



# Native Agri Update

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## *From The Manager's Desk*

By D.E. "Ted" Young, General Manager  
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### IAPO INTRODUCES NEW

### *FIRST NATIONS YOUTH AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM*

Interest in agriculture and food production continues to grow in First Nations communities in Ontario. An increasing number of young people have a passion to return to the land and develop production skills.

As a result of that reality, early this fall IAPO introduced a new First Nations Youth Agricultural Program across the province. This is a new opportunity to reach out to First Nations youth who are interested in one of the many areas of agriculture and food production. The program is designed to provide First Nations youth between 15-25 years of age with all of the tools required to start a small business. These tools include financing, mentoring, education and earned forgivable equity of up to forty percent of the project.

The forgivable equity portion is made possible with funding obtained from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Loan capital is provided by the Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario. The forty percent forgivable portion is provided if all terms and conditions of the participants program have been met. Contact Farm Management Advisors, Peter Lanthier or Mark Leahy to discuss your project.

### Program Objectives:

- Build skills in agricultural production, business management, and financial responsibility.
- Build equity towards a viable agricultural enterprise.
- Establish a positive credit rating at a young age.
- Access training through mentorship and support from an experienced community farmer/proprietor, and other agricultural resource individuals and support systems.

### Criteria to Participate:

- Only Ontario First Nations youth between the ages of 15-25 are eligible.
- First Nations youth who are prepared to develop a plan, keep records, and maintain the project to conclusion.
- First Nations youth applicants must provide 10% cash equity at the beginning of the project.
- Eligible projects may include, livestock, crops, gardens, maple syrup, or other value added projects. Any concepts submitted will be reviewed and assessed to determine if it can be acceptable under the program criteria. Any ideas or concepts are welcome for consideration.
- Male and females are both equally eligible.
- The program is available now until March 31, 2010.
- Applications will be considered on a first come first served basis. ⇒

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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

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

**How to Apply:** Interested applicants are asked to contact the Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario at either of the two locations:

*Eastern and Northern Ontario Office – Stirling, Ontario– call 1-800-363-0329 or Western and Southern Ontario Of-*

*fice – Lambeth, Ontario call 1-800-663-6912.*

Staff are prepared to explore your interests and assist you with the application process in this new program. Funds are limited and applications will be assessed as received.

IAPO is quite excited to offer this op-

portunity and the chance to work with youth who will become the leaders and farmers of tomorrow in First Nations farm communities. Veteran farmers, agricultural and agribusiness leaders are encouraged to bring this opportunity to the attention of youth who they feel may benefit from this program.

# Agribusiness

Submitted by **Jim Hunter, Secretary-Treasurer FNA/SNFA**  
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## CleanFARMS™ PROGRAM OFFERS FREE DISPOSAL FOR FARMERS

*Obsolete pesticides, animal health products and sharps to be collected at local depots*



Guelph, ON, September 25, 2009 – Farmers can safely dispose of their obsolete pesticides, unused animal health products and used sharps at collection sites across Ontario next month. The CleanFARMS™ program will run October 20-22 as part of an Ontario government-supported Great Lakes Basin water quality initiative that offers farmers a free, safe way to recycle and dispose of these items.

“Canada’s plant science industry is pleased that its CleanFARMS™ programming is being expanded to include other products that farmers need to dispose of properly,” says Dr. Lorne Hepworth, President of CropLife Canada, one of the principle funders of the program. “Farmers are the original stewards of the environment and we are happy to work hand in hand with them to support sustainable agriculture in all its facets.”

Sixteen collection sites have been designated across the province, where farmers will be able to bring their obsolete crop protection and animal health products and used sharps (needles, syringes and scalpel blades) during the three day blitz. There is no charge to farmers for the program.

“This is a unique opportunity for farmers to safely dispose of these products free of charge,” says Lilian Schaer, Projects Manager with AGCare, which is co-ordinating the program.

“Every effort helps when it comes to safeguarding our water quality.”

Agricultural pesticide products being returned should have a PCP number on the container. Acceptable animal health products should have a label with a Drug Identification Number (DIN) or contains the terms “vaccine, bacterin, toxoid, antitoxin, antibody or diagnostic”. Collection sites will not accept pesticides and animal health products in aerosol containers, medicated feed, premise disinfectants, or any household or human use items. Loose sharps will not be accepted – they must be brought in a closed rigid container. Ziploc bags are not acceptable.

Pesticide collection programs have been run in Canada by CropLife Canada since 1998 under the CleanFARMS™ banner. This year’s CleanFARMS™ program is co-ordinated by AGCare with financial support from CropLife Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Other project partners include Ontario Farm Animal Council, Canadian Animal Health Institute, Ontario Veterinary Medical Association and Ontario Agri Business Association.



**There are 16 collection locations** in total. Here is a partial list.

**Bethany:** Thompsons Limited, 9 Elevator Road  
**Courtland:** Cargill, 159 Talbot Street  
**Lancaster:** Munro’s Agromart Ltd., 6011 Hwy #34  
**Napanee:** O’Neill’s Farm Supply, 1 Dairy Avenue

For more information or a **full list of collection locations**, visit [www.agcare.org](http://www.agcare.org) or [www.croplife.ca](http://www.croplife.ca).

# Crop Information

By Peter Jay Lanthier, Farm Management Advisor

iapo-peter@on.aibn.com

## MAKING CORN SEED DECISIONS



What hybrids are you going to grow next year? You need to know what you want and what you are getting. There are two different maturity rating systems used in Ontario; Crop Heat Units (CHU) and relative maturity. Heat units' measures the amount of "heat" needed to reach maturity. Relative maturity measures the number of days. Different companies use these rating systems differently. For example: Company A starts counting CHUs at planting. Company B starts at emergence. Regardless of the CHU rating, you need corn hybrids that will deliver yield without excessive moisture. Private and public plot information can help you make your decisions. The Ontario Corn Committee (OCC) posts their annual trials on [www.gocorn.net](http://www.gocorn.net). This is un-biased agronomic, yield and moisture information.

## REDUCING SOYBEAN HARVEST LOSSES

Field checks have determined that a five to fourteen percent yield loss occurs in soybean fields. To stay closer to five percent, your best guide for correct combine adjustment is your operator's manual. About 80% of machine loss occurs at the gathering unit.

- 1) Make sure that knife sections, guards, wear plates, and hold-down clips are in good condition and properly adjusted.
- 2) Use a ground speed of 2.8 to 3.0 miles per hour.
- 3) Use a reel speed about 25% faster than ground speed. For 42" diameter reels, use a reel speed of 11 revolutions per minute for each one-mile/hour ground speed.
- 4) Reel axle should be six to twelve inches ahead of the cutter bar. Reel bats should leave beans just as they are cut. Reel depth should be just enough to control the beans. A six-bat reel will give more uniform feeding than a four-bat reel. Complete the harvest as quickly as possible after beans reach 15 percent moisture content.

## WORKING SOIL BEFORE PLANTING WHEAT

The window for planting winter wheat is closing fast. Some fields that were going to be no-tilled into wheat probably

should see some tillage before planting:

- 1) Fields where erosion was significant. These eroded areas will get worse next spring unless they are filled back in to slow spring erosion.
- 2) Fields that have been compacted by numerous heavy rains. Shallow tillage on some of these heavier soils should help the wheat plant get off to a quicker start.
- 3) Fields with a lot of annual or biennial weeds. If you cannot spray with glyphosate, tillage is the next most effective.
- 4) Areas where there are significant combine tracks. In fields that are variable consider mixing and matching. Spray areas that are light and not compacted and work some of the eroded or worst compacted/rutted areas.

One final note on late planting - look to nature, not to the calendar. If your lawn, the weeds in fields and volunteer wheat are still actively growing, keep planting; the soil is warm and growth is occurring. **To qualify for Production Insurance, check with Agricornp for planting deadlines in your area.**

## AGRIINVEST



The 2008 AgriInvest Deposit Notices have been mailed to producers' mailboxes over the past few weeks to let them know how much they can deposit into their AgriInvest accounts. Producers have 90 days from the date of the Deposit Notice to make a deposit into their AgriInvest account. Producers may make only one deposit per Deposit Notice.

In response to producer questions here is a brief summary of the program:

**The AgriInvest program** is a risk management tool for farm operations that allows participants to annually deposit an amount into an account in their own name and to receive **matching government contributions**. AgriInvest accounts help producers protect their farm income from small declines. AgriInvest replaces the coverage for margin declines of **less than 15 percent**, previously covered by the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program. With an AgriInvest account, producers make a deposit based on a percentage of their Allowable Net Sales (ANS) and receive matching contributions from federal and provincial governments. Each year, producers can deposit up to 1.5% of their ANS into an AgriInvest account and receive a matching government contribution. Once the producer's deposit is received and processed, the administration will issue a Deposit Confirmation and Withdrawal Form showing the producer's AgriInvest account balance and providing a form for requesting a withdrawal. Enrollment in AgriInvest is harmonized with the AgriStability application.

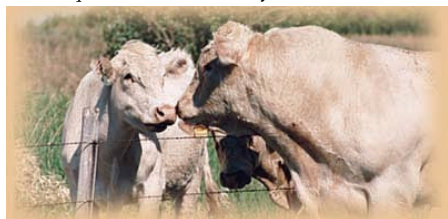
# Livestock Information

By Mark Leahy, Farm Management Advisor

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## RUNNING OF THE BULLS

*Adapted from an article by Glen Selk OSU*



Cowherds of 35 - 40 or more and community pastures may run more than one bull during breeding season to increase conception rate. Here are some suggestions to increase success.

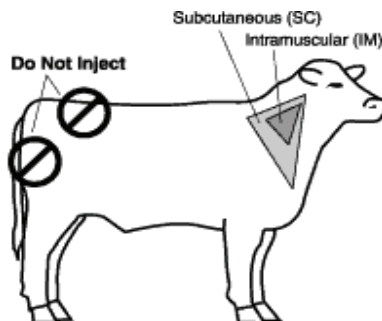
- It is best if bulls that will be pastured together can be in the same area for at least three weeks to establish who is “bull of the pasture”. This social order will be established before being turned out with the cowherd.
- Put young bulls with young bulls, and mature bulls with mature bulls. Mature bulls dominate younger bulls and may cause serious injury. When rotating bulls during the breeding season, use the mature bulls first, and follow with the yearling bulls in the last third of the breeding season. The young bulls will have fewer cows to breed, and will be one to two months older when they start breeding.
- Consider having bulls checked for breeding soundness. Catching a problem early can reduce chances of open cows and extended calving seasons.

## SELECT INJECTION SITE CAREFULLY

Many calves will be worked this fall in preparation for sale. Vaccinations are a

big part of the packaging process. Where the needle is inserted can have an effect on meat quality particularly for products requiring an intramuscular injection. All intramuscular (IM) injections, leave permanent damage even at the weaned calf stage. Tenderness is reduced in a three-inch area surrounding the injection site. This can have a negative effect on higher priced steaks or roasts. **This is why it is recommended to inject in the neck! This is a ground beef area.**

If there is an injection site choice based on product label, choose under the skin (subcutaneous) rather than intramuscular. Simply tent the skin and inject. No damage here. The neck is a good location again.



## WHAT IS AGE VERIFYING?

With the ever increasing demand for accurate age determination in Canadian cattle, Age Verification provides an effective and internationally recognized Age Verification Process. Producers can enter and store birth date information and have it readily available for domestic and export markets.

Age verifying provides an exact date or

a born after date for prospective buyers. All animals are tagged with an RFID tag. A calf's tag number and birth information is entered in a data base. Certificates are issued confirming the calf's birth information. These certificates are available at sale time. IAPO can help with age verifying your calves if you can provide the tag number and birth information. A young beef producer in the North does his own calves.

## REDUCE WEANING STRESS



Weaning beef calves while in contact with their mothers will reduce stress. This was the conclusion of research at the University of Saskatchewan.

A group of calves were separated from their mothers. Half the calves were moved to an area familiar to them. These calves were unable to see the cows about 50 feet away. The second group of calves were in a familiar area and allowed fence line contact with the cows.

Both groups were observed from dawn until dusk for the first three days after weaning. Number of calves standing, walking, lying down, walking the fence-line, running, grazing and feeding at the bunk were recorded.

The calves in contact with their mothers spent less time standing, walking the fence-line and running than the group not in contact. These calves spent more time lying down and feeding at the bunk. They gained more weight in the first 3 days.

The calves not in contact with their mothers were noisier. Calves in contact showed less stressful behaviour following weaning. There were no differences in weight gain ten days after weaning.

# Market Information

## BEEF MARKET

By Mark Leahy



Prices are courtesy of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association Weekly Market Information Report for the week ending October 8/09.

Prices in all cattle categories continue to slide!

Fed cattle are down \$6 - \$10.

Rail grade steers are off by \$12 - \$15.

Cows and bulls are down \$6. Stocker cattle are following the trend.

Feedlot replacement steers have dropped \$6-\$7 depending on weight. Heifers are off \$5 again depending on weight. A strong loonie, depressed economy, an over supply of beef and Cool (Country of Origin Labeling in the US) continue to battle beef prices. Steer carcasses are up 23 lbs on average from this time last year.

*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.*

Category	Price Range	Ave. Price	Top Price
Rail Steers	134-137		
Fed steers	74 - 83	79	95
Fed heifers	75- 83	79	91
Cows	30 - 45	37	70
Bulls	46- 58	52	84
Stocker steers			
700 - 799	77 - 101	93	109
600 - 699	75 - 106	96	115
500 - 599	83 - 121	107	135
Stocker heifers			
700 - 799	76 - 92	86	109
600 - 699	78 - 94	87	105
500 - 599	76 - 103	91	124

All prices are on a hundred pound basis (cwt)

## CROP MARKET

By Peter Lanthier

The USDA Crop Progress Report released October 5<sup>th</sup> added about a half bushel per acre in potential to corn production in the U.S. suggesting average yields of 162.3 bushels per acre. That's still below last week's private estimates, and traders are again focusing on the crop's slow development, which increases the potential for damage from frost or rain. Corn planted area for all purposes in 2009 is estimated at 87.0 million acres, up one percent from last year but seven percent below 2007. This is the second largest planted acreage since 1946, behind 2007. Based on conditions as of September 1st, yields are expected to average 161.9 bushels per acre, up 2.4 bushels from August and 8.0 bushels above last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record and production will be the second largest, behind 2007.


However, just 57% of the U.S. crop


nationwide is mature, compared to 84% on average yearly, while only 10% of the corn nationwide was harvested as of the first of October.


Soybean planted area for 2009 is estimated at a record high 77.5 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. Area for harvest, at 76.5 million acres, is up 3 percent from 2008. This would indicate that the U.S. producers lost one million acres through the course of the growing season; in Ontario a record 2.4 million

acres were planted in 2009. Soybean production is forecast at a record high 3.25 billion bushels, up one percent from the August forecast and up 10 percent from last year. Based on September 1st conditions, yields are expected to average 42.3 bushels per acre, up 0.6 bushel from last month and up 2.7 bushels from 2008. If realized, this will be the third highest yield on record.

Wheat acreage was down five percent in the U.S. from 2008.

CORN-Tuesday, October 13, 2009: (NORFOLK)				
	2009	Futures 3.81	Basis 0.10	Price 3.91
	2010	Futures 4.17	Basis 0.10	Price 4.27

SOYBEANS-Tuesday, October 13, 2009: (NORFOLK)				
	2009	Futures 9.93	Basis -0.20	Price 9.73
	2010	Futures 9.74	Basis -0.60	Price 9.14

SOFT RED WHEAT-Tuesday, October 13, 2009: (NORFOLK)				
	2009	Futures 5.12	Basis -1.13	Price 3.99

# Other News

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

## WINTER COMPOSTING



Composting can continue with cold weather coming on.

There are many materials available in the fall suitable for composting. A good compost requires some green (nitrogen) material like fresh grass clippings, kitchen waste and green garden leftovers. Brown (carbon) material is also needed like dried leaves, shredded paper, sawdust and woodchips. Some or all of these things are available now. For a successful compost, a 30:1, carbon to nitrogen ratio is best. The following table shows the ratios for different

materials found around the home, property or farm. It shows why materials need to be mixed to get the ideal ratio! Paper and cardboard alone take a long time to breakdown.

Green Material (nitrogen)	C:N Ratio
Kitchen waste	15:1
Fresh grass clippings	15:1
Dried grass clippings	20:1
Rotted manure	20:1
Brown Material (carbon)	
Dried leaves	50:1
Sawdust	400:1
Newsprint	400:1
Cardboard	560:1

Leaves layered with grass clippings and kitchen waste make a good combination. A composting pile should be about three feet by three feet to trap heat to speed up the process. Winter compost is slow unless there is enough cover to keep things warm. Bales of hay or straw and snow are good insulators. Remove the

bales in the spring to encourage warming. Turning the pile in winter allows heat to escape. Place the compost in a sunny location.

Another approach is to collect leaves in the fall and store in a pile or bag until spring. It provides brown material at that time. Continue to collect kitchen waste through the winter. Add these to the original pile or start a new pile in the spring. According to our table, kitchen waste and dried leaves also make a good C:N ratio!

Avoid meat, fish eggs, dairy products, pet manure, weeds with seeds and diseased plants in the compost. The food will attract wild animals. Seeds and diseases will spread unless the compost pile is hot enough to kill them.

Compost in bins made of pallets, blocks, plastic or in an open heap.

Garden plants take nutrients from the soil. These nutrients need to be replaced. For many gardeners compost is the answer. Materials are readily available at no cost.

## Calendar of Events

- Nov. 6-15 The Royal Winter Fair, Toronto Exhibition Grounds, (visit <http://www.royalfair.org>)
- Nov. 27-29 Canadian Aboriginal Festival, Copps Coliseum, Hamilton (visit <http://www.canab.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

*It's easy to make a buck.  
It's a lot tougher to make a  
difference.*

Tom Brokaw