



Native Agri Update

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From The Acting GM's Desk

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

During the short time that I have been Acting General Manager at IAPO, I have had opportunities to travel across Ontario and meet with IAPO clients and see the businesses that you have worked so hard to establish and continue to develop everyday to ensure success. I must say that it has been a real pleasure and a highlight of my eight years at IAPO to have this opportunity to learn first hand about your operations. Thank you for your hospitality. Although I feel I have a better appreciation for the challenges you face each day, I have a great deal more to learn.

I have always felt that learning is a life long process. Scientific research and technological breakthroughs offer a great deal of information that must be analyzed to determine if it is applicable and beneficial for you personally.

People are my main source of information and learning. I am fortunate to have received a formal education and the knowledge I gained from formal institutions has served me well. Just as significant, or perhaps more so, I feel some of the most important lessons learned in my life are either experienced personally or learned through others sharing their experiences and knowledge.

Each month IAPO is pleased to put together the Native Agri Update and share it with the First Nations agricultural producers in Ontario. This communication tool is a valuable opportu-

nity for IAPO staff to share their knowledge, and expertise with each of you.

Timely updates of production and marketing information are offered to assist you in making decisions that will increase the returns you receive for your hard work and investment. Sharing information on current topics and trends is one way that IAPO supports our clients to constantly improve their business.

At IAPO, we are also here to assist you in learning and keeping up to date with fundamental business skills, ranging from complete business plan development, to day to day tasks such as book-keeping. Additionally we offer expertise in getting through the maze of documentation and application process for agricultural programs such as crop insurance, AgriStability, and other business risk management programs.

Opportunities exist for Aboriginal economic development in agriculture and the agri-food industry. Everybody eats. With the trend to grow food closer to home, new markets are being identified each day. The fundamentals of supply and demand are always a factor, so opportunities to differentiate your product from that of other producers can pay dividends. Identifying a need that you can fill is also an important step.

I hope you find the information contained in this newsletter helpful to the ongoing success of your operation. As always I would enjoy hearing your thoughts and comments.

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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



GENERATE POWER... AND MONEY

Consider the benefits of generating green energy from renewable sources such as the sun, wind, water or bioenergy, and selling it for a guaranteed price. You can be part of Ontario's growing green energy movement, make money and contribute to a cleaner environment.

If you are a homeowner, farmer or small business owner, you have the opportunity to develop a very small or "micro" renewable electricity generation project (10 kilowatts or less in size) on your property. Under the microFit Program, you will be paid a guaranteed price for all the electricity your project produces for at least twenty years.

The above comments are from the Ontario Power Authority website. The microFit program offers approved participants a twenty year guaranteed price for power generated using a renewable energy source. The most popular green energy source to emerge from this program has been solar. Solar installations are small and installation is reasonable. Ontario farmers are struggling to make sense of their options for these medium-scale solar power installations that promise a return on investment in as little as seven years.

The cost of a ten kilowatt solar system is between \$70-100,000. That is no small chunk of change for most farm

folk. There are a myriad of companies ready to sell and install your on farm solar project. This is a pioneer industry with little experience. Thorough research is required before one should even consider becoming involved in this program.

If you want to learn more about the microFit program, all of the details can be found by contacting OPG directly as indicated below:

Ontario Power Authority
c/o FIT Program, Suite 1600, 120 Adelaide Street West
Toronto ON M5H 1T1
Toll-free: 1-800-797-9604 www.powerauthority.on.ca
info@powerauthority.on.ca

WHAT'S NEW MAY AFFECT YOU

Soybeans are helping to make industrial epoxy resins used in construction, automotive and furniture production hardier, greener and less expensive.

Researchers at the University of Guelph are working on a new soy-oil based bio-resin that, when mixed with soy stalks and soybean meal, can create new biodegradable "green composites". Traditional epoxy resins used in composite products are petroleum-based and can be brittle. Epoxidized soybean oil - a stabilizer made from soybeans - is a lower cost, renewable material that can be used as an additive to enhance the toughness of conventional epoxy resins.

Not only is this good news for the environment, it may also provide farmers a market for their soybean stalks.

"The development of these new biodegradable soy-based composites will provide an alternative to petroleum-based products that come from a renewable source," says Kim Turnbull, a soybean grower and past Chair of the Agricultural Adaptation Council. "As well, this new generation of industrial products will bring farmers new market opportunities for soybean by-products."

The green composites can be used in the production of auto parts, packaging, building products (floor coverings, kitchen and bathroom sinks, shower bases, roof tiles, and exterior door panel structure foam) and electronic components like enclosures and insulating panels.

Calendar of Events

- August 18, 19 Hastings County Plowing Match and Farm Show,
• Host: Robert & April Jarrell, show site is on the Robinson Farm on
• Blessington Road
• Contact: 613-395-5177 www.hastingsfarmshow.ca
- Sept 14 -16 Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, (www.outdoorfarmshow.com)
- Sept 21 -25 International Plowing Match (www.ipm2010.com) - St. Thomas
- November 5-14 Royal Winter Fair, Toronto, www.royalfair.org
- Please contact us if you have an item for the Calendar of Events

Crop Information

By Doug Macpherson, External Programs Coordinator

iapo-doug@on.aibn.com

FUSARIUM RISK IN 2010

Peter Johnson, Cereals Specialist, OMAFRA, Stratford

It is extremely hard to make any intelligent comment about fusarium right now. The challenge is the number of variables. Heading dates within any given field have been over a much larger period than normal, especially fields without seed placed starter. There can be eight days or more from first head emerged to the last group of late tillers. Within that period, fusarium risk has varied from <1 ppm to >3 ppm. The risk based on genetic tolerance has been widely divergent, with HS varieties being red and MR varieties green some days. Rotation and fungicide applications play a role. Undoubtedly the fusarium risk from initial infection exists in every field, but what proportion of the field is at what risk?

AREA CROPS SUFFER

Many corn and soybean fields are showing areas of discoloration. Excessive downpours have tightened soils to the point that developing crops are being starved of certain nutrients. Under developed root systems are not able to collect all the requirements of rapidly growing plants.



Bill Bauer, Agronomist and Owner of B&M Crop Consulting, Coldwater, Mich., says striping in the leaves of corn may indicate deficiencies of nutrients such as sulfur, magnesium or potassium, or some combination of the three. Bauer encourages growers to take tissue samples to identify specific problems.

Deficiencies can be confused with other problems including nitrogen loss or herbicide damage. South Dakota State University Extension research indicates yield losses on sandy soils, due to sulfur deficiencies alone, can be significant. Wet clay soils are prone to nutrient deficiencies as well.

A return to normal weather often helps the crop return to normal development and colour.

WEED CONCERNS

Weeds continue to be a big topic of conversation across the province as both the crops and the unwanted greenery take advantage of excellent growing conditions. Independent agronomist Pat Lynch says corn is now further advanced than

normal and growers may find themselves facing eight or more leaves as they tackle the latest flush of weeds. "Because of our early planting this year, we're probably 10 to 14 days ahead of normal," he says.

For conventional corn growers that means some products will be off the list, says OMAFRA weed management lead Mike Cowbrough. "With products like Accent, Ultim or Option there is a chance of crop injury. But products like Pardner, for example, are still quite safe." He's not too concerned about spraying at this stage of corn since a lot of the corn crop is either glyphosate or Liberty-tolerant. Research a couple of years ago by Dr. Peter Sikkema at the University of Guelph showed that both these products are generally safe on this corn, even when spraying beyond the eight-leaf stage, Cowbrough says.



Another issue is the result of early planting in both corn and soybeans as burndowns and soil-applied herbicides are starting to fizzle out and a new flush of leaves requires attention. Cowbrough says some soil applied corn herbicides that weren't activated

because of dry weather may kick in now and prevent new seeds from germinating. "But they won't do much to two-leaf grasses or two-leaf lamb's-quarters." The urgency is less in soys where many fields were planted later and even the most advanced are just at the second or third trifoliolate. Lynch says he is worried about leaving weed control too long in glyphosate-tolerant soybeans. "If you can see the weeds from the road you've hurt yields," he says.

In the past, the rule of thumb was to spray Clean Sweep on soys 21-28 days after the burndown, he says. "Now we know that's too late. You're probably better off going in 14 days after the burndown or after working the field (ahead of planting)." Lynch says growers should not underestimate weed growth this time of year. Work at Michigan State University shows that weeds can grown an inch every couple of days under the recent warm conditions. "By the time you see the weeds, decide to spray, get the sprayer ready, you're losing yield," he warns.



Chipper Chirp

Motivation is a fire from within. If someone else tries to light that fire under you, chances are it will burn very briefly.

Stephen R. Covey

Livestock Information

By Mark Leahy, Farm Management Advisor

mark@indianag.on.ca

GRUMPY COWS HAVE REDUCED PREGNANCY RATE

(Taken from article by Glenn Selk, OSU Extension Cattle Reproduction Specialist)

In previous newsletters we have discussed reasons to cull bad tempered cows. Research at the University of Florida shows that cows with bad dispositions are less likely to conceive when mated with bulls.

Disposition scores were recorded over two years on 395 crossbred cows. They wanted to evaluate the effects of cow temperament and energy status on the probability to become pregnant during a 90-day natural breeding season. Cows were scored for calmness in the working chute, in the pen and speed exiting the chute. An overall temperament index score was calculated by averaging the three scores. Blood samples were analyzed for cortisol concentrations. Cortisol is a hormone released when cows are excited. Increased cow temperament score and elevated plasma cortisol concentrations were associated with less probability of pregnancy. These results suggest that excitable temperament and the consequent elevated cortisol concentrations reduce the chance for conception.

ONTARIO FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER

(Graph courtesy Jamie Thomas, Market Information Coordinator, OCA)

The following graph shows a trend in number of animals slaughtered in Ontario and federally inspected. The

years 2006 to 2010 are compared to 2002 which is before BSE in 2003.

Numbers are for each year up to June 5th. Slaughter numbers increased after BSE.

The U.S closed its' border to Canadian cattle and beef and followed later with open borders with restrictions. With a buildup of slaughter cattle in Ontario it was necessary to increase the slaughter capacity in Ontario. Slaughter peaked in 2006. By 2009 slaughter was back to the 2002 level.

Lower live cattle numbers and competition from U.S. packers has an impact on the number of cattle available for slaughter in Ontario. The value of the Canadian loonie has a role as well.

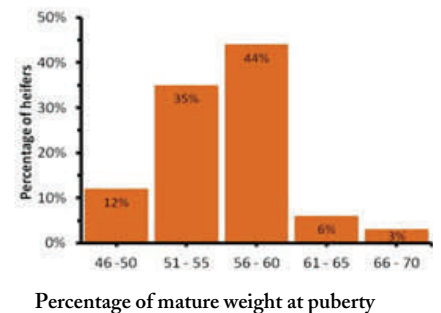


% OF MATURE WEIGHT FOR HEIFERS AT PUBERTY

(Taken from article by Glenn Selk, OSU Extension Cattle Reproduction Specialist)

For years, the accepted target weight for yearling replacement beef heifers at breeding was 65% of their mature weight. Recently that target has been questioned. Oklahoma State University has studied the weight that beef heifers

reach puberty in relationship to their eventual mature weight. A total of 34 crossbred heifers (in three different years) were studied at puberty and again when they had reached maturity at five to seven years of age. The heifers were at least $\frac{3}{4}$ Angus and $\frac{1}{4}$ or less Hereford. Please remember that "average" is the point at which approximately half of the heifers reached puberty. The "average" weights at puberty were similar (695 lb, 695 lb, and 737 lb) for the three years. Mature weights were obtained in mid-gestation, adjusted to a body condition score of five. Mature "average" body weights were also similar (1269 lb, 1256 lb, and 1280 lb) for cows born in all three years. The mean (or "average") weight at which heifers reached puberty was 56% of the mature weight. Figure 1 below shows the percentage of heifers reaching puberty at the incremental increases in percentage of mature weight.



Only 12% of the heifers reached puberty at 50% of mature weight or less. Only forty-seven (47%) percent of the heifers reached puberty at 55% of mature weight or less. Ninety-three (93%) percent of the heifers reached puberty at 60% of mature weight and 97% had reached puberty by the time they weighed 65% of the mature weight. Producers wanting to be certain that a high percentage (90% or more) of their replacement heifers have reached puberty before the start of the breeding season, need to have heifers weigh at least 60% of the mature weight.

Market Information

BEEF MARKET

By Mark Leahy



Prices are courtesy of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association Weekly Market Information Report for the week ending June 10, 2010.

Price change is variable this month compared to the May 13 report. Rail prices are up \$4. Fed cattle prices are up \$1. Fed cattle are \$1.28 lower than this time last year.

Cull cows are steady and bulls are up \$2. Feedlot replacement steers are off by \$6, while heifers are steady to up by \$3. Demand for grass cattle has fallen, impacting steer stocker prices in particular. A shortage in the US of finished cattle and lighter carcass weights has increased demand for Canadian finished cattle at least in the short term.

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	157-162		
Fed steers	88 - 97	93	105
Fed heifers	86- 97	92	101
Cows	43 - 59	51	84
Bulls	60- 73	67	103
Stocker steers			
700 - 799	87 - 111	102	121
600 - 699	94 - 119	108	133
500 - 599	106 - 128	118	134
Stocker heifers			
700 - 799	94 - 105	101	112
600 - 699	90 - 110	103	117
500 - 599	93 - 115	106	129

All prices are on a hundred pound basis (cwt)

CROP MARKET

By Doug Macpherson

LARGE SWINGS IN CROP PRICES

The last couple of months have contained some fairly large swings in crop prices, but the markets have not established a trend. A quick freeze and export demands and rumors have pushed prices up, but good to excellent planting and growing conditions have pushed back. In the end, outside market pressures have had more influence than crop fundamentals and market prices are roughly where they were a couple of months ago.

USDA hiked use of corn for ethanol in the 2009 crop year in the June supply and demand report released Thursday, June 17, 2010, taking ending corn stocks for both 2009 and 2010 lower, and below levels many analysts were expecting. Numbers for soybeans and wheat came in within trade expecta-

tions, so the report was neutral to bearish for those commodities. In its monthly crop report, USDA raised estimates of the winter wheat crop, with most of the increases in hard red winter wheat.

As we head into the backstretch of the 2009/10 marketing year, ethanol and export demand continue to build for corn. The same can be said for soybeans. Soy exports continue to be

strong and must continue to be strong to keep world supply from building.

Canola Production Down

Excess moisture in parts of western Canada continues to dominate the action in the canola market. Estimates of just how many intended canola acres will not be planted vary significantly, but it appears that canola production will likely fall well short of expectations this year.



CORN-Wednesday, June 16, 2010: (NORWICH)

2010-Dec	Futures 3.88	Basis -0.20	Price 3.68
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SOYBEANS-Wednesday, June 16, 2010: (NORWICH)

2010-Nov	Futures 9.25	Basis -0.59	Price 8.66
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SOFT RED WHEAT-Wed, June 16, 2010: (NORWICH)

2010-Sept	Futures 4.96	Basis - 1.24	Price 3.72
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Other News

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

A FEW GARDENING TIPS

Prune Suckers



Remove the suckers from your tomatoes as they mature. The removal of side shoots to limit plant growth may cause fruit to mature earlier and grow to greater size and uniformity. Pruning improves air circulation within the plants which reduces foliar diseases and assists harvesting.

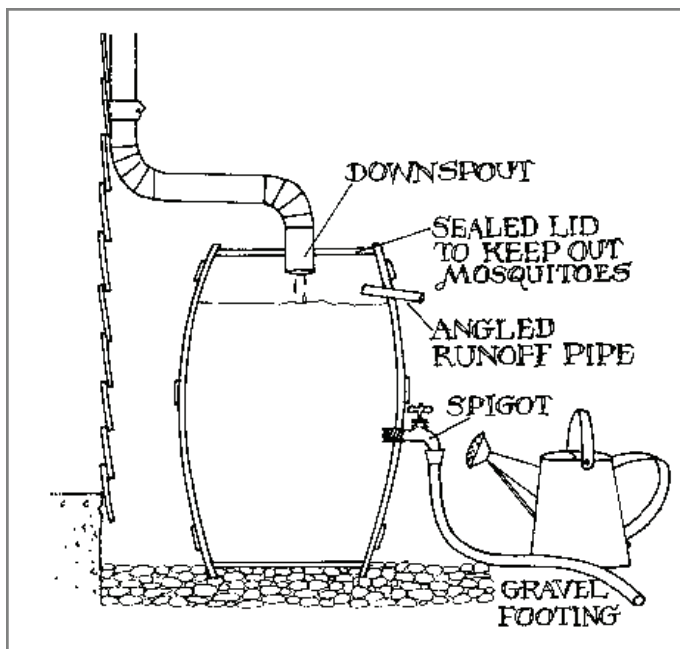


Watering

Water is not always readily available during dry periods. Here are some ideas on making the best use of available water.

Water early in the morning or the evening. Morning is first choice. Avoid watering during the heat of the day.

Mulching affects the evaporation of water. A thick layer of mulch keeps the soil cool and cuts down on the amount of water that evaporates from the surface. As a result mulching also reduces the amount of water that must be added to the garden.



Store rainwater. Collect rainwater in barrels from roofs of houses, barns, sheds etc. Some barrels have a tap. Place barrels high enough to allow access to tap with a watering can.

When possible pour water around the base of plants. Less water evaporates this way.

Watering less often but more thoroughly is better than a light sprinkle daily.

Curling leaves and a dull leaf colour are signs of drought.