



Native Agri Update

No. 256, September, 2006

www.indianag.on.ca

Published by
INDIAN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM OF ONTARIO

From The Manager's Desk

By Doug Macpherson, General Manager
iapo-doug@on.aibn.com

Consumers will eventually pay!

Food has never been cheaper for Canadians. The percentage of disposable income spent on food stands at just nine percent, down sharply from fourteen percent three decades ago. The facts are unbelievable and drastically out of sink with consumer food costs in other countries.

Cheap food is an important part of the reason Canadians can afford a higher standard of living. We have gone from one car per household to one car per person, from a TV in every home to one in every room and from a small house for a large family to a large house for a small family.

Part of this luxury in Canada has occurred on the backs of farmers. "Home grown" must be sustained even if Government support is required from time to time. Certainly, other areas of the Canadian economy obtain government incentives and financial support. Farmers need to be supported to continue to produce.

A healthy agricultural industry returns enormous dividends to the economy in addition to ensuring that we as con-

sumers have access to a bountiful array of "made in Canada" food products.

Winter Wheat 2006

The yields are in for the 2006 winter wheat crop. While Ontario is poised to report a record production per acre, yield results from IAPO farmers will not be as good. Average winter wheat yield for FNA farmers was 47.44 bushels per acre. Yields ranged from a high of 61.64 bushels per acre to a low of 28.87 bushels per acre. FNA farmers below average crop was due to late planting and a challenging spring, which resulted in heaving and crop deterioration.

Oil Prices Fall

Perhaps the farmer's cost of production is going to get a break. Oil prices have fallen as much as \$16.00 from their peak. Time will tell whether this is a temporary set back or the start of a permanent correction of an over heated commodity market. Both businesses and households would welcome lower energy prices over the long term.

Table of Contents

From The Manager's Desk	
Page	1
Livestock Information	
Page	2
General Information	
Page	5
Calendar of Events	
Page	5
First Nations 4-H	
Page	7

INDIAN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM OF ONTARIO

Western Office

Box 83, Station Lambeth
6453 Hamlyn Road
London, ON N6P 1P9
Phone: 519 652-2440
Toll Free: 1-800-663-6912

Eastern Office

Box 100
220 North Street
Stirling, ON K0K 3E0
Phone: 613 395-5505
Toll Free: 1-800-363-0329

Market Prices

Ontario farmers may be facing critically low prices for 2006 soybeans if present markets prices continue. As of Friday September 15, 2006, cash new crop price was \$5.40. At a time of the year when many producers require cash for rent, loan payments, etc the farm cash flow situation is critical. One is faced with the decision of selling off the combine or storing in anticipation of a post harvest rally. Industry analysts are not projecting a significant rally. You must know cash flow needs and discuss options with your elevator and your banker. Careful financial planning and a detailed marketing plan must be in effect before the 2006 harvest begins.

Ethanol plant for Walpole being considered

Taken from By David Gough
Saturday September 16, 2006

Walpole Island band council is still waiting to hear if an ethanol plant is in their future. Representatives from the First Nation Ethanol Development Corp. made a presentation to Walpole Island council in April about locating an ethanol plant on Walpole Island territory or on adjacent lands that might be purchased.

Council agreed to establish a task force back in April to begin serious discussions as to the potential plant.

Walpole Island Chief Joseph Gilbert said an ethanol plant could provide a lot of jobs for his community.

"We definitely want to try and do things that can bring employment and revenue generation," Gilbert said.

The idea of an ethanol plant on Walpole Island would be similar to plans to build an ethanol plant on First Nations land near London.

It would be a first for First Nations.

Livestock Information

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



**Ontario
Cattlemen's
Association**

Committed to Cattlemen

Prices are courtesy of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association Weekly Market Information Report for the week ending September 14/06.

Rail grade and fed cattle, are similar to last month. Cull cows and bulls are down \$5, showing a seasonal decline. Steers are up \$3, heifers have climbed \$7.

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

Category	Price Range	Ave. Price	Top Price
Rail Steers	160 - 162		
Fed Steers	90 - 96	93	108
Fed Heifers	89 - 96	93	104
Cows	26 - 45	35	94
Bulls	45 - 60	53	104
Stocker Steers			
600 - 699	114 - 136	127	147
500 - 599	116 - 151	136	166
Stocker Heifers			
600 - 699	112 - 128	121	134
500 - 599	106 - 133	121	153

Group Cows for Winter Feeding



Sorting beef cows in the fall based on age and body condition can make best use of available feed. It also means cows in poorer condition or heifers still growing can receive higher quality feed or a grain supplement. Now is the time to start thinking about it.

Some of our cow-calf producers have told me that dividing the cow herd isn't always practical. A second water source may be needed. Another barnyard is required. These can be obstacles. Perhaps 2 farmers can run their 2nd calf heifers together or older cows. If you can swing it here are some suggestions for groups.

The two-year old first calf heifers:

These animals are still growing and have higher nutrient needs. They are too small to compete with larger, older, boss cows for the supplement.

The old cows (10 years and older) and the 2nd calf heifers:

This group usually needs better quality hay or some grain. Older cows are often down in condition, 2nd calf heifers are recovering from raising the first calf, carrying a second calf and need to rebreed. Other cows with less body condition could be included.

The rest of the herd:

These animals are the core of the herd at their most productive age. This group is usually in the best body condition. Average quality hay should keep them on track.

Consider Creep Feeding

Pastures are winding down as we move into the fall. Consider creep feeding calves to increase weaning weights. Results will depend on the quality of feed now available to calves.

Positive returns are seen when the cost of grain is low and calf prices are strong. This is the situation we have now. The conversion of lbs of grain to lbs of calf gain will vary depending on quality and quantity of milk and pasture available to calves. It is believed that this conversion can vary from 5 to 15 lbs of grain. With our present prices of grain and calves there is a positive return to creep feeding even at a 15 lb conversion.



Chipper Chirps

I always wanted to be somebody, but now I realize I should have been more specific.

Lily Tomlin

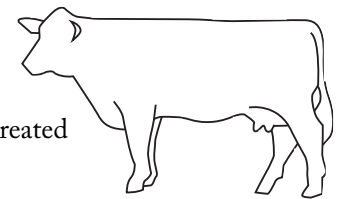
Market Cull Cows Wisely

In most herds the sale of cull cows can be 10 to 20 percent of the gross income. After BSE we have been hanging on to those old cows, trying to get one more calf. Certainly these cows are worth more now. Here are some tips to get more dollars for cull cows.

- Cull old cows before they lose their teeth, decline in body condition and fail to breed. With this fall's cow prices it will pay to send these cows for a truck ride.
- If feed is available add weight to thin cull cows before selling, particularly healthy cows. Target for a Body Condition Score of 2.5. This can be accomplished by feeding a grain ration for 30 to 50 days. Good quality hay will also help to add pounds. It usually doesn't pay to feed cull cows longer than 50 days.
- Sell cows at a reputable sale barn where there is competitive bidding. Avoid selling to the local drover.

- Arrange to truck with a neighbour to fill a load and reduce cost.
- Sell cows before they become fat. This is not often a concern! Fat cows may be discounted.
- Cull cows are often sold in October or November coming off grass. Prices are lowest at this time of year. Selling from February to September should return more money. May and June are often the best months but cows are usually on pasture then.
- Treat cull cows as a valuable asset and handle them to avoid bruising, which is a major problem with cull cows that occurs from rough handling and hauling during the time they're sorted at home until they are processed.

- Watch withdrawal times for injections when marketing cull cows that have been treated with any drug.



good condition (2.5)

What's the Plan?

It is important to have a marketing plan! It can be as simple as getting the calves to a good sale. A good sale is a special stocker sale with many buyers. Usually the extra money received at these sales covers the extra cost of trucking and loss from shrink with money left over. Local sales barns such as Hagersville, Leo's, Hoards Station, Woodville etc often have special stocker sales. Prices at these sales are stronger than at regular weekly sales. Special stocker sales attract more stocker buyers than weekly sales.

Prices are better than you will receive at the farm. Many cattle drovers buy at the farm and then take the calves to a sale-barn for resale. If there is money in it for the drover, there is money in it for you. You raised the calves. You should have the money.

Work together. Last fall cow-calf producers in the Wiky area hired a tandem and shipped over 90 calves south. It sure cuts down on trucking costs!

Stocker Sales

Many of the larger sales barns in Ontario have special stocker sales in the fall. Here you will find a contact number for some of them. Call ahead for details. Some of these sales are vaccinated only. Most of our farmers sell castrated, dehorned, weaned and vaccinated!

Sale	Location	Phone
Ontario Stockyards	Cookstown	705-458-4000
OLEX	Waterloo	1 800-265-8818
Keady Livestock Market	Tara	519-934-2339
Brussels Livestock	Brussels	519-887-6461
D.H. Hicksen Ltd.	Hoards Station	705-653-3660
Kawartha Lakes	Woodville	705-439-4444
Embrun/Leo's	Greely	613-821-2634
Vankleek Hill	Vankleek Hill	613-678-3008
Cargill Auction	Cargill	519-366-2214
Hagersville Auction	Hagersville	905-768-5601

Calendar of Events

- October 21** **2006 Plowing Match, Brant-Six Nations**
Location: Glen & Neil Hill, Seneca Rd.,
between 4 & 5 lines, Ohsweken
For More Info, contact: Art Porter at 519 445-2330
- October 27** **Quinte Stocker Sale**
Hoards Station, 11:00 a.m.
- November 3-12** **The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair**
National Trade Centre, Exhibition Place, Toronto
Contact 416-263-3400 or www.royalfair.org
- November 8-9** **OMAFRA Outlook Conference,**
Delta Chelsea Hotel, Toronto
Contact: Scott Butler OMAFRA, Guelph,
519-826-3771, scott.butler@omafra.gov.on.ca
- November 28-29** **Forage Focus 2006**
28 in Winchester, 29 in Shakespeare

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

General Information

By Jim F. Hunter, Business Support
Officer
iapo-jim@on.aibn.com

Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS)

The Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS) program will be delivered in Ontario by the Colleges of Ontario Network for Education and Training (CON*NECT), in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

The Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS) program provides

farmers and their spouses with opportunities to access specialized training with the goal of improving their farm profitability and net family income.

CASS gives farmers and their spouses an opportunity to examine their goals and develop a learning plan to achieve them. It provides farmers with financial assistance to take training that will help them improve their current farm practices, take advantage of new business opportunities in the industry, or obtain off farm employment. It may include formal training, such as college courses, or more informal training, such as workshops and seminars.

For more information call the IAPO office.

Canadian Farm Families Options Program

The Canadian Farm Families Options Program (Options) is a federal program open to farm families or individual farmers who have a total income of less than \$25,000 or less than \$15,000 respectively, in all provinces and territories.

To be eligible for this year and next year, farmers must have gross farm incomes of at least \$50,000 and must have filed farm income with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for 2005 and for 2006.

Note: Status Indian farmers farming on a reserve who do not file a income tax returns are eligible to participate.

What will farm families need to do?
They need to apply to the Options program to receive a payment and they must commit to completing one of the following within two years of their application to Options:

- A **Farm Business Assessment** offered by the **Canadian Farm Business Advisory Services** (CFBAS) or an equivalent
- An Individual Learning Plan and skills training through the **Canadian Agricultural Skills Service** (CASS) or an equivalent

Canadian Farm Families Options
Program 1-866-367-8506.
**Application forms are available from
the IAPO office.**

Oil, corn prices will dictate ethanol's fortunes

The rapid growth of the North American ethanol industry could come to a quick halt if the price of oil drops and corn prices climb, the USDA's chief agricultural economist says.

Agriculture Online reports Keith Collins told a U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works last week that ethanol production capacity could increase to 8.5 billion gallons by 2008-2009 and more than 10 billion gallons by 2010 if many of the planned plants are built.

But he warns that could change if the price of gas at the pumps comes down and corn goes back to \$5(US) a bushel. "If the world price of crude oil remains higher than \$50(US) (in 2005 dollars) per barrel in the future and corn prices do not rise considerably, then ethanol would be used as a gasoline extender," Collins says. "Below about \$30 per barrel for crude oil, there would be no incentive to produce corn ethanol because ethanol would be unprofitable to produce and market as a fuel extender."

Collins says an American dry-mill ethanol plant can cover operating costs with a corn price up to \$5(US) per bushel with ethanol prices around \$2.25(US) per gallon at the plant. And he says all indications are that the market will remain bullish for ethanol, at least in the near future.

Set seed depth for poorest field area - Ontario Farmer

Setting your seed drill for the best areas of the field is a sure recipe for poorly rooted wheat plants in the tougher spots.

While agronomists like Cargill's Pat Lynch and OMAFRA's Peter Johnson recommend a wheat planting depth of between 1.0 and 1.25 inches, both agree that target is all but unreachable with today's seed drills. The best compromise is to set the drill for that depth in the heaviest soil, Lynch says. "That means it will go deeper on the lighter soils, but that's still okay."

Johnson still recommends planting into moisture, especially when planting early. He agrees that drills should be set to

ensure adequate depth on the eroded knolls in the field. If they're set in good conditions, chances are the drill will ride out of the ground on the knolls and result in heaving damage in those areas of the field.

Lynch says many fields were lucky to escape winter heaving this spring after being planted too shallow last fall. **"The best thing growers can do is to keep checking their seeding depth throughout the day to make sure they're deep enough."**

Harvest season could get wet this year

This may be the year to get your crop off as quickly as possible, an U.S. weather service advises.

Pro Farmer reports Weather Trends International is calling for a cooler, moister September/October than in 2005. With corn and soybeans maturing early it may be a great opportunity for farmers to finish harvesting before field conditions get difficult.

The weather service is calling for more moisture to make its way into the Middle Mississippi Valley and up to the Great Lakes region than a year ago. Although there will be harvest opportunities, even during wet spells, the forecaster says farmers would be well advised to finish fieldwork as early as possible.

Hunter's notes: I heard more information at the Ontario Wheat Board Annual meeting where the guest speaker - Larry Shonkwiler, FC Stone spoke on the "Effect of Ethanol Expansion on Wheat Production in North America". In fact, he suggested the demand for corn will double by 2012 due to Ethanol expansion. He said, "The growth in domestic Ethanol production increases demand, raising corn prices and return". We sure hope he is right! As a result, "acreage planted to soybeans declines as more favourable returns to corn production draw land from soybeans".



Current First Nations 4-H News...

**By: Marnie Kloppenburg, Coordinator
First Nations Agri-Food Youth Program**

Here are some of the latest 4-H happenings in First Nations communities across Ontario...

Wasauksing:

I worked with Gina Partridge, Community Food Educator at Wasuasking First Nation, on Parry Island in June to run a First Nations 4-H display at the Wasauksing Diabetes Education Day. Gina and other Wasauksing Health Centre staff are working with their elementary school and community to raise awareness regarding diabetes and general health. Gina thinks the 4-H Program is one way to help young people to "learn to do by doing"!

Seine River:

Tracy Hyatt, an experienced 4-H Leader working on contract with IAPO and the First Nations 4-H Program in North Western Ontario lead a fun-filled 4-H Fun Day for 15 young people at Seine River, located three hours from Fort Frances, in July. Tracy is working with the Brighter Futures Coordinator at Seine River.

Alderville:

Seven Alderville First Nation 10-12 year olds attended the 4-H Ontario Fun Day in Port Perry in early July. Melissa McKeown, a 4-H Leader from Alderville seized the opportunity and transported her group to Port Perry for a fun-filled day of 4-H activities.

Curve Lake:

4-H Leaders, Gwen Oliver and Alisa Pierson from the Curve Lake Health Centre, are just gearing up to start the Animal Friends 4-H Project at the end of September. The project focuses on learning how to care for a pet. Gwen and Alisa hope to have a 4-H Club with approximately 15 active 4-H Members.

New Credit of the Mississaugas:

Twenty-five youngsters participated in a 4-H Fun Day in July at New Credit of the Mississaugas, near Brantford. We had lots of fun playing cooperative games, making homemade ice cream and bath salts and learning more about each other through 4-H social recreation.

I was also able to lead 6 young teens in a 4-H Careers workshop at New Credit in July where they learned techniques to identify their interests and strengths.

Last summer, 10 New Credit 4-H Members completed the "Health Eating 'Round the Clock" 4-H Project AND traveled to Alberta on a 4-H exchange.



New Credit of the Mississaugas 4-H Fun Day, July 2006

Manitoulin and the North Shore:

Heather Pennie, First Nations 4-H Contact for Manitoulin and the North Shore and her husband Mark, became proud parents in May. In Heather's absence, we continue to work with M'Chigeeng and Wikwemikong First Nations, both communities who have shown strong interest in bringing the 4-H Program to their young people.

First Nations 4-H

If you would like to know more about how to become a 4-H Leader and bring this amazing youth program to your community, contact Marnie Kloppenburg, Coordinator & First Nations 4-H Contact @ 1-800-663-6912 or iapo-marnie@on.aibn.com