



Native Agri Update

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From The Manager's Desk

By D.E. "Ted" Young, General Manager
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AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA ANNOUNCEMENT

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has announced the Agricultural Flexibility Fund. This new funding program may be of interest to some of our clients or First Nations agribusiness operators. If anyone has an interest in the program they are encouraged to contact the AAFC representative named at the conclusion of this article. AAFC is now accepting proposals for this fund. Anyone interested is urged to proceed immediately with your inquiries or proposal.

Fund Details: The Agricultural Flexibility Fund (AgriFlexibility) was announced as part of Budget 2009 and is a five-year fund ending March 31, 2014. The \$500 million fund's objective is directly linked to AAFC's departmental strategic outcomes of an agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector that is innovative, environmentally sustainable, competitive and that proactively manages risks. To meet these outcomes, AgriFlexibility has three broad elements to help the sector's value chain including farmers and processors become more efficient, sustainable and remain competitive.

AgriFlexibility's three key priorities are:

1. **Investments to help reduce the cost of production or improve environmental sustainability for the sector.**

Under this element proposals could, for example, aim to expand adoption of management practices and technologies that result in lasting reduction of costs of production such as reducing the usage of agricultural inputs, lowering production or agricultural processing costs; or improve environmental performance such as sustainable water resources for agricultural use or accelerating the use of agricultural biomass for bio-energy.

2. **Investments in value-chain innovation and sectoral adaptation**

Under this element proposals could, for example aim to enhance integration of the value chain, bringing added value to producers for products, or to develop innovative, value added products that enhance competitiveness and create growth markets for primary agriculture increasing the availability of high-quality Canadian-made agri-food and bio-products domestically and internationally. Another example could be proposals that enable proactive adaptation to changing market conditions that result in viable businesses.

3. **Investments to address emerging opportunities and challenges for the sector.**

Under this element proposals could, for example seek to maintain global competitiveness, expand or recapture markets for Canadian food and agricultural products or address emerging opportunities or challenges through enabling technologies, research and development capacity of the sector, trace- ➡

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

biosecurity and assurance systems or consumer education.

Examples of Potential Benefits

Under the three main elements of Agri-Flexibility, there are a number of areas that can be focused on that can potentially provide benefits to farmers, producers, processors and other parts of the value chain. Example of these potential benefits may include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Investments to help reduce the cost of production or improve environmental sustainability for the sector:**
 - expand adoption of management practices and technologies that result in lasting reduction of costs of production (e.g., long-term increase in farm profitability)
 - expand adoption of management

practices and technologies that result in reduced environmental footprint (e.g., long-term improvements to environmental sustainability in the areas of soil, water and air quality).

2. Investments in value-chain innovation and sectoral adaptation:

- increase the available supply of high-quality Canadian-made agri-food and bio-products both domestically and internationally (e.g., support the commercialization of new agri-food and bio-products)
- proactive adaptation to changing market conditions that result in viable businesses.

3. Investments to address emerging opportunities and challenges for the sector:

- expand or recapture market access for Canadian food and agriculture products and increased market demand for Canadian food and agriculture products

- provision of new technology to transform commodities into new value-added or bioproduct market opportunities.

First Nations farmers and agribusiness operators may determine their eligibility for potential funding or determine more details of the program specific to their needs by calling:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
c/o Agricultural Flexibility
Fund Administration
1341 Baseline Road, Tower 7, Floor 8,
Room 242
Ottawa ON K1A 0C5
Telephone: 1-877-290-2188
Fax: 613-773-1922
Email: AgriFlex@agr.gc.ca

or

IAPO Farm Management Advisors are also available for advice as may be required in the usual manner.

Agribusiness

By Peter Jay Lanthier, Farm Management Advisor

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THE BIOCAR INITIATIVE GROWING CARS

*excerpt taken from U of G 'Green' Car Part to Debut in 2010,
November 11, 2009*

The world's first car to have interior parts made from wheat straw-reinforced plastic is set to roll off the assembly lines in the new year. The Ford Motor Company announced recently that its 2010 Ford Flex will include storage bins made from this bio-based material. Using wheat-straw plastic for storage bins in this one car model reduces petroleum usage by

20,000 pounds per year and CO₂ emission by 30,000 pounds per year, according to a news release issued by Ford. The automaker also said it plans to include other bio-based materials in future car models.

The BioCar initiative involves the creation of "green" car parts from biofibres and bioplastics. In this effort, researchers are making environmentally-friendly car bumpers and running boards by substituting renewable and recyclable engineered composites for petroleum-based materials.

Soybean oil could soon become a staple in the auto industry thanks to University of Guelph researchers who are investigating ways to boost the plant's oil yields to give manufacturers a cheaper and greener alternative to petroleum-based chemicals and fuels. To develop high-oil beans, the researchers are combining adapted varieties with high oil levels to produce varieties with higher oil levels. Through plant breeding, particular traits can be introduced into the plant to make that plant more suitable for a particular use.

An example would be reducing the saturated fat in the oil so that it's more suitable for making the foam in car seats. The final varieties will then be evaluated to ensure they are highly productive and are well adapted to Ontario's climate and disease pressures. Ontario farmers may soon be the automobile producers of the future.

Crop Information

By Peter Jay Lanthier, Farm Management Advisor

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CORN HARVEST DELAYED

Many growers are currently weighing the risk of allowing corn to field dry. Leaving corn to dry in the field exposes a crop to unfavorable weather conditions, as well as wildlife damage. A crop with weak plant integrity is more vulnerable to yield losses from stalk lodging and ear drop when weathering conditions occur. Additional losses may occur when ear rots reduce grain quality and can lead to significant dockage when the grain is marketed. Some ear rots produce mycotoxins, which may cause major health problems if fed to livestock. University studies over the past several years observing the agronomic performance of four hybrids differing in maturity and stalk quality have provided some insight on yield losses and changes in grain moisture and stalk quality associated with delaying harvest.

Some of the major findings from this research were;

- 1) Nearly 90% of the yield loss associated with delayed corn harvest occurred when delays extended beyond mid-November.
- 2) Grain moisture decreased nearly six percent between harvest dates in October and November.
- 3) Delaying harvest after early to mid November achieved almost no additional grain drying.
- 4) Higher plant populations resulted in increased grain yields when harvest occurred in early to mid-October; only when harvest was delayed until mid-November or later did yields decline at plant populations above 30,000/acre.
- 5) Hybrids with lower stalk strength ratings exhibited greater stalk rot, lodging and yield loss when harvest was delayed. Early harvest of these hybrids eliminated this effect.
- 6) The greatest increase in stalk rot incidence came between harvest dates in October and November. In contrast, stalk lodging increased most after early-mid November.
- 7) Harvest delays had little or no effect on grain quality characteristics such as oil, protein, starch, and kernel breakage.

In this study average yields decreased about 13% between the October and December harvest dates. Most of the yield loss, about 11%, occurred after the early-mid November harvest date. Grain moisture content showed a decrease from the October to November harvest dates but little or no change

beyond the November harvest dates. Grain moisture decreased an average of 6.3% points between the October and December harvest dates, with most of the decrease occurring between the October and November harvest dates (5.8 % points); only a 0.5 % point decrease occurred after early-mid November. Population effects on grain moisture content were not consistent. Differences in grain moisture were evident among hybrids on the first harvest date in early to mid October but were generally negligible on the later dates.

FALL DISCING WORKS

There is a growing amount of field evidence, and research from the University of Guelph, that no-till soys are yielding less than fields that are worked. Many growers have mentioned that some of the best soybean yields this year came from fields with primary tillage done last fall. Work done at the U of G Elora research station has shown that over a ten year period, on a corn soybean rotation, no-till with fall or spring tillage constantly ranks in the top three for plant stand and yield. Some years mouldboard plow works best and some years straight no-till has the best yields but no-till with fall tillage ranks high year after year after year. Producers across Ontario are finding that working land with a chisel plow, disc ripper or an offset disc on land that was compacted, rutted or just where corn came off under tough conditions results in better seed germination and an improved plant stand.

More corn stalks are shredded as a consequence of increased use of stalk choppers, resulting in less stalks left standing and more trash covering the soil. The end result is a thick mat of trash that can keep the soil wet and cold in the spring. This can also impede proper planting, germination and eventual plant stand population. Grower experience is showing that fall tillage that buries a good portion of the trash is better than spring tillage. There is enough frost action to undo the compaction left by the discing in the fall.

SOYBEAN RATINGS

The soybean industry is reverting back to rating soybean maturity by relative maturity. This system works on day length and intensity of sunlight that the soybean plant receives not the heat accumulated. Be sure to check with your seed dealer to understand this change.

Ontario CHU	New Maturity Group
2550-2800	0
2800-3000	I
3000-3300	II

Livestock Information

By Mark Leahy, Farm Management Advisor

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SORT COWS FOR BEST FEED USE

Grouping 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.

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 two farmers can run their second-calf heifers together or older cows together. 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 second calf heifers: This group usually needs better quality hay or some grain. Older cows are often down in condition. Second-calf heifers are recovering from raising the first calf, carrying a second-calf and will need to rebreed following calving. 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.

An alternative is going with two groups combining the first calf heifers with older cows and second calf heifers. The rest of the herd are still together.

Early harvested first cut hay and second cut should go to the group with first calf heifers, older cows and second calf heifers. This group requires better quality hay than the main herd.



FEED SALT AND MINERAL

There is lots of hay available for winter feeding in most areas of the province. With late harvesting due to wet conditions, feed quality may be lacking. Supplementing with grain is often a good option.

Salt and mineral also are vital particularly when there is no grain supplementation. It is required for calf development during pregnancy, strong calves at birth and timely rebreeding. Blue salt and a 1:1 Ca: P mineral are suitable.

CANADA CHALLENGES COOL

(GRAINNEWS)

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has set up a dispute settlement panel to hear Canada's challenge of U.S. mandatory country-of-origin labelling (COOL).

Passed by the U.S. government in June 2008, COOL legislation requires country-of-origin labelling for beef, pork, lamb, chicken and goat meat, and certain perishable commodities sold at

retail outlets in the U.S.

U.S. processors, for instance, have to segregate Canadian animals and the meat from these animals at their facilities, which generates additional costs. Because of these additional costs, some processors no longer buy Canadian animals, buy them only on certain days, or buy them at a discounted price.

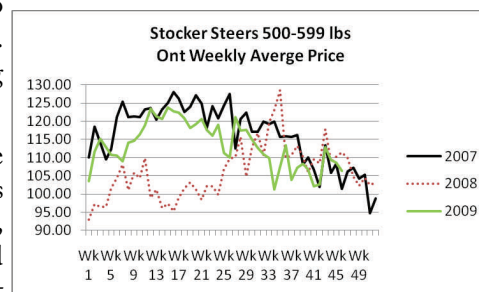
It normally takes up to nine months from the establishment of a panel for its final report to be released to WTO members. The panel's report would be released next summer or early fall.

CALVES, CULL COWS LEAVE WIKY

Over 70 calves and a dozen cull cows making a "pot load" left Wiky on Saturday November 21 for sales at Brussels livestock. Calves sell on November 23 at a special vaccinated sale. The cows sell on November 24. Calves were packaged for sale (vaccinated, dehorned, castrated, started on feed and age verified) in an effort to maximize returns. Cattle from eight owners were assembled at Louis and Joe Naokwegjig's corral for loading. Calves will be sorted and co-mingled prior to sale. This is the first year for co-mingling.

COMPARING CALF PRICES (OCA)

This graph compares steer prices in the 500 to 599 weight range for 2007, 2008 and 2009 by week. Last week is week 49.



Market Information

BEEF MARKET

By Mark Leahy



Prices are courtesy of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association Weekly Market Information Report for the week ending November 19/09.

Fed Cattle and rail prices are similar to last month!

Cows and bulls are down \$2.

Feedlot replacement steers and heifers are \$2 stronger than last month.

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	133-138		
Fed steers	75 - 83	79	95
Fed heifers	74- 82	78	89
Cows	29 - 43	36	65
Bulls	41- 56	49	80
Stocker steers			
700 - 799	88 - 103	98	113
600 - 699	90 - 109	100	121
500 - 599	90 - 119	106	131
Stocker heifers			
700 - 799	80 - 91	87	102
600 - 699	76 - 96	88	108
500 - 599	84 - 103	94	114

CROP MARKET

By Peter Lanthier

CORN AND BEANS RALLY, WHEAT STOCKS AT TEN YEAR HIGH

USDA crop surveys show higher than expected soybean yields across most US states. The wet cool fall weather did little to reduce yields. The latest monthly report states production will hit 3.32 billion bushels, up two percent from October and up 12% from 2008. Yield averages are forecasted to be 43.3 bushels per acre; an all time record. The US crop is estimated at near 78 million acres; Ontario produces approximately 90 million bushels from just over 2.2 million acres. Despite all of this production, the weak US dollar sparked a huge purchase from China and drove beans to a 14 week high mid November.

Conversely, the USDA has projected 97 million less bushels of corn production due to the protracted pace of harvest. This represents a 1.3 bushel per acre

reduction. Yield averages are now forecast to be near 162 bushels per acre from approximately 83 million acres of production (13.4 billion bushels). Here in Ontario growers produce approximately 260 million bushels of corn on 1.8 million acres (an average of 150 bushels per acre). Current demand for US corn has diminished and exports are down. Outside market influences, the declining greenback, weakening oil prices and the soaring price of gold have also contributed to the USDA increasing its projected 2009/2010 marketing

year average farm price for corn to \$3.85(US).

OMAFRA cereal specialist Peter Johnson estimates the Ontario winter wheat plantings, while down, should be very close to 750,000 acres. In 2008 Ontario farmers planted over 1.4 million acres and in 2007 we planted a record 2.3 million acres.

Worldwide demand for wheat is down and supply is overwhelming. One DTN analyst has been quoted as saying that wheat is drowning in its own supply and demand.

CORN-Tuesday, November 24, 2009: (NORFOLK)				
2009	Futures 3.71	Basis	-0.05	Price 3.71
2010	Futures 4.26	Basis	0.00	Price 4.26

SOYBEANS-Tuesday, November 24, 2009: (NORFOLK)				
2009	Futures 10.46	Basis	-0.13	Price 10.33
2010	Futures 10.36	Basis	- 0.35	Price 10.01

SOFT RED WHEAT-Tuesday, November 24, 2009: (NORFOLK)				
2009	Futures 5.33	Basis	- 0.90	Price 4.43

Other News

By Mark Leahy, Farm Management Advisor-
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WIKY FARMER PLOWS AT IPM

Leonard (Chicken) George competed at the IPM in Earlton this past September. He was in the horse plowing class with a walking plow. He earned the right to attend the IPM at an earlier qualifying match.

TYENDINAGA RESIDENT GRADUATES WITH DIPLOMA



Troy Maracle of Tyendinaga (Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte) graduated from the University of Guelph, Kemptville Campus with a diploma in agriculture last spring. He is currently employed at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa.

Photos and Speaker Presentations
from the 2009 Ontario First Nations Agri-Food Conference
are now posted on our IAPO website! Check it out at www.indianag.on.ca



YOUTH WINS LITTLE REMBRANDTS COVER ART CONTEST

Alyzaya Assiniwai of Wikwemikong was winner of the under-seven category in the Little Rembrandts Cover Art Contest sponsored by the Ontario Cattlemen's Association. Her work is featured on the cover of the October edition of Ontario Beef. It shows her Papa Jim (Naokwegijig) baling hay.

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you'll be put on the e-mail list!

The newsletter is e-mailed in easy to read PDF format or always available on the
IAPO website www.indianag.on.ca.

Calendar of Events

- Nov. 27-29 Canadian Aboriginal Festival, Copps Coliseum, Hamilton
(visit <http://www.canab.com>)
- Jan. 6,7 Southwest Agricultural Conference, Ridgetown, Ontario
(<http://www.southwestagconference.ca>)
- Feb. 17-18 Innovative Farmers—Conference 2010, Best Western
Lamplighter Inn, London, (www.ifao.com)

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR AGRICULTURAL EVENTS IN YOUR AREA

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



Chipper Chirp

*Perseverance is not a long race;
it is many short races one after
another.*

~Walter Elliott, *The Spiritual Life*