



Native Agri Update

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From The Manager's Desk

By D.E. "Ted" Young, General Manager

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FIRST NATION ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN PILOT FEATURED AT OUTDOOR FARM SHOW

IAPO enjoyed a very successful exhibit in promoting the Pilot Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) at the Canadian Outdoor Farm Show (COFS) in Woodstock, Ontario on September 9, 10, 11, 2008 courtesy of an invitation from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

Since June 2008 when the pilot contract between IAPO and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) was ratified the program has been in motion and is working well across Ontario with our First Nations clients.

Previous promotion of the program included circulating an insert in the IAPO newsletter to 425 First Nations farmers across the province as well as staff working directly with clients daily

on their field calls.

The COFS was a great opportunity to partner with AAFC who have provided significant support and expertise from knowledgeable and dedicated staff in developing and finalizing the EFP for First Nations farmers.

Showcasing the program in this very progressive venue and meeting with clients who attended the show was a very positive experience for staff. IAPO donated a modern rain gauge to all our First Nations clients who called at the exhibit display site.

IAPO staff were on site on all exhibit days and fielded many inquires about the First Nations programs and agriculture issues in general. Commodity prices, input costs, fuel costs, and a look forward to 2009 were all part of the many discussions with staff.

To date EFP meetings have been held in Manitoulin Island, Eastern Ontario and South Western Ontario. Additional meetings are scheduled and ongoing as we move towards the deadline. Staff, in delivering this program, have also been quite active in meeting with First Nations clients on their farm and assisting in completing all the documentation. GM has attended a number of these calls, and I was most impressed with the attention to detail and sincere interest First Nations farmers have to accurately complete the forms and work with staff to meet the deadline.

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

The IAPO EFP project goal is to have regional meetings completed and the EFP workbooks submitted for peer review by September 30, 2008. The overall EFP goal is to assist as many First Nations farmers as possible to implement best management practices on their farms.

I want to extend my thanks to all our program peers, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Ontario Federation of Agriculture and Ontario Soils and Crop Improvement Association for their support and assistance in making this program to date so successful for First Nations farmers . Finally, I

want to express my respect and thanks to our First Nations clients for their positive uptake of the pilot program and their cooperation in working with IAPO staff to meet all the required criteria. Anyone requiring assistance or more information on the program is invited to contact either of our offices immediately.

Agribusiness

By Peter Jay Lanthier, Farm Management Advisor

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A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE AT THE CANADIAN OUTDOOR FARM SHOW

After attending the 2008, fifteenth anniversary edition of Canada's Outdoor Farm Show in Woodstock last week three things stood out in my mind as to the primary direction of research focus in Canada's agriculture today; food, feed and fuel. It was very interesting to see the innovations that the seed companies are promoting for the future. Grain crops that are protected from disease and insect pressures with seed treatments are now common place. Soon we will have genetics that will allow crops to more easily capture and better utilize the nutrients in the soil to produce healthier plants with higher yields. Improved genetics will also allow crops to be more vigorous in times of drought as well as tolerate heat stress and frost better. Technology is now available to produce designer grains such as crops that produce oils with improved health attributes, better feed grains more suitable for livestock consumption and energy conversion, and cash crop hybrids specifically designed for cellulosic fiber and bio diesel production. All of these improvements will be crucial not only to the bottom line of producers but also in our efforts to feed the world.

At the livestock auction I was fortunate to be part of a discussion with a representative from Novartis, an important player in the animal health industry, and a few livestock producers who were questioning each other on the direction required to

support a viable cattle industry here in Ontario. To my great surprise they were all in agreement: genetics. With a stock of well bred breeders a livestock producer is able to breed, grow and market cattle, hogs, chicken, and even fish that have improved health attributes for today's discerning consumer. Canada is positioned as a top producer of breeding stock due to the industrial research facilities that are supported by the intellectual power of our universities and colleges, many of whom were represented at the show.

The most intriguing sector of growth and development at the show that caught my eye was at the alternative energy generation pavilion. Several new and developing companies, along with OMAFRA and the Ministry of Natural Resources, were front and center at the main entrance to the show with an exhibit that caught everyone's attention. From on-farm biodiesel production to a full scale geothermal system, electricity from solar panels that can drive almost any piece of equipment now, to a wind turbine that even a small or modest operation could afford, it was all on display!

With all that new technology on display it wasn't hard to miss what we all came here to see; THAT BIG NEW COMBINE. Just how big can a combine get?



The Market Place



For Sale:

- 1999 New Holland TL90 Tractor, Cab, Air, FWA, 76 H.P., low hours, contact IAPO-Lambeth @ 1-800-663-6912
- White Tractor, 4wd, 180 hp, Cat engine, good running order, available at Six Nations, contact Eldred Martin, @ 519 445-4595 or 445-1212



Crop Information

By Peter Jay Lanthier, Farm Management Advisor

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CROP UPDATE

Wheat harvest is finally done! It was a long drawn out harvest for most growers. Indications from OMAFRA are that yield and quality were reasonable to good. Overall grain quality resulted in few downgrades to feed grade. Fusarium and mildew were present in most fields but did not significantly reduce grades. However as harvest dragged on into August, sprouting became an issue. First Nations growers reported good grades and a number of very good yields. Some fields yielded 70, 80 even over 90 bushels per acre.

Corn in Ontario is maturing through to the dent stage. Some crops are slightly behind due to cooler wetter summer weather we've had. Both growing degree days and corn heat units are slightly below normal levels at this date, and most areas in Ontario are quite a bit above norms for precipitation. Most crops would seem to be progressing to a reasonably good yield potential. If the frost would hold off for another handful of weeks and let the kernels dry down growers should expect yields to be above average.

Soybeans are maturing quite quickly across the province due to the cooler nights we've experienced lately. Most fields are turning yellow and early varieties are beginning to drop leaves. Crops in southern Ontario should yield very well if we get decent harvest weather. Now is the time to consider pre-harvest weed control if perennial weeds like sow thistle, Canada thistle, field bindweed, dandelion milkweed and prickly lettuce. When it comes to perennial weed control, most growers, agronomists and weed scientists agree that persistence is key. If you let your guard down even once, perennial weeds will become more problematic the next year. Perennial weeds are more easily controlled in the fall than in the spring. Cooler temperatures will trigger movement of sugars down to their roots for over-winter storage. Applying a systemic herbicide in the fall promotes movement of the active ingredient down to the roots providing effective control.

When considering your choice for fall tillage on wheat stubble here are some points to consider. Cultivators are economical and give decent weed control but don't handle a lot of trash well and don't do the best job in heavy soils. Disc tillage will mix soil very well; cuts well through thrash and can be adapted to leave the soil reasonably level. The down side of discs is that they can throw up clumps, stones and

older discs can leave pronounced ridges in the soil.



Chisel plows leave a good amount of residue on the surface, and are more economical to use than a mouldboard plow. However chisel plows leave a very rough surface which can adversely affect spraying operations, can smear the soil if done

when wet, and can result in uneven drying in the spring. Finally if you still use the mouldboard plow it has advantages and disadvantages too.

Mouldboards will alleviate compaction, bury trash, and is an excellent method for mechanical weed control. The disadvantages are that it can be time consuming and expensive, and in some cases will bring up stones and sub soil if it works too deep and nobody likes the old dead furrow.



EFFECT OF WATER VOLUMES ON GLYPHOSATE

It has been well documented that the effectiveness of glyphosate, the active ingredient in products such as Roundup and Touchdown, will increase as spray volume decreases. Therefore a water volume of 5-10 gpa (20-40 L/ac or 50-100 L/ha) is recommended. Higher water volumes will increase the chance of salt antagonism of glyphosate and lowers the concentration of glyphosate within each spray droplet.

Herbicides for the control of dandelion.			
Product(s)	Rate (L/ac)	% Control	Price (\$/ac)
Amitrol 240	3 L/ac	96	\$25.22
glyphosate	2 L/ac	92	\$22.00
glyphosate + Banvel II	1 L/ac + 0.25 L/ac	91	\$19.82
glyphosate	1.5 L/ac	90	\$15.50
Banvel II	0.5 L/ac	89	\$17.64
2,4-D Ester	1 L/ac	89	\$9.09
glyphosate + 2,4-D Ester	1 L/ac + 0.5 L/ac	89	\$14.55
Amitrol 240	2 L/ac	88	\$14.15
glyphosate + Amitrol 240	1 L/ac + 1 L/ac	86	\$24.76

Chart comes from OMAFRA and prices are averages for Ontario.



Chipper Chirp

Problems are not stop signs, they are guidelines.

~Robert Schuller

Livestock Information

By Mark Leahy, Farm Management Advisor-

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NATIONS' COWHERDS DECLINING

Cattle Inventory Reports are indicating a general decline in a number of beef producing countries in the world. Canada and the U.S. are reporting a static situation or slight declines in cow numbers. It is also believed cowherds are declining in Mexico, South America, Australia and Europe. Feed cost is a major factor.

The U.S. is reporting increased beef trade with Japan, Mexico, Canada and South Korea. Beef imports are down. Exports to Canada have increased as a result of tight feeding margins in Alberta resulting in more calves going south for finishing and returning as beef.

Canadian cattle exports to the U.S. are up 43% as of July 1 compared to the same time in 2007. Last year was a record year for calf exports to U.S. A decline is anticipated for the rest of 2008.

FALL BORN CALVES HAVE LIGHTER BIRTH WEIGHTS

Fall calving cows delivered smaller birth weight calves (77.7 pounds) than did spring calving cows (82.2 pounds).

Cows are carrying a calf in hot weather. Blood flow patterns of cattle during periods of high temperatures change in an effort to dissipate heat from the body. Blood (and the nutrients that it carries) is shunted to the outer extremities during hot weather to dissipate heat. Therefore less blood flow is sent to the inner core of the cow

where the fetus is developing. This subtle change in blood flow is commonly thought to be the reason that lighter birth weights occur to cattle that are in the last trimester of pregnancy in June, July, and August. Other studies have shown that birth weights in a cold winter are higher.

HIGH FEED COSTS ENCOURAGE GRAZING

USDA's July cattle inventory report shows cattle numbers are staying constant with no signs of expansion nor significant indications of liquidation. The estimated July cattle and calves inventory is virtually unchanged from last year at 104.3 million head. Estimated beef cows are down slightly more than 0.5 percent. Estimated beef replacement heifers are down two percent showing no interest in expansion on the part of beef producers. This is further indicated by the fact that the July 1 on-feed inventory includes a slightly higher percentage of heifers this year compared to 2007.

The estimated 2008 calf crop is essentially unchanged from last year at 37.3 million head. The estimated July 1 supply of feeder cattle outside feedlots is up 0.7 percent compared to last year. This has more to do with changes in the timing of cattle production rather than any increase in feeder supplies. The strong incentives for forage based production means that more cattle are grazing this summer and will show up in feedlots in the fall. Beginning last year and even more so this year, the cattle industry continues to revert to more of a yearling based industry with seasonal production increasingly influenced by summer grazing.



WEANING SUCCESS

Calves are separated from their mothers in different ways at weaning. Some are sent bawling onto the truck, others are separated from the mothers a few days before shipping to complete the weaning process. Some are separated from their mothers while others can touch noses through a fence.

Which method is best assuming we wish to reduce weight loss and reduce the need to treat for illness?

A comparison was done by Oklahoma State comparing three weaning methods: 1) calves weaned directly onto the truck, 2) calves weaned 30 days before trucking and isolated from mothers, and 3) calves weaned 30 days before trucking and pastured with fence-line contact with their mothers. The charts shows results of weaning method on gain the first week and number of calves requiring treatment due to illness in the first month after separation from mothers.

Weaning Method	Gain/day 1 st Week	% of Calves Treated
1) Directly onto truck	1.1 lbs	30%
2) Isolated from mothers	1.32 lbs	37.5%
3) Fenceline contact	.88 lbs	15%

Weight gain in the three weeks following week one was the same for all methods.

The big difference was in the number of calves showing illness with different weaning methods. It appears that calves weaned with contact with mothers are the most healthy.

Hopefully buyers will pay a premium for these calves!

Market Information

BEEF MARKET

By Mark Leahy



**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 11, 2008.

Rail prices are up \$6 per cwt, fed cattle prices \$3.

Heavy steers (7 to 8 weights) are steady while heifers have strengthened \$6. Six to seven weight steers are down \$6, heifers have fallen \$4 on average.

Cull cow and bull prices are off \$4. Cull cows are starting to come to market which will push cow prices down.

All prices are on a hundred pound basis (cwt)

Category	Price Range	Ave. Price	Top Price
Rail Steers	164-168		
Fed steers	91 - 101	97	107
Fed heifers	91- 99	96	104
Cows	39 - 59	50	93
Bulls	58- 74	68	92
Stocker Steers			
700 - 799	90 - 112	105	119
600 - 699	89 - 115	105	126
500 - 599	92 - 122	111	140
Stocker Heifers			
700 - 799	87 - 104	99	113
600 - 699	84 - 106	97	119
500 - 599	84 - 108	99	120

CROP MARKET

By Peter Lanthier

With the lead up to last Friday's important U.S./world crop production and supply/demand updates from USDA the market will make attempts to get a handle on the size of the late-maturing 2008 U.S. crop. The commodity bull run that sent grain markets to record highs in 2008 has obviously been hobbled this summer.


The recent USDA report may temper that retreat and even spike the markets with a bit of a fall weather rally. Friday Sept. 12 the U.S. Department of Agriculture reduced both its corn and soybean production estimates in its monthly report. And it may only be the start of further reductions ahead with the poor growing conditions in August and late start to this year's growing season. At 12.1 billion bushels, USDA's September Crop Production report reduces production 216 million bushels on lower expected yields.


The forecast corn yield of 152.3 bushels


per acre is down 2.7 bushels from last month. Soybean production is forecast at 2.93 billion bushels, down 1% from the August forecast but up 13% from last year.

The USDA actually made significant cuts to yield estimates, particularly significant for corn, which is rare unless there is a big drop in crop rating. The real message here is that the USDA feels that the downside risk was probably limited, but they still cut their yield

estimate, with more cuts likely. Although USDA did cut soybean yields, a lot of uncertainty remains because soybeans could benefit the most from September rains, but are also most vulnerable to adverse weather conditions. Markets were not prepared to turn bullish at this time on a single forecast. However, it did grab the market's attention, so interest in the extended weather outlook is now heightened and looking for confirmation.

CORN-Monday, September 15, 2008: (NORFOLK)				
	2008 New Crop	Futures 5.62	Basis - 0.45	Price 5.17
	2009	Futures 5.92	Basis - 0.80	Price 5.12

SOYBEANS-Monday, September 15, 2008: (NORFOLK)				
	2008 New Crop	Futures 11.79	Basis - 0.90	Price 10.89
	2009	Futures 11.59	Basis - 0.95	Price 10.64

SOFT RED WHEAT-Monday, September 15, 2008: (NORWICH)				
	New Crop	Futures 7.27	Basis - 2.78	Price 4.49
	2009	Futures 7.72	Basis - 2.52	Price 5.20

Other News

REDUCE SOYBEAN HARVEST LOSSES

Excerpt from Michigan Ag Connection - 09/12/2008

Harvest losses can significantly reduce soybean growers' yields and profitability. Harvest losses of 12 percent can easily occur if combine operators don't pay close attention to equipment adjustments and operation. Michigan State University (MSU) Extension educator Mike Staton suggests that adopting a few harvest management strategies can limit losses to three percent or less.

"Shatter losses at the header account for most of the harvest losses," says Staton, who is based in Van Buren County and also coordinates the Soybean 2010 program. "The best way to prevent shatter losses is to harvest as much of your crop as possible before the moisture level in the beans falls below 13 percent. When soybeans undergo repeated wetting and drying cycles after initially drying below 13 percent moisture, the pods become brittle and shatter easily."

He recommends harvesting soybeans one week after 95 percent of the leaves turn brown, even though some green leaves may still remain on the stalks. Staton suggests that farmers incorporate the following recommendations to limit harvest loss and market more of their 2008 soybean crop:

- Begin harvesting when the moisture level in the beans reaches 15 percent.
- Keep knife sections sharp and tight, and make sure that all guards, wear plates and hold-down clips are in good condition and properly adjusted. Consider replacing standard knife sections with narrow knife sections to reduce shatter losses.
- Operate the cutter bar as close to the ground as possible.
- Keep the ground speed at three miles per hour or less.
- Adjust the reel to run about 25 percent faster than the ground speed.
- If the crop is standing well, position the reel axis six to nine inches ahead of the cutter bar and adjust the reel height so

POSITION AVAILABLE

Loan Review Committee Member

IAPO seeks applications from interested First Nations candidates possessing a financial background to serve a three year term on the Loan Review Committee (LRC). The LRC reviews and renders decisions on all client submissions under the IAPO program.

Additional details are available upon request. Submissions may be sent to D.E. 'Ted' Young, G.M., Box 83 Lambeth Station, London, Ontario, N6P 1P9 by September 30, 2008.

that the tips of the fingers operate about 12 inches above the ground. If the plants are tangled or lodged, position the reel axis 9 to 12 inches ahead of the cutter bar and adjust the height so that the reel runs about one inch above the ground. Raise the reel if plants are riding over the top of it.

- Take advantage of conditions that create damp pods, such as dew, light rains or high humidity, to reduce shattering.
- Maintain the slowest cylinder speed possible that produces complete threshing.
- Check header losses periodically by backing the combine up 10 feet and counting the number of beans per square foot on the ground in front of the header.

Remember that you are losing one bushel per acre for every four beans per square foot you find on the ground.

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL SKILLS SERVICE (CASS)

By Doug Macpherson, Consultant

Please take time to read the CASS newsletter, which is posted on our IAPO website (scroll down to 'Other Publications'-below our monthly newsletters). Read information about CASS, which is a renewal program under the federal-provincial-territorial Agricultural Policy Framework. CASS has funded training and skills enhancement programs for farmers and their spouses across Canada. If you have a need or an idea, do not hesitate to call this toll free number 1-877-830-0200.

Calendar of Events

- Sept. 19-21 Wikwemikong Fair, Wikwemikong, Ontario
- Sept. 16-20 International Plowing Match, Teeswater (Bruce County), www.ipm2008.ca
- Oct. 30 IAPO Board Meeting, Toronto, Ontario
- Oct.31, Nov 1,2 North American Beef Congress, Agriples, Western Fair, London, www.northamericanbeefcongress.com
- Nov. 7-16 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, visit www.royalfair.org for details