



Native Agri Update

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From The Acting GM's Desk

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IAPO HERE TO SERVE YOU

Are you a First Nations person? Do you have an interest in agriculture? Do you have an entrepreneurial spirit or an interesting proposal to grow your agricultural business? Not sure where to turn for support for the development and growth of your venture? Do you need financing? If you answered yes to any of these questions, Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario could very well be the next step in your plan.



Often the first step to a profitable business venture is an excellent idea. Creativity and innovation usually start from the grassroots. Solutions to everyday problems or obstacles often can become fodder for new ideas. Identifying an opportunity that can fill a need in the marketplace and developing a complete business plan to support this idea can be the difference between project success and just another idea that may never be developed.

IAPO staff members are experts in agriculture. Their wealth of knowledge coupled with their first hand experience in understanding and utilizing industry experts and government programs can be a valuable resource as you grow your business idea.

IAPO provides business support services for all phases of your business de-

velopment. Assistance is available to develop a business plan including pre-investment preparations and referrals to industry experts. Client aftercare and mentoring is available to provide the advice and support in all aspects of your business management, including agricultural production issues. If required, IAPO offers financial products to meet the financing needs for First Nations agriculture.

Loans are available for farm businesses, agricultural related businesses as well as enterprises that add value to agricultural products. Financing tools offered include term loans, operating line of credits, tile drainage loans and youth loans.

IAPO's newest product is the First Nations Youth Agricultural Program. Financial support is available to First Nations youth age 15 – 25 to develop agricultural opportunities within their own communities. Program Objectives are:

- √ To build skills in agricultural production, business management and financial responsibility.
- √ To build equity
- √ Access training through mentorship and support from an experienced community member.

For more details on the First Nations Youth Agricultural Program or any of IAPO's products and services visit <http://www.indianag.on.ca> or contact either IAPO office.

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Agribusiness

FNA/SNFA JOINT ANNUAL AND GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

By Ruby Jacobs, Secretary-Treasurer

On Saturday, March 20, 2010 twenty members and associates of the First Nations AgriGroup (FNA) and the Six Nations Farmers Association (SNFA) gathered at the Sour Springs Longhouse, Six Nations.

The 10th FNA AGM was held before lunch starting at 9:00 AM. Chairman, Ralph Sowden conducted the business meeting that included an overhead presentation by retiring Secretary-Treasurer Jim Hunter, covering the FNA/SNFA activities during 2009.

IAPO's External Programs Coordinator, Doug Macpherson, brought greetings from the IAPO Staff. Doug commented on the current funding squeeze resulting in the loss of business support funding to FNA/SNFA. IAPO must operate its programs in response to various cut backs in government funding.

During the meeting, the membership received and approved the FNA Fiscal Financial Statement for 2009 Budget, set the annual membership fee, and ratified all actions of the Directors and Officers during the 2009 calendar year.

The election of Directors resulted in Ralph Sowden being elected for a three-year term. He joins Barry Hill, Kyle Garlow, Glen Hill, Ted Davis, Jr., and Mike Hill on the FNA Board until next March.

IAPO Board Chairman, Mr. William Brant delivered a very informative keynote address on strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/trends facing the farmers and the IAPO organization.

Louise Hill, IAPO Board Member presented information on Board membership and the opportunities for new members to fill current openings on the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM for the members and guests to enjoy a hot buffet luncheon provided by the ladies of the Sour Springs Longhouse.

Door prize draws were held including some great and useful prizes for the members.

The 5th SNFA AGM was called to order by the Chairman, Ralph Sowden. All business items as listed in the agenda were discussed and approved. Many interesting discussions took place around the following topics: crop damage issues, Six Nations Community Trust Funds (SNCDC) projects, and the operations of the Burtch Farm property on behalf of the community.

During the business portion, the membership received and approved the SNFA financial statements, set their 2010 membership fee and ratified all actions of the Directors and Officers during the year.

The election of the Directors results were as follows: Ralph Sowden-President, Frank Montour-Vice President, Directors-John Monture, Jesse Porter and Kyle Garlow. All were elected for a one-year term.

Under new business, the members heard about the results of the SN/NC fertilizer quotes, Brant-Six Nations 2009 Plowing Match, new business funding opportunities, and they received the annual monitoring report on the farmer owned corn equipment provided by funding from the SNCDC.

A Keynote address by Chief Wm Montour on a sustainable food strategy generated much food for thought. Adding support and input to his presentation was Amy Lickers from SN Economic Development department.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.



Frosty Monday

By Doug Macpherson, External Programs Coordinator

Frost clearly set in much of Ontario on Monday (May 10, 2010) and was cold enough to affect crops- some seriously. Reports of temperatures of 27°F and lower were common.

Strawberry growers used their irrigation systems to save tender blossoms. Asparagus crop was hit hard. Orchard crops in blossom were also very susceptible. Much of the corn that had emerged froze and turned black. Those plants should recover as long as the growing point was not affected. Emerged soybeans if froze will have to be replanted.

Crop Information

By Doug Macpherson, External Program Coordinator

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KEEP DEPTH IN MIND WHEN PLANTING SOYBEANS

(Horst Bohner, OMAFRA)

A newly planted soybean seed is completely dependent on its reserve of energy to push through the soil. In general, larger seeds contain more energy and can be planted slightly deeper than small seeds. Precise seed placement is difficult to achieve with seed drills, especially in reduced or no-till fields. Adequate down pressure, ballast, and the use of a coulters cart can help achieve proper seeding depth. It's essential to have good seed-to-soil contact and a closed seed slot no matter what the seeding depth.

Soybeans often get planted too deep. A seeding depth of 1.5 inches is generally adequate for soybeans. Early planting into no-till conditions should be reduced to one inch if there is sufficient soil moisture. However, due to the high water demand for germination, plant 1/2 inch into moisture when possible, but never deeper than 2.5 inches in total.

COULTER DEPTH? Many no-till drills and planters have coulters attachments designed to aid in no-till planting. Traditionally these coulters were run at planting depth or even slightly above planting depth. Research has shown that the most yield benefit from coulters run at the time of planting is when they are set deeper than planting (3.5 inch depth). This can reduce plant stands slightly but provides the highest yield. Coulters run at seeding depth (1.5 inches) showed no yield benefit (see Table 1).

A pre-tillage run, one to three days before seeding showed the most benefit.

Table 1. Soybean Yield Response to Spring Minimal Tillage (2003-2005)

Treatment(1)	Average Yield (bu/ac)
No-till drill	45.1 c
No-till drill with coulters (3.8 cm depth)	45.4 c
No-till drill with coulters (9 cm depth)	46.0 b
Pre-tillage (operated 1-3 days prior to seeding at 9 cm)	46.9 a
Values followed by the same letter are not significantly different	
Values based on 40 Ontario trials seeded with a JD 1560 no-till drill. Coulters run at seeding time in the row (2 cm or 0.75 in. coulters.) Pre-tillage coulters unit operated 1 – 3 days before seeding at a depth of 9 cm (4.5 cm or 1.75 in. coulters).	



TO PACK OR NOT TO PACK

(Horst Bohner, OMAFRA)

The decision to pack before or after planting, or following emergence should be based on soil conditions. Packing helps to firm the soil so moisture can move up, benefiting crop emergence and uniformity. Packing creates a very fine surface that could easily seal and crust with heavy rains. It is usually less harmful to roll before planting and then plant, so the zone directly above the seed is not over-packed.

WINTER WHEAT ADVANCED

(Peter Johnson and Scott Banks)

Advanced wheat is at full flag leaf (GS 39). Harvest will begin in the last week of June in these fields. The value of seed placed starter fertilizer continues to be evident, with significant evidence of corn row syndrome. Disease development remains minimal, with powdery mildew increasing in lush fields or susceptible varieties. A trace of septoria has been detected on lower leaves. Wheat herbicide should be applied by now.



HANDLING CORNSTALKS



Bt corn, glyphosate buildup in stalks and soil, bigger yields, means that growers are handling more trash in the spring when they plant. Corn stock residue is different. There is more of it and it is tougher. The practice of no tilling soybeans directly in

corn stocks is not as fool proof as before. Increased drill down pressure is needed to cut the stocks and obtain good seed placement. Too much surface residue prevents soil warming and delays wet soils from drying out. Planting time and seed germination can be delayed.

Some growers have gone back to aggressive fall and spring tillage to break down and incorporate the residue to get it to decay. A vertical tillage pass cuts and sizes residue mixes it with soil and pins it down while not creating unwanted surface fluff. Growers need to have row cleaners and work them aggressively and not be afraid to move a little soil to get the residue out of the way of the double disc openers.

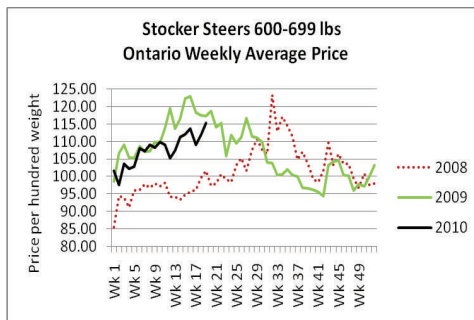
Livestock Information

By Mark Leahy, Farm Management Advisor

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STOCKER PRICES SHOWING STRENGTH

Stocker cattle prices have been showing some strength since January as indicated by the following graph. This is due in part to the seasonal demand for grass cattle. It is expected that the US demand for Canadian calves will increase as US feedlots get back on track.



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

CARCASS WEIGHTS DROP IN 2010

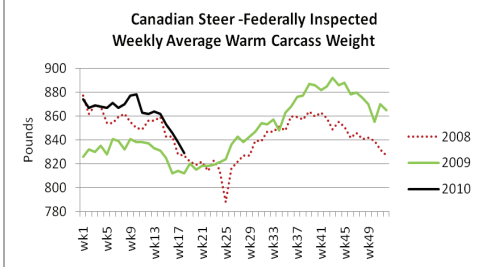
Since January there has been a decline of about 45 lbs in average warm carcass weight for steer carcasses in Canada. Why is this happening?

A smaller cowherd and feedlot challenges due to adverse winter weather has reduced beef production in the US. This has increased demand for Canadian finished cattle in the US. This has resulted in Canadian and American feedlots sending cattle out at a lighter weight to meet slaughter plant requirements as result of tighter supplies of beef. Lighter carcass weights mean

less beef produced leading to further increased demand. In comparison, when processing plants have a high inventory of beef, feedlot managers tend to hold cattle back adding weight in anticipation of price improvement in the near future.

A recovering economy, more promising exports, declining pork production, more demand for hides and reduced beef production are turning the North American beef industry around. This will have to offset a strong Canadian Loonie. Consumer spending on higher cuts of beef, more restaurant meals and an increase in travel will have the biggest impact on the beef price.

Good news for the feeder and fed cattle markets. It seems the market is currently being driven by demand rather than supply. This normally results in higher



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

STORING LARGE ROUND BALES

Haying season will soon be upon us. Harvesting and storing hay is costly and time consuming. Reducing storage losses means less hay required to winter the cowherd. Expensive buildings are not required to properly store hay.



cover for round bales. Here are results from a University of Tennessee trial showing similar data. In this comparison grass hay was used. The hay was cut and baled in June. The bales were weighed at the time of harvest and storage. Then they were weighed again the following January at the time of winter feeding. The following table lists the type of storage and the resulting percentage hay loss.

Table 1. Losses of Hay Stored using Six

Type of Storage	Percentage (%) Hay Loss
On ground, no cover	37%
On tires, no cover	29%
On ground, covered	29%
On tires, covered	8%
Net wrap on ground	19%
In barn	6%

Methods of Storage

As usual results indicate that getting bales off the ground and providing some type of cover will save up to 30%. Bales stored on the ground with no cover require an extra 25 to 30 bales for every



Chipper Chirp

You don't have to get it perfect, you just have to get it going.

Marc Victor Hansen

Market Information

BEEF MARKET

By Mark Leahy



Prices are courtesy of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association Weekly Market Information Report for the week ending May 13, 2010.

All prices categories are steady to higher compared to last month!

Rail prices are steady. Fed cattle prices are up \$2. Cull cows and bulls are \$3 stronger.

Feedlot replacement steers are up \$2 to \$3, while heifers are steady. All prices are on a hundred pound basis (cwt). Demand for grass cattle continues to provide support for light weight steers and heifers. A recovering economy and increased exports are also providing price support

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	156		
Fed steers	87 - 95	92	105
Fed heifers	86- 96	91	102
Cows	42 - 58	51	87
Bulls	59- 73	65	87
Stocker steers			
700 - 799	98 - 115	108	122
600 - 699	101 - 123	115	134
500 - 599	107 - 129	120	137
Stocker heifers			
700 - 799	91 - 104	98	113
600 - 699	91 - 111	104	124
500 - 599	95 - 113	106	122

All prices are on a hundred pound basis (cwt)

CROP MARKET

By Doug Macpherson

Corn Remains the Story

Improved demand projections by USDA in its latest report took ending stocks for both the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 marketing below pre-report expectations. In addition, several reports have China in the market for anywhere between 300,000 mt to 700,000 mt of additional purchases in the 2009-2010 marketing year. These factors are keeping the corn market from falling significantly at this time even though much of the US corn crop is off to a fast start. The question remains: Is \$4 at harvest a good price?

Soybeans Still Popular World Commodity


Strong demand in soybeans is expected to continue well into 2011, which is keeping the ending stocks-to-use ratio for both the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011


marketing years at comfortable levels. However, record-setting production levels globally will need to be met or the underlying fundamental situation could revert back to a concern for traders.


The future of the market is in the hands of the weather. Huge North American and world crops could throw soybean prices into a tailspin. Best to make some sales at \$9 per bushel, get the beans in the ground and assess the market signals at that time.

Wheat: Hanging In

Bearish fundamentals are here to stay into the foreseeable future. However, Chicago wheat refuses to selloff, bringing up the question: Do fundamentals matter anymore? Prices are lower than a few months ago but could actually be much worse given the amount of wheat for sale in the world. Don't store too long with the idea of reaping big returns. Squeezing \$5 out of this market may be all you have to look forward to.

CORN-Monday, May 19, 2010: (NORWICH)				
	2010-Dec	Futures 3.89	Basis -0.10	Price 3.79

SOYBEANS-Monday, May 19, 2010: (NORWICH)				
	2010-Nov	Futures 9.19	Basis -0.58	Price 8.61

SOFT RED WHEAT-Monday, May 19, 2010: (NORWICH)				
	2010-Sept	Futures 5.16	Basis - 1.16	Price 4.00

Other News

By Mark Leahy, Farm Management Advisor-
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BACKYARD GARDENING WORKSHOP- HENVEY INLET

About 20 gardening enthusiasts turned out for a workshop at Henvey Inlet First Nations. Ideas were shared on a number of topics including community gardening, composting, mulching, raised beds and soil testing etc. Interest continues in growing local, safe affordable food.

MULCH IT!

What is mulch?

- Material put on soil surface in vegetable gardens, orchards, flowerbeds, walkways
- May be unheated compost-like material
- May be artificial materials that may not rot
- Allows air and water to pass through

WHY MULCH?

- Smother weeds
- Hold moisture
- Control erosion
- Maintain soil temperature
- Break down over time adding organic matter to soil
- Add nutrients to the soil

Available organic materials;

- Leaves
- Bark
- Wood chips
- Hay and straw
- Grass clippings
- Pine needles
- Purchased mulch materials

A mulch can be inorganic like plastic. Inorganic mulches are not from plant material. Coloured plastic is common. Plants are planted through a hole cut in the plastic. Plastic holds moisture well but needs some perforations to take in moisture.



Wood Chips



Straw



Plastic

Calendar of Events

- July 7,8 6th Annual Southwest Crop Diagnostic Days, Ridgetown (519-674-1690). A co-operative effort between Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus; and the Southwest Soil & Crop Improvement Associations www.diagnosticdays.ca
- July 15 FarmSmart Expo (U of G Elora Research Station) www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart
- July 16 FarmSmart Expo Youth Program (U of G Elora Research Station) www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart