



Native Agri Update

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Message From The Board

By William J. Brant, Chairman

I bring you greetings from the IAPO Board of Directors. We wish you a safe, happy, and prosperous New Year, and thank you for your support during the past year of 2009.

I am informing you that the contract signed between IAPO and Edward Young International Incorporated to manage IAPO in the capacity as General Manager will expire on February 28, 2010. This contract will not be renewed. I thank Ted Young for the services he provided IAPO as General Manager during this contract period.

Beth Wismer, a staff member in the Stirling Office, who works in the capacity as Assistant General Manager, has been asked to assume the position of Acting General Manager as of March 1, 2010. She has agreed to do so, only for an interim period until a replacement has been found. I thank Beth for accepting this challenging role and I ask you to give her your support so that IAPO may continue to provide you, our clients, service that will continue to meet your expectations.

Thank you for your co-operation in this transition period.

From The Manager's Desk

By D.E. "Ted" Young, General Manager
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Moving on...

Happy New Year to all and Best Wishes for a prosperous and successful farming year!

This will be my last message as General Manager as I was advised on December 7, 2009 by Chairman Brant that the IAPO Board by a unanimous vote decided my current contract will not be renewed beyond the February 28, 2010 date.

First and foremost, I want to say a sincere Thank You to all our clients for the great opportunity to have served First Nations Farmers and their families for the past three years. I have

learned a great deal and deeply enriched my understanding and respect for you and your communities.

Many friendships, relationships, in many sectors of the industry, government, rural stakeholders and First Nations territories, have been made which I intend to treasure and continue to cultivate in the future albeit in a different capacity.

During my tenure, I would like to thank all those First Nations residents and others who served on the IAPO Board and the Loan Review Committee. It has been a pleasure working with each of you and getting to know you better in the quest to serve our

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

IAPO clients in an exemplary fashion. It has been the objective in all of these bodies to strive to assist our clients in better and more productive ways and at the same time ensuring good stewardship of the program.

On a national basis, working with our sister provinces to the west with the National Aboriginal Agriculture Council (NAAC) has been a most positive experience in seeing our efforts combined to meet client needs in each pro-

vincial jurisdiction. To each of the members of that group I wish to also express what a pleasure it has been to meet you and work with you as a group.

It would be remiss of me if I did not acknowledge the IAPO staff who are a tremendously dedicated group who day in and day out really strive to serve our client's to the best of their ability. Thank you to them also for that dedication and for their support during my time here.

In closing, I would request that you all

continue to support IAPO and get involved in the program including its governance to ensure the program is here for the future to meet the needs of all clients and the youth who will be the leaders of tomorrow. IAPO is a great organization and I hope it will serve your needs for many decades to come.

Ladies and gentlemen, it has been an absolute delight to have served as your General Manager for the past three years.

Blessings to all.

Agribusiness

By Doug Macpherson, External Program Delivery
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EXPANDED CRITERIA FOR FIRST NATIONS YOUTH AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

The Ontario First Nations Youth Agricultural Program will now accept applications for youth group projects that can include up to six persons (in addition to projects for individuals). The expanded criteria addresses inquiries from First Nation organizations or Bands that are delivering projects to groups as well as to individuals. Originally the program was targeted to only youth individuals starting a business. The original goals and objectives of the program remain unchanged. First Nations youth participating in this program have much to gain including up to 40 per cent of the project value as forgivable equity. Project size is limited to \$7500. Contact your nearest IAPO office today for more information.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FOR FARM BUSINESSES

IAPO is assisting with delivery of Growing Forward Business Development Programs to First Nations agriculture and food producers. Growing Forward Business Development For Farm Businesses offers Growing Your Profits Farm Workshops. The two day workshop provides the participant with the tools to complete a business self-assessment. The resulting action plan enables farmers to qualify for Business

Development Cost-Share Opportunities in the areas of Farm Financial Assessment and Agricultural Skills Development. In the near future IAPO will be discussing these opportunities in more detail with First Nations agriculture and food producers. If you have questions about Business Development for Farm Businesses do not hesitate to call the IAPO office in your area.

ENVIRONMENTAL COST SHARE PROGRAMS REOPEN

Following a complete review, Environmental Cost Share Programs are now available to Ontario farmers through the Canada - Ontario Environmental Farm Plan. The program was under review for several months. Applications are now available to farmers. Program dollars are limited and could be committed very quickly. If you have a cost share project in mind or wish to discuss projects applicable to your Environmental Farm Plan Action Plan, please contact IAPO without delay. IAPO now has applications at either the Stirling or the Lambeth office. Current project eligibility guidelines are available on request.

To submit a project you only need to have completed an Environmental Farm Plan Action Plan. Once your project is approved, funding is set aside until completion.

If you have questions or require assistance please call 1 800 663 6912 for the Lambeth office or 1 800 363 0329 for the Stirling office.



Chipper Chirp

One important key to success is self-confidence.
An important key to self-confidence is preparation.

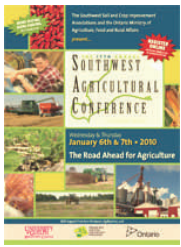
Arthur Ashe

Crop Information

By Peter Jay Lanthier, Farm Management Advisor

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SOUTHWEST AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE



The theme for this year's Southwest Agricultural Conference, SWAC, was *The Road Ahead for Agriculture*. Agriculture is constantly changing and can often be challenging. OMAFRA crop specialists, university researchers, engineers, farmers and grain marketers from across Canada and the U.S. presented seminars and workshops on a wide range of subjects. Some of the topics discussed included: Top Yielding Soybean Tips, The End of No-Till Soybeans, Managing Increasing Residues, Strategies to Maximize Glyphosate Performance, More Nitrogen More Corn, The Latest Research on Biomass Crops and many more. Here are some key points from just a few of the lectures.

SWITCHPOINT: WEED COSTS PER DAY:

Farmers should use a pre-emergence residual herbicide in the Roundup Ready system to help manage early season weed control and reduce the pressure on glyphosate. A pre-emergence herbicide in corn and soybeans protects against early season weed competition and can maximize yield. Research has shown that the environment in which a seedling grows is more significant than previously thought for protecting yield. Corn seedlings are able to detect the presence of weeds at emergence and will change their growth pattern in response. This change pre-conditions the crop to irreversible yield loss at a point called Switchpoint. The results can be corn which will grow up to 17 percent taller, produce 45 percent more leaf area and a root system 10 – 15 percent smaller. All of this results in less energy going to produce yield. Irreversible weed costs in corn begin almost as soon as it emerges. By three weeks after emergence, (when many growers may be into their post-emergent applications) these costs have already climbed to an average of \$31.50 per acre. By contrast, while soybeans lose yield more rapidly than corn, they do not begin to lose yield until an average of three weeks after emergence. The focus of “weed-free” research has been on above ground effects on leaf placement. Now the attention is moving to the roots. Corn has four main root structures: primary roots, lateral roots, seminal roots, and crown roots. After 6 leaf corn, only the crown roots remain – these are the roots that carry the crop through yield. The crown roots were reduced by half with a weedy environment up un-

til the fourth leaf vs. a weed-free environment. The more stress (water, compaction, etc) you add, the more prominent the effect becomes. Two important things to keep in mind: green material causes the effect on roots, so until weeds have died, they are still affecting the crop. Also, once you've lost yield, you can't get it back. Remember, with weed control, earlier is better. *(With notes from Clarence Swanton, University of Guelph)*

THE END OF NO-TILL SOYBEANS:

There was a lot of talk about the poor showing of no-till in 2009; comments like “my no-till crops were behind all season”. This year cold was the main culprit, with July being the coldest July on record. There was agreement that you should do some type of tillage if any of the following exists:

- 1) 2700 CHU or lower
- 2) Cold soils
- 3) Heavy corn residue that has been chopped or matted
- 4) Poor rotation, specifically soys after soys on heavy soils
- 5) Early planting such as first few days in May
- 6) Reduced seeding rates

Another reason no-till crops were slow off the mark was the increased residue stemming from a bumper corn crop in 2008 leaving increased amounts of residue. The heavy amount of residue caused cool wet soil conditions to persist in the spring, delaying emergence and promoting slug development. The general consensus was that fall discing or mulch tillage will improve spring soil conditions and that straight no-till will work in wider 15 or 20 inch rows but not as well in seven inch rows. *(Horst Bohner, OMAFRA)*.

MORE NITROGEN MORE CORN:



Dr. Fred Below from the University of Illinois stated that from his research the following accounted for certain percentage of final yield; bu/ac are in brackets; weather (70) 27%, nitrogen (70) 26%, hybrid (50) 19%, previous crop (25) 10%, population (20) 8%, tillage (15) 6%, growth regulator (10) 4%. He added that if the previous crop was corn you can take off 25 bushels per acre. Weather and nitrogen account for 53 percent of the final yield. Unless you can influence the weather more nitrogen will improve yield. With many growers having applied less than normal rates of nitrogen last year this may be the year to enhance your soil nitrogen balance. During the course of Dr. Below's research one other factor became very evident; corn rootworm bt hybrids have a markedly better nutrient uptake efficiency and grain yield than non-rootworm protected hybrids even if rootworms were not present. Combining biotechnology traits for better nitrogen use with technology for better nitrogen application will result in higher corn yields.

Livestock Information

By Mark Leahy, Farm Management Advisor

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BEEF CYCLE OFFERS OPPORTUNITY

Canadian beef cow numbers declined by 5.6 percent as of July 1/09. This is the fourth year in a row for the decline. It is expected the pattern will continue this year. Heifer slaughter numbers increased in 2009 indicating that there is little interest in holding back heifers for the breeding herd.

Reduced cowherd numbers means a smaller calf crop. This usually results in increased prices. In 2007 and 2008 feeder exports to the U.S. were high. In 2009 however the flow south was cut in half due to our strong loonie and the demands of COOL in particular. This change in cattle movement, along with a weakened economy, heavier carcass weights and cheap pork has stalled the normal increase in price.

The picture in the U.S. is similar. Cowherd size is declining, reducing the size of the calf crop. There is some concern that more workable land is going into cash crops reducing forage production.

Since about 2005 the beef cycle has been in the sell down or liquidation phase. Higher calf prices usually signal the start of the growth or increase in the cowherd phase. It is anticipated that there may be a turn around in prices as early as this fall. Corn prices will have an impact as well. North American cowherd numbers may level out in 2011 or 2012. The expansion phase will follow.

It is expected that beef production in the first half of this year will be similar to 2009. The supply may start to decrease in the last half.

Where is the opportunity?

When cattle prices start to increase more heifers are kept back as replacements and to increase herd size. Fewer heifers fed for finishing means less beef produced. This encourages further price climb.

This fall consider selling off older cows and keep back heifers as replacements. It is beneficial to have a young cowherd raising calves during the high end of the price cycle. If there is pasture and feed available to expand the herd all the better. **Planning is necessary to be able to take advantage of the good times.**

FEEDING OF SUPPLEMENTS

With notes from Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University

A study in the U.S. compared the effects of daily versus three day per week supplementation of yearling heifers. Heifers were fed round bale grass silage at 12.9% crude protein.

Sixty heifers were sorted by body weight, breed and age and randomly allocated to 12 pens. Pens were randomly assigned to one of two supplement treatments: 1) distillers grains and soybean meal supplemented daily; or 2) distillers grains and soybean meal supplemented three days per week. The total weekly intake of supplement was the same for both groups. The heifers started at about 600 pounds and received about 4 pounds of distillers grains and half to one pound of soybean meal per day. The ration was expected to produce about 1.5 pounds/day average daily gain. Supplement consumption and round bale silage offered were similar for both treatments.

Heifers supplemented daily had similar average daily gain as compared to heifers supplemented three days/week (1.82 vs. 1.79 lb/day). The number of heifers reaching puberty by breeding tended to be greater for daily fed heifers. Pregnancy rates were similar for both methods of feeding. In this study, three days per week supplementation of developing heifers had no effect on heifer growth rates or pregnancy rates as compared to daily supplementation. Considering labor and fuel costs, the three day a week supplement feeding should be less expensive.

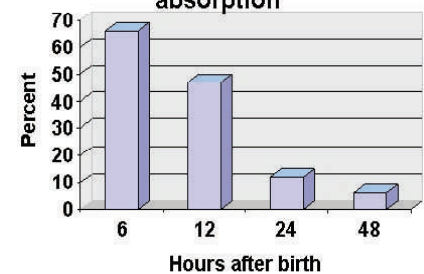
A LOOK AT COLOSTRUM

We have had many discussions in this newsletter 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.

David Sparks, DVM, Oklahoma State University has some charts of interest in a recent article.

His chart following, illustrates this point. At 6 hours after birth the calf can absorb about 65% of the antibodies, at 24 hours just over 10%. This shows the importance of a calf receiving colostrum as soon after birth as possible.

Effect of time of colostrum feeding on percent immunoglobulin absorption



Market Information

BEEF MARKET

By Mark Leahy



Prices are courtesy of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association Weekly Market Information Report for the week ending January 14, 2010.

Fed Cattle prices are up \$5, rail prices have jumped \$7 compared to December 10/09.

Cull cows are up \$6, bulls up by \$7.

Feedlot replacement steers are up \$3. Heifers are similar to last month.

The usual factors including a strong loonie, depressed economy, an over supply of pork and chicken and Cool (Country of Origin Labelling 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	138-145		
Fed steers	78 - 88	84	98
Fed heifers	77-87	83	89
Cows	32 - 47	40	74
Bulls	47-60	53	77
Stocker steers			
700 - 799	83 - 101	94	109
600 - 699	86 - 107	98	112
500 - 599	100 - 115	105	123
Stocker heifers			
700 - 799	78 - 94	88	99
600 - 699	80 - 99	92	106
500 - 599	83 - 100	92	109

CROP MARKET

By Peter Lanthier

RECORD PRODUCTION AND OVER SUPPLY

The January USDA production, supply and demand, and stocks report was bearish on all fronts. The record-large US corn production estimate of 13.151 billion bushels was 331 million bushels more than the average pre-report estimate. If this is an accurate reflection of the 2009 crop, corn contracts will struggle to rally due to bearish fundamentals. The USDA did not lower harvested area, rather increased it by 0.3 million acres. Yields were revised by 2.3 bushels per acre higher to 165.2 bushels per acre. This is quite amazing, considering a record crop was produced under dismal conditions this year, from a wet spring that delayed planting to a wet fall that left hundreds of thousands of acres still in the field. This result reinforces the advances of improved genetics and its increasing resiliency to adverse growing conditions. Usage estimates and the prospect of a larger U.S. corn acreage

for 2010 suggest a lower, rather than higher, price trend.

For soybeans, the USDA confirmed the increasingly bearish supply and demand situation by increasing world production and world ending stocks estimates. The report confirmed that the 2009 crop was the largest bean crop in American history. This record production, larger South American crop forecasts and the threat of reduced export demand from China sent prices spiraling to two month CBOT lows. This will pressure the market longer-term as

South American harvest kicks into gear. The broader, overall price trend is evolving towards sideways for 2010 until new fundamentals arise. This latest bearish data and negative charts suggest that recent highs of \$10.70 a bushel in nearby soybean futures is high enough. But for now, the immediate path suggests a move towards low \$9 a bushel territory.

USDA data had a bearish tone for wheat because the agency increased its estimates for American and world carryout.

CORN-Monday, January 18, 2010: (NORFOLK)				
2010	Futures 4.03	Basis -0.10	Price 3.93	

SOYBEANS-Monday, January 18, 2010: (NORFOLK)				
2010	Futures 9.39	Basis -0.55	Price 8.84	

SOFT RED WHEAT-Monday, January 18, 2010: (NORFOLK)				
2010	Futures 5.24	Basis -0.98	Price 4.26	

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

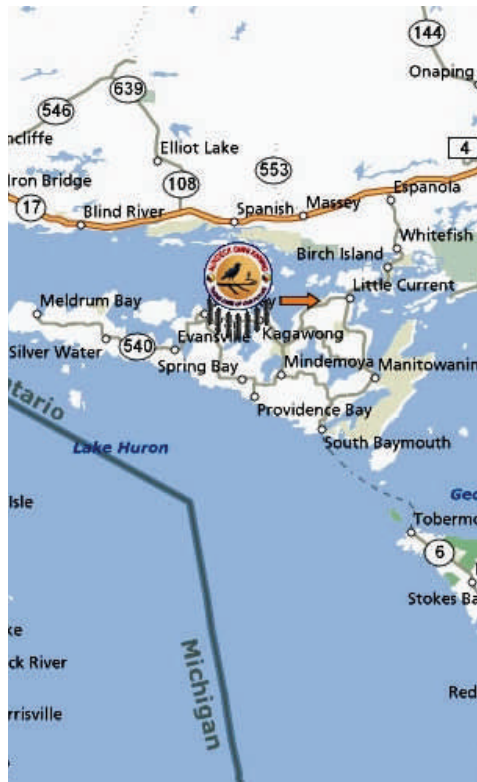
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Keynote discussion leader is Lorne Jamieson of Ignatius Farm at Guelph. There will be local First Nations speakers also.

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.

Watch for further details.



Calendar of Events

- January 23 Farm Smart Agricultural Conference 2010, University of Guelph, (visit <http://www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart/conference/>)
- Feb. 17-18 Innovative Farmers—Conference 2010, Best Western Lamplighter Inn, London, (www.ifao.com)
- April 14 Growing Your Own Food Seminar, Aundeck Omni Kaning FN Community Hall, Manitoulin Island

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR AGRICULTURAL EVENTS IN YOUR AREA

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