



Native Agri Update

No. 302 , August 2010

www.indianag.on.ca

Published by
INDIAN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM OF ONTARIO

From The Acting GM's Desk

By Beth Wismer, Acting General Manager
beth@indianag.on.ca

AGRICULTURAL FAIR SEASON IS HERE!



With the summer of 2010 well over half way through, the season of agricultural fairs is in full swing. Fall Fairs have been organized by local agricultural societies for more than a century to provide opportunities to come together as a community to share stories, showcase talents, learn about new trends, display livestock, show horses and offer midway entertainment and fun for families.

I had the opportunity to take in the activities of my local fair this past weekend. I certainly appreciated all of the hard work that had been put into the four day event by both the organizers and the exhibitors. My family and I enjoyed watching the horse pull, 4-H livestock show, and taking in the homecraft displays. We were also able to watch the demo cross derby, a first for our local Fair Board.

You will notice on page six in the calendar of events, two local fair dates. I am sure that there are many other events, perhaps closer to your home

that we have not been made aware of. I encourage you, to get involved in your local fall fair, become an exhibitor, attend or if you have some extra time, volunteer to help organize the next event. For me personally, fall fairs have been an important part of living in rural Ontario.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

The "Federal Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development" represents a fundamental change to how the federal government supports Aboriginal economic development. The framework is a focused, government wide approach involving not only Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), but other government departments including Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

This total government approach by the federal government aligns what IAPO has been working to support since IAPO's inception. IAPO plans to continue to work with both INAC and AAFC, to provide our clients access to the financing, information, resources and tools necessary to remain competitive with all agricultural producers in Ontario. Through improved support, First Nations farmers can continue to succeed in economic development on their farms and in their communities as a part of the Canadian economy.

Table of Contents

From The Acting GM's Desk	
Page	1
Agribusiness	
Page	2
Crop Information	
Page	3
Livestock Information	
Page	4
Market Information	
Page	5
Other News	
Page	6
Calendar of Events	
Page	6

INDIAN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM OF ONTARIO

Southern & Western Ontario Office

Box 83, Station Lambeth
6453 Hamlyn Road
London, ON N6P 1P9
Phone: 519 652-2440
Toll Free: 1-800-663-6912

Eastern and Northern Ontario Office

Box 100
220 North Street
Stirling, ON K0K 3E0
Phone: 613 395-5505
Toll Free: 1-800-363-0329

Agribusiness

By Doug Macpherson, External Programs Co-ordinator
iapo-doug@on.aibn.com

TAKE AN OBJECTIVE LOOK AT YOUR MACHINERY INVENTORY

(excerpts from *The Progressive Farmer*, by Jim Patrico)

Farmers love big iron. But how much is enough? How much is too much? These are tough questions when you're talking about the economic (not the emotional) value of farm machinery.

During a wet spring like this year's, having too little planter capacity could cost you significant yield potential if your crop goes in late. On the other hand, overcapacity means extra interest payments, depreciation and insurance costs, which also eat away your bottom line. It's time to take a hard look at what is in your machine shed.

A good practice is to try to keep equipment payments at a certain level and proceed from there. Every machinery payment adds to the cost of production. One tool may be to total all your loan payments and divide by the number of acres you farm. Some producers opt to keep annual payments in the \$40 per acre range. That number puts constraints on their equipment purchases.

Don't worry if you are keeping your equipment longer than your neighbor. You can manage costs by getting more years out of the tractor or the combine. Remember that your farm operation is unique and financial decisions need to be based on your farm capacity rather than keeping up with your neighbor. Many farmers are prone to over capacity and you do not want to be in that group.

OPA CHANGES MIND ON SOLAR PRICE CUTS

Farmers in Ontario who submitted eligible ground-mounted applications prior to noon on July 2, 2010, will receive the original price of 80.2 cents/kWh whether or not they have received a contract or conditional offer, the Ontario Power Authority said in a release on Friday. This backtracks on the 58.8 cents that the OPA had proposed last month.

These applicants will also have until May 31, 2011, to install and request a connection for their projects before higher domestic content requirements are required. Ground-mounted solar microFIT contracts signed and conditional offers received before July 2 will continue to be eligible for the original price of 80.2 cents/kWh.

The new rate for any application after July 2, 2010 is 64.2 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

Free Pass

CANADA'S OUTDOOR FARM SHOW

Free Parking (Lots of room)

Woodstock, Ontario

September 14,15,16 (Tuesday—Thursday)

8:30 AM – 5:00 PM



NOTE: You must request your free "bar coded" ticket (good only for one of the three days) from IAPO staff by September 10th. If you forget, it will cost you \$17.00 per person. Why not invite your family because the youth admission (6- 15) is only \$5 and children (under 6) are free? During the show, a Second-Day wristband is available at Info Booths for \$10.00.

Last year, 45 First Nations farmers and IAPO staff members attended this premier outdoor agricultural showcase. COFS continues to be "Canada's Largest Agricultural Trade Show", your IAPO staff have a copy of the 2010 Official Brochure if you like to see the full program and times of the many events and demonstrations.

NEW FOR 2010:

- Biogas Demo (Ongoing daily in FCC Livestock Central)
- Tillage Equipment Demo (Daily at 12.30 PM in the Southwest Demo Field)
- Precision Seeding Demo (Daily at 11:00 AM & 2:30 PM in the West Demo Field)
- Canadian Energy Expo
- Celebrating Healthy Living Expo
- Genuity Technology Expo
- Water Volumes for Herbicides & Sprayer Cleanout Demo (Daily at 12:00 PM & 3:00 PM in the North Mall)

Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) and OMAFRA have partnered for 17 years at this well-established demo site. Also, OSCIA features emerging energy crops along with profiles of soil conservation measures.

More than a dozen major seed (including the FNA/SNFA seed rebate partners Hyland Seeds and Pioneer) and chemical companies will showcase their newest technologies and products in seed and crop inputs on-site. Visitors can watch crop input equipment in action and talk to company representatives about the uses and benefits of the various products.

*Call your IAPO office today to receive your **Free Pass!***

Crop Information

By Shawn Vernon, Farm Management Advisor

iapo-shawn@on.aibn.com

SOYBEANS

Most soybean crops are responding to the warm temperatures. Soybean fields that have had a chance to drain from the heavy rainfall conditions are showing advances in development. The combination of heat and rainfall has caused early plantings to be farther developed than in previous years. Soybean crops seem to be about two to three weeks ahead of normal. Early planted crops are showing excellent pod set, while late planted fields are beginning to set pods.



Aphid and spider mite populations remain low at this time. Insect populations have a tendency to grow quickly depending on weather conditions. It is possible that insect populations could grow rapidly under hot and humid weather conditions. If we start to experience droughty conditions, the crop's tolerance against insects is reduced. Monitor your fields regularly and keep an eye on the edges of fields and knolls in fields for stressed soybeans. White mould has not been a problem to date. Infection levels are low.

WINTER WHEAT

Harvest is complete and yields have been excellent to date. Quality has been good with little incidence of Fusarium. In some cases, late harvested wheat was downgraded due to mildew issues and low test weights. If you sold straw this year make sure to spread potash this fall. The wheat straw itself requires large amounts of potash and 65-75 lbs/acre of potash should be applied just to compensate for the potash removal from the wheat straw.

CORN

Most fields of corn are well on their way and development looks good. In most cases crops are a minimum of one week ahead in development from a normal year. Pollination looks very good and the kernel and cob development is excellent to date. The next few weeks will be critical for grain fill. Warm days and nights and adequate moisture should finish the crop nicely.

PLAN YOUR FERTILIZER PROGRAM

Knowing your fertilizer needs and developing a sound fertility plan has the potential to provide growers with a return on investment. In many cases, redistribution of budgeted dollars

or an incremental increase in spending is a sound business decision that will allow you to realize more profit per acre. Also by planning you might find that your needs have decreased.

The first step in your fertility program is to determine what nutrients need to be applied. Use the crop to be grown and a soil test to determine the amounts of nutrients needed. Applying more nutrients than recommended by the soil test may give increased yield but in most cases will decrease your optimal profitability per acre.

The second step is to account for any other sources of nutrients. This would include things like cover crops that are plowed down, such as clover or alfalfa. Also you need to take into account any manure that was applied to the field.

Once you have taken the soil test requirements and subtracted the amount added by the on farm nutrients the net amount is the fertilizer required for the crop. Now that you have an amount that you want to apply to the field you need to determine how much will be applied with the planter and how much will be broadcast to the field. The proportions for each application will depend on the crop to be grown and the total amount that needs to be applied. There are guidelines by crop with respect to the total amount of fertilizer and the type of fertilizer that can be applied in a starter blend. Both corn and wheat respond very well to high phosphorus starter fertilizer; so as much starter fertilizer as possible should be applied through the planter. The ratio of nitrogen to phosphate should be in a 1:4 ratio. A little potash can be applied in the starter blend but make sure that you do not exceed safe maximum rates. The rest of the fertilizer requirements can be broadcast.

Remember to make an informed decision on your fertility requirements you need to have a snap shot of the fertility levels in soil. The only way to do this is to take a soil sample. This will give you a starting point and a direction to build your cropping plan. Once you have the sample results consult a Crop Specialist to help put a fertility plan together.

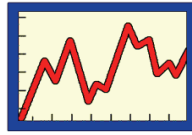
RUSSIAN DROUGHT TAKES ITS TOLL

A quarter of Russia's grain crops have been destroyed by the unprecedented heat wave and wildfires. The government is planning to spend more than a billion U.S dollars to help producers. It's also imposed a ban on wheat exports to avoid a surge in domestic grain prices, which is expected to be lifted in October. But this has already caused a global wheat price spike.

Livestock Information

By Mark Leahy, Farm Management Advisor

mark@indianag.on.ca



PICKUP BALES SOON AFTER BALING

While visiting beef producers during the summer and fall, round bales are often still sitting where they were dropped by the baler. Haying is a busy time and there are more fields to cut and bale. Picking up bales is not a priority.

If you are planning a second cut or wish to keep a strong stand for future years, delaying removal of these bales can be harmful.

Plants underneath are often killed if covered for more than a week or two, providing a great starting place for weeds.

Most of the damage, however, is due to wheel traffic on the regrowth. Studies show that when fields are dry, plants driven on before regrowth occurs, yield about five to seven % less at next cutting. Even worse was waiting to remove bales. Just seven days after cutting, when regrowth shoots had started to grow, yield was reduced by more than 25% and survival of these plants also was less. Worst of all is removing bales when fields are wet, as wheel traffic causes much more compaction, with yield loss typically exceeding 30%.

These studies emphasize the benefits of baling and removing bales from hay fields as quickly as possible after cutting, as well as minimizing driving on wet soils. They also suggest that following the same trail when removing bales or stacks from fields can reduce losses from wheel tracks by limiting the total area damaged.

Hay fields must be driven on, to remove bales after harvest. Reduce the damage by picking up bales as soon as possible.

US OUTLOOK ON BEEF

(from *Cattlenetwork*)

There are some encouraging signs for the U.S. beef industry in 2010. Although there are a few dry pockets, many cattle producing regions in the U.S. are experiencing the best pasture and range conditions in the past decade. The export demand for beef is improving with U.S. beef sales up about 25 percent from last year. The domestic economy is still struggling but improvement should take place in the next few years. Cow, bull and feeder cattle prices have improved and the cow-calf sector should see better profitability. And lower beef production is likely for the next couple of years which should be supportive to cattle prices.

Producers are showing renewed interest in replacement heifers and bred cows and heifers as those prices have been stronger in 2010.

HOT WEATHER AFFECTS GESTATION LENGTH

(Taken from an article by Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University)



Oklahoma State University studied early fall (August) and late fall (October) calving cows. Data from two successive years were combined for 60 Angus X Hereford cows. The “early” and “late” fall calving cows had been artificially inseminated in early November or early January, respectively. The same sire was used for all cows. All cows were exposed to a single cleanup bull for 35 days starting at

four days after the AI season.

The weather prior to calving was quite different for late pregnancy in the two groups. The average maximum temperature the week before calving was 94.6 degrees F. for the “early” fall group. The average maximum temperature the week before calving in the “late” calving group was 72.0 degrees F. There was a 100% survival rate for calves in both groups and both groups of cows had very high re-breeding rates.

The average gestation length for the “early” cows was five days shorter (278.5 days) as compared to the “late” cows (283.8 days). Producers with early fall-calving cows should expect calves to start coming several days ahead of the “textbook gestation table” dates.

They should begin their routine heifer and cow checks at least a week ahead of the expected first calving date.

LOOKING FOR A PREMIUM?

Plan now to market calves this fall. What can be done to realize a premium?

Target a quality stocker sale. Select a date and work back to plan schedule.

Wean calves at least three weeks before trucking. **Castrate & Dehorn** any calves not done. **Vaccinate** based on your local vets recommendations. This should be done at least two weeks before trucking if a modified live vaccine. A killed vaccine requires a shot a month before and a booster two weeks after the first shot. Vaccinating at a time when calves are less stressed increases the chance of building up immunities. Consider taking calves off cows, vaccinating and then returning them to their mothers. This could be done five to six weeks before sale. Vaccine will be more effective.

Age verify. With the 30 month rule still in effect age verifying calves provides feedlot buyers and slaughter plants with at least a born after date. IAPO can provide you with details on age verifying calves.

Market Information

BEEF MARKET

By Mark Leahy



**Ontario
Cattlemen's
Association**
Committed to Cattlemen

Prices are courtesy of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association Weekly Market Information Report for the week ending August 12, 2010.

Price changes are mixed in most categories from last month.

As was discussed last month, the following chart has been adjusted to show the change in each category compared to last month.

Cow and bull prices dropped slightly this month. Note that cull cow prices are still \$6/cwt stronger than the same week last year. Rail grade steers are a little stronger as are the lighter weight calves, 5-6 cwt weight steers in particular.

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.

All prices are on a hundred pound basis (cwt)

Category	Price Range	Ave. Price	Top Price	Change Last Month Ave.
Rail Steers	152-160			+2
Fed steers	86 - 96	92	105	-3
Fed heifers	79- 94	88	104	-4
Cows	42 - 58	51	84	-4
Bulls	63- 74	68	94	-1
Stocker steers				
700 - 799	97 - 112	106	117	-2
600 - 699	101 - 120	112	130	+1
500 - 599	102 - 132	120	141	+6
Stocker heifers				
700 - 799	92 - 103	98	110	steady
600 - 699	96 - 109	104	115	-1
500 - 599	93 -115	108	121	+2

CROP MARKET

By Shawn Vernon

The USDA's August crop report points to heavy supplies of corn, soybeans and wheat. However, these strong supplies will be in high demand because of poor production in areas such as Russia, Europe and areas of Asia. Although the next few weeks are critical for many US crops to finish and attain yields, many of the questions moving forward will be on the demand side. What country will make up for the yield loss from Russian production? Will China still import soybeans and corn to alter the balance of world trade?

There are hints of possible stronger demand, however as we progress from crop forecasting to actual harvested yields the reality of the supply/demand picture will get clearer.


Futures prices seem to be rallying even in the presence of bearish parameters such as the downward moves on the stock market and increases in the US dollar.


Wheat futures continue to lead the market. The cash price in Ontario has been negatively affected by the large increases in the basis. Concern over the quality of Ontario 2010 wheat has caused near term market volatility. As well, world production problems has many end users sitting on the sidelines.


Over the next few weeks more and more concrete yield information will be available as the US soybean harvest begins. At present the market is reacting to the perceived future demand in most

markets, especially the soybean and wheat markets. Growers should monitor market pricing and take advantage of the current prices available. If you know your breakeven and can realize a reasonable level of profit taking, a selling position on crop is a good strategy.

Soybeans are a good opportunity at plus \$10.00 levels. Wheat is heading back to the mid \$5.00 range. Corn has to move higher but it is getting close to levels that should have some sales consideration.

CORN-Wednesday, Aug 17, 2010: (NORWICH)				
	2010-Dec	Futures 4.30	Basis -0.60	Price 3.84

SOYBEANS-Wednesday, Aug 17, 2010: (NORWICH)				
	2010-Nov	Futures 10.49	Basis -0.55	Price 9.94

SOFT RED WHEAT-Wed, Aug 17, 2010: (NORWICH)				
	2010-Aug	Futures 6.51	Basis - 2.00	Price 4.51

Other News

By Mark Leahy, Farm Management Advisor-
mark@indianag.on.ca

COMPOST UNITS

There are many ways to compost. Here are some examples of compost units being used effectively.



barrel style

single bin—Amikook Seniors Centre in Wiky



double bin style—Albert Mishibinijima and nephew Max

Calendar of Events

- Aug 20, 21 Mohawk Fair, Fairgrounds Tyendinaga
- Sept 14 -16 Canada's Outdoor Farm Show,
www.outdoorfarmshow.com
- Sept 21 -25 International Plowing Match, St. Thomas
www.ipm2010.com
- Sept 24-26 Wiky Fair, Thunderbird Park

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

4-H LOWERS MEMBERSHIP AGE

The Ontario 4-H Council Board of Directors voted in favor of lowering the starting age of 4-H members to nine years of age (prior to January 1st of the year the member joins). This policy amendment will become effective as of January 1, 2011. This policy change allows the Council to address three goals with the first being synergy with 4-H delivery partners across Canada. Second, enabling younger siblings of current members to join sooner, and third, supporting communities throughout Ontario with a younger entry point to outstanding youth leadership development opportunities.

Concurrent with this announcement is the launch of a related 18-month pilot project entitled Clover Buds. During this pilot project, the staff of 4-H Ontario will be identifying and selecting six community partners to run 4-H Clover Bud programs for six to eight year olds.

These are two examples of 4-H Ontario embracing change through a clear and focused strategic plan.

REDUCE WEANING STRESS

Weaning beef calves while in contact with their mothers will reduce stress. This was the conclusion of research at the University of Saskatchewan.

A group of calves were separated from their mothers. Half the calves were moved to an area familiar to them. These calves were unable to see the cows about 50 feet away. The second group of calves were in a familiar area and allowed fence line contact with the cows.

Both groups were observed from dawn until dusk for the first three days after weaning. Number of calves standing, walking, lying down, walking the fence-line, running, grazing and feeding at the bunk were recorded.

The calves in contact with their mothers spent less time standing, walking the fence-line and running than the group not in contact. These calves spent more time lying down and feeding at the bunk. They gained more weight in the first three days.

The calves not in contact with their mothers were noisier. Calves in contact showed less stressful behaviour following weaning. There were no differences in weight gain ten days after weaning.



Chipper Chirp

We must overcome the notion that we must be regular... it robs you of the chance to be extraordinary and leads you to the mediocre.

Uta Hagen