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IN THIS ISSUE

2

CCA Ontario Ag.
Hall of Fame Inductees

4

New CCA Website

7

Herbicide Resistance in
Ontario - Liam Bracken,
CCA Mentee Survey

8

Heightened Biosecurity
during Spring Planting

9

Consider Joining the
CCA Marketing
Committee

10

Industry Updates

CCA CHATTER

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2022 Ontario CCA Award of Excellence Winner

The CCA Award of Excellence was given out during the online CCA Conference and Annual Meeting on January 11, 2023.

The Award is co-sponsored by CropLife Canada and Syngenta.



syngenta

This year, there were four nominees:

Paul Hermans

Meagan Ioi

Don McLean

Wayne Wheeler

The recipient of the award for 2022 was Paul Hermans.

Paul graduated from the University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 1991 and went on to obtain his CCA designation in 1998. Right after graduation, Paul started working as a Soil and Water Conservation Technician with the Essex Region Conservation Authority in Essex, Ontario. Paul has held many roles in agronomy over the years, such as Field Sales Agronomist, Ontario District Sales Manager, North America Digital Sales Manager and most recently, Pioneer Seed Sales Agronomist with Corteva Agrisciences. This is a role he has held since 2019.

With over 30 years' experience in the industry, Paul is a well-seasoned CCA. In his current position with Corteva Agrisciences, Paul provides agronomic support and product training to his customers through PKP plots, IMPACT trials, and direct research work on the farm. He is known to be a mentor to CCAs of any age, coaching them on sales performance, best management practices, and product knowledge.

He is considered one of the go-to people for agriculture issues and is consistently promoting the CCA designation to young agronomists. He can be found providing educational extension to the digital agriculture world through Better Farming magazine, Ontario Farmer, and his personal social media, where he is known as the "Hermanator."

Congratulations Paul!

Nominations for the award are taken throughout the year with a submission deadline of October 31st. Nomination forms can be obtained by visiting the website at www.ccaontario.com or by calling the office at (519) 787-4322. 🌱

2024 CCA Conference – Save the Date

Mark your calendars for January 9th and 10th! We are returning to the Best Western Lamplighter Inn, in London, Ontario for our 21st CCA Conference and Annual Meeting.

Note the changes to the CCA Conference:

January 9th (evening only, 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.)

- Casual reception and networking
- CCA office hosts Agronomy Trivia!

January 10th (full day)

- Speaker sessions (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
- Annual General Meeting

January 10th (evening, 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.)

- Banquet
- Keynote speaker
- Awards Ceremony
- Sponsorship booths in Atrium

This year, at the CCA Awards Ceremony, a new award will be presented alongside the CCA Award of Excellence. Stemming from years of hard

Continued on page 2.

work by the CCA Research and Innovation Committee, they have launched the Innovation Award!

The CCA Innovation Award is designed to recognize an individual, group or organization who has demonstrated significant innovation or research within the crop advising field. A nomination can be initiated by a customer, employer, peer, or other associate.

In the scope of this award, Innovation is defined as novel advancement or practice that has had significant adoption or impact with the Ontario crop production industry.

Nominations will consist of:

- a letter outlining their contribution to innovation or research
- the nominee's project description demonstrating the current innovation or research initiative; and,
- the names and phone numbers of three references (such as grower customers, peers, etc.) who have agreed to recommend the nominee for this award. The CCA Innovation Award Committee will contact these individuals for a verbal reference.

The key aspect to emphasize is why this nominee's work or research is truly innovative.

Details on how to submit a nomination will be released in September via email to the CCA listserv. If you wish to get a head start on your application, contact Laura at the CCA office and she can provide you with the details you need to successfully submit a nomination. Nomination packages will be due October 31, 2023. 🌱

2023 CCA Conference and Annual Meeting

This year the 2023 CCA Conference and Annual Meeting was a huge success! We were very happy to be back in-person this year. There were 189 CCAs in attendance at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn in London, ON on January 11, 2023.

The 2023 CCA conference sponsors were as follows:

Gold Sponsors - \$2,500 Contribution

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2022 CCA Award of Excellence Co-Sponsors - \$1,000 Contribution

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|-------------------|-------------------|---|

Dale Cowan and Tarlok Singh Sahota – Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame Inductees

In 2023, the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame will induct 11 individuals who have made an impact on Ontario agriculture and beyond. Their influences range from agronomy and crop consulting, soil health and water quality advancements, pesticide and crop research, the development of farm shows and farm co-operatives and leadership in the sectors of horticulture, dairy, forages, eggs and pullets.

The Ontario CCA Association is proud to announce that there are two CCAs being inducted this year. Dale Cowan of Agris Coop, and Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota of Lakehead University.



Dale Cowan is a widely respected leader in Ontario agriculture with a career of over 40 years. A Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) since 1997, he has advised growers of numerous crops, has mentored many new CCAs and has reviewed crop recommendations spanning 275,000 acres. Through his extensive volunteer activities, Dale has become the "go to" person when it comes to associations and government

looking for an agronomist to provide balanced, science-based and practical input. He is known for his exploration of the newest technology and has also been instrumental in the development and promotion of sustainable agronomy and precision farming practices through Ontario.

Tarlok Singh Sahota has made great contributions in his work managing and sustaining the privately-run Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Station and its successful transition to Lakehead University Agricultural Research Station. The research station, under the leadership of Dr. Sahota, has always focussed on development-oriented agricultural research which found an easy application on farms, due to vigorous extension efforts of Dr. Sahota and receptive farmers. Until 2004, Thunder Bay producers grew only



a few crops that were needed for cattle. Dr. Sahota's research and extension helped area growers to diversify their cropping systems by adding numerous crops to their mix. He has authored hundreds of publications, extension articles and participated in media reports. Thunder Bay farmers rely on research conducted by Dr. Sahota to make their businesses more profitable and environmentally sustainable.

The 2023 induction ceremony will take place on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at the Grand Way Event Centre, Elora. Tickets are available at a cost of \$40 (for in person attendance) or \$20 (virtual attendance) on the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame's website at www.oahf.on.ca. 🌱

20 Years Certified in Ontario

The following CCAs received their 20-year certificate this year. Congratulations on this milestone!

Michael Bechard
Michael Campbell
Andrew Dales
Leslie Douglas
Dan Foster
Dan Kaufman
Trevor Latta
Kevin Leeder

Marc Edward
McKeown
Bradley Nicholson
Pierre Pinsonneault
Dave C. Racz
Bryan Stover
Marvin Talsma
Jeff Wilson 🌱

Newly Certified CCAs!


We are pleased to announce in the past four months there are nine new CCAs. Make sure if you see these individuals, you pass along your congratulations.

Arielle Aubrey
Heidi Frey
Tiffany Huberts
Jenny Liu
Randall Miles

Olivia Noorenberghe
Cade Robinet
Mandeep Riar
Hannah Symington 🌱

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CCA Soil & Water Day - New Location!

In partnership with Mosaic, the Ontario CCA Association will be hosting the 7th Soil & Water Information Day on Wednesday, November 15 2023.

The event will take place at the GrandWay Event Center in Elora.

There is the opportunity to join virtually this year! We will offer a live connection so if you are unable to attend in-person, you can join via Zoom and still get 4.5 SW credits. We will also record the session, and have it available for purchase to watch until December 31, 2023. The recording will be available after



and Laura at the CCA office will provide details when registration is released.

Once the agenda has been set, an email will be sent to all CCAs. 🌱

Reminder that the CCA office has moved!

The CCA office has moved! In August 2022, we made the move from Elmira, ON to Fergus, ON. If you haven't already done so, you need to note our new phone number and mailing address.

New mailing address:

CCA office
c/o Laura Shantz
195 St. David Street S., 3rd Floor
Fergus, ON N1M 2L4

Our phone number has also changed. Update your contacts to 519-787-4322.

Another important note is our fax machine is no longer in operation. If you recently submitted any CEU sign in sheets, payments, or any other information to our old fax number at 519-669-3826, call Laura at the CCA office or send her an email at laura.tio@bell.net to make sure this is resolved. 🌱

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Published by:

Patrick J. Lynch CCA-ON

Jonathan Zettler CPA, CMA, CCA-ON 4R-NMS

New CCA Website

Lots of new changes for the CCA Association in the past year! If you've been to the CCA website recently, you might notice that it has been given a bit of a facelift! A huge thank you to our website developer who redesigned the website for us, and made it more user friendly and easy to navigate.

You will notice on the website that you can now make multiple purchases at once! No need for separate transactions for your renewal and conference registration. Also, a receipt will automatically be emailed to you, instead of you having to wait for Krista Bates to process payments and email you one. If you still prefer to send a cheque, or call in your credit card for us to process, we can still do that. Any questions relating to any upcoming payments can be directed to Krista Bates, 519-787-4322.

Our office highly recommends you explore the new website! <https://ccaontario.com/> 🌱



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A CCA since 2014

Tragically as the result of a motor vehicle crash, Chris Hamers of Gorrie, and his daughter Jody Hamers (CCA-ON), of Fordwich, passed away on Tuesday, February 14, 2023. Chris and Jody thrived working together as a unique team. Both were very passionate about their work in the mechanical and agricultural industries, specifically poultry. Jody was a truly unique individual, she managed to be fun-loving with a contagious smile, while also being extremely logical and steady at the same time. Having a zest for life, these two will be missed. We are thinking of their family and friends during this difficult time. 🌱

Continuing Education Funds

The Continuing Education Funds were developed from a recent strategic planning session the CCA Board went through. These funds are to assist the recipient for continuing education in leadership development skills. If you are attending a leadership training workshop or course this year and would like to submit an application for reimbursement up to \$500, the CCA office can provide you with information. In order to be eligible for these funds, a CCA must submit a short essay of 1,000 words outlining the following:

- How the funds are intended to be used;
- Outline the value of course/training or educational program and how it relates to the CCA program;

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- How the continuing education will enhance their leadership abilities

Three successful candidates will be awarded these funds each year. Applications will open January 1, 2024. Make sure to keep information of any leadership training you complete this year to be submitted for reimbursement. Ontario CCA disbursement(s) will be sent via cheque to the mailing address provided on the application form upon proof of successful completion of leadership program. Exceptions may be made if rationale provided for pre-payment.

Laura at the CCA office can answer any questions you have about this new program. 🌱

CCA Renewal Fees Increasing

The Ontario CCA office collects all renewal fees from Ontario CCAs but must remit a portion of those fees to the International CCA office.

The Ontario renewal fee will increase to \$80 this year.

For 2024 renewal = \$80 for Ontario and \$85 for International = \$165 CAN plus HST (forecast, subject to exchange rate).

For each CCA specialty, the annual fee will not be changing (\$50.00 CAN plus HST).

If you believe you haven't paid your 2023 CCA renewal, contact Laura and Krista at the CCA office to get your account up to date. Late payments are subject to a \$25 additional fee.

Renewals are sent to the mailing address you have on your CCA profile. If your mailing address has changed, contact Laura to make sure it gets updated. We don't want to have you miss your renewal notice! 🌱

Looking to write a CCA exam? They're now on-demand!

Have you heard?! All the CCA exams are now offered on-demand! You can write the exams whenever you want throughout the year. Once you pay and register, you have 30 days to complete your exam. You are provided with your test results immediately after you complete the exam, with official results to follow from the ICCA a few weeks later. If you do not pass the exam, you must wait 14 days' before you can register and write again.

To register for the exam, visit the ICCA website at: <https://www.certifiedcropadviser.org/exams/registration>

The cost to write the International exam is \$180 US + \$55 proctor fee = \$235 US. The cost for the Ontario exam is \$100 US + \$45 proctor fee = \$145

Specialty exams (4R NMS and RMS) are \$95.00 USD + \$55 proctor fee = \$150.00 USD

If you know of an individual who is writing the CCA exam but may require additional support, there can be accommodations made. Such accommodations can be (but not limited to):

- Additional time to write the exam
- Having someone read/write the questions for you
- Having a hard copy instead of a computerized version

Individuals with disabilities or who will need assistance can contact Laura in the Ontario CCA office at laura.tfio@bell.net. She will put you in contact with the ICCA. Requests need to be submitted a minimum of three weeks in advance of when you plan to write the exams and you will need to provide documentation of your needs and request. 🌱

Herbicide Resistance in Ontario

*Submitted by: Liam Bracken, CCA Board Mentee in 2022
Presents his Survey Results*

Herbicide resistance is a topic that continues to develop in Ontario and nationally. As this issue continues to progress, chemical control options continue to diminish for certain challenging weed species. The agriculture industry has been promoting multiple methods of action, such as a multi-mode of action herbicide approach, timely applications of cultural control such as cover crops, and tillage to aid in control of tough to kill weeds. It remains relatively unknown as an industry, where we lie with tackling the problem of herbicide resistance. This article will provide a summary of a survey on managing herbicide resistant weeds conducted with the CCA-ON membership.

A survey was conducted to the CCA membership, where CCAs were asked to provide their experience and comments on herbicide resistance in Ontario. Upon review of the comments, there were three main weed species that were continually identified as being herbicide resistant: waterhemp, common ragweed, and Canada fleabane.

I am a firm believer in the quote "How will you know where to go if you don't know how got you there." In other words, how will we know where to go with future management of weeds, if we don't see how we got to the state we are in now. Before herbicides were widely available as a weed control option in the 1930's, tillage and long-term rotation crops were the primary methods used for weed control. Although there were few effective controls of weeds in crops, these methods inherently did not create resistance. In response to a question polled to CCAs, they felt that roughly 60% of acres are in a conservation tillage system, and also in that response, that conservation tillage practices have increased growers' dependency on herbicide significantly. With fewer methods of control available, any weed species population with resistance has the potential to flourish and reproduce. This is not to say tillage isn't a good sole method, however with proper application it can be a useful tool as part of the plan.

Ontario agriculture is no stranger to observing herbicide resistant weeds in the past, even before glyphosate, and we haven't overcome it yet. Triazine resistance is a point on our timeline which introduced us in a significant way how capable biological systems can be in developing resistance. Ever since the development of herbicide tolerance to glyphosate in corn and soybeans, the repeated use of glyphosate has developed resistance in four weed species in Ontario, some of which are difficult to control weeds. Many CCAs felt skeptical that the introduction of next generation herbicide tolerant traits such as Xtend and Enlist may not help the situation, which would be a natural thought after what occurred with the integration of glyphosate resistant traits. After asking CCAs their opinion on this, 39% believed these new herbicide resistant traits will aid in delaying resistance, 44% were unsure, and 17% believed they would not help. If we do not use these traits the same way we tried for glyphosate and use them as part of the package for weed control, I believe they can be effective in managing resistance.

Most growers believe in having insurance policies to cover themselves in the event of an unprecedented accident. With the potential damage that these resistant weeds can incur, what has held growers back in being more proactive against this issue? According to the survey results, the answer is simply cost. These additional applications of weed control come at a cost which growers are not willing to incur until it becomes an issue on their own farm. After examining the chart below, having even one plant of giant ragweed present/m² can come at a cost of \$117.25/acre. Assuming a 50-bushel soybean crop and a commodity price of \$16.75. Conversations around risk management, and cost benefit

Continued on page 8.

SWATMAPS

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Task	SWAT Maps	Status Quo
Directed Scouting	Yes	?
<i>Match Application Rates with Crop Input Response...</i>		
Seed	Yes	?
Nitrogen/Sulphur/Boron	Yes	?
Phosphorus/Potassium	Yes	?
Liming/Soil Amendments	Yes	?
Soil Applied Herbicides	Yes	?

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of managing weeds typically help justify with growers these extra control measures.

Soybean Crop Losses from Ontario Herb Versions 1.2 Software

Weed	Weed Infestation (plants/m ²)			
	1	5	10	25
Giant Ragweed	14	40	53	64
Lambs ¼'s	14	40	52	64
Pigweed	12	37	49	62
Ragweed	8	28	40	56
Velvetleaf	6	23	35	51
Wild mustard	5	21	32	49
Barnyard Grass	3	12	21	37
Green Foxtail	2	15	15	29

Figure 1. Yield losses of density of weeds by species, courtesy of Peter Sikkema - University of Guelph.

Although the potential damage that herbicide resistance can have has not proven to be detrimental on how farmers measure a crop yield, the majority of CCAs feel that herbicide resistant weeds cause relatively minimal impact to yield. Many CCAs comments included the concern that we are on the cusp of further yield damages, with even larger yield impacts isolated to certain farms.

Part of my interest in conducting this study was in light of discussion around a 20% reduction in glyphosate and 40% reduction in glufosinate due to supply shortages in 2022, which also brought on considerably higher prices. Growers tended to reduce their glyphosate by 20% in 2022 in response to these higher prices and low supply according to CCAs. This indicated to me that growers are capable of moving away from a herbicide we have become so dependent on to seek alternative methods.

Unfortunately, there does not seem to be a silver bullet approach to managing herbicide resistant weeds, although majority of CCAs like multiple approaches to achieve the best possible results. By in large, growers seem ready to manage these resistant weeds in the most convenient ways possible. CCAs felt that growers would be more likely to adopt additional modes of action, and application timing over some of the conventional options such as crop rotation, tillage and cover crops.

Therefore, the question remains, how should we move forward with herbicide resistance in Ontario? CCAs comments explain that cost driven conversations seem to be the most effective way to spread the message, along with timely discussion around herbicide planning time and application time. There is a demand among CCAs to have more materials present to engage in these conversations with growers. There are excellent government resources worth sharing with growers, for example the Resistant Weeds Dashboard, and the Ontario Crop Protection Hub. The Resistant Weeds dashboard in ArcGIS provides a county map of Ontario to show where positive samples of herbicide resistant weeds reside in Ontario. These websites guide growers through pest management opportunities to effectively manage their desired target. There are also a few resources from the University of Guelph and OMAFRA on the cost of controlling weeds posted in the Resource section of the CCA website.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the CCA Bard for their support in working on this project. It was a great opportunity to work with such a well-respected organization, and learn more about the roles in this Board, as well the chance to meet other agronomists in the industry. I would encourage any new CCAs to investigate this program to gain insight into what the CCA organization has going on. 🌱

Heightened Biosecurity During Spring Planting

You will likely have heard about cases of Avian influenza across North America the past year.

Avian influenza is a very serious threat for our Ontario, and Canadian, poultry sector. Migratory wild birds are introducing the virus as they make their spring migration North. For us, in Ontario, this migration is just getting underway. It is reasonable to expect that there are populations of positive AI wild birds moving throughout in Ontario.



Poultry farmers and service providers have been advised to heighten biosecurity practices on farm. The message is just as important for CCAs. As farmers and CCAs begin spring field work, it is extremely important that good biosecurity is followed. As a CCA, be conscious of where you are driving and walking. Water, wet soil, and feces can become contaminated with AI and linger after the migrating flock has moved on. Soil and wild bird feces can stick to tires and undercarriages of vehicles including ATVs and travel for miles. Below are some key biosecurity protocols to keep in mind.

- Washing vehicles between farms is ideal and should be considered essential before visiting a poultry farm during this period of heightened biosecurity.
- Pay special attention to the vehicle's tires.
- For footwear, remove obvious mud and organic matter first and then scrub boots especially the bottom tread with a brush and hose. Use disinfectants such as Virkon, Accel, VIROCID®, Bisentry, Biosolve Plus, Biofoam, etc. Ensure adequate contact time and concentrations – read the label!
- Also be sure to clean any equipment used on farm that could become contaminated, e.g., soil probes, shovels.
- When on poultry farms, avoid driving near barns that contain live birds if possible.

- Drive slowly when near barns to minimize dust.
- Look for designated visitor parking.
- Avoid parking by exhaust fans and air inlets unless required as part of loading or unloading.
- Do not enter any building on the property except where you need to deliver service unless you have the express permission of the farmer or farm manager.
- Sign the visitor logbook.
- Keep your own records identifying where you have been and when.

If you find dead wild birds, e.g., cluster of two small birds or one large one, contact the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative 1-866-673-4781, <http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca>. Some species of wild birds shed the AI virus in the spring and others in the fall. So also keep these biosecurity measures in mind for fall fieldwork. For additional information on Avian influenza and good biosecurity practices, see the following websites:

- Ontario Livestock and Poultry Council, biosecurity information for crops and for poultry operations (as well as other commodities) - <https://www.ontlpc.com/workshops.html>
- OMAFRA Avian influenza page - http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/vet/facts/avian_influenza.htm
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency - CFIA AI Page
- Chicken Farmers of Ontario - <http://www.ontariochicken.ca/News-Events/Whats-New.aspx> 🌱

You are the Best Marketer of the CCA Certification – Consider Joining the CCA Marketing Committee!

The Ontario CCA Board and the Marketing Committee are continually looking for affordable means of raising the profile of the CCA program. However, you also hold some responsibility for promoting your designation to your customers. We have a potential sales force of 680+ with a province wide reach.

There are many relatively simple things you can do to promote the CCA designation. We have published similar lists in past reports and newsletters but it is worth repeating:

- include your CCA-ON designation on your business card or signature line of your e-mails;
- on your telephone answering message identify yourself as a CCA (i.e. "Hello, this is John Smith, Certified Crop Advisor with XYZ Company, I am not available to take your call...")
- stick a CCA decal on your vehicle window;
- wear a jacket or shirt with the CCA logo embroidered on it to promote your affiliation;

- when giving an interview or writing a media article, be sure you are identified as a CCA;
- speak to a school, college or university class about careers in agriculture and be sure to mention the CCA program.

If you are interested in getting a CCA decal for your business or vehicle, you can get one on the online CCA store at <https://ccaontario.com/online-store> or you can reach out to Laura at the CCA office where she can get one mailed out to you.

If you are looking to get involved, the CCA Marketing Committee is always looking for members to join! Meeting a couple times a year, via Zoom, the Committee likes to stay active. Responsibilities include:

- Monitoring social media platforms
- Searching for opportunities to promote the CCA designation to the community
- Hosting Pizza Parties at local Universities and Colleges to encourage discussion CCAs and their role in the agriculture industry

If you are interested in joining the committee, contact Laura at the CCA office. She can provide you with further information.

If you are only interested in putting on a presentation at your local University or College, the Marketing Committee has put together a CCA presentation to be used. Contact Laura and she will provide you with the slides, and any additional details you may need. 🌱

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Extended Medical Employment Leaves

If you are planning a long-term medical leave from your employment, please advise the Ontario CCA office. We will discuss options with you regarding maintaining your CCA status including accumulation of CEUs. A long-term leave is anything beyond six months and includes maternity and parental leave. For unplanned leaves, advise the Ontario CCA office as soon as possible. 🌱

Industry Updates

Conservation Authorities Update

Submitted by: Michael Dick

Greenbelt Foundation - Soil Health Benchmarking Program

This new four-year program will focus on the Greenbelt and associated counties and regions. The program is being implemented in collaboration with the Soil Health Institute, Soils at Guelph, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association and Certified Crop Advisors. Conservation Ontario has been invited to participate on an advisory committee.

Ontario Soil Action Group (SAG) Implementation Plan

Conservation Ontario has contributed to the development of Ontario Soil Health Strategy and Implementation Plan developed through Soil Action Group (SAG) partners. This partnership and Implementation Plan have been developed to guide collaborative soil health research, investments and activities.

2 Billion Tree Program

Many of the Conservation Authorities are participating in the Government of Canada's 2 Billion Tree program. The 2 Billion Trees (2BT) program aims to motivate and support new tree

planting projects. Planting trees helps capture carbon, enhances biodiversity, and supports human well-being by creating more green spaces for recreational activities. Many conservation authorities offer tree planting services and grant programs to establish farm windbreaks and shelterbelts.

Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund

Conservation Ontario continues to work directly with 15 conservation authorities (CAs) to deliver 51 projects with funding granted from the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund offered by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). The objective of this program is to deliver on multiple nature-based solutions including protection and restoration of wetlands, grasslands, and riparian areas, as well as enhanced land management practices that will increase carbon sequestration. Three conservation authorities will also be offering cover crop incentive funding through this program. See attached link to story map and the Conservation Ontario website <https://conservationontario.ca/policy-priorities/climate-change/nature-based-climate-solutions>

ONFarm

ONFarm was a four-year research initiative developed by OMAFRA and delivered by OSCIA that focused on soil health and water quality. Five conservation authorities supported the program by continuation of the monitoring and modelling established in the GLASI Priority Subwatersheds. Farmers in each of the study subwatersheds were interviewed to record their cropping practices for computer models being developed by researchers at the University of Guelph. Local agronomists and CCAs helped with implementing the surveys and the Soil Resource Group conducted all soil analysis. The ONFARM program wrapped up in February 2023 and a full technical report is expected to be released on March 31, 2023. <https://www.osciaresearch.org/onfarm-applied-research/>

Additional notes:

St. Clair Region Conservation hosted three soil health events in March: Soil Health & N Management; Decision Making for BMPs; Planting Native Species.

Many conservation authorities offer a cover crop incentive funding programs to some degree, in at least a portion of their region. Check this link to find the conservation authority contact in your area. <https://conservationontario.ca/conservation-authorities/find-a-conservation-authority>

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Submitted by: Pam Joosse

AAFC Research and Development Centres have adjusted to a hybrid model of work. There is a requirement for everyone to be on-site or engaged with stakeholders offsite at least 40% of the time though in practicality many are



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at the research stations much more than this to complete their tasks. Travel to conferences and meetings is resuming to normal. Masking is no longer required in federal buildings.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Strategic Plan for Science was released in the fall. It is a ten-year plan which sets the direction for meeting the future challenges of the sector while responding to Government of Canada priorities. Globally, agricultural science is evolving with the development of new technologies, the impact of the climate crisis, and the emergence of new threats. The Strategic Plan positions the Department to succeed in this new environment by accelerating the development of sustainable agriculture practices. The Plan enables us to focus AAFC's research efforts toward four science missions that reflect desired outcomes for the sector:

- Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Advancing the circular economy
- Increasing the resiliency of agro-ecosystems
- Accelerating the digital transformation

Funding of Federal projects, clusters and Living Labs under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership 2023-2028 framework are expected to be announced early in the next fiscal. There are many levels of review and approval being undertaken to ensure alignment with AAFC's priorities and to optimize the budget available.

Two organizations submitted proposals January 27th to the Agricultural Climate Solutions – Living Lab program for Phase 2 contribution funding and collaborative research and development support from AAFC or other Federal government departments.

Dr. Jay Parsons was appointed Feb 27 as Director, Research Development and Technology (DRDT) for the Ottawa Research and Development Centre. He joins AAFC after 20 years at Fisheries and Oceans Canada where he has held positions of Senior Science Advisor, Science Director, acting Executive Director Science, and acting Regional Director of Science.

University of Guelph

Submitted by: Dave Hooker

- The Alliance Agreement between the University and OMAFRA has been renewed, with a formal announcement expected by March 31, 2023.
- Several course-based Master of Science (CBM) programs are in the design phase in OAC. An OAC-wide one will be a partnership between OAC and Ridgetown Campus; it will likely be a one-year program structured around six (or more) courses plus electives, which will include a major research project or internship. Within departments, other CBMs include one program in each of the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, the Food, Agriculture and Resource Economics department, Food Science department, School of Environmental Science, Plant Agriculture, and Animal Bioscience. Another OAC-wide one will be in UG Engineering. There are 15 other CBM programs in UoG.

- An offer letter has been sent to the top candidate for the Martin and Denise Pick Family Chair in Sustainable Cropping Systems position in Plant Agriculture. Three other candidates were interviewed for the position.
- Last January, Grain Farmers of Ontario announced that they have provided long-term funding for a pathology professorship faculty position in Plant Agriculture and based at Ridgetown Campus.
- The UoG Provost has approved the hiring of an entomologist faculty position in the School of Environmental Sciences (SES) to be based at Ridgetown.
- Dr. Peter Sikkema (UGRC) will be retiring this year. Rene VanAcker (OAC) and Brett Shepherd (UGRC) are working with industry partners in the support of another professorship in weed sciences.
- The UoG hiring freeze has ended, and the Plant Agriculture department will be advertising for an Edible Bean Breeding position.
- Plans and funding are ongoing with respect to the Sustainable Crop Research Centre at Ridgetown. This new building is expected to replace the old Agronomy Building at the Ridgetown Campus.

OMAFRA Report

Submitted by: Christine Brown

Upcoming Events:

- Ag Breakfast Meetings will be hosted starting Tuesday, April 4th. They will be a combination of in-person and Zoom meetings. In-person locations will include Ridgetown, Simcoe, Exeter, Mt. Forest, Cobourg, and Kemptville. Northern Ontario will only be offered via Zoom. Anyone wanting to be included on the mailing list should send their name and contact information to Margaret Templeman: margaret.templeman@ontario.ca
- OSMRSC (Ontario Soil Management Research and Services Committee) is in the process of re-grouping. This group is made up of government (provincial and federal), industry reps, farmer reps, research and extension, and is responsible for evaluating the research for new soil/fertility related recommendations. They also assist in creating communication plans for new materials such as publications (paper and/or internet), as well as having a role in identifying research gaps and priorities. The next meeting is April 6th and there are CCAs on this Committee.
- Diagnostic Days are being planned for July 5th and 6th in Ridgetown and July 19th and 20th in Winchester.

Past Fall/Winter Events

- Maximizing Nitrogen Webinar Series was hosted by OMAFRA in November and December 2022. These webinars started the discussion on a topic that was popular over the winter season.
 - Overview of the science of N, the N cycle & emissions
<https://youtu.be/X9oQGcO8P4U>

Continued on page 12.

- Maximizing NUE in horticulture crops
<https://youtu.be/Jvj7rcwtOxU>
- Maximizing NUE in field crops
<https://youtu.be/EZwbcjZcQ3E>
- Maximizing NUE with livestock & manure
<https://youtu.be/dgF7i1EqjA>
- Ontario Ag. Conference was held virtual and in-person (Ridgetown, Waterloo and Kemptville). There were 53 sessions to choose from!
- Manure Mondays Webinar Series was hosted January to March 2023 with six sessions. Sessions were recorded and are on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@ONfieldcrops>

Projects and Programs

- Ontario Soil Health Assessment and Planning Tool (SHAP) will be made available in April 2023. This tool is intended for producers and advisors to assess the status of soil health and develop standardized in-field and laboratory protocols for soil health indicators and results for the baseline study CCAs assisted with in 2022.
- Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (S-CAP) bi-lateral agreement was recently signed which enables the province to move forward on key initiatives to help improve productivity, competitiveness and resilience in agriculture and enable the province to meet goals outlined in Ontario's Grow Ontario Strategy. <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1002765/governments-reach-landmark-agreement-to-strengthen-ontarios-agri-food-sector>
 - Ontario government has committed \$9.5 million over the next three years to improve soil data mapping and soil evaluation and monitoring, and to support key commitments under Ontario's Agricultural Soil Health and Conservation Strategy.

Additional News

- Joanne Follings – OMAFRA Cereal Specialist is returning from her leave and Sophie Krolkowski will be moving to a new role as a Greenhouse Floriculture Specialist working out of Vineland.
- Anne Verhallen – Soil Management Specialist based out of Ridgetown is retiring at end of April. Her position is being filled.

Grain Farmers of Ontario

Submitted by: Marty Vermey

Great Lakes YEN (Yield Enhancement Network)

The Great Lake YEN accepted over 180 participants in for the 2023 season, with 100 farmers in Ontario participating. The launch meeting was held on March 2nd for participants and agronomists with follow up help sessions on March 16th. An agronomist session on March 13th was held for those wanting more details of the program.

Before spring starts all farmers are encouraged to sign onto CropTrak and reset their temporary password to ensure they can access the online tool before the season becomes busy. Initial sign on credentials send via email on March 2nd is only good for 24 hrs. Anyone requiring a password reset can send an email to GreatLakesYEN@gfo.ca with their name and YEN ID number preferably.

Project Protocols can be found on the website – www.GreatLakesYEN.com

Wheat Staging Guide

A new wheat staging guide was produced this winter to help the wheat industry better identify different growth stages and key management activities at those stages. The guide was produced with material provided by Cool Bean (Wisconsin) and modified for Ontario used zaddoks system. This was a collaboration between OMAFRA and GFO with Sophie Krolkowski (OMAFRA) driving the guide forward and GFO for graphic Design and publication. The online version is available at GFO website agronomy page under Crop Management: https://gfo.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Grain-Farmers-of-Ontario-Cereal-Staging-Guide-223on_compressed.pdf 🌱



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