there are 3 common reasons why only a small percentage of farm businesses have written plans: lack of time; dislike for paperwork; and uncertainty of how to start the process. You're in luck. The Growing Your Farm Profits (GYFP) is exactly what you need.

Time tends to be a limited commodity on the farm. Whether it's responding to the "surprise" in the barn, a change in weather or helping with the kids' 4-H project, the days seem to go by quick. It's no surprise that there is limited time dedicated to proactive business planning. When you sign up for the GYFP workshop, you are planning to spend at least 2 days to consider the long-term vision for your farm. Like family gatherings, if you don't book the date, it won't happen. Make the time to do some planning. Better yet, have your business partners attend with you. The workshop provides a great opportunity to begin thinking about future plans together. That may save you time in the long run.

Whether it's collecting information for regulations, for your accountant, or to track production stats, there's no end to paperwork. The business plan therefore remains in the back of your mind. Attend the GYFP workshop and write your thoughts down. But don't fret; the workshop is not about writing essays or a detailed business analysis. Yes, there is a binder to complete. Like the Environmental Farm Plan, the binder is primarily about a self-assessment focusing on 8 areas of business management. Throughout the workshop, there will be many discussions on popular topic areas. GYFP offers a valuable mix of providing paper-based tools and the opportunity to learn from your peers. Paperwork is only one element of the entire process.

Farmers are masters of many skills. However, strategic business planning may not be one of them. It's not a popular topic for farm meetings. Your parents probably didn't teach long-term planning when explaining technical farm skills; and media has created the view that planning is a long and complicated process. Again, the GYFP workshop will help you. The workshop follows a logical approach to planning: assess your current management practices; prioritize future goals; identify resources that can help meet your goals, and develop action plans. The process is straightforward and flexible

so that you can make it suit your operation. Business planning does not have to be complicated. The Workshop Leaders will help you along the way.

Start the planning process by registering for the workshop. Determine exactly what your business requires. Plan for your future. Then we will help you find resources to begin implementation. Cost-share funding will help pay for training and/or the cost to hire an advisor if that is what you need.

Visit www.ontariosoilcrop.org, or contact your local OSCIA representative to register for the next workshop, or call 1-800-265-9751. ♦

BIOTRACTOR - On-Farm Evaluation of Biodiesel Use in Agricultural Equipment

A project aiming to identify some of the practical problems accompanying biodiesel use on family farms and to provide consumer education and awareness in the agricultural community was conducted on farms in Ontario from August 2005 to March 2007. The project was under the joint leadership of OSCIA and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Project partners included UPI Energy LP, Environment Canada, Kemptville Campus U of G, and six regional SCIA's. Funding was provided by Natural Resources Canada under the Biodiesel Targeted Measures Program.

A complete 18-page informative report including details, graphs, and photos can be found on the OSCIA website at <http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org>. Follow the links through 'About OSCIA - Demonstration Projects - Biodiesel', and click on the link for the final report. ♦

OSCIA Membership - your best return on investment!!

For a \$20 membership fee, you receive:

	ROI
•Entrance to Canada's Outdoor Farm Show (\$20)	= 100%
•Free brunch at COFS (\$10)	= 150%
•South West Ag Conference (save \$10)	= 200%
•FarmSmart conference (save \$15)	= 275%
•Eastern Ont. Crop Conference (save \$5)	= 300%
•free lunch at local SCIA annual meeting (\$15)	= 375%

check out OSCIA's new website!!

- new look - easy access
- google agricultural news, weather and more

www.ontariosoilcrop.org