



# Native Agri Update

No. 296 , February 2010

www.indianag.on.ca

Published by  
INDIAN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM OF ONTARIO

## From The Assistant GM's Desk

By Beth Wismer, Assistant General Manager  
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The January newsletter announced that Ted Young would finish his term as the General Manager as of February 28, 2010. On behalf of everyone at IAPO, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Ted for his dedication and work on behalf of First Nations agriculture in the province of Ontario. During his tenure at IAPO, Ted has successfully raised the profile of First Nations agriculture and the positive impact that agriculture has on individuals, families and communities.

Ted spent countless hours raising awareness of the importance and challenges of First Nations agriculture to industry and government partners. Agricultural businesses in this growing sector play an important role in economic development, job creation, local food production, education for all ages, best practices of First Nations lands and environmental stewardship. We wish Ted well in his future endeavours.

Moving forward, IAPO staff remains dedicated to provide the best service available to Ontario's First Nations agricultural sector. As in the past

twenty-six years, IAPO will strive to offer excellent client service, business development and financial planning, innovative financial products, and supportive extension and extension programs. IAPO will continue to foster relationships with our industry and government partners.

I challenge each of you to become involved in IAPO. As your organization we continually strive to achieve our mission statement - "To cultivate sustainable economic growth of Ontario First Nations People through the implementation of agricultural related programs."

The following is a list of current directors on the Board of Directors at IAPO. Get involved, support the representative from your district, or if you are interested in serving on the Board contact the office to obtain more information and nomination papers.

**The Annual General Meeting will be held in April. Watch for more details of this meeting in next month's newsletter.**

District	Director	Current Term Expires	2010 Election
Brantford	Vacant		
	Louise Hill	April 13, 2010	*
London/Bruce	Jennifer Whiteye	April 12, 2011	
Peterborough	Wm. J. Brant	April 13, 2010	*
	Amanda Ioannou	April 12, 2012	
Sudbury	Margaret "Tish" Manitowabi	April 13, 2010	*
Agricultural Lending Director	Robert Riddell	April 12, 2012	

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**ELECTION FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM OF ONTARIO**

As you are aware, Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario is a non-profit Corporation owned by Status Indian farmers in Ontario. IAPO is managed by a Board of Directors made up of Status Indian farmers, representing various farming districts across Ontario.

**Criteria for being a Director, and voting for a Director, IAPO:**

1. Current Directors are eligible for re-election.
2. Registered Status Indian residing in Ontario, and have Membership and a Membership Number for an Ontario Band.
3. Persons nominated to be Directors shall be residents of the District for which they are nominated.
4. Eighteen years of age or more.

5. A farmer, who is defined as a person who earns in excess of \$12,000 gross value of farm production per year.
6. A member of the corporation – generally accepted as being a client of IAPO.
7. Loans in his/her name **NOT IN ARREARS**.
8. Persons shall be nominated in writing, and such nominations shall bear the signature of at least twenty-five (25) percent of the District for which the Director is nominated and shall also bear the signature of the person so nominated.

**If you are interested in nominating a Director, or being nominated for a Director:**

1. Contact the IAPO Office for a nomination form.
2. Contact the Stirling Office for a list of eligible members for your District
3. Complete the nomination form as required
4. Return the completed nomination form to arrive at the IAPO Office no later than Friday, March 19, 2010.

# Agribusiness

By Doug Macpherson, External Program Delivery  
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**Growing Forward**

## Food Safety and Traceability Initiative

The Food Safety and Traceability Initiative (FSTI) provides 50 percent cost-share funding to individual businesses to support the implementation of food safety programs and traceability systems, to assist with the purchase and installation of equipment to improve food safety or traceability, and to train staff in the adoption of food safety and traceability.

Cost-share funding will be allocated to agricultural and food processing activities up to the available annual funds for each fiscal year of the program. One of OMAFRA's key objectives is to distribute annual funding equally between food safety and traceability expenditures. Applications are assessed on a first-come, first-served basis. 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.

Applications will be accepted after 9:00 a.m. on March 1, 2010. Applications received prior to this date and time will not be processed and will be returned to the applicant. On time submission is strongly encouraged as applications will be

received and assessed on a first-come, first-served basis until all available funds are exhausted.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE ON 2010-2011 COST-SHARE AVAILABILITY

FEBRUARY 8, 2010 - All cost-share funds for program year two (2010-11) of the Canada-Ontario Farm Stewardship Program (COFSP) under the Growing Forward Environment and Climate Change initiative have now been fully committed. As a result, the provincial delivery agent for COFSP, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA), is no longer accepting 2010 Project Proposal Application (PPA) forms. The PPA received to date are currently being reviewed and notification of the status of each application is being forwarded to the participating farm businesses. Cost-share funds are allocated for each year of the program on a first come, first served basis. Once the annual program funds are fully committed, PPA can no longer be accepted for cost-share funding.

The next round of cost-share funding for new projects in COFSP will be available in Growing Forward program year three (2011-2012). New PPA forms for 2011 will be available from OSCIA Program Representatives beginning September 15, 2010. The eligible invoice date for program year three projects is September 15, 2010 and beyond. Costs invested and invoices dated prior to this date will not be eligible for cost-share in program year three. Applicants are encouraged to review the COFSP Project Eligibility Policy and Procedures document and program brochures before submitting their completed PPA form to the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association for projects proposed for 2011.

# Crop Information

By Peter Jay Lanthier, Farm Management Advisor

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## WET FALL INDICATES GREATER NEED FOR SOYBEAN INOCULANTS

(With notes from 2010 Farm Smart Conference, University of Guelph)

There are a number of factors that influence nodulation, nodule growth and nitrogen fixation in soybeans. These factors include too much or too little moisture, soil temperature, soil pH, diseases, organic matter and soil nitrate availability, as well as the rhizobial quality and bacterial strain in the soil. These potential problems may help to explain why adding new inoculants every year provides a net benefit.

Soybean inoculants are touted as a relatively inexpensive way to boost soybean yields while delivering a solid return on investment. The inoculants' role is to fix nitrogen with the plant. Soybeans fix nitrogen from the air with a bacterium, *Bradyrhizobium japonicum*, which is not indigenous to Ontario. In large numbers, the bacteria receive a protected growing environment, carbohydrates and minerals and, in turn, provide the plant with nitrogen. The process of inoculation is the application of commercially available rhizobia bacteria to the seed or into soil where a legume, such as soybeans, will be planted. Rhizobia are the key active ingredient in most legume inoculant products. The presence of rhizobia is necessary for a legume to be able to convert atmospheric nitrogen into a form usable by the plant. This process is referred to as nitrogen fixation.

The conclusion of a three year study by the University of Guelph indicates that using soybean inoculants pays big returns to producers. Most regions of Ontario had a very, very wet fall and current research shows that rhizobial bacteria do not survive wet conditions very well. Weather forecasters are predicting the current El Nino conditions will fade this summer. Such conditions have historically produced more normal growing conditions in North America. And while weather is hard to predict some long-range forecasts are calling for another wetter-than-normal spring planting season. These conditions coupled with the data from the study would indicate that there will be a greater response to the use of soybean inoculants, or enhanced soybean treatments that contain a rhizobial component, this year.

Additional research done at the University of Ohio evaluated rhizobial inoculants in hundreds of field trials over many years and reports an average yield increase of 1.94 bushels per acre for inoculated seed. Some premium quality products,

those with high rhizobia counts, produced gains much better than this average; some as high as four bushels more than untreated check plots.

Horst Bohner, soybean specialist with OMAFRA, says a 50 bushel/acre crop of soybeans will remove 210 pounds/acre of nitrogen. Some of this N comes from residual nitrogen in the soil, but between 50 and 75 percent will come from nodules that form on the roots. Inoculation, therefore, is a must for fields that have never been planted to soybeans. Traditionally, inoculation is also recommended for sandy soils, soils with a pH level less than 6, if the field has been flooded, and if soybeans have not been planted in a field in five years.

## ROUNDUP READY 2 YIELD



Monsanto is planning a full-scale launch for their new Roundup Ready 2 Yield soybeans in 2010. Roundup Ready 2 Yield soybeans represent the second-generation of the company's popular Roundup Ready technology. Roundup Ready 2 Yield soybeans will serve as the primary platform for Monsanto's introduction of new soybean trait technologies, including higher yield, expanded herbicide tolerance and enhanced oil products. Monsanto expects Roundup Ready 2 Yield soybeans could serve as the platform for up to five new stacked traits in soybeans by 2012. Four years of field comparisons have demonstrated that Roundup Ready 2 Yield soybeans deliver a yield advantage of 7 percent to 11 percent over the first-generation Roundup Ready offering.

All Roundup Ready 2 Yield soybeans will be sold by seed count instead of by weight. Bags of Roundup Ready 2 Yield soybeans will contain 140,000 seeds per unit, compared to the variable seed count in the traditional 22.7 kilogram bag.

## Calendar of Events

- February 25 9am—5pm, Community Garden Forum, Shawanaga First Nation Recreation Centre
- March 10-12 Western Fair Farm Show, 500 King Street, London, Ontario
- March 16 12 noon, Beef Information Meeting hosted by Dr. Dale Scott, Spring Bay Hall, Manitoulin Island
- April 14 10am—3pm, Growing Your Own Food Seminar, Aundeck Omni Kaning FN Community Hall, Manitoulin Island

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR AGRICULTURAL EVENTS IN YOUR AREA

# Livestock Information

By Mark Leahy, Farm Management Advisor  
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## KEEPING CALF RECORDS

Early calves are arriving in many beef herds. This is the time to start keeping records. This information is useful particularly looking back six months later.

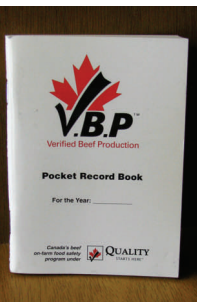
Birthdates give an indication of calving period. It will indicate whether most calves are born within a 60 day or 90 day period. A uniform group of calves is more attractive at sale time. Tag and record the identification number beside the birthdate.

Last fall a number of calves were age verified in an effort to add value at market time. This is a tool to meet beef export requirements on age at slaughter. It is easier to keep records from the start.

Record calf treatments and death losses. Our memories can be short! Use this information to plan for next year. For example if scours were a problem consider calving in a different area next year or dividing the herd into 30 cow groups.

Vaccinations dates are helpful for marketing purposes. Dehorning and castration dates and methods can be passed along to buyers.

Good records take away the guess work in the fall. Calf buyers are looking for information. Let them know what you have done.



Recordkeeping can be simple. The Canadian Cattlemen's Association puts out a small pocketbook for easy reference. Contact IAPO, Stirling for a copy.

## ANOTHER LOOK AT COLOSTRUM

Last month we talked about the importance of a newborn calf getting first milk (colostrum) early. It provides antibodies for the calf to build up immunity against disease. A calf's ability to absorb antibodies decreases quickly after birth. Scours is the biggest concern. Dr. Spark, DVM, Oklahoma State University shows the impact of a large pendulous udder on how quickly a calf can nurse effectively.

Effect of the Dam's Udder Structure on Time to First Suckling by Calves

Height of Teats	Time to first suckling (hours)	Percentage calves not suckling within 6 hours of birth
More than 3 inches above hock level	2.1	17
At hock level	3.5	28
More than 3 inches below hock level	5.3	45

Source: United Kingdom National Agricultural Center Calif. Unit, as quoted by S. Brooke in Hoard's Dairymen. 1984.

With teats more than three inches below the hock, 45% of calves have not nursed within 6 hours. This reduces their ability to fight scours and reduces chances of survival. Anyone considering culling cows this fall should keep this in mind.



Below hock level




Above hock level

## PROLAPSES IN BEEF COWS

Prolapses often occur very near the time of calving. There are two types of prolapses.

Vaginal prolapses occur in very late gestation. It is a protruding of the vagina through the vulva allowing exposure to sun, wind, and infection. It is repeatable. **A cow is very likely to prolapse again next year.** This type of prolapse has a genetic component. Daughters of cows that have this problem will have an increased likelihood of suffering a vaginal prolapse. These cows should be culled and daughters should not be kept as replacements. Bull calves from this cow could also pass the genetic characteristics on to offspring.

Uterine prolapses occur at or shortly after calving. They usually occur with a difficult birth. The uterus is literally pulled through the birth canal with the calf or the afterbirth exposed to the weather elements, potential injury, and certainly infectious agents. **Cows with properly cared-for uterine prolapses are no more likely than others to have a prolapse next year.** Because of the trauma, possible infection, and recovery time, these cows may take longer to get in calf for the next year's calving. They may be late-bred or non-pregnant at weaning time when pregnancy checks are made. This may be a viable reason for culling these cows, but keeping pregnant cows that have experienced a uterine prolapse is not a bad risk. Ask your veterinarian for guidance.



### Chipper Chirp

*"Life doesn't just hand you things. You have to get out there and make things happen."*

# Market Information

## BEEF MARKET

By Mark Leahy



Prices are courtesy of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association Weekly Market Information Report for the week ending February 11, 2010.

Fed Cattle prices are steady compared to last month.

Cull cows and bulls continue to strengthen with cows up \$7, bulls \$5.

Feedlot replacement prices are much improved with steers up \$6 to \$10 and heifers \$2 to \$8.

*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	140-145		
Fed steers	80 - 87	84	99
Fed heifers	79- 86	83	88
Cows	39 - 55	47	77
Bulls	50- 64	58	81
Stocker steers			
700 - 799	94 - 106	100	111
600 - 699	100 - 115	108	120
500 - 599	106 - 122	115	132
Stocker heifers			
700 - 799	78 - 93	89	106
600 - 699	87 - 99	93	110
500 - 599	92 - 108	100	117

## CROP MARKET

By Peter Lanthier

### LOOKING AT THE YEAR AHEAD

Making marketing decisions solely based on USDA reports was like planting your crops using only the rear view mirror of your tractor to see where you're going. The challenge for grain producers is to use all the marketing tools at hand, to effectively market their crops in 2010 and beyond.

Early in February the US Environmental Protection Agency released a revised renewable fuels mandate which requires an additional 12 billion gallons of renewable fuels, mainly corn ethanol. This has resulted in speculation that the USDA will call for an increase of three to four million acres of corn production. However with some 11 million acres of corn still in the fields south of the border and as much as 10% of our own corn still standing, corn prices will continue to trade sideways until the US new crop acreage is better known. The trade is watching the fate of these un-

harvested acres in the US closely. Depending on the weather, some of this corn may not enter the supply chain.

Soybean prices have seen similar sideways trading in recent weeks due in some part to the lag in demand from the biodiesel industry. This reduced demand has been brought on by the US government's indecision on the blender tax credit reinstatement; these tax credits expired in 2009. South American production is on track due to favorable weather conditions but late season disease pressures will have a significant

impact on quality. Ontario prices are lagging behind futures, with the basis being hit by the rising Canadian dollar. However prices remain in profitable territory.

Wheat prices have been depressed for much of the past year due to a worldwide oversupply.

On a positive note ag markets are likely in the process of putting in a base over the course of February and we should see some type of spring rally for our next selling opportunity on a number of commodities.

CORN-Tuesday, February 16, 2010: (NORWICH)				
2010	Futures 4.03	Basis	-0.05	Price 3.98

SOYBEANS-Tuesday, February 16, 2010: (NORWICH)				
2010	Futures 9.39	Basis	-0.35	Price 9.04

SOFT RED WHEAT-Tuesday, February 16, 2010: (NORWICH)				
2010	Futures 5.30	Basis	- 0.75	Price 4.55

# Other News

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



## GROWING YOUR OWN FOOD SEMINAR

This seminar is open to interested First Nations community members particularly in the Manitoulin and Northshore area.

**Location:** Aundeck Omni Kaning FN Community Hall, Manitoulin Island, west of Little Current.

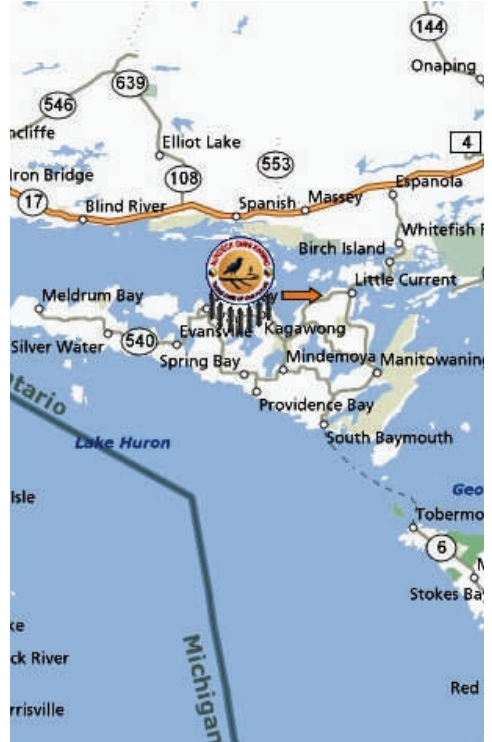
**Date:** Wednesday, April 14

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Keynote discussion leader is Lorne Jamieson of Ignatius Farm at Guelph. Hear speakers from OMAFRA, Waubetek and IAPO as well as Rose Shawanda and Christina Jones of Wikwemikong.

Soil preparation and improvement, market gardening, community shared agriculture, community gardens, raised beds and composting are some of the topics for discussion.

It is being organized by the Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario with support from Aundeck Omni Kaning FN.



## COMMUNITY GARDENING FORUM



Join us on:

**Thursday, February 25, 2010**  
**9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.**

**Shawanaga First Nation**  
**Recreation Centre**

**DROP OFF OR FAX COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM (ATTACHED) TO LINDA SULLIVAN -(705) 366-2740 by FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup> @ 12-Noon**

Forum presenters will include representatives from Wikwemikong First Nation, Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and local growers and gardeners.

*Shawanaga First Nation is 30km North of Parry Sound*

Contact Linda at  
(705) 366-2526 ext 231 for further details  
And to obtain a registration form