



**CERTIFIED
CROP ADVISER**

IN THIS ISSUE

4
Research Priorities
Survey Summary

5
Self-Reporting CEUS

6
Great Lakes
YEN Report

6
The Crop
Corner Podcast

9
Industry
Updates

CCA CHATTER

CERTIFIED CROP ADVISOR ASSOCIATION® • 195 St. David Street S., 3rd Floor, Fergus, ON N1M 2L4
519-787-4322 • www.ccaontario.com

2023 Ontario CCA Award of Excellence Winner

The CCA Award of Excellence was given out during the CCA Conference and Annual Meeting on January 10, 2024. The Award is co-sponsored by CropLife Canada and Syngenta.



This year, there were two nominees:

Ron Mueller
Kevin Van Netten

The recipient of the award for 2023 was Kevin Van Netten.

Kevin graduated from the University of Guelph in 1994 with a double major in Agricultural Business and Horticulture. In 2003, he started South Coast Agronomy Inc., a full-service crop consultation and scouting business, which operates out of the 100-acre farm he grew up on. Kevin has been a CCA since 1998.

Through working with clients for 30 years, Kevin has become close with many families and has often worked with multiple generations on the same farm. These close relationships, as well as the

number of years in the business, has made Kevin a trusted advisor throughout the industry.



Kevin Van Netten (recipient, left) and Marijke Vanderlaan (Syngenta, right)

Kevin continuously goes above and beyond to ensure his customers are taken care of. Even with his depth of knowledge in different locations, soil types, and crops, he is always trying to learn more so that he can give the best advice to his clients. No matter the size of the farm, Kevin will do everything he can to help his clients succeed.

Outside of work, Kevin coaches hockey and baseball leagues for his children, volunteers at his church and on charitable golf committees, and enjoys playing hockey, baseball, and golf.

Congratulations Kevin! 🌱

2023 Innovation Award Winner

The CCA Innovation Award was announced by the Research and Innovation Committee in 2023. The award was designed to recognize an individual, group or organization who has demonstrated significant innovation or research within the crop advising field. The award was sponsored by Honeyland Ag Services



Honeyland Ag Services

This year, there were two nominees:

Rob Miller
MSCIA Research Program

The recipient of the first Innovation Award was Rob Miller.

Rob graduated from the University of Guelph in 2012 with a M.Sc. in Plant Agriculture. He has worked for BASF Canada since 2004, starting as a Research Assistant and advancing to the position of Region Technical Manager – Eastern Canada, which he still holds today.

Continued on page 2.

Rob is always on the leading edge of research, particularly in disease management. His contribution to research and innovation lies not only in his ability to orchestrate research projects but also in how his findings are directly implemented into management guidelines. His most recent research was developing new strategies to effectively manage Tar Spot in field corn and studying hybrids. He is often the first to create management plans for new diseases because he monitors issues in the US to prepare for their introduction in Ontario.



Rob Miller (recipient, left) and Chris Roelands (Honeyland Ag, right)

What sets Rob apart from other researchers is his ability to connect with CCAs and communicate information that can be delivered to growers. He is often the first person sought out when new diseases arise. By looking at the “big picture” of disease management, Rob is not only combating the diseases of today, but also preparing for the next wave.

Outside of his research journals, Rob looks for other avenues to communicate new ideas. He frequently participates in Real Agriculture videos, creates webinars, mentors new professionals, and volunteers on external committees.

Congratulations Rob!

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

CCA Emerging Leader Award

The Emerging Leader recognition is something new for Ontario CCAs. It was created by the CCA-ON Marketing Committee, with the intent to showcase and share the talents and dedication of CCAs who have only recently obtained their CCA designation and show great promise for the future.

For the first time ever, at the Annual CCA Conference, the CCA has recognized Saveetha Kandasamy as the Emerging Leader for 2024! Saveetha has quite the background story, being born and raised in



Saveetha Kandasamy (recipient, left) and Brian Coutts (presenter, right)

India. She brings to the table a robust research and scientific background, obtaining her B.Sc. in Agriculture, M.Sc. in Plant Pathology and Ph.D. in Plant Pathology.

After her schooling, Saveetha made her way to Canada in 2010 for a post-doctoral research position at Dalhousie, focused on biostimulants. From there, she has worked for Agriculture and Agrifood Canada as well as A&L Labs. Her positions were focused around nitrogen cycling and biological communities, as well as applied research on soil health. Saveetha was a significant contributor to A&L's VitTellus Soil Health and VitTellus Bio tests.

Fast-forward to 2020, Saveetha obtained her CCA as her interests shifted towards agronomy and sustainable agriculture. Presently, Saveetha is transitioning to full-time agronomy consulting. She has received high praise from colleagues and growers in areas of innovation, research, training seminars, trial evaluation, soil analysis, nutrient recommendations, seed variety and inoculants, soil health, zone management, water testing, and disease identification and management.

Aside from her passions of agronomy and soil health, Saveetha loves to spend quality time with her family, including swimming and painting with her five-year-old daughter. She also has a love for her house plants, which reside in her family home outside of London that she designed and built with her husband over the past three years.

Congratulations, Saveetha! 🌱

2024 CCA Conference and Annual Meeting

There were 189 CCAs in attendance at the 21st CCA Conference and Annual Meeting, which took place at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn in London on January 10th and 11th. The event started with CCA Trivia Night on January 10th, followed by a full day of presentations and the awards banquet dinner on the 11th.

Our ongoing appreciation goes out to our sponsors. This event would have not been a success without you!

The 2024 CCA conference sponsors were as follows:

Gold Sponsors - \$2,500 Contribution

- Agronomy Company of Canada
- ALPINE
- BASF
- PRIDE Seeds

Silver Sponsors - \$1,500 Contribution

- Bayer
- Grain Farmers of Ontario
- Growmark
- NuFarm Agriculture Inc.
- Syngenta
- Yara Canada

Bronze Sponsors - \$500 Contribution

- C & M Seeds
- Corteva
- Mosaic
- SeCan
- SGS
- Sylvite

2023 CCA Award of Excellence
Co-Sponsors - \$1,000 Contribution

- CropLife Canada
- Syngenta Canada

2023 Innovation Award Sponsor - \$1,000 Contribution


- Honeyland Ag Services 

2025 CCA Conference – Save the Date

Mark your calendars for January 14th and 15th! We are returning to the Best Western Lamplighter Inn, in London for our 22nd CCA Conference and Annual Meeting.

We are working on a schedule that offers more CEUs to attendees. We will begin on Tuesday, January 14th at 1:00 p.m. with an afternoon of sessions, followed by the evening banquet. The following day will be a full day of presentations, ending around 4:00 p.m.

Based on feedback from the 2024 conference, we are going to try something new in 2025 by adding a CCA panel discussion. CCAs will be able to submit a short paragraph describing innovative projects or trials they are working on. We will select three submissions that fit a similar theme to create the panel.

Information on the panel, agenda, and registration will be sent out to all CCAs throughout the summer by email. 

20 Years Certified in Ontario

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

Larry Bauman
Martin Besner
Aaron Breimer
Chad Burley
Scott Cochrane
Leanne Freitag
Janice Janiec

Ted Jarecsni
Alan Kruszel
Michael Pedlar
Lorraine Regnier
David Robertson
Steven Ross
Edward Tomecek 

Newly Certified CCAs!

We are pleased to announce that since the last newsletter, five individuals have gained their CCAs designation. Make sure if you see these individuals, you pass along your congratulations.

Tiffany Huberts
Dennis Jansen
Fred Tinholt

Izabel Allemang
Jessica McKillop 

THE REVOLUTION JUST GOT STRONGER.

A POWERFUL NEW ADDITION
TO OUR REVYSOL® FUNGICIDE.

Visit agsolutions.ca/VeltymaDLX to learn more.


We create chemistry

Veltyma® DLX
Revysol® Fungicide

Always read and follow label directions.

AgSolutions, REVYSOL and VELTYMA are registered trademarks of BASF; all used under license by BASF Canada Inc. REVYSOL and/or VELTYMA DLX fungicides should be used in a preventative disease control program. © 2024 BASF Canada Inc.



2024 CCA Soil & Water Day

In partnership with Mosaic, the Ontario CCA Association will be hosting the 8th Soil & Water Information Day on Tuesday, November 12, 2024. The event will take place at the **GrandWay Event Centre in Elora**.

Similar to last year, there will be an in-person or virtual option for attendees. We will offer a live connection so if you are unable to attend in-person, you can join via Zoom to obtain the SW CEUs.

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

2024 Research Priorities Survey Summary

The Research and Innovation Committee designed the CCA Research Priorities Survey to gain insight into CCA research needs. The survey ran throughout January this year, and received 117 responses. This represents 18% of CCAs. The main findings of the survey are summarized below.

Emerging Production Issues

Controlling existing or evolving herbicide-resistant weeds is expected to be a significant challenge in the next five to 10 years for both soybeans and corn. It was the most common concern for soybeans, with 72.7% rating it in their top three, and the number two concern for corn (34.5%).

In addition to herbicide-resistant weeds, CCAs also expect new weed species and mold and other disease challenges to be the most significant challenges for soybeans. Out of the 15 selection options, they were placed in the top three concerns by 42.7% and 39.3% of respondents, respectively.

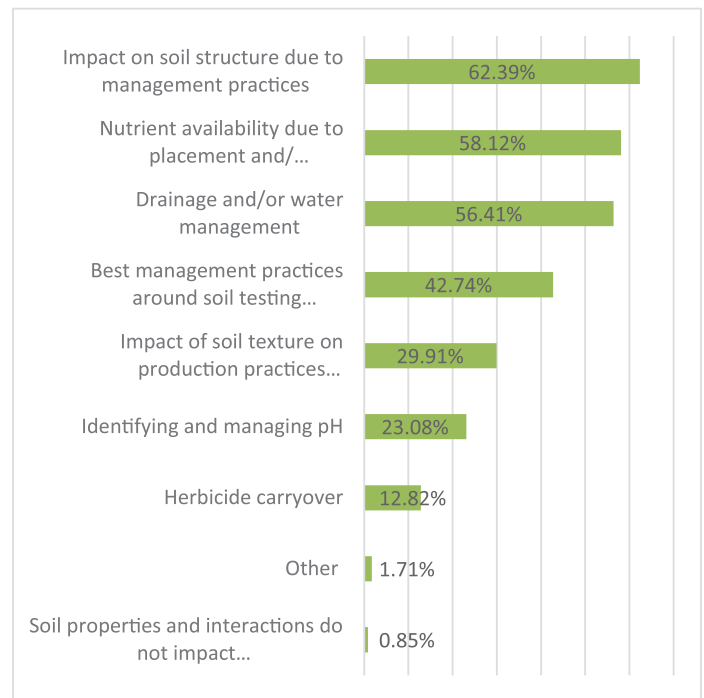
For corn, mold and other disease challenges was selected in the top three for production issues by 46.6% of respondents. Other frequently selected challenges were insect pressures and managing nutrient losses (26.7% for both).

The most frequently selected production issues for wheat were crop establishment related to climate or soil health (32.5%), plateauing yield trends (31.6%), and mold and other disease challenges (29.8%).

Aside from individual crops, the production issues that respondents are concerned about are the impact of government regulations (65.0%), the financial feasibility of production agriculture (45.3%), and the impact of soil health on crop production systems (39.2%).

Soil Management

When asked what general soil properties and interactions with productivity will have the greatest impact in the next five to 10 years, the most common response was the impact on soil structure due to management practices (62.4%). The complete ranking of responses can be seen in the following chart.



In terms of soil health improvement for Ontario agriculture, CCAs indicated that the top three priorities are crop rotation (65.0%), cover crops (45.3%), and tillage practices (39.3%).

Feedback collected from the CCA Research Priorities Survey helps the Research and Innovation Committee to make informed recommendations and stay ahead on the issues which will become more relevant as we head towards an increasingly data-based farming industry. By conducting this survey on an annual basis, we will be able to monitor changes in CCA concerns and priorities.

Thank you to everyone who participated! 🌱

In Memoriam

Keith McMillan

Keith McMillan of Bayfield, formerly of Seaforth and Atwood, passed away peacefully with family by his side on Wednesday December 13, 2023, at the age of 73.

A CCA since 1997, Keith spent his life dedicated to agriculture. He was well known throughout Southwestern Ontario as his work brought him close to many farming families, most notably through his work at Pioneer Hi-Bred and culminating with his version of 'retirement' at Crop Quest.

Continued on page 6.



ALPINE®

Maximizing Fertilizer Efficiency

- Since 1973 -

What is ALPINE BIO-K?

ALPINE's Patented Technology to Increase Crop Yields

**bio-K**®

powered products:

ALPINE G241-S®

ALPINE HKW6®

ALPINE K20-S®

ALPINE K19-S®

ALPINE F18 Max™

ALPINE K24®

ALPINE® Bio-K® products are uniquely formulated to maximize the uptake of potassium

- The organic based carrier in our patented Bio-K® technology is a natural plant metabolite.
- Rapidly absorbed by plant leaves when foliar applied.
- Bio stimulant with positive effects on plant, microbial, and fungi populations when soil applied.
- Increases the nutrient use efficiency of other soil and foliar nutrition by utilizing the “hitch hiker” effect to translocate nutrients in the plant.



CELEBRATING **50** YEARS
1973 - 2023


visit us online: alpinepfl.com
or call: 1-844.655.BIOK (2465)



© 2024. NACHURS ALPINE SOLUTIONS. All rights reserved.

Tom Sawyer

We were saddened to learn that Tom Sawyer passed away on November 30, 2023. Tom was instrumental in introducing the Certified Crop Advisor program to Canada. He was a director on the first Ontario CCA Board and the first Executive Director.

Tom Sawyer had an unwavering commitment to Ontario agriculture. In 2016, he was inducted into the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame. The citation stated in part, "Tom Sawyer had a unique ability to foresee and mitigate the production issues of agriculture, the viability of agribusiness and the sustainability of the environment, coupled with his skill in bringing differing interests together to create lasting solutions." 

The Ethics of Supporting Cost-Share Projects

With the recent introduction of the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP), we expect an increase in the number of requests for CCAs to sign letters of support for project proposals.

Inclusion in these types of projects shows that the CCA certification is valued in the industry and represents high professional standards and agronomic knowledge. This reputation is maintained by CCAs acting with integrity and following the CCA Code of Ethics.



MANAGE RESISTANCE *Now*

Protect your land, one field at a time

Pest resistance can impact yield, profit and land value.

Visit ManageResistanceNow.ca for helpful resources


Join the conversation

 [@ProtectYourLand](https://twitter.com/ProtectYourLand)

 [@ManageResistanceNow](https://facebook.com/ManageResistanceNow)

Brought to you by CropLife Canada and partners 

With inclusion in these programs there comes risk that clients will request support for projects that don't meet industry standards. CCAs may feel pressured by employers or clients to sign-off on plans that are not sound. According to the Code of Ethics, a CCA "who finds that obligations to the employer or client conflict with their professional obligation or ethics should work to have such objectionable conditions corrected."


When reviewing the details of project proposals, CCAs must take into consideration the agronomic, economic, and environmental best practices. Support should only be given to projects that are well-planned and based on sound evidence and principles. Remember that you are not approving projects, you are stating that based on your expertise and training, you agree that the application should be considered for funding. Final approval is granted by the program administrator. 

Self-reporting CEUs

If you attended an activity that did not apply for CEUs, then you can self-report this activity to receive credit. Eligible activities are short courses, workshops, clinics, conferences, symposia, field days, college courses, or meetings that relate to any of the four CEU categories. Up to 20 self-reported CEUs will count towards your 40-credit requirement.



When reporting, you will need the meeting title, location, speaker information (if applicable), sponsoring organization, date, description, and what CEU category the activity fulfills. It is recommended to attach any agendas or certificates to the form as well.

Reporting is completed on the ICCA website. Visit the page by scanning the QR code below and scrolling to "Self Report CEUs to Your Account". You must be logged in to submit a report. 

Changes to CCA Renewal Fees

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 remain \$80, but the ICCA has increased the international portion to \$95. For 2025 renewal this means that the total fee will be \$175 CAD plus HST (forecast, subject to exchange rate). There will also be an increase in the retired renewal rate, from \$25 to \$30.

The CCA specialty renewal fee will also be increasing to \$60 CAD plus HST.

If you haven't paid your 2024 CCA renewal, contact Erin at the CCA office to get your account up to date. Late payments are subject to a late fee of \$30 + HST.

Renewals are sent to the mailing address you have on your CCA profile. If your mailing address has changed, contact Erin to make sure it is updated. 🌱

CCA Exams

While the online exams and pre-exam workshop allow for flexibility in scheduling, this may have come at the cost of networking opportunities for aspiring CCAs. Meeting at the pre-exam workshop and gathering on exam day used to create camaraderie among examinees, as well as friendly peer pressure to study and prepare for the exam.

The Ontario CCA Board is brainstorming ways to bring back the social component of CCA exams, but this is becoming more challenging in the digital age. One thing that employers can do is organize study groups for employees that are planning on writing the exam. Not only will this encourage examinees to set a firm goal date to write the exam, but will also help them feel more prepared.

There are two more exam windows in 2024. The registration and exam windows are as follows:

Summer:

Registration: June 19th to July 15th
Exams: July 25th to August 5th

Fall:

Registration: September 25th to October 21st
Exams: October 30th to November 11th

To register for an exam, visit the ICCA website or scan this QR Code:



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

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

Great Lakes YEN Report

Submitted by – Jonathan Zettler, CCA-ON

Started in 2021, the Great Lakes Yield Enhancement Network (YEN) is a joint project between OMAFRA, GFO, Michigan State University and the Michigan Wheat Growers. The Great Lakes YEN helps winter wheat farmers benchmark the field data aspects of their production practices. The framework is based on a United Kingdom YEN crop competition, which has been running since 2012. The competition has two aspects, an absolute yield, and a % of yield potential based on rainfall/soil moisture and solar radiation.

In 2023 the Great Lakes YEN had 94 participants from Ontario, and 62 within the United States side of the Great Lakes Region. The top three farmer yields were 173.4, 171.43 and 167.06 bushels per acre, with Jeff Cook of London, ON taking the top spot. The top three farmer % of yield potential were 117%, 107% and 107%, with Mark Davis of Napanee, ON taking the top spot.

I have found this competition to be a great learning opportunity on wheat physiology, to drive farmer customer interest in new wheat production practices, and for understanding the wheat yield components. If you have clients participating in this program, I suggest getting involved in the yield validation process, or providing some in-field support, as the Ontario CCAs are a supporting partner of this organization.

Currently the Great Lakes YEN steering committee is finishing up a long-term strategy review, with the goal to set the program goals for the next one to five years as it moves away from pilot project status. Stay tuned for updates from this review. 🌱

The Crop Corner: A Podcast for the Fruit & Vegetable Industry

Submitted by – Anita Speers, CCA Board Mentee in 2023

Agriculture can be described in three simple words: Unique. Diverse. Challenging. These three words also tie into one another. Regardless of what sector you find yourself in within the industry, there are unique aspects to growing crops – whether it be a field of corn, processing peas or potatoes. The variability in soil type, length of growing season, adaptability of certain varieties or cultivars all contribute to a successful crop. The diversity that comes with growing a fruit or vegetable crop is immense. Take potatoes for instance – a crop that can be grown in the southern county of Essex through to Simcoe County. No two fields will ever be the same, but this rich diversity allows for production across the province but perhaps also contributes to the challenge of growing a successful crop. Growers across the province may share in some challenges but face different ones because of their unique growing conditions. It all flows back to one another: Uniqueness leads to diversity. Diversity can pose challenges. Challenges arise given different unique characteristics.

The world of fruit and vegetable production is one that fascinates me. Growing up in that space and now working with



Continued on page 8.

producers in this sector, I love the complexity and challenges that come with growing these crops. Knowing that there is such a spread of growers and industry members across Ontario, I wanted my mentorship program to be something that was accessible to all looking for fruit and vegetable related content. Today's society also lives within arm's length of any piece of technology, so I wanted to capitalize on that. Putting these two concepts together, "The Crop Corner" podcast was developed.

Knowing that podcasts would be free to anyone who wanted to listen at any time, I explored different podcasting platforms and set out to make The Crop Corner accessible on Spotify, Amazon Music and Apple Music. I published my first podcast episode on June 6, 2023 and since then, The Crop Corner has received 391 downloads. Almost 92% of the downloads have come from listeners in Canada, but there are other global viewers as well – WOW!

Each month The Crop Corner aims to cover a different topic in the fruit and vegetable space with experts in these various fields. Sweet corn production, the technology of fertigation and most recently the world of insecticides are just a few topics that have been covered. Looking towards the future of The Crop Corner, I look forward to continuing to create a monthly podcast and better understanding what kind of content the listeners are interested in.

Throughout this entire mentorship program experience, I have received a vast amount of support from not only the Mentorship Committee, but other Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs) as well

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF DOWNLOADS	% OF TOTAL
Canada	359	91.82%
USA	16	4.09%
Belgium	7	1.79%
Singapore	3	0.77%
Brazil	1	0.26%
France	1	0.26%
India	1	0.26%
Jamaica	1	0.26%
Mexico	1	0.26%
Poland	1	0.26%
Data extracted from Acast insights		

reaching out with different topics or suggestions for the podcast. All can agree that CCAs are recognized as knowledgeable and resourceful leaders. What may not be understood from outside of this organization is how CCAs work with other CCAs to raise the entire group – being able to transfer knowledge, share in training and develop other strong CCAs is such an asset to this program. I have most definitely experienced this firsthand given all the guidance and networking opportunities being a part of The Crop Corner and mentorship program.

Words do not truly express how appreciative and thankful I am to have had this opportunity through the CCA Mentorship program. Thank you to the CCA-ON board for their support in the development and execution of my project. Thank you to my podcast guests for your time and expertise on the various topics covered. I look forward to seeing how The Crop Corner continues to "grow" with the fruit and vegetable industry. 🌱

40+ issues a year of timely Ontario agronomy content.

The Cropwalker Agronomy Newsletter

Try it free for 30 days at
www.cropwalker.ca
Volume pricing available

We also answer our subscribers' agronomy questions.

Contact patricklynch872@gmail.com

Published by:
Patrick J. Lynch CCA-ON
Jonathan Zettler CPA, CMA, CCA-ON 4R-NMS

A CCA Works Here!

The Ontario CCA Marketing Committee has been working hard to promote the CCA program to businesses and industry professionals. This year they have come up with a tabletop sign, which can be displayed at trade shows and events. Scanning the sign will direct you to the CCA Ontario website to learn more about the program.



The goal of this initiative is to bring awareness to the CCA program. The Marketing Committee hopes to inspire young professionals to pursue certification and encourage employers to hire CCAs.

If you are interested in obtaining a sign for an upcoming event, please contact Erin at the CCA office. 🌱

Ontario Cereal Crop Committee (OCCC) Report

Submitted by – Jonathan Zettler, CCA-ON

What is the purpose of seed registration? If you're not up on how wheat, barley or oat varieties come into existence in Ontario, this article is for you.

When a new variety comes to market in Canada, it falls under one of three categories based on Canadian legislation known as the Seeds Act.

1. Crops subject to variety registration support via crop committee aka Schedule III crops
2. Crops not subject to variety registration support via crop committee
3. Crops not subject to variety registration support, but contain novel traits (i.e. plant technologies)

To be registered under the schedule III crops category (i.e. wheat, barley, oats), your new variety must pass the registration support process set up by the local crop specific registration recommending committee. Each recommending committee sets support criteria for their crop and region. In Ontario, we have several, of which OCCC is the recommending committee for cereal crops.

There are three criteria that fall under this registration process.

- 1) Agronomic performance (typically yield) vs existing varieties.
- 2) Pathology characteristics
- 3) Crop Quality. In 1993, it was determined that mycotoxins were the main consideration for risk of causing harm in Ontario wheat, which is why it is one of the three main criteria in the registration process (under pathology characteristics).

If the applicant meets these three criteria, then the variety is automatically supported for registration. When a variety does not meet the criteria of these three standards, the applicant has one of two options. 1) Withdraw the application, 2) Submit an appeal for reconsideration via a member vote.

When submitting for reconsideration, the applicant can ask for one of two options, full registration, or interim registration to gather more data to support full registration. The voting members of the committee (of which CCA Ontario is one) then vote on the appeal based on the information provided on whether to accept the new registration.

The registration process is designed to protect both growers and end users of these crops to ensure that 1) the variety is agronomically equal or better than what is on the market today. 2) the variety meets market class requirements i.e. the variety registered as a soft red winter wheat, performs in baking tests like existing soft reds on the market. If an applicant is looking to register a variety that does not have market class characteristics, they can apply for a contract registration status, which would keep it in a sperate grain channel from the rest of the market.

Once a Schedule III crop variety has received support from the crop committee, then the applicant can submit documentation to the CFIA to register the variety.

I hope this article has shed some light on the variety registration process in Canada, and why it is critical to protecting sound agronomic practices and grain market access.

This will be my last report as the OCCC rep, as Don McLean has graciously agreed to take my position going forward. 🌱

Industry Updates

Conservation Authorities Update

Submitted by: Tatianna Lozier

Conservation Ontario, in collaboration with the conservation authorities, has been actively involved in funding cover crop projects through the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund for Place-based Actions (Environment and Climate Change Canada). These initiatives aim to promote enhanced land management practices to mitigate the effects of a changing climate. The projected acreage for cover crop projects was outlined in the Ontario Cover Crop Strategy for 2023-2024, with updates forthcoming. In addition, many conservation authorities administer funding programs to provide cost share opportunities for cover crops, erosion control structures, soil sampling, nutrient management plans, windbreaks and other stewardship projects.

Continued on page 10.

SWATMAPS

Provide the agronomy your clients have been asking for...

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

To see if this proven process is a fit contact Jonathan Zettler 519-323-7505

jz@fieldwalker.ca

www.fieldwalker.ca

FIELDWALKER

Conservation Ontario continues to represent conservation authorities on the Soil Action Group, which is helping guide the implementation of Ontario's Soil Health Strategy. Updates given in February 2024 to the Soil Action Group highlighted projects to help meet the goals and objectives of the strategy.

Conservation authorities are facilitating knowledge sharing events for farmers, which is a requirement for approved applications under the Ontario On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) funding program administered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA). Additionally, Conservation Authorities deliver workshops for Certified Crop Advisors to help them earn CEUs. For example, a recent workshop hosted by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority featured experts Christine Brown and Jake Munroe from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, focusing on AgriSuite and Soil Analysis. Conservation authorities are committed to seeking out and fostering local partnerships that serve as knowledge sharing opportunities. Moreover, conservation authority staff are qualified third parties authorized to endorse letters of support for various projects, including those related to wetlands, water retention features, grasslands, and tree planting initiatives under the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) through OSCIA.

The Ausable Bayfield, Lower Thames Valley, and Upper Thames River Conservation Authorities are collaborating as partners in OSCIA's ONFARM program. Together, these conservation authorities are actively engaged in water quality monitoring at the edge-of-field, focusing on evaluating the effectiveness of

various best management practices. These efforts also involve examining soil health indicators and exploring practices such as cover cropping, controlled drainage, nutrient management, and tillage techniques.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Submitted by: Pam Joosse

Living lab Ontario project – co-development workshop

In February of this year, OSCIA hosted the first Living Lab — Ontario co-development workshop with farmers, researchers and partners across the Ontario agriculture industry.

This living lab aims to accelerate the sector's response to climate change by bringing together producers and scientists, among others, to co-develop, test and evaluate on-farm beneficial management practices.

AgrilInnovate Program

Intake is now open for the AgrilInnovate Program. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis until the end of the program on March 31, 2028, or until funding has been fully committed.

The program provides repayable contributions for innovative technologies and processes that increase agricultural and agri-food sector competitiveness and sustainability benefits. Learn more by scanning the QR code.



Aeration Improves Composting

Aerated Static Pile Composting

- Eliminates offensive odours, parasites, and pathogens
- Reduces water runoff, Improve soil quality
- Recycles soil nutrients, balances pH levels
- Hosts beneficial microbes, retains soil moisture
- Compost piles do not require frequent turning
- Easy and cost effective for your waste management

Aquatic Aeration Solutions

tel: 905-269-6518 email: aquatic.aeration.solutions@gmail.com aquatic-aeration-solutions.com



University of Guelph

Submitted by: Dave Hooker

We're excited to share several updates from the Ridgetown Campus, the Department of Plant Agriculture, and the School of Environmental Sciences. After conducting interviews, we're close to announcing new faculty members for the entomology and pathology positions, with the entomology announcement expected this month and the pathology position in May.

Meanwhile, we bid farewell to Peter Sikkema (weed science) and Chris Gillard (dry bean) will be retiring at the end of April. It is critical to Ontario agriculture that these positions are filled. All of these positions will be filled thanks to generous support from the Grain Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Bean Growers, and an anonymous benefactor. Additionally, we anticipate soon revealing Peter Paul's replacement at the University of Guelph.

In other exciting news, a new course-based master's program in sustainable agriculture has been approved. This innovative program, split between Ridgetown and the main campus, offers graduate students a unique blend of practical and theoretical learning, including a summer term at Ridgetown focusing on a field course and seminar in sustainable agriculture, and complemented by professional development programs. This is an incredible opportunity for students aspiring to be sustainability leaders in the Canadian agri-food industry, equipping them with both the knowledge and professional skills necessary for success.

Soils at Guelph

Submitted by: Heather White

Are you curious about your soil's health? Are you already taking soil samples on your farm or on your clients' farms? Then consider participating in the Soils At Guelph SHAP Ground Truthing Project. SHAP is a made-in-Ontario tool for Soil Health Assessment and Planning.

Unlock the Secrets of Your Soil

Participating in our project means you will qualify for free soil health analysis. The SHAP Ground Truthing Project analysis includes organic matter, aggregate stability, active carbon, respiration and potentially mineralizable nitrogen. We will also pay for soil texture analysis, a standard fertility package (pH, CEC, P, Ca, Mg), and organic carbon and total nitrogen.

Soils At Guelph is working together with others in the province to build a robust SHAP database with Ontario agricultural lands. Your identity remains anonymous. Lab results are sent directly to the email address associated with the lab submission form and copied to us. We feed the results into the provincial database anonymously.

To register for the SHAP Ground Truthing Project, simply send an email to soils@uoguelph.ca.

Tell us the number of fields you'd like to sample and your county. In response, we'll send you an email with information about how to participate. This is a first-come-first-served offer with a limited number of free samples. The best time to sample is

in late spring (June), so we hope to hear from you soon!

Scan the code to learn more.



OMAFRA Report

Submitted by: Christine Brown

Past Events:

- Manure Mondays were hosted throughout March. In the sand bedding discussion, there was a lot of discussion on soil management. Sand is having a negative impact on soil, by reducing soil carbon and CECs. The effects have only started to appear in the last 10 years of practice.
- Tech-talk Tuesdays have wrapped up. Staff are starting to plan for next year.

Upcoming Events

- OMAFRA is organizing Ag Breakfast meetings again, with some in person only, virtual only, or a mix of both, depending on area, host, and who is participating. In Northern Ontario, some Southern Ontario people try to join and bring up issues not relevant to Northern Ontario, so there will be an effort to keep the Northern Ontario discussions centered on Northern Ontario issues.
- The Manure Expo will be in New York State near Albany on July 17th and 18th.
- Soil Management Day is August 27th. The event is being planned for Eastern Ontario.

Program Updates

- The Environmental Farm Plan has added a new category for climate change and GHG emissions.
- The new agronomy guide will be set up like mini-fact sheets instead of chapters. It should be released in September.

Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

Submitted by: Brady Jones

As we start the new year, Steve Sickle has gone from President to past president, and we welcome Phil Oegema as president. Ashley Honsberger has been doing a great job as Executive Director.

We had our AGM and Spray Smart at the beginning of February, and we had an awesome turnout. We are keeping that momentum going as we plan the Summer Meeting.

Please check out the amazing OSCIA website, as there is a lot of valuable information, about workshops, programs and cost share.



Continued on page 12.

Grain Farmers of Ontario

Submitted by: *Marty Vermey*

GoCrops Website

The Ontario Cereal Crops Committee (OCCC), the Ontario Corn Committee (OCC), the Ontario Soybean and Canola Committee (OSACC), and the Ontario Pulse Crop Committee (OPCC) launched a new website in March: GoCrops.ca. The new site brings together four previous websites under one cohesive banner.



The goal of the website collaboration is to provide the Ontario agricultural community with a single site providing grain farmers with the 3rd party variety/hybrid trial data that the committees are involved in. The site is designed to meet the requirements of ease of use while providing consistency and accessibility across all crops. The site is also optimized for use by mobile or desktop users. The GoCrops website will be focused on public facing trial data and for use of the committee members for data and trial management.

GoCrops.ca was funded in part by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and Grain Farmers of Ontario. On-going operation and content is the responsibility of the associated committee.

DON Working Group

The Ontario Corn Hybrid DON screening Trials Report 2023 can be viewed by scanning this QR Code.



The report provides the first third-party hybrid testing of DON in Ontario. Many years of fine tuning the testing procedures has resulted in showing the differences corn genetics may experience in the development of DON over multiple environments.



Be Drift Aware!

Grain Farmers of Ontario in collaboration with Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association, CropLife Canada, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs have collaborated to create a drift awareness campaign for 2024.

The drift awareness campaign launched in early April 2024. Communications will be ongoing out driving awareness to the online website that will focus on all things drift. 🌱

Don't Miss CCA Updates!

Don't miss out on updates from the CCA office! Make sure your contact information is up to date.

Update your contact information by logging in to certifiedcropadvisor.org and clicking on "My Account". The e-mail address you use to login is the one that the ICCA adds to the ON-CCA listserv.

Not receiving CCA e-mails? Make sure to check your spam folder, as listserv e-mails are sometimes flagged. If you can't find them there, contact Erin at the CCA office. 🌱

Stay Connected

The following image is provided by the FarmPhotos.ca Photo Library. To have your farm or crop photos featured in future newsletters or on the CCA Twitter page, send them to Erin at erin.tfio@bellnet.ca 🌱

Follow us on Twitter



@CCAOntario



CERTIFIED CROP ADVISOR ASSOCIATION® • 195 St. David Street S, 3rd Floor, Fergus, ON N1M 2L4
519-787-4322 • www.ccaontario.com