



Native Agri Update

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From The Manager's Desk

By D.E. "Ted" Young, General Manager
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SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL

2009 is quickly drawing to a close and the Holiday Season is surrounding us. It is indeed a festive atmosphere of celebration, good will, and happiness.

Looking back, once again IAPO has enjoyed another successful year of serving all our clients in an exemplary manner.

The weather was certainly a big concern over the summer and when we finally got a very favourable fall, cash crops recovered dramatically and some good yields were achieved by many producers. Progress is being made with the corn harvest but a number of farmers have yet to finish. With colder weather arriving clients will take advantage to harvest the balance of the current crop.

The biggest event for IAPO was our very first Ontario First Nations Agri-Food Conference held in August at the University of Guelph. The conference was a very successful event for First Nations participants who attended. One progressive cash crop client advised us that "this was the best thing IAPO has ever done". New perspectives were gained, new friendships made, and most of all the opportunity to showcase First Nations farmers' successes and challenges was a significant part of the conference. IAPO staff were very pleased to have made this

event a great success. It exceeded all our planning expectations.

Assessing our personal achievements and challenges is part of our annual review as we reflect on our hopes, plans, and expectations. We all have much to be thankful for over the year and it is comforting to see farming and agribusiness continue to progress across First Nations lands.

IAPO will continue working closely with our producers, clients, and youth, to support them in their quest for another successful farming year in 2010.

Personally, I want to take this opportunity to thank all our clients for their business and the privilege of serving them this past year. As I stated last year on behalf of our staff and myself it has been another tremendous opportunity to assist our clients by bringing the IAPO program to their farm or agribusiness. Witnessing clients' dreams and goals reached, whether it was getting started, or strengthening existing operations is gratifying.

We are thankful for continued, new and renewed relationships with our government and industry partners. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA), Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAFRA), Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA), Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC),



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From the Manager's Desk...cont'd

Aboriginal Business Corporation (ABC), University of Guelph, FedNor, are some of the key players IAPO enjoys working with along with many other rural stakeholders who have an interest to assist and support First Na-

tion farmers.

IAPO is most grateful to all our peers and support organizations for their assistance in the spirit of working with all our clients within the province of Ontario.

As the season celebrations are now in full swing each of us we will celebrate or

acknowledge this time of the year in our own unique way.

I wish each and everyone peace, joy, and much happiness.

The IAPO team is looking forward to 2010 with much excitement in assisting the First Nations farm community to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Agribusiness

By Peter Jay Lanthier, Farm Management Advisor

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BIOFUEL REPORT



plots of Miscanthus Giganteus

The US Agriculture Department and the US Energy Department said it would spend \$564 million to fund 19 integrated bio-refinery projects in

15 states. Another \$700 million will come from private and non-federal cost share funds, bringing the total project amount to \$1.3 billion. The money will help accelerate the construction and operation of pilot, demonstration and commercial scale plants that uses everything from pond algae to wheat straw and corn stover as feedstock to produce ethanol, biopower and other bioproducts. This trend would indicate that the US is pushing forward with plans to spur more production of biofuels that use biomass feedstocks instead of grains such as corn. This funding is targeted to meet the aggressive renewable fuel standards goals now set for cellulosic and advanced biofuels.

One project which will receive funding is a plant that converts agricultural biomass into renewable fuel. The Archer-Daniels Midland project will garner a lot of attention from farmers because it will use corn stover as its biomass fuel. This project could be in commercial production in two years. A major challenge to using corn stover to produce biofuel is that a steady supply is needed. ADM will work with John Deere and Monsanto to identify environmentally, agronomically and economically sustainable methods for harvesting,

storing and transporting corn stover for biofuel production.

In Ontario, at the University of Guelph, research is being conducted on many types of grass, miscanthus giganteus and switch grass and many other forms of biomass, including willow and poplar trees, to see which product is most efficient and has the most promising potential for payback. Miscanthus giganteus, a hardy perennial is widely used in Europe and grows very well in our local environment.

STIRLING'S ANNIVERSARY TRACTOR PARADE



As reported in the December 8th Ontario Farmer, the official word has come down from Guinness records. Some 10,000 people came out to view a record setting parade of 601 tractors on August 20th, 2009. The event was recently recognized by Guinness as "the largest parade of tractors of various brands consisting of 601 tractors and was achieved during the 'Farmers Day' parade organized by The Stirling 150th Anniversary Committee in Stirling, Canada".

There had been no record for tractor parades of this magnitude before Stirling's attempt. The volunteer committee was looking for 500 tractors of all vintages and colours driven by farmers whose connection to agriculture was just as diverse.

Parade Chairman Darrin Heasman said "At the end of the day a tractor is a working piece of equipment. In the middle of the third week of August, that we pulled that many out of working fields to put in a parade; it's almost frivolous. But it was an opportunity for farmers to be cheered".

Stirling is a small village with a population of 3,600 located east of Peterborough. The eastern offices of the Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario are located in Stirling. Many of IAPO staff members were quite excited about the special event as well. "It is a wonderful way to be involved with our community and show our appreciation to the local farming community" Jennifer Hardy-Parr.

Crop Information

By Peter Jay Lanthier, Farm Management Advisor

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FERTILIZER FOCUS

Speaking at a recent Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario, Casper Kaastra of the Agronomy Company of Canada, stated that fertilizer prices will come back down to more moderate prices close to price levels we saw prior to the runaway pricing in 2008. The soaring prices experienced in 2009 were the result of demand far exceeding supply. With the Asian market dramatically ramping up agricultural production, the major potash producers here in Canada, nitrogen (N) producers in Russia and the US phosphorous manufacturers were caught off guard. With the world's economies going south in 2008 and fertilizer prices at levels never seen before, many producers in North America and around the world grew their crops with less fertilizer. Demand for fertilizer weakened and the world's fertilizer producers were able to provide adequate supply. Will this type of scenario happen again? Perhaps the lesson to be learned here is we need to manage our fertilizer dollars more effectively.

NITROGEN MANAGEMENT

Good nitrogen management practices are not something new to most growers. Since more money is spent on nitrogen fertilizer than any other crop input, it makes sense to carefully evaluate best practices for nitrogen. Simply put we need to manage the four "R"s of fertilizer application; **Right product, Right rate, Right time, Right place.** Growers who know their soil and crops well are better able to fine tune their nitrogen management programs; these input savings add up, especially over the long term. Gone are the days when we applied one pound of N per bushel of yield. Planters, side dress equipment, seed technology even the fertilizer itself is improved to the point now that growers have many tools with which to work with in an effort to put the right product on at the right rate, time and location.

SOIL TESTING

Soil tests will tell you the right product and blend, you need for your crops. Stalk and soil nitrate tests can help to fine tune your rates. The longer N is applied in advance of crop uptake, the more susceptible it is to loss through natural processes. Most farms can benefit significantly from starter N fertilizer that provides a minimum of 20 pounds of N per acre, preferably 30 pounds. This application will provide a positional N advantage to the crop and also provide some

side dress timing insurance in the event of adverse weather.

SIDEDRESSING

Agronomic studies in conjunction with OMAFRA research shows sidedress N applications are the most efficient type of N application because N is being applied closer to the time of N uptake. It is best to have all of your N sidedressed no later than the sixth true leaf of corn. Sidedressing corn at the three to four leaf stage ensures the most efficient use of N and protects your investment. All common N fertilizers can be used for side dress applications. Injected anhydrous ammonia or UAN (urea and ammonium nitrate solution) between rows is best, followed by broadcast of solid ammonium containing fertilizers such as ammonium nitrate or ammonium sulphate. Next most effective is broadcast urea, then dribbling UAN solution between rows. Broadcasting UAN solution is the least effective method for N application on corn.

UNDERSEED YOUR CEREALS WITH CLOVER

Another excellent source of N and a good management practice as well is underseeding red clover in wheat, oats and barley. The N value of a good clover stand more than pays for the cost of the clover even without factoring in the additional benefit of much improved soil structure. Studies show that yield increases can be as high as 15 bu/ac, plus an N credit of up to 75 pounds of N for your next crop. To establish a good stand of clover you should incorporate your soybean residue with coulters on your drill or with a single pass with a high clearance cultivator. The clover seed should be inoculated. Frost seeding or planting early in March at 8 - 10 pounds per acre seeding rate is essential for establishing good stands.

EARLY CORN WORKS

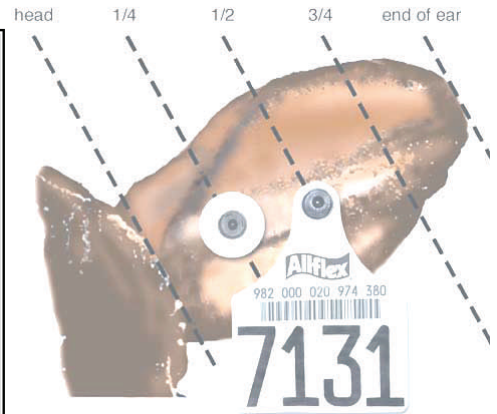
One point most agronomists will agree on this year is that early planted corn worked better than late corn. Corn is being planted earlier and earlier each year. Genetics, seed treatments and opportune soil and weather conditions have allowed planting dates to be pushed back well into March. Syngenta Canada has recently registered Halex as a corn herbicide that will improve herbicide control in these earlier planted crops. Halex is described as a one pass, postemergence herbicide for glyphosate-tolerant corn. Halex is a three way mix of Touchdown (glyphosate), Dual and Callisto, providing a quick knock-down of emerged weeds as well as residual control of both broadleaves (Callisto) and grasses (Dual).

Livestock Information

By Mark Leahy, Farm Management Advisor

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THE END OF THE DANGLE TAG



The Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) is reminding producers that as of January 1, 2010 ALL cattle must be tagged with an approved CCIA Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag. The small button tag is an RFID tag.

RFID tags have been the only approved tags available to be issued for cattle since Sept. 1, 2006. However, producers were allowed until December 31, 2009 to phase out bar code tags for mature breeding stock and bulls.

Bar code tags (the large tag) already applied to an animal should be left in the animal's ear and a RFID tag must also be applied to that animal once bar code tags are no longer approved.

The producers should cross-reference the barcode tag with the new RFID tag in the Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS). This is strongly recommended to ensure that the integrity of the traceability system is maintained.

Producers can still purchase and use dangle tags for management purposes. These tags will not have a bar code.

IMPACT OF VALUE OF THE LOONIE ON FED STEER PRICES

(Jamie Thomas, OCA Market Information Coordinator provided the chart)

There are many factors contributing to the current fed steer price including a weak economy, COOL and an abundance of chicken and pork on the market. The value of our Loonie has a major impact as well.

This chart compares Ontario Weekly Average Live Steer Price and the Value of the Average Weekly Canadian Dollar compared to the U.S. dollar.

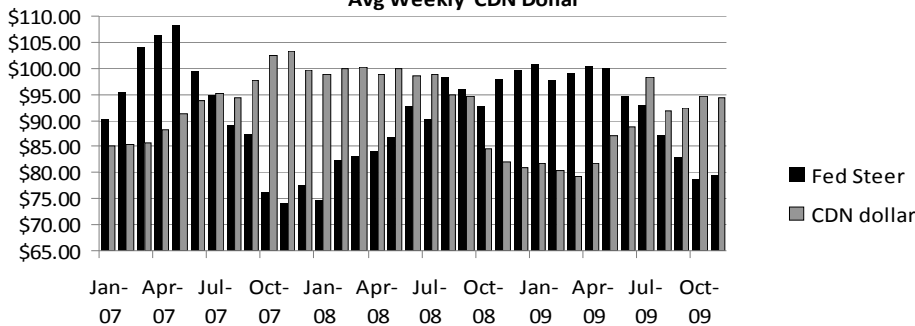
In early 2007, the Loonie was about

\$.85 U.S. and fed steer prices were \$90 to \$108. In early 2008 the dollar was about \$1.00 U.S., steer price was \$75 to \$83. This pattern continues to the end of 2009.

At a recent meeting of beef producers we debated what can and can't be controlled in the beef cattle market. Most of the impacts listed can't be controlled at the farmgate. Producing and packaging quality calves to meet the market demand is controllable.

Adding value to the product by finishing calves, selling freezer beef, producing organic or grassfed beef are some of the options available to improve farmgate returns. Adding value does take planning. An abattoir close by, helps also!

Ont Weekly Avg Live Fed Steer Price vs Avg Weekly CDN Dollar



ONTARIO BEEF

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association publishes Ontario Beef about six times a year. It is available free of charge to all beef producers in Ontario. If you are not receiving this magazine, contact the Stirling IAPO office. We will get you on the mailing list.

Market Information

BEEF MARKET

By Mark Leahy



Prices are courtesy of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association Weekly Market Information Report for the week ending December 10/09.

Fed Cattle and rail prices are slightly off from last month. Both categories are down \$2. This is partly due to an increased number of fed cattle waiting to go to market.

Cull cows are down \$2, bulls \$4. This reflects the seasonal run on cull cows and bulls. Feedlot replacement steers are off \$2 to \$7. Heifers are about even with last months.

The usual factors including a strong loonie, depressed economy, an over supply of pork and chicken and Cool (Country of Origin Labeling in the US) continue to battle beef prices.

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.

All prices are on a hundred pound basis (cwt) ⇒

Category	Price Range	Ave. Price	Top Price
Rail Steers	131-136		
Fed steers	75 - 80	78	85
Fed heifers	74- 80	78	85
Cows	27 - 42	34	69
Bulls	39- 51	45	75
Stocker steers			
700 - 799	77 - 99	90	106
600 - 699	88 - 106	98	112
500 - 599	93 - 117	104	133
Stocker heifers			
700 - 799	76 - 92	87	98
600 - 699	75 - 98	89	110
500 - 599	80 - 103	92	115

CROP MARKET

By Peter Lanthier

RECORD HARVEST NEARLY COMPLETE


Most farmers have their 2009 harvest complete. For others the wet conditions continue to slow the pace of harvest. Agricorp has reported that only 80 percent of the Ontario soybean crop was harvested by the end of October and it took two dry weeks early in November for soybean harvest to wrap up. Seed size and quality were generally acceptable but yields were extremely variable from field to field and even from within a given field. Yields ranged from 20 bu/ac to over 70 bu/ac. With over 40 percent of insured acres reported, the provincial average so far is 41.9 bu/ac compared to the five year average of 40.6 bu/ac. Some weather concerns and continued strong demand for soybeans has kept CBOT soybeans strong but our weakening basis has held soybeans near \$10.00 in November with only a few spikes over \$10.50. The first


spike in early November was a USDA report expressing concern over the delay in harvest. The second rally was due to an enormous export order for China.


Corn harvest continues with 80% estimated as complete. A portion of the remaining crop will be un-harvestable and most will exhibit some significant yield loss the longer it stays in the field. Agricorp has reported that 11% of the insured acres have been reported as damaged. Over 40% of the damage is due to excessive rainfall and 37% due to frost damage. The result is lower than

average test weights and high moisture levels. Mould is now becoming quite prevalent and grade is being affected. The resultant potential for reduced supply and continued demand, however, has not caused CBOT corn to move above \$4.00. Corn traded sideways for most of the month of November.

Looking ahead, some analysts are predicting less wheat and less corn acres for 2010. Margins will get tight for corn producers. Farmers are likely to see lower fertilizer prices but higher seed costs in 2010.

CORN-Tuesday, December 15, 2009: (NORFOLK)				
	2009	Futures 4.10	Basis -0.25	Price 3.85
	2010	Futures 4.40	Basis -0.05	Price 4.35

SOYBEANS-Tuesday, December 15, 2009: (NORFOLK)				
	2009	Futures 10.60	Basis -0.17	Price 10.33
	2010	Futures 10.26	Basis -0.40	Price 9.86

SOFT RED WHEAT-Tuesday, December 15, 2009: (NORFOLK)				
	2010	Futures 5.62	Basis -0.88	Price 4.74

Other News

By Mark Leahy, Farm Management Advisor-
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WIKY ROUNDUP



The Wiky Roundup crew looks pleased after planning, rounding up, packaging and loading a “pot” of local calves and a few cows for shipment to Brussels Livestock Special Stocker Sale. Animals were delivered to a central location for loading. Rumour has it that the crew dined on chili and scones, after the truck was on the road, courtesy of Bev Naokwegjijg.

ABATTOIR MOVES FORWARD

The Manitoulin-LaCloche Slaughter facility appears to be closer to a reality. A site has been purchased near Providence Bay. Approval has been granted for rezoning. The proposed plant has been downsized based on available animals with one kill day per week projected. Waste will be combined with sawdust and shavings for odourless composting.

First Nations farmers make up 10% of the project membership. If successful this abattoir will provide added value potential for local livestock farmers. A membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 24 to provide an update.



GROWING YOUR OWN FOOD SEMINAR

A seminar covering Growing Your Own Food is being planned for April 2010. This seminar will be in the Manitoulin, Northshore area for interested First Nations community members.

Keynote discussion leader is Lorne Jamieson of Ignatius Farm at Guelph. There will be local First Nations speakers also. Market gardening, community shared agriculture, community gardens and composting are some of the topics. It is being organized by the Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario. Watch this newsletter for details.

Calendar of Events

- Jan.6,7 Southwest Agricultural Conference, Ridgetown, Ontario
(<http://www.southwestagconference.ca>)
- Jan.23 FarmSmart Agricultural Conference, U of G, Guelph
- Feb. 17-18 Innovative Farmers—Conference 2010, Best Western
Lamplighter Inn, London, (www.ifao.com)

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR AGRICULTURAL EVENTS IN YOUR AREA
Please contact us if you have an item for the Calendar of Events



Chipper Chirp

What goes red white red white red
white?

Santa rolling down a hill!
What do elves learn in school?

The elf - abet