



**CERTIFIED
CROP ADVISER**

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CCA CHATTER

CERTIFIED CROP ADVISOR ASSOCIATION® • 195 St. David Street S., 2nd Floor, Fergus, ON N1M 2L4
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2026 CCA Conference and Annual Meeting: Are you Registered?

Mark your calendars for the 2026 CCA Conference on January 13th and 14th! We are returning to the Best Western Lamplighter Inn, in London, Ontario for our 23rd CCA Conference and Annual Meeting. The preliminary agenda is posted to the website <https://ccaontario.com/cca-conference/>.

There are 10.5 CEUs available for the full conference, including CCA Ontario's first ethics CEU. Register by following the above link or scanning the QR Code.



Early bird conference registration is \$250 + HST until December 1st! After this date, registration will be \$295 + HST. 🌱

Seeking Annual Award Nominations!

It is that time of year again when we recognize the accomplishments of CCAs who have made exceptional contributions to Ontario agriculture.

We have updated the nomination process this year to make it easier for nominators. You can either fill out the relevant nomination form posted on the website <https://ccaontario.com/awards/> or simply call the CCA office at 519-787-4322 and let us know you would like to nominate someone. You will be invited by the Awards Committee to share why you have nominated this individual via a 10-minute Zoom or phone call.

Award of Excellence

The CCA Award of Excellence recognizes a crop adviser who delivers exceptional customer service, is highly innovative, has shown that they are a leader in their field, and has contributed substantially to the exchange of ideas and the transfer of agronomic knowledge within the agriculture industry. Anybody can submit a nomination for an Ontario CCA to receive this award.

The winner of the CCA Award of Excellence will receive \$1000 and an additional \$1000 will be donated on their behalf to an agricultural charity of their choice, along with a commemorative plaque.

The award is jointly sponsored by CropLife Canada and Syngenta Canada. Nominations are due October 31, 2025.



PARTICIPANTS NEEDED!

Panel discussion on:

**HIGHLIGHTS, LOWLIGHTS, AND
JUST PLAIN WEIRD**

Share your experiences
from the 2025 growing season
at the 2026 CCA Conference

🌱 5 CCAs

🌱 10 minutes each



Contact the CCA
office by
November 15th
erin.tfio@bellnet.ca
519-787-4322

Innovation Award

The CCA Innovation Award is intended to recognize an individual, group or organization who has demonstrated significant innovation or research within the crop advising field. We are defining "innovation" as a novel advancement or practice that has had significant adoption or impact in Ontario crop production.

A nomination can be initiated by a customer, employer, peer, or other associate. The nominee does not have to be a CCA.

The winner of the Innovation Award will receive \$1000, along with a commemorative plaque.

The award is sponsored by Honeyland Ag Services. Nominations are due October 31, 2025.



Emerging Leader

The CCA Emerging Leader is recognition for an individual who has recently attained their CCA designation but is already demonstrating leadership. Candidates should show genuine passion and an eagerness to grow by exploring new technologies and adopting cutting-edge production strategies. They have the potential to be future leaders in the agriculture industry.

If this sounds like someone you know, contact Meagan at ioi.meag@gmail.com by December 12th, 2025 to submit your nomination.

The winner will be announced and presented with a certificate of recognition at the Annual CCA Meeting in January 2026. 🌱

Welcome new CCAs

We are pleased to announce that since the spring newsletter, there have been 16 new fully certified CCAs. Congratulations to:

Courtney Courville
Kelly Consitt
Nicole Millard
Adam Queen
Vidya Kuncham
Erik Landry
Christine Dervaric
Emily Pennington

Noell Adams
Sarah Long
Stephanie Fletcher
Joshua Schat
Madeline Colville
Brandon McLeod
Owen Ricker
Michael Sullivan

If you know these newly certified CCAs, make sure to extend your congratulations to them on this achievement. 🌱

Looking to get a few more CEUs? Attend Soil & Water Day in November!

In partnership with Mosaic, the Ontario CCA Association will be hosting the 9th Soil & Water Information Day on Tuesday, November 18, 2025. The event will take place at the GrandWay Event Centre in Elora for those able to attend in person. There is also a virtual option available.



There are 5.0 SW CEU credits for attending or watching this event. This is a great way make to sure you meet your SW CEU credits if your cycle ends this year. Registration to attend in-person is \$100 + HST, and access to the livestream is \$70 + HST.

Registration and the agenda are on the CCA website or you can scan the QR Code. 🌱



2026 CCA Renewals

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 is increasing to \$100. The ICCA has increased the international renewal to \$110. For 2026 renewals, this means that the total fee will be \$210 plus HST. Specialty renewals will remain at \$60 plus HST.

The ICCA has increased the retired CCA renewal. For 2026, retired renewal will be \$50.

Renewals will be mailed to the address listed on your CCA profile. To check your contact information, visit the "My Account" page on the ICCA website www.certifiedcropadviser.org or contact the Ontario CCA office.

Renewals are due by January 31, 2026. After this date, a late fee will apply. 🌱

Board of Directors – Nominations are Open!

As of December 31, 2025, there will be three seats on the Ontario CCA Board of Directors up for election. These seats are designated for an Ontario CCA duly elected by the CCA membership in Ontario.

Each term is three years and directors are eligible to stand for re-election for a second term if they wish. There are two full-day Board meetings each year (spring and fall) and directors are expected to serve on one of the standing committees.

If you are interested in standing for election or wish to nominate a CCA colleague, please contact Susan Fitzgerald susan.tfio@bell.net by November 15th. The on-line voting will commence in early December. 🌱

CCA Board Mentorship Program – Now Accepting Applications

The CCA Mentorship Committee is now accepting new applications into the Board Mentorship Program. The application deadline is February 28, 2026.

The Mentorship Program encourages newer CCAs to consider taking on a leadership role in the Association. Each year, two CCAs will be selected to participate in the program. They attend CCA Board meetings; participate actively in Board and Committee work; and identify a CCA program-related project to work on and complete during the term of their mentorship.

To apply, you must be a CCA in good standing with preference given to CCAs who have been certified within the last five years. If you are interested in applying, you will be asked to complete a short application along with a telephone interview.

If interested, please contact the CCA office for an application or visit the Ontario CCA website for further details. <https://ccaontario.com/communications/mentorship-program/> 🌱

The 2026 Research Priorities Survey is Now Open!

The research priorities survey is conducted by the Research and Innovation Committee to provide insight on CCA research needs. The responses will be used to influence research direction and suggest areas of focus for the 13 external committees on which we have a CCA representative. The Committee will also provide letters of support for research proposals that align with the research priorities of CCAs.

The survey is open until January 31, 2026. To have your say, scan the QR Code. 🌱



Case Studies on Ethics

Starting in 2026, all CCAs will require one ethics CEU per renewal cycle. To help CCAs meet this requirement, the Ontario CCA office is planning a webinar on ethics for advisors that looks at specific situations where the code of ethics was used or questioned. We want to hear about experiences or realistic hypothetical situations from CCAs to build case studies.

To make an anonymous submission, scan the QR code and complete the form. 🌱



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How to Self-Report CEUs

You can self-report CEUs for events you attend that did not apply for CEUs. There are detailed instructions regarding how to do this on the Ontario CCA website <https://ccaontario.com/ceu-centre/>. Scroll down the page to the section "For CCAs". Audits of self-reported CEUs are conducted to ensure the events reported meet the CEU criteria.

If the event you attended had CEUs granted but you missed scanning or signing the sheet or the CEUs are just missing from your report, DO NOT self-report. Contact the Ontario CCA office and we will work through getting the credits assigned to your account. It would be helpful if you have the exact name of the event and the date it occurred. 🌱

CCA Exam Information

International, local board, and specialty exams are offered quarterly. You can take the International and Ontario exams in one window, or you can split them between different windows.

Exam Registration Dates

October 1 - 27, 2025

January 7 - 26, 2026

March 4 - 30, 2026

July 1 - 27, 2026

Available Exam Dates

November 5 - 19, 2025

February 4 - 18, 2026

April 8 - 22, 2026

August 5 - 19, 2026

NOTE: Exam registration is only available during the dates listed above, and only for the next available exam date. For example, if you want to take your exam in the February 4 – 18, 2026 exam period, you will register in the January 7 - January 26, 2026, period.

Section Testing

Exams are also available by section. The International and Ontario exams are organized into sections, Crop Management, Nutrient Management, Soil and Water Management and Pest Management. Section testing allows candidates to take each of the four sections separately, rather than all at once. They can choose to complete the sections in any order and at their own pace within a five-year timeframe. However, this is more expensive as a proctor fee is paid for each exam sitting.

For additional details and to register for the exams, visit <https://www.certifiedcropadviser.org/exams> 🌱



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2025-26 Member Registration opens on October 1.
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Save the Date!
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June 21-25, 2026
University of Guelph



Introducing Circles: CCA Member Hub

The ICCA has introduced a new communication platform called Circles. The Ontario CCA office will use Circles as a listserv to send out regular emails to all CCAs.

If you unsubscribe from these emails, you will not get regular communication from the Ontario CCA office, including renewal reminders, CEU status, upcoming CEU opportunities, and other communications.

To ensure you are receiving important information about renewals, CEU deadlines, and events, add "Mail@ConnectedCommunity.org" to your safe senders list. Emails will show up "via Alliance of Crop, Soil Science Societies, and Environmental Science Societies."

You can access the Circles Member Hub by scanning the QR code. 🌱



Partners in Sustainable Agriculture

The Ontario CCA Association and the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) are proud to announce a new partnership aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of agronomic advisors across the province. Through a formal collaboration agreement, the two organizations will jointly develop and deliver targeted training that supports the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) and promotes the Farmland Health Check-Up (FHCU) program.

This forward-thinking initiative will equip agronomic advisors with the latest tools and knowledge in nitrogen management, cover cropping and rotational grazing—key practices for improving soil health and advancing climate-smart agriculture.

As part of this partnership, a Wednesday Webinar series has been launched focusing on key OFCAF beneficial management practices (BMPs). For CCAs this is an opportunity to gain CEUs in Soil & Water Management, Nutrient Management, and Crop Management. These webinars will be recorded and available by request from the CCA office. To register and see upcoming webinars, scan the QR code.



OFCAF provides cost-share funding to farmers to support the implementation of BMPs to tackle climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and supporting increased carbon sequestration. FHCU provides farmers with a unique opportunity to work with a CCA free of charge to assess risks to on-farm soil health and water quality.

Funding for this partnership has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Climate Solutions (ACS) – On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF). FHCU is funded through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), a 5-year (2023-2028), \$3.5-billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and a \$2.5 billion commitment that is cost-shared 60% federally and 40% provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by the provinces and territories. 



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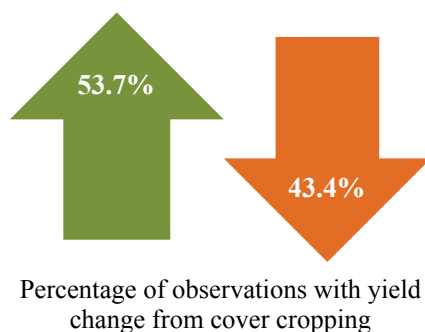


Evaluating Yield Response to Cover Crop Integration

Cover crops are widely accepted for their soil health benefits, which include organic carbon accumulation, promoting soil biodiversity, erosion control, improving soil structure, and reducing compaction¹; however, while these benefits are clear, their impact on yield can vary widely depending on management practices and specific soil properties.

Soil health definitions focus on the functions of soils based on physical, chemical, and biological properties². Healthy soils should sustain plant growth without degradation. By this definition, you would expect practices that improve soil health to consistently have a positive impact on crop yield. In practice, however, soil interactions and crop outputs are much more complex.

A 2024 global meta-analysis conducted by researchers at Indiana University Indianapolis looked at yield data from 104 cover crop studies. From all data, 53.7% of records showed an increase in yield, while 43.4% saw a yield reduction³. For a practice that has been



shown to improve soil health, why is it regularly associated with yield reduction?

In this global analysis, Yeng et al. further analyzed the impact of cover crops on yield by looking at how other management decisions combined with cover cropping impacted main crop yield. The type of cover crop, the number of species, and the main crop species resulted in differences in crop yield. Crops that were paired with a leguminous cover crop (pea, vetch, and clover) saw a 9.8% yield increase, and single species cover crops resulted in a 3.7% yield increase³. Non-leguminous species and multi-species mixes both showed no significant difference. Corn yield when paired with cover cropping increased by 4.7%, while soybean had no significant difference, and wheat yield decreased by 4.0%³.

Other management decisions, like tillage and fertilizer use, also influenced the effect of cover crops on yield. When cover cropping was combined with conventional tillage there was a 6.9% increase in yield, compared to no-till, which had no significant change. When cover crops were implemented without fertilizer application, there was a 10.5% increase in yield, but only a 1.8% increase when added with fertilizer³.

Yield response was also correlated to soil properties like soil texture, with the greatest increase to yield observed in coarse soils, with up to a 15.2% increase in sandy loams. Fine-textured soils, on the other hand, were associated with a decrease in crop yield, with a 9.6% drop in clay soils³.



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Another meta-analysis conducted by Chahal and Van Eerd, which focused on cover crops in temperate climates, found a similar overall trend with crop yield increase in 51% of observations, and yield decrease in 42%⁴. This regional analysis included 63 studies conducted in Canada and the United States.

Like the global analysis, the regional analysis showed the greatest increase with leguminous cover crops, which had an 11% greater yield than the no-cover crop control⁴. They attribute the difference to the increased soil N availability.

The biggest difference in results of the two meta-analyses was the response in a no-till system. The regional analysis showed that yield was 10% higher when cover cropping in a no-till system compared to conventional till⁴. This variability could reflect the complexity of interactions between management and environmental factors.

This meta-analysis also included both vegetable crops and field crops and showed that vegetable crops had a greater yield response with cover cropping. They suggest that this could be because of their shorter growing season, which allows for more flexibility in cover crop planting, allowing for better rates of establishment and biomass accumulation⁴.

In both meta-analyses, the crop yield response when combined with cover crops was linked to physical properties and management decisions. Cover crop species, timing, and termination method combined with main crop type, soil texture, precipitation, fertilizer use, and tillage practices are all components of this system. But there's another factor that was stressed by both studies: time.

In the global analysis, there was an average yield increase of 1.9% over the first two years, which increased to 6.7% after three years and 11.6% after four years³. Both studies concluded that there weren't enough long-term studies to create an adequate sample for meta-analysis^{3,4}. Many of the soil health benefits associated with cover cropping, like increased soil carbon and improved soil structure, can take longer periods of time to develop³.

This shows one of the benefits of cost-share programs. With some uncertainty around yield response in the first few years, cost-share programs could help absorb the cost while establishing a practice that works for the individual farm. The Ontario Cover Crop Feedback Report showed that 52% of farms that responded had never grown cover crops previously but wanted to try in the future⁵. Of those that have not grown cover crops, the top barrier to adoption was additional costs. Funding in the first year allows farmers to see the practice in action with lower financial risk.

The Ontario Cover Crop Feedback Report found that out of those that use cover crops, 37% saw a slight increase in profit and 31% had no change in profit. The most reported challenges were sparse or limited growth, additional costs, and a shorter growing season for main crops. Even with these challenges, 91% of respondents that use cover crops reported seeing benefits, including 68% reporting improved soil health⁵.

Looking at the numbers, it's easy to see why a farmer might be discouraged from implementing cover crops. A 40% chance of yield loss combined with the cost of implementation adds a significant risk. Still, there are many farmers interested in improving soil health and increasing organic matter. There's a reason that letters of support from CCAs are often required to receive cost-share funding when implementing new practices. CCAs play an important role in determining the best location, species, termination method, and management practices to increase chances of success. When it comes to cover crops, tailoring plans to specific fields and management practices is key to success. 

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Funding in part, under Agricultural Climate Solutions (ACS) – On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada



Agriculture and
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Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

The Ontario Soils GeoHub: A Home for Ontario's Agricultural Soils Data

Article submitted by Communications Branch, OMAFA

Farmers and agronomists across Ontario now have access to the Ontario Soils GeoHub - a new, free online platform developed by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) to help farmers make better use of soil data. The easy-to-use site brings together soil data from provincial and federal sources to help farmers discover, visualize, and download relevant soil information products - no sign-up or login required. This initiative is part of a three-year \$9.5 million investment launched in 2023 to support farmers in adopting advanced technologies that enhance soil health, increase productivity, and boost profitability.

The virtual hub includes a wide range of soil data including historical soil survey reports and maps, a recently released topsoil report with an interactive dashboard, and a Mapping Ontario's Soils page that outlines the past, present, and future of Ontario soils data.

There is also a Soils Spatial Search which lets you select your location on a map and view detailed soil information for your area. This includes data on slope, soil texture, CLI rating, stoniness, drainage type, soil hydrologic group, and drainage design code. These soil datasets can be used to improve farm productivity and inform land management practices to promote on-farm soil health. For example, soil texture maps can help identify areas at risk of soil compaction.

The newest additions to the Soils GeoHub are pilot digital soil maps. Digital soil mapping (DSM) is a new approach to soil mapping that maps soil variability more accurately and with higher precision. It uses georeferenced soil samples (soil samples with a GPS location) and environmental data to generate maps of specific soil properties (e.g., pH, soil texture) at a high spatial resolution. Digital soil maps describe soil variability at a high resolution and can predict soil change in three dimensions, allowing farmers and agronomists to view important soil properties such as pH levels, total organic carbon content, cation exchange capacity, and soil texture at different depths.

Initial digital soil maps have been developed for the Ottawa region using a pilot dataset to gather user feedback.

The long-term objective is to expand this effort to create comprehensive digital soil maps covering all of Ontario's agricultural lands. On the online dashboard, you can find links to download the technical geospatial Ottawa soil maps directly, you can view them online and print PDFs of the digital soil maps for your area of interest.

The Ontario Soils GeoHub will continue to be updated with more soil data as it becomes available. OMAFA invites you to explore the site, see what's available, and share your thoughts through the feedback form online. Your input helps shape this resource to better serve Ontario's farmers. 

Ordering Certificates

Do you want to receive a printed version of your CCA Certificate? You are able to print a certificate from your account on the ICCA website. However, you must first contact our ICCA representative, Penny Magana, at pmagana@sciencesocieties.org to authenticate the current year's certificate. Contact the Ontario CCA office if you have any questions. 

Industry Updates

Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

Submitted by Brady Jones

Over the past few months, OSCIA has remained active in delivering cost-share and knowledge transfer programs to Ontario's agricultural community. Several cost-share intakes were successfully administered, including the Ontario On-Farm Climate Action Fund, the Agricultural Stewardship Initiative, and the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program, with strong farmer participation across a wide range of best management practices such as soil health, cover crops, and water quality initiatives.

OSCIA's research department continues to advance on-farm innovation through the ONFARM and Living Lab – Ontario programs. Current trials focus on nutrient management, nitrogen inhibitors, drone cover crop applications, and edge-of-field water runoff monitoring. This fall, OSCIA will begin new trial work on the use of biochar as part of the expanded Ontario On-Farm Climate Action Fund. Over the next three years, OSCIA will work with 10–12 farmers to evaluate biochar's role in improving soil health and reducing GHG emissions.

Member and stakeholder engagement also remained strong throughout the summer. Highlights included OSCIA's Summer Meeting in Stayner, which featured demonstrations and presentations connecting practical results with farmers, and participation at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, where staff engaged directly with producers to share information on cost-share opportunities and ongoing research.

Collaboration with government and commodity partners remains a priority to ensure program delivery aligns with sector needs and supports Ontario's environmental and economic objectives. Internally, OSCIA is working to streamline communications and tools, including updates to the events calendar, to better support staff, members, and partners during the busy fall season.

Recruitment is underway for a Director of Research and Knowledge Transfer, with the position expected to be filled by the end of October.

Grain Farmers of Ontario

Submitted by Marty Vermey

Great Lakes YEN

Registration for the 2025 wheat program was a record 203 participants with 102 being from Ontario.

The YEN Networking event was held in the U.K. this past June, with 29 participants, including YEN farmers, agronomists, and extension staff. Key highlights included:

- Rothamsted Research – The Broadbalk experiment, the world's longest-running arable farming experiment, established in 1843, has utilized the innovative scanalyzer for analyzing cereal growth over the past two decades.
- Farm Stop – Tim Lamyman (Lincolnshire) - World record holder for winter wheat yield, Tim shared his management practices and showcased his fields and a soil pit of his chalk soil.
- Farm Stop – Mark Stubbs (Lincolnshire) – A high-yielding wheat producer who shared his cropping practices and led a tour of his fields, equipment, and grain storage. We observed chalk soil and its ability to drain and retain moisture through capillary action.
- Farm Stop – Michael Brown (Covington) – A seed grower for wheat, faba beans, parsnips, and other herbs. Engaging discussions with Michael covered weeds, diseases and general agricultural conditions in the U.K.

• Farm Stop – Velcourt

- Velcourt is a farm management company actively managing 57,500 hectares in the U.K., taking a research-led approach to farm management.

- Oakbank – Consultants for farmland and woodland stewardship, biodiversity, carbon, and natural capital enhancement, specializing in Agri-Environment schemes. A subsidiary of Velcourt.

• Cereals Event – A large outdoor farm show featuring meetings with NIAB and AHDB organizations. Participants learned about U.K. agriculture, walked through a soil pit, and observed U.K. farm equipment and input suppliers.

• Wheat Breeding – Elsom's Vegetable and Wheat Breeding farm and research location, including a tour of the seed facility, lab, and wheat breeding trials.

• Industry Research – Syngenta's Jealott's Hill Research and Development facility, focusing on chemistry formulation, weed control trials, and crop safety, including the double haploid breeding program. Significant investment is being made in the future of wheat.

Field Harvest and Planting Progress

Grain Farmers of Ontario recently launched Field Progress—your go to source for weekly estimation on planting and harvest progress across the province, by district. Scan the QR code to visit.



Continued on page 10.



Source: UC San Diego

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Cover Crop Survey

This fall the Ontario Cover Crop Steering Committee, in partnership with researchers and extension specialists, will be launching a Cover Crop Survey across several provinces, to gain a deeper understanding of the evolving dynamics of cover crop use based on the 2025 growing season.

This is a follow-up survey of the 2020 Ontario Cover Crop Survey. This year the survey has a specific section for Crop Advisor feedback with questions targeted to Crop Advisors.

The survey is for farmers and advisors who currently use/advise on cover crops, those who have never used/advise on cover crops, and those who have used/advise on cover crops but no longer do so. All opinions and experiences are appreciated. The survey will be open from December 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

The survey link will be distributed in December and throughout the winter months.

Be Drift Aware

GFO, OFA, OFVGA, CropLife Canada, OMAFA, and Sprayers 101 collaborated to create a drift awareness campaign.

The website is an online tool that focuses on all things related to drift. Visit www.bedrftaware.ca for more information.



Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Submitted by Christine Brown

- Compaction Day – August 7th at Rutherford – Lambton-Kent SCIA, St Clair Conservation Authority, OMAFA partnership – good turnout, lots of good information
- AgSpray Expo – July 23rd at Jasper (eastern Ontario) – almost full registration with 150 people registered. The day featured great speakers and equipment demos.
- John Steele is the new OMAFA Maple, Tree Nut and Agroforestry Specialist John.Steele@ontario.ca (519) 835-8493
- Re-vamped field crop news website that includes comprehensive crop production information by crops and disciplines. Introduced at the Outdoor Farm Show it's a work in progress posted on fieldcropnews.com. It features new information and easy to access resources, printing single sections as pdf files, as well as traditional crop reports and blogs.
- Winter ag conferences are being planned with speakers being finalized this week. SWAC (Southwest Ag Conference) is January 6-7 at Ridgeway, MWAC (Midwest Ag Conference) is January 16 at RIM park in Kitchener and ECCO (Eastern Crop Conference) is January 27 at Kemptonville.





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- 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.

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- Living Labs – Jake Munroe leading project with drone seeding cover crop into standing corn and soybeans – Owen Ricker also involved with this project that is being conducted at six replicated sites in Elgin, Oxford, Norfolk and Hamilton area. Results so far suggest that no-till systems pose more challenges, that legumes are more difficult to establish late season than cereals and that spring cereals planted earlier may better utilize fall CHUs.
- SHAP soil health test – Staff from Greenbelt Foundation, SRG, Laura Van Eerd and OMAFA met to discuss results and next steps in the background soil health testing done by each group. Results and economics from the different soil health tests were discussed with the goal of moving toward an affordable soil health test for Ontario.

Conservation Ontario

Submitted by Tatianna Lozier

Stewardship Funding

The Lambton County Land Stewardship Program was created as a pilot project funding a variety of BMPs for 2025, including cover crops and erosion control projects.

Funding is available through several other Conservation Authorities for Rural Clean Water Programs that may be stacked with other programs, such as OSCIA or other Conservation Authority delivered funding programs. Lake Erie Conservation Authorities are funding Year 2 of projects that support phosphorus reduction.

There is funding available for cover crops, reduced tillage, subsurface phosphorus applications, soil sampling and other BMPs. Program information can be found on individual websites, however a joint website for program details is coming soon.

Events

- The 2025 Latornell Conservation Symposium Program, Celebrating 30 years of Conservation, is being held November 3-4, 2025. <https://www.latornell.ca/>. The Latornell Conservation Symposium is forum for Conservation Authorities, environmental leaders, practitioners, and advocates dedicated to watershed management. There may be opportunities for self-reporting on soil and water CEUs.
- Lake Erie Conservation Authorities shared programming information at the Outdoor Farm Show, local OSCIA summer meetings and local fairs this fall, as well as planning events for the late fall and winter.
- Southwestern Conservation Authorities co-hosted field tour events with the Ontario Soil Network in August.
- LTVCA annual Cultivating Conservation Tour was held September 5th and are hosting an event through ONFARM on October 10th
- CVC Peel Rural Water Quality Program tour September 24th. 🌱

Did you know?

It's hard to imagine autumn without the sound of leaves crunching underfoot on a crisp morning. Did you know that sound travels further in fall?

Typically, air temperature decreases with altitude, but as the nights get longer and cooler, the surface temperature decreases faster than the air temperature, causing a temperature inversion. Sound waves travel faster in warm air than in cool air. This difference causes sound waves that travel from cool air to warm air to be bent or refracted back towards the Earth's surface. This allows sound waves to move further along the surface than they would otherwise. 🌱



Do you have enough CEUs?

The deadline for CEUs is coming up for CCAs in the 2024/2025 cycle. You must have 40 CEUs with five in each of the four agronomic categories before December 31st. To check your CEUs, login to sciencesocieties.org/education-ceus/ceus or contact Daina at office.tfio@bellnet.ca 🌱

Crop photos wanted!

Would you like to see your crop or farm photos featured in CCA content? We are always looking for relevant pictures to use in marketing material, CCA Chatter, and on the CCA Ontario website. If you have high-resolution pictures that you'd like to share, please send them to erin.tfio@bellnet.ca. 🌱

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Upcoming Wednesday Webinars

Webinars are free to attend. Registration is required. 1.0 CEU available for each webinar in either SW, NM, or CM.



Ontario Certified Crop Advisor Association
and
Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
Present

COVER CROPS

MYTHS AND CHALLENGES

JAKE MUNROE
NOVEMBER 12, 2025
1:00 - 2:00 PM
ZOOM

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

Jake Munroe is the Soil Management Specialist for Field Crops with OMAFA. Jake has expertise in soil fertility, soil health, and cover crop management. Through on-farm trials, demonstrations, and presentations, he shares information with Ontario farmers on best management practices to improve soil management and crop production. Jake is a Certified Crop Advisor.

Funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Climate Solutions (ACS) - On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)

ON FARM CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Canada Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada



Ontario Certified Crop Advisor Association
and
Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
Present

COVER CROPPING IN ONTARIO VINEYARDS

KATHRYN CARTER
NOVEMBER 26, 2025
1:00 - 2:00 PM
ZOOM

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

Kathryn Carter is the Fruit Specialist (Tender fruit and Grape) for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agri-business (OMAFRA). Ms Carter is involved in the development, coordination and implementation of research projects that support Ontario's tender fruit and grape industries. Currently she is involved in research projects focusing on the use of under vine cover crops in vineyards, soil health (orchards/vineyards) and chemical thinners for peach production.

Funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Climate Solutions (ACS) - On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)

ON FARM CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Canada Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

See the full list of webinars at ccaontario.com/ceu-centre/webinars/

For recordings of October webinars please contact Erin at erin.tfio@bellnet.ca

Soil & Water Information Day

GrandWay Event Centre

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

Morning Session

Creating a Cost-Effective Measurement, Verification and Reporting (MRV) System to Unlock Payments for Soil Carbon – Dr. Asim Biswas, University of Guelph

Assessment of Agricultural Soil Compaction by Implement Traffic – Dr. Olatunbosun Ayetan, University of Guelph

Huronview Drainage Project – Maria Veliz and Rick Klooster, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

Revolutionizing Plant and Soil Health – Jana Tain, CEO/Co-founder, and Tanya Franklin, Founding Agronomist, Upside Robotics

Afternoon Session

How Cover Cropping Impacts Soil Nitrogen Availability and Organic Matter – Dr. Yajun Peng, University of Guelph

The Impact of Cover Cropping on Phosphorus Loss from Ontario Croplands – Kokulan Vivekananthan, Water Quality Specialist, OSCIA

Keeping Poop in the Loop - Maximizing the Value of Organic Amendment Use – Christine Brown, Sustainability Specialist Field Crops, OMAFA

For participating CCAs, 5.0 CEUs in SWQ are available. 🌱



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