



Native Agri Update

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From The Acting GM's Desk

By Beth Wismer, Acting General Manager
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EMPOWERING FIRST NATIONS YOUTH

4-H Ontario programs are available to all Ontario youth. Through partnership with 4-H Ontario and IAPO, and with the support of OMAFRA, a model exploring options to successfully provide 4-H programming to First Nations youth is currently being developed.

The advantages of the 4-H program and principles are many and include:

- √ Development of future leaders in the agricultural community
- √ Building of self esteem, critical thinking and communications skills
- √ Practical knowledge and skills such as learning to run a meeting

Do you have an interest in the delivery of youth programs in your community? Do you consider yourself or your organization to be a stakeholder in the delivery of this youth programming? If so I would like to hear from you. Please contact the Stirling office and let me know your thoughts on Empowering First Nations Youth.

IAPO/OMAFRA

As an agricultural organization operating in Ontario, IAPO has always valued and utilized the resources and programs offered by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). Over the past year we have renewed our relationship and continue to work towards providing First Nations producers access to OMAFRA information.

As you will notice in the Calendar of Events, IAPO is facilitating a Growing Your Farm Profits (GYFP) workshop for Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte this month. GYFP is one of OMAFRA business development programs that can be of great benefit to First Nations producers. By working together OMAFRA and IAPO can continue to make accessible all of the OMAFRA programs and services available to all Ontario producers. Are you looking for information on these programs, or would you like to see a GYFP workshop offered in your community? If so please contact either IAPO office.

2010 IAPO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I am pleased to report that as of the IAPO AGM held on April 20, 2010 there is a full Board representing all districts in Ontario. We welcome Margaret Manitowabi and Ted Davis Jr. as new members of the IAPO Board. Thank you to all of our Board members. Collectively they bring a wealth of knowledge and a range of business experiences to their positions.

William J Brant	Chairperson	Peterborough
Amanda Ioannou	Vice Chairperson	Peterborough
Louise Hill	Secretary - Treasurer	Brantford
Ted Davis Jr.	Director	Brantford
Jennifer Whiteye	Director	London
Margaret Manitowabi	Director	Sudbury

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Agribusiness

By Doug Macpherson, External Program Delivery
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FARM SAFETY

Spring is here and you will be hooking on to all kinds of implements on the farm. The Farm Safety Association has tips to ensure you have an accident free planting season.

- Never hitch to the axle or other high point. Hitch towed loads only to the drawbar and at the manufacturer's recommended height. When using the three-point hitch, add front weights, as necessary, to maintain stability and prevent steering problems.
- Use the proper safety clips and pins. Keep your hitches low and always keep the hitch on the draw bar. This can help prevent a tractor flipping over backwards. Slowly take up slack and never jerk on chains or cables; be sure no loose chains are dangling either from the drawbar or the implement. They can catch on a stump or rock and pull your tractor over backwards.
- Broken parts of a chain can act like shrapnel, and a snapped cable can cut the legs from under a person. Nylon ropes have killed tractor operators and bystanders when the rope broke away from an implement.
- Tractors also can upset backwards when pushing, using a front-end loader, or when hitched to the front end by chains or cables that pass under the back axle. Keep the hitch as low as possible, preferably 17 inches. Never get above 21 inches.

- Be extremely careful when driving up an incline. A tractor can upset if the center of gravity moves behind where the rear wheels are in contact with the ground. Try to back up if it's necessary to get up the incline. If you get caught on a steep incline, back down very slowly and apply the brakes lightly. Weight on the front of the tractor will help.
- Disengage the Power Take-Off (PTO) when it's not in use. Use the PTO shield whenever equipment is in use.
- Never jump from a moving tractor or turn your back on the tractor with its engine running. If the tractor starts to run over you, you may not be able to stop it.
- Do not wear loose clothing while operating a tractor. Loose clothing can catch on moving parts and cause an accident.
- Keep the tractor in gear when going down hill. This allows the tractor engine to serve as a brake. Some tractors may have "free wheeling" in their transmission drive. Make sure this type of transmission is put in direct drive before attempting to use the engine as a brake.
- Engage the clutch gently, especially when going uphill. 'Jackrabbit' starts are dangerous to both the operator and the tractor.
- Never attach a post or log to the rear wheels when the tractor is stuck in the mud. If the wheels are not free to turn, the tractor can pivot around the axle and upset. Try to back out. If this does not work, get another tractor to pull you out. Make sure that the towing tractor has roll over protection and a seatbelt.
- The tractor operator must follow all traffic rules on open roads. This includes proper lighting, hand signals, right-of-way, etc.
- Do not use a tractor for a job it wasn't designed to do. The tractor was designed as a source of power to do field work. It was not designed for chasing cattle, drag racing, or transportation to and from town.

Calendar of Events

- April 28 "Growing Your Farm Profits" workshop, 10am-3pm, Kanata Hall, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (call IAPO Stirling office to register 1-800-363-0329)
- May 1 Deadline for changes to Production Insurance, call Agricorp @ 1-888-247-4999
- May 4 "Backyard Gardening" workshop, Henvy Inlet, 1-3 pm (call Band office to register)

Please contact us if you have an item for the Calendar of Events

Production Insurance Deadlines

- May 1 New applications and coverage changes
- June 15 Last day to report unseeded acreage
- June 30 Spring seeded final acreage reports due
- July 10 Production Insurance premiums due

Crop Information

By Doug Macpherson, External Program Delivery
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WINTER WHEAT



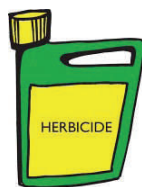
Winter wheat survival has been very good on the whole. This could be one of the best looking crops for this time of year we have seen in a few years. Warm weather and rain has greened up the wheat nicely this spring. There is very little frost heaving evident this year. Late planted wheat has a lower yield potential but the rest of the season will determine how it turns out.

NITROGEN ON WHEAT

A tremendous amount of nitrogen has already been applied. Growers should have nitrogen on before the end of April. Early N application promotes tillering and does increase yields dramatically. There is increased interest in 28% liquid this season because of a price advantage over urea. Application of 100 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre is sufficient.

HERBICIDE APPLICATION

Weeds are ahead of normal due to the early spring. You must scout your fields and plan your control program according to the temperature and the size of the weeds. The calendar should not be your guide in an early spring such as this. You will notice that weeds such as dandelions are already developing rapidly. I have noticed that annuals have emerged as well. Early herbicide application achieves better results when weeds are small. Work with your chemical dealer to develop the best plan for your fields and your cropping program. Be sure that volunteer wheat doesn't get away from you. An early application of a glyphosate is recommended for these fields.



SOYBEAN SEEDING RATES

There continues to be interest in lowering seeding rates due to high seed costs and information from the US stating that low seeding rates are possible. Under ideal conditions when plants grow tall and lush along with earlier planting dates lower seeding rates are possible but only to a point. Very low seeding rates are one of the easiest ways to lose yield potential. A large amount of Ontario research (50 trials) has been

conducted over the last five years to determine the most economic seeding rate for soybeans. OMAFRA's recommendations are: 195, 000 seeds/acre in 7.5" rows, 177, 000 seeds/acre in 15" rows seeding with a drill and 168, 000 seeds/acre in 15" rows seeded with a unit planter. Before lowering seeding rates do some experimenting on one or two fields before changing all your acres. Your soil type may require those extra plants for maximum yield potential.

SHOULD I BE PLANTING CORN?



That is the question of the day. The answer is yes if you have good seed bed conditions and the long term weather forecast is favorable to promote germination and emergence. An early start is never a bad decision. Some very early corn has been planted. Considerable corn will be planted during the last week of April. Research supports the idea that late April corn is a reasonable production strategy for some of your corn acres. Early May is your optimum planting window.

U.S. CORN PLANTING AT RECORD PACE

U.S. farmers are planting their 2010 corn crop at a record pace. In many states the planting pace is exceeding that of 2004, which was the previous record. Nationwide, 19% of the corn has been planted compared to the five-year average of 9%. The percentage of corn planted could have been even higher were it not for some farmers that stopped planting due to dry conditions.

US PLANTING INTENTIONS

The latest Planting Intentions Report out of the US was not cause for a market rally. At this point in time US farmers will plant a record number of acres to soybeans. Corn acres will also increase by three per cent. Total wheat acres will drop by per cent from 2009. Less wheat acres will become corn and soybeans. This report was bearish on the markets. Some recovery has been realized after the post report losses.

Livestock Information

By Mark Leahy, Farm Management Advisor

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MANAGING BULLS ON PASTURE

*Adapted from an article
by Glen Selk OSU*

Multiple bulls are common for some cowherds on pastures. In community pastures with cows from two or more herds, numbers are larger. Also cows may split up and graze separately. Extra bull power is needed in these situations.

A yearling bull may be able to look after 15 to 20 females, a two year-old maybe 25 and a mature bull up to 45 females. Managing bull power is important to maximize breeding efficiency. Often bulls are released in June to control the calving season.

These suggestions will improve calves born per female exposed to a bull.

- It is best if bulls that will be pastured together can be in the same area for at least three weeks to establish who is "bull of the pasture". This social order can be established before bulls are turned out with the cowherd.
- Pasture young bulls with young bulls, and mature bulls with mature bulls. Mature bulls dominate younger bulls and may cause serious injury. When rotating bulls during the breeding season, use the mature bulls first, and follow with the

yearling bulls in the last third of the breeding season. The young bulls will have fewer cows to breed, and will be one - two months older when they start breeding.

- In pasture situations where herds separate into three or more groups, add an extra bull or two to make sure all cows are exposed to a bull.
- Consider having bulls checked for breeding soundness. Catching a problem early can reduce chances of open cows and extended calving seasons.

TIPS FOR SPRING CALVING

- Check cows regularly, heifers more often to assist early if needed
- Keep calving area clean and well drained, move healthy pairs out to large pastures days after calving
- Ear tag calves at birth; castrate and dehorn early
- Give selenium and vitamin A & D injections to newborn calves
- Have high magnesium and selenium minerals available
- Consider bull breeding soundness exam at least 30 days before start of season
- Fertilize pastures according to soil tests

MATCH COW SIZE TO FARM RESOURCES

A major step in improving efficiency on a cow-calf operation is matching cow size to available feed particularly hay and pasture on the farm. This should reduce

the amount of purchased feed supplements required. Milk yield, pasture stocking rate and weight at puberty are all affected by a cow's mature weight.

Selecting cows for traits such as increased milk yield requires high quality feeds to realize this potential. Many farm situations are such that forage quality will limit milk yield. Why select for maximum milk production on farms with limited feed production? Beef cows are noted for producing on lower class soils. These conditions place limits on milk production and as result on calf weaning weights. Large, heavy milking cows require more feed than small lighter-milking cows to be in moderate body condition at calving and to maintain condition through breeding.

A reduced stocking rate on pasture is necessary for large heavy milking cows to maintain body condition.

Heifers from large mature cows need a heavier target weight to reach puberty. At 65% of mature weight, a cow with a potential mature weight of 1,200 pounds has a puberty weight of 780 pounds. For a mature weight of 1,400 pounds, the target puberty weight would be 910 pounds. Heavier puberty weights in reasonable time require higher quality feed. This usually means purchased feed and added cost.

Matching cow size to available hay and pasture conditions provides reasonable milk production and calf weaning weights, heavier stocking rate and fewer days to puberty. The end result is reduced cost and a higher profit margin.



Chipper Chirp

Nobody trips over mountains. It is the small pebble that causes you to stumble. Pass all the pebbles in your path and you will find you have crossed the mountain.

~Author Unknown

Market Information

BEEF MARKET

By Mark Leahy



Prices are courtesy of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association Weekly Market Information Report for the week ending April 15, 2010.

All prices increased compared to last month! Rail prices jumped \$6, fed cattle prices are up \$5 from last month.

Cull cows are \$3 stronger and bulls \$4. Feedlot replacement prices saw an increase with steers up \$2 to \$5 and heifers \$4 to \$8 depending on weight.

The Canadian loonie was on par with the U.S. dollar last week. This usually indicates a challenge to current beef and cattle prices. Demand for grass cattle is providing some support for steers and heifers.

Note: Anyone interested in receiving a weekly market report can do so by calling OCA at 1-866-370-2333. The report is available by email or regular mailbox. Also check out "Ontario Beef" magazine. An extensive market report is provided on all categories including graphs.

Category	Price Range	Ave. Price	Top Price
Rail Steers	151-156		
Fed steers	85 - 93	90	103
Fed heifers	85- 94	89	101
Cows	40 - 55	48	83
Bulls	56- 68	62	90
Stocker steers			
700 - 799	98 - 114	107	122
600 - 699	103 - 120	112	134
500 - 599	107 - 128	118	140
Stocker heifers			
700 - 799	93 - 103	99	110
600 - 699	93 - 109	102	118
500 - 599	95 - 113	105	118

All prices are on a hundred pound basis (cwt)

CROP MARKET

By Doug Macpherson

Current Market Factors

As always there are several factors currently affecting grain prices. Here are but a few for you to consider:


- Strong Canadian Dollar means weakening basis levels here in Ontario. Lower basis means less money for the farmer.
- US and world grain and oilseed stocks are rising which is not positive for near term prices. Experts expect that these stocks may be whittled down over time by increased demand.
- China has a drought going on in some areas which is causing optimism that Chinese demand will continue to increase. Some predict China will need to import corn as well. This demand may become a reality this fall.
- US farmers are off to an early start with seeding which may be seen at some point as being an indication of


good yield potential.


- World economies are recovering at a slow pace. US consumers are returning to the market place and the grocery counter. Rebounding optimism in the financial markets positively affects the commodity exchanges as well.
- South American harvest results are continuing to be above last year. A few areas are reporting disappointing yields which may result in a lowering of expectations.

How do market your crop in these circumstances? World situations change by the day. Keep yourself informed. Watch for opportunities to price out some of your 2010 production when and if weather premiums enter the market place.

There are usually weather events during the course of a growing season that translate into price rallies. 2010 is a time to take advantage of these situations.

CORN-Monday, April 20, 2010: (NORWICH)				
	2010-Dec	Futures 3.98	Basis -0.15	Price 3.83

SOYBEANS-Monday, April 20, 2010: (NORWICH)				
	2010-Nov	Futures 9.70	Basis -1.00	Price 8.70

SOFT RED WHEAT-Monday, April 20, 2010:				
	2010-Sept	Futures 5.42	Basis -1.35	Price 4.07

Other News

By Mark Leahy, Farm Management Advisor-
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SQUARE FOOT GARDENING



Christianna Jones of Wikwemikong explained ‘square foot gardening’ at a Growing Your Own Food seminar sponsored by IAPO and hosted by Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation.

Square foot gardening is about growing vegetables in a small space. A garden is divided into one foot squares. The garden may be a raised bed or located on the ground. It is usually small, about four feet by four feet.

Some benefits;

- More quality vegetables can be grown in less space with less effort.
- Plants shade the soil, decrease evaporation and keep roots from drying out
- Compact plant placement crowds weeds out
- Rotation of vegetables is easier
- Good for small spaces

What is it?

- Garden is divided into one foot squares
- Different seeds are planted in each square according to space requirements

Spacing is such that full grown plants just barely touch each other, holding moisture and crowding weeds.

The number of plants in a square is determined by the size of the plant at maturity. For example cabbage, pepper and tomato would be one plant per square foot, lettuce, Swiss chard and bush beans would be four plants and carrot, radish and celery would be 16 plants.

“GROWING YOUR OWN FOOD”

About 45 people turned out for IAPO’s “Growing Your Own Food” seminar hosted by Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation on April 14. A special thanks to the speakers: Lorne Jamieson, Ignatius Farm Guelph; Brian Bell, OMAFRA, Gore Bay; Taylor Sayers, Waubetek; Rose Shawanda and Christianna Jones of Wikwemikong; Kathy Bebamash, EDO, AOK.

