



# Native Agri Update

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INDIAN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM OF ONTARIO

## From The Manager's Desk

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

iapo-ted@on.aibn.com

### IAPO SEEKS NEW FARM MANAGEMENT ADVISOR

An advertisement is in place to recruit a new Farm Management Advisor for South Western Ontario. The successful candidate will service the entire SW Ontario area including all areas to the immediate north including Grey and Bruce Counties. The position has evolved with the retirement of Doug Macpherson last March and the upcoming retirement of our Business Support Officer, Jim Hunter, on March 31, 2008.

The new employee will be taking complete charge of all field activities. Our plans at present are to have the successful candidate on staff by mid to late October 2007.

The new employee will be required to perform all lending and extension services which will include providing after care and farm management and marketing advice. We are seeking a candidate who has a solid understanding and proven credentials in agriculture and who can work effectively with First Nations Farmers and their families. Assisting with Youth activities is also part of the position to support 4-H Ontario and other First Nation youth events.



### CANADIAN YOUNG SPEAKERS FOR AGRICULTURE (CYSA)

Eighteen year old Rebecca Martin of the 6<sup>th</sup> Line in Ohsweken will speak on her viewpoint of First Nations Agriculture at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (RAWF) in Toronto on Saturday November 3, 2007. Rebecca is the first First Nations Young Speaker in the history of the 22 year competition. Rebecca is the current "Queen of the Furrow" for Brant County and is the grand daughter of Mr and Mrs Cyril Fraser of Six Nations in Ohsweken. Rebecca is currently enrolled in her first year at the University of Guelph on the Ridgetown campus.

This will be a real opportunity for Rebecca to articulate her thoughts to Canadians and youth nationwide. RAWF officials assert that the exhibition is the largest Agricultural exhibition in the world. The winner, out of contestants from across Canada, will receive a \$1000 cash prize and hold the title of "Canadian Champion" for one year.

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## INDIAN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM OF ONTARIO

### Western Office

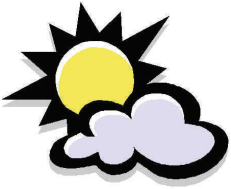
Box 83, Station Lambeth  
6453 Hamlyn Road  
London, ON N6P 1P9  
Phone: 519 652-2440  
Toll Free: 1-800-663-6912

### Eastern Office

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

(From *The Manager's Desk...cont'd*)

## WEATHER CONDITIONS



Over the last part of August and early September rainfall has arrived and it has been welcomed by many of our clients. Some areas still suffer from the midsummer drought but recovery is hoped for the majority and especially the soybean crop. Staff has worked closely with our clients during this difficult period.

## ALTERNATE TOBACCO OPTIONS EXPLORED

From *The Tillsonburg News*, by Jeff Helsdon  
Friday September 14, 2007

An Aylmer-area field school is looking at a crop that could

help replace tobacco. Earthquest, which is based in Pinecroft, recently received a Job Creation Partnership grant to explore the potential of agrinomy. Agrinomy is a member of the rose family that grows in the mixed deciduous forest of Ontario.



It's a spiky wildflower that has many medicinal qualities.

"It's more potent than ginseng and aloe vera combined," said Dave Jolly, executive director of Earthquest. It is

one of the most potent of herbs. The product humans use is derived from its flowers that are made into a bottled solution that is used as a blood thinner and detoxifier, kidney detoxifier, for circulatory problems, respiratory problems, depression, treating third-degree burns and erectile dysfunction.

Jolly's study will look at locations where agrinomy is growing naturally so the conditions can be replicated. The five-year study will also include a market analysis to look at the potential of the crop.

## General Information

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

### New Risk Management Program (RMP) For Ontario

After more than two years of negotiations, Ontario's grain and oilseed producers got a commitment from the Ontario Government on September 12th to help them deal with global pressures and low prices with the announcement of a new risk management program

The Government says The Risk Management Program is a **three-year pilot program** designed to help farmers offset losses caused by low grain and oilseed commodity prices. The program will begin with the 2007 crop year. **Farmers must enroll for the full three years but their premiums will be waived in the first year.** The province will fund the three-year program at the traditional 40% share, while continuing to encourage the federal government to provide its 60% share.

All producers who grow one of the grain and oilseed crops previously supported through the Market Revenue Insurance program will be eligible to participate in RMP.

These crops include: Seed, Popping and Grain Corn; Soybeans; Spring and Winter Wheat; Canola; Barley; Oats; White and Coloured Beans; Sunflowers; Rye; Buckwheat; Field Peas; Flax; Triticale; Faba Beans; Millet; Sorghum; and Spelt. It also includes farm-fed grain crops such as corn silage.

RMP is designed not as a stand-alone program but as part of a complete risk management package offered to producers. For that reason, producers who want to participate in the new program are required to participate in both the Production Insurance (PI) and Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) programs.

Agricorp will have applications available in September, and expects to begin issuing payments in December.



### SOY DIESEL PLANT POSSIBLE FOR ONTARIO

AGRIS Co-operative Ltd. and UPI Energy LP are developing a business and venture capital plan to build a facility to produce and market biodiesel from soybeans in southwestern Ontario. This decision was reached after receiving the positive results of the initial feasibility study on the financial viability of the project. The plant could be built as early as 2009.

In addition, the two companies also announced that they have formed a joint venture and will be merging petroleum services in Kent, Lambton, Elgin

*(SOY DIESEL PLANT POSSIBLE FOR ONTARIO...cont'd)*

and Middlesex counties. This will make AGRIS Co-operative the exclusive distributor of UPI soy-based biodiesel farm fuels in southwestern Ontario.

AGRIS Co-operative Ltd. is a farmer-owned grain marketing and farm input supply co-op and serves more than 1,200 farmer members in 14 locations in southwest Ontario. It is a member-owner of GROWMARK, Inc and markets products and services under the FS banner.

## MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT EXPANDS SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR FARMERS

*Ontario Farmers to Benefit from New Definition of "Farming"*

TORONTO — To help ease the tax burden on Ontario's farmers, the McGuinty government is allowing more farming activities to be retail sales tax exempt, Finance Minister Greg Sorbara announced today.

"The expanded RST exemption will allow farmers to invest more money into their farms," said Sorbara. "It will also help to maintain a stronger, more sustainable farm sector in Ontario."

Effective August 28, 2007, the definition of farming will be changed to ensure certain post-harvest activities, such as cleaning, sorting, grading, packing, packaging and storing crops will be included in the RST exemption. As a result, more activities will qualify for the RST farm building materials exemption and farm equipment and supplies exemption, provided the building or equipment is used exclusively in the business of farming.

**BSO Notes:** Please watch your invoices because I periodically see some invoices where our farmers have paid tax when they should have been exempt. Also, watch for GST charges, it is much easier to avoid paying the tax than trying to get the tax back.

## SEPTEMBER SIGNALS SAFETY

*Excerpt from The CFFO Commentary, September 7, 2007  
By Jenny Denhartog, Field Services Associate of CFFO*

The month of September signifies change in the lives of many Ontarians. Cooler nights signify the end of summer, holidays have come to an end, and kids are going back to school. School buses are back on the road, forcing us all to get used to those frequent stops again. Careful driving helps keep our rural children safe as they wait at the end of their



# The Market Place

**For Sale:**

- 1999 New Holland TL90 Tractor, Cab, Air, FWA, 76 H.P., low hours, contact IAPO-Lambeth office, 1-800-663-6912
- Used CASE IH 886 2wd with Cab, available at Six Nations, contact Seymore Hill, 519 445-4239
- White Tractor, 4wd, 180 hp, Cat engine, good running order, available at Six Nations, contact Eldred Martin, 519 445-4595 or 445-1212

laneways and travel the roads.

September is also the month in which, historically, a large number of farm work related farm injuries and fatalities occur. It's not surprising, when you take into account the field work that takes place at this time of the year, making it necessary for farmers to work long days, using heavy equipment. Slow moving farm vehicles, like school buses, require a little bit of special consideration from their drivers as well as from other motorists. Slow moving signs, like stop signs on school buses, are there for a reason. But unlike school buses, farm vehicles will be using the roads from early morning to late at night, or even all night, to bring in the harvest that will put food on the table of Canadians for months to come. So whether you're operating that farm equipment or driving the car, please drive carefully and have a safe harvest season.

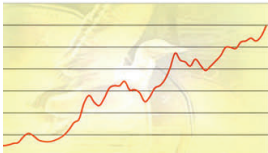
**Some Good Safety Tips for Fall Harvest from past BSO's articles:**

- Do not abuse or neglect safety features built into equipment
- Don't operate equipment when your ability is impaired by illness, alcohol or drugs; check potential side effects of prescription drugs with your doctor
- Before moving into the traveled portion of a highway, check to make sure you can do it safely, signal, then look again before pulling out
- When operating slow-moving equipment, don't hold up traffic unnecessarily; pull off to the side of the road and stop when it is safe to do so to allow traffic to pass
- The engine should be shut off whenever the operator dismounts from behind the steering wheel unless a running engine is necessary for repairs, adjustments and inspections
- During refuelling, turn engine off; do not leave automatic fueling nozzles unattended and don't smoke or allow smoking within 3 m (10 ft) during filling
- Whenever you leave your vehicle, take the keys with you and lock all doors and compartments (as applicable)

# CropWatch

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

## LOONIE ABOVE 97 CENTS



The Canadian dollar closed above 97 cents on Friday September 14<sup>th</sup>.

The loonie is rallying again on rumours of U.S. economic problems. The U.S. dollar is losing strength amid these concerns. This recent rally is cooling basis levels in Ontario.

## RAPID DRY DOWN

This year's weather should lead to rapid dry down of the Ontario corn crop. Corn, in the areas of moisture stress, matured early. A dry September will speed the maturation process. In a year of expected lower yields farmers will save on drying costs if corn moisture levels fall to 20 per cent or below.

## ASSESSING YOUR VARIETY SELECTION

Farmers are faced with several options when selecting soybean varieties for their farm. As you harvest this year's bean crop, be vigilant of the variation from one variety to another. Although yield is a major factor, it is not the only one. You need a variety that demonstrates consistency across the soil types. Compare yields from field to field. Compare yields between varieties. Variety selection and self evaluation on your farm is very important. New varieties yield better and often carry improved disease resistance packages. Tremendous genetic advances have been achieved over the past decades.

Yield improvement has averaged .5% per year. You must ensure these genetic advances are included in the soybean varieties that you grow. As you harvest make notes and mark your field on the weigh tickets. After harvest you can take the time to compare, before ordering soybean seed for 2008.

## USDA – MORE CORN – LESS BEANS

The September USDA crop production report surprised the market by lowering 2007 projected production of soybeans. Soybean prices have been increasing almost daily since the report was released. Ontario new crop soybeans have passed the \$9.00 per bushel plateau. Unfortunately corn projected production was increased causing a softness in the market place. New crop price is \$3.40 per bushel. Ontario basis has improved slightly as local elevators begin to recognize the negative effects of drought on the 2007 crops.

*Information taken from  
GOOD MORNING ONTARIO 9/17*

## HIGHER WHEAT PRICES SHOULD HAVE ONTARIO FARMERS CELEBRATING, SAYS BOARD

Wheat farmers in Ontario have seen their input costs rise continuously over the last ten years while commodity prices have remained at 1970's levels, says a release from the Ontario Wheat Producers' Marketing Board. Food manufacturer's price products competitively for today's marketplace but the percentage share paid to producers continues to drop.

The reason for this is simple, says the OWPMB. Wheat is an international

commodity traded openly on commodity exchanges around the world and subject to market forces beyond a farmer's control. Subsidies paid to farmers in other countries to improve their incomes affect the price paid to Ontario wheat growers who aren't subsidized by our government. In other words, farmers in other parts of the world receive an artificially inflated price and Ontario farmers pay the consequences.

The Board says "There is no question the recent rise in the price of wheat will have a huge affect on Ontario. Farmers will plant more wheat this fall and hopefully receive more money when they sell it next summer than they have in recent years. This will mean more money for the rural economy.

## WINTER WHEAT AREA EXPECTED UP SHARPLY IN ONTARIO



Producers in Ontario are expected to significantly ramp up winter wheat acreage this fall, says a report posted on farmassist.ca.

The increase could be particularly large where Ontario Wheat Producers Marketing Board, General Manager Larry Shapton said he believes planted area could reach 1.5 million - and possibly even beyond if the weather cooperates. "That's the indication we're getting from talking to a mixture of everybody - trade, producers - they're planting more than they ever have."

# Livestock Information

By Mark Leahy, Farm Management Advisor

mark@indianag.on.ca

## BEEF MARKET WATCH



**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 13/07.

The Ontario cattle market is down this month.

Rail grades prices are about even. Fed steers and heifers are off \$3 - \$4. Cull cows are down \$4, bulls have fallen \$4. Steer calves are off up to \$5 while heifer calves are showing little change.

Cull cow and bull prices usual take a dip in the fall months.

All prices are on a hundred pound basis (cwt)

Category	Price Range	Ave. Price	Top Price
Rail Steers	147-155		
Fed steers	84 - 90	87	104
Fed heifers	81- 89	86	94
Cows	23 - 42	32	90
Bulls	38- 54	46	88
Stocker steers			
600 - 699	95 - 117	109	123
500 - 599	100 - 127	116	138
Stocker heifers			
600 - 699	92 - 110	103	130
500 - 599	89 - 111	103	122



## Christmas in September!

Feedlot managers do have a wish list even in September!

Here is what they are looking for in calves this fall. Profit margins are slim in the feeding business. Sick calves on arrival can cost big bucks!

- **Vaccinated calves** – A good vaccination program before the calves leave home is the best prevention for sickness on arrival at a feedlot. Some buyers are willing to pay a little more for the vaccinations. They will **not bid** on calves that are not vaccinated! Some herd owners at Wiki vaccinated calves once in the spring before grass and will do it again before weaning and sale. **Buyers like the double modified live program.**
- **Calves started on feed** – Calves arriving at a feedlot are often hungry, thirsty and stressed. Calves used to dry hay, grain and drinking from a trough or water bowl can move ahead. They will get their stomachs working again and recover from dehydration. Calves right off grass will spend a day or more wandering around the lot bawling and looking for feed. These are the ones most likely to not eat.

They are still stressed, less able to fight respiratory problems and require treatment. Sickness costs the feedlot owner in health bills. It is also a cost in slow start up gains. Calves with serious respiratory problems are often slow gainers right through to finish.

- **Properly castrated and dehorned calves** – These jobs take time and add more stress to an already stressed calf. **Do these things at birth!** It reduces the workload and results in less stress at market time. However, if it needs to be done now do it properly and at least three weeks before sale.
- **Properly weaned calves** – Calves weaned, past the bawling stage and eating and drinking are less stressed when handled, trucked and introduced to a new location.

The bottom line is stressed calves cost money. Reduce stress. It pays for everyone. It is encouraging to see some of our farmers meeting the buyers' wish list. You have done all this work. Sell the calves at quality sales where buyers appreciate and **pay for calves well prepared.**

**Don't forget the RFID tags!**



## Weaning Calves

Barry Potter, Northern Livestock Specialist/OMAFRA has some suggestions to reduce weaning stress.

### Fenceline Separation:

Fenceline weaning, where cows and calves are separated by a fence, has proven to be less stressful than complete separation. So they are familiar with the locations of water and feed, keep calves on the side of the fence that was their home prior to weaning. Ensure that the fence is secure enough to prevent calves and cows from getting back together.

### Complete Separation:

If the fenceline method is not possible, move the cows far enough away from the calves so that neither group can hear the other. Again, in an ideal situation, the calves remain at the location where they were prior to weaning and the cows are moved.

If the calves must be moved to a new location, pay more attention to the new environment. Place feed where calves can easily find and adjust to it. Put waterers in several places in the cattle yard. No matter which separation method of weaning is selected, the environment should have areas that allow calves to stay dry and sheltered. Never confine

calves in a barn that lacks natural light and fresh air. Dark locations with stale air are ideal environments for spreading disease.



## Vaccine Care

For vaccines to provide good immunity they must be handled with care. If not, it can be as effective as using water! Here are suggestions.

- **Keep all vaccines refrigerated until ready to use.**
- **Transport vaccines in a cooler with cooler packs.**
- **Use 10-dose vials.**
- **A vaccine starts to deteriorate from the moment it's reconstituted.** The rate of deterioration is enhanced as the temperature rises and exposure to direct sunlight is sustained. The goal is to get fresh, cool vaccine

into the calf.

- **Utilize the one-hour rule.** The clock starts ticking the moment the vaccine is mixed. An hour after mixing, even if it's still in the cooler, discard it. If you use a 10-dose bottle, you'll mind it a whole lot less.

## Vaccine Injections

- **Use clean equipment.** Dirty equipment may cause a reaction at the injection site and often reduces the efficacy of the vaccine.
- **If using automatic syringes, use as short a tube as possible.** A 10-dose bottle, a very short tube and placing the vaccine gun back into a six-pack cooler after each calf is a good practice.
- **Never lay any vaccination equipment, with or without vaccine, down in the sun where it can heat up.** Transport equipment in the cooler with the vaccine so it's already cool when the vaccine hits it.
- **Use sharp needles. Replace the needle any time it doesn't easily cut through the skin.**
- **Vaccinate in the neck. As always.**



## Chipper Chirps

*Failure is Success if we learn from it.*

*Malcolm Forbes*

## Calendar of Events

- Sept.18-22 International Plowing Match & Rural Expo, Crosby, Township of Rideau Lakes, County of Leeds-Grenville <http://www.ipm2007.ca>
- Sept. 28,29,30 Wikwemikong Fair , Note date change

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