



**CERTIFIED  
CROP ADVISER**

## IN THIS ISSUE

2

**Pat Lynch - Ontario  
Agricultural Hall of  
Fame Inductee**

3

**"That's Sound Advice"  
Supply Chain Shortages,  
Shifting Recommendations,  
and Managing Risk**

4

**What's the Fit of Diversity,  
Equity and Inclusion for  
Certified Crop Advisors?**

5

**Corn Rootworm Resistance  
and Potential Impacts  
- April 2022**

11

**Relaunch of the CCA-to-CCA  
Mentorship Program**

# CCA CHATTER

CERTIFIED CROP ADVISOR ASSOCIATION® • 39 William Street, Elmira, Ontario N3B 1P3  
(519) 669-3350 • Fax: (519) 669-3826 • [www.ccaontario.com](http://www.ccaontario.com)

## 2021 Ontario CCA Award of Excellence Winner

The CCA Award of Excellence was given out during the online CCA Conference and Annual Meeting on January 13, 2022.

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



**syngenta**

This year, there were two nominees:

Taylor Holmes

Michael Dick



The recipient of the award for 2021 was Michael Dick

Michael Dick was nominated for the Ontario Certified Crop Advisor Award of Excellence by his peer, Chad Anderson.

Michael Dick graduated from the University of Guelph in 1989

with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and has been active in the agriculture industry since. He challenged the CCA exams in 1998 and has been a CCA in good standing since then. He joined the CCA Board in 2019 and is the representative for Conservation Ontario. Michael currently works for the Essex Region Conservation Authority as a Soil & Water Conservation Technician. He carries out the Soil and Water Conservation programs and oversees activities at the Essex County Demonstration Farm. In his spare time, Michael can be found assisting with the local folk music festival and volunteering his time with his church.

Congratulations Michael!

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](http://www.ccaontario.com) or by calling the office at (519) 669-3350. 🌱

## 20 Years Certified in Ontario

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

Doug Alderman

Chris Armstrong

Adam Bent

Alan Broad

Bryan Robert Brodie

Gord Button

James D'Aoust

David Den Boer

Charles Dunsmore

Greg Fritz

Gerard Grubb

Stephen Kinlin

Nathan Klages

John McRoberts

Jason Oud

Barton Simpson

Kirk Van Will 🌱

## Conference Sponsorship Scavenger Hunt Winner

This year there was a sponsorship scavenger hunt held during the virtual CCA Conference. CCAs had to go onto sponsors websites and answer a question about that company. They were then entered in a randomized pool to win a \$500 Amazon gift card.

The winner was Ashley Knapton – congratulations Ashley! 🌱

## 2022 CCA Conference and Annual Meeting

The 2022 Conference and Annual Meeting was another success even though we could not meet in person. Over 200 people registered for the two-day event!

Thank you again to all our sponsors. Without your continued support we would not be able to maintain such an informative and collaborative event.

The 2022 CCA conference sponsors were as follows:

### Gold Sponsors - \$2,500 Contribution

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

### Silver Sponsors - \$1,500 Contribution

- NuFarm Agriculture Inc.
- Syngenta
- Sylvite Canada
- Yara Canada

### Bronze Sponsors - \$500 Contribution

- A&L Laboratories
- Grain Farmers of Ontario
- C & M Seeds
- SGS
- Corteva
- SeCan

Save the date! The 20th CCA Conference and Annual Meeting has been set for January 11, 2023. With COVID-19 restrictions slowly being lifted, the CCA office has booked the Best Western Lamplighter, London for the event. We look forward to seeing you there! 🌱

## Welcome New CCA's

Congratulations to all who passed the Ontario and International CCA exams this February! There were 22 individuals who passed the Ontario and 19 who passed the International. There were also four individuals who passed their 4R NMS Speciality designation in February. Congratulations to all on this achievement!

We are pleased to announce that in the past four months there were five newly certified Ontario CCAs. Congratulations to:

Aodin MacDonell  
Liam Bracken  
Derrick LeClair

William Kell  
Eva Smuck 🌱

## Pat Lynch – Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame Inductee

In 2022, five agricultural leaders will be inducted into Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame, including Pat Lynch.

The 2022 induction ceremony will take place on Sunday, June 12, 2022. If public policy permits, it will be a hybrid format with the live ceremony held at the GrandWay Events Centre, Grand River Raceway, 7445 Wellington County Rd. 21, Elora. There will also be an option for guests to join us virtually.

Registration to attend the event in person is \$25.00. There is no cost to join virtually however you must still register. To register for either in person or virtual attendance, visit <https://www.oahf.on.ca/news-2/2020-induction-ceremony/>

Registration will close on Friday, June 10, 2022.

Pat Lynch began his career as an agronomy professional in 1973, working as a soils and crops specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. There, he introduced new crop production techniques, initiating soybean production in new regions, promoting direct cut solid seeded white beans, co-launching a pesticide course (the current Grower Pesticide Safety Course), and starting county newsletters. He was a senior agronomist with Cyanamid Canada, where he significantly initiated a crop consulting service in Ontario. In 2008, he became an independent consultant directly consulting with growers. He co-authors a weekly agronomy newsletter and has been writing a regular column in other magazines and newspapers for 40 years. Pat has a passion for extension work and is known as an excellent presenter and debater. Pat helped to introduce the Certified Crop Advisor Program to Ontario through development of performance objectives and the CCA examination. This certification program now includes over 665 professional crop advisors.

Congratulations on this achievement Pat! 🌱

## Save the Date!

The CCA Research and Innovation Committee has been hard at work planning an Agriculture Learning in the East trip to take place August 16th and 17th in Eastern Ontario!

There are five local tours planned:

- Warren Schneckeburger's farm
- Winchester Research Station
- North Gower Grains Farm
- Schouten Corner View Farms
- Kaiser Lake Farms



There will also be a BBQ buffet and entertainment to be held at North Gower Grains Farms on the evening of August 16th.

There will be a chartered bus making stops at carpool lots in London, Guelph and Bowmanville.

Details for this event will be sent out shortly by the CCA office, so keep an eye on your inboxes! 🌱

## "That's Sound Advice" Supply Chain Shortages, Shifting Recommendations, and Managing Risk

*Submitted by: Ken Currah, CCA-ON, RMS, Chair of the  
CCA Research and Innovation Committee*

**T**he 2022 crop year is upon us, and it's time to execute the crop management plans that Certified Crop Advisors and their farmer customers have developed over the past several months. For many of us, these plans have been somewhat dynamic as the industry maneuvers around ongoing supply chain challenges that have impacted the crop inputs sector, including seed quality issues, crop protection products, and with the recent onset of the war in Ukraine, fertilizer supply and logistics.

Shifting inputs supply usually forces us as CCAs to shift our crop management recommendations accordingly. The 2022 crop year brings with it the significant influences of high inputs prices and record-high crop prices, which places increased pressure on both grain and livestock farmers to profitably produce a sufficient-yielding crop that meets the needs and objectives of their farm business plan.

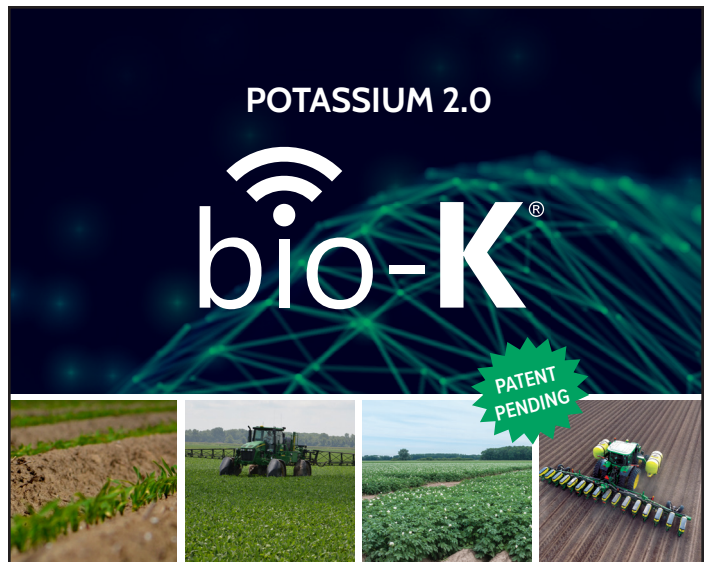
As a Certified Crop Advisor, you are obligated to position your recommendations within the boundaries and limitations of these key documents:

1. First and foremost, the CCA Code of Ethics which is a signed commitment by all Certified Crop Advisors (see link below).
2. Product Labels – a CCA's recommendations must fall within the specifications and limitations noted on the labels of all crop protection products. This includes seed traits.

Fertility recommendations must follow all applicable Best Management Practices (BMP's) as they relate to sound Environmental Stewardship and adhere to the more intensive guidelines required under the 4R Certification Program for those retailers and employees that are certified.

Pesticide product labels are a legal document that binds the purchaser and the applicator to the specifications and limitations found within. Product shortages, notably glyphosate, are forcing a shift in reliance towards other herbicide chemistries. Depending on the CCAs individual experience, this is either encouraging a refresher or an expansion of their herbicide knowledge. Our pesticide recommendations must also align with Resistance Management principles and strategies.

Continued on page 4.



## ALPINE's Newest Innovation To Increase Yields On All Crops

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

- The organic based carrier in Bio-K® is a natural plant metabolite.
- Rapidly absorbed by plant leaves when foliar applied.
- Acts as a bio stimulant with positive effects on both 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.



Bio-K® powered products:

ALPINE G241-S®

ALPINE HKW6®

ALPINE K20-S®

ALPINE K19-S®

ALPINE F18 Max™

© 2021, Nachurs Alpine Solutions. All Rights Reserved. "ALPINE" is a registered trademark of Nachurs Alpine Solutions.

[www.alpinepfl.com](http://www.alpinepfl.com) • 1-844-655-PHOS (7467) • [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [o](#) [i](#)

CCAs could find themselves in a position where Best Management Practices (BMP's) are challenged by crop inputs availability when a management decision needs to be implemented in the field. In-season time pressure is often a significant factor in these "change-of-course" conversations as well. With high crop prices comes increased liability risk for inputs suppliers and manufacturers should the crop be negatively impacted by improper or illegal product usage.

How can CCAs ensure their recommendations continue to be responsible and agronomically beneficial, while protecting themselves and their business from risk?

Establish a network of mentorship and product support.

- For many CCAs, this includes support from managers and mentors within their business. Know who the people are that you work with that can help and support you with difficult conversations and challenging recommendations or product decisions.
- Crop protection and seed protection manufacturer representatives are the CCAs go-to source for any questions on product technical use issues. These manufacturers have toll-free 1-800 product technical support lines available as well. Many product labels in Canada do not reflect the wide diversity of crops grown in Ontario, and the manufacturer representatives are the proper source of clarification for on-label and supported product uses and tank mixes. If in doubt, ask first!

**40+ issues a year of timely  
Ontario agronomy content.**

## **The Cropwalker Agronomy Newsletter**

**Sign up for free for 30 days at  
[fieldwalker.ca/newsletter](https://fieldwalker.ca/newsletter)**

**Volume pricing available**

***Like to write in a concise manner on  
timely agronomy topics? We are  
looking for a third newsletter writer.  
Contact [patricklynch872@gmail.com](mailto:patricklynch872@gmail.com)***

### **Published by:**

Patrick J. Lynch CCA-ON

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

- For newer CCAs, we encourage you to reach out to other long-time CCAs within your network to tap their vast knowledge and experience. In turn, we also encourage our many experienced Ontario CCAs to support others when asked.

The CCA Code of Ethics can be found at [ccaontario.com](https://ccaontario.com).

The link to the PMRA Label Database, Pesticide Label Search, and mobile apps can be found here: <https://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-eng.php>

Best wishes for a safe and successful 2022 crop season! 🌱

## **What's the Fit of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for Certified Crop Advisors?**

*Submitted by: Ashley Knapton*

**A**griculture is not immune to the "trendy" phrases that we see throughout the world – in fact, we see it just as extensively. Take sustainability for example; a world that is rooted in great meaning of maintaining the ability to continue, when considering environmental, economic and societal impacts – that was then co-opted and twisted into a specific, narrow meaning. I fear the same for the concept around diversity, equity, and inclusion. This is not a trend or the next collection of buzzwords, but rather an important step to treat each other with respect while bettering our businesses and industry, at the same time.

It's important to me here to clarify that I'm not an expert at this – just someone who wants to make agriculture a better place and enjoys learning. Diversity is the differences in our lived experiences and perspectives in the world. Equity is working towards parity in policies, processes, and outcomes. Inclusion is that active, intentional and continues process to address inequities.

My CCA Mentorship Project focused on gathering demographic data, connecting with other industry organizations doing this work, as well as establish future steps for the CCA-ON around DEI. Demographic data shows that 21% of the current CCA membership is female, while graduates out of relevant university programs are showing closer to 40%. When we break it down to estimate the portion of the membership in the newest cohort, we see the number jump to 38% female. The next key step will be to see if this cohort continues to maintain their membership, while also seeing what opportunity there is to encourage future generations to continue entering the program. The opportunity to connect with other organizations like Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) and Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO) helped to ensure we weren't duplicating efforts but rather multiplying. As a result of these connections, two CCA-ON Board members were able to recently take the DEI training BFO championed last year.



The real question is why? Why diversity, equity, and inclusion and why in agriculture? First, the business case for DEI has been long proven and continues to garner more evidence in recent years. McKinsey in 2020 found “the relationship between diversity on executive teams and the likelihood of financial outperformance has strengthened over time.” Secondly, there is no doubt that there is a need for workers in agriculture and that need is not disappearing. In addition to strengthening our businesses, opening to a focus on DEI allows for a strengthening of the industry.

Where do CCAs fit into this conversation? CCAs are recognized as leaders. They are well respected in the industry and have a wide array of touch points and contacts. This allows CCAs to be key drivers of the inclusion aspect of DEI. CCAs work in a broad range of workplaces and should be taking some time to reflect how they or their organization can help to make agriculture a place for all. The final step of my project will be to include some basic resources on the CCA-ON website for folks who are looking to start, or maybe continue, their learnings around DEI. These resources will be available soon.

A sincere thank you to the CCA-ON Board for allowing me to take on this project and supporting me through this. It was an incredible opportunity to learn more about the Certified Crop Advisor organization, as well as meet other agronomists. Also, a sincere thank you to the membership for their support to allow me to join the CCA Board as a director. I look forward to continuing learning and working. 🌱

## Corn Rootworm Resistance and Potential Impacts - April 2022

*Submitted by: Justin Brennan*

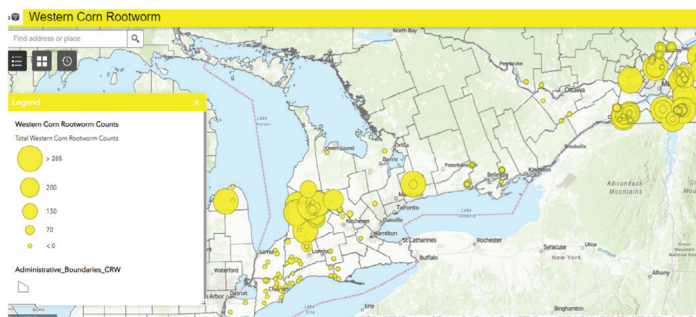
**N**orthern corn rootworm (NCR) and western corn rootworm (WCR) aren't new pests to Ontario, however they are adapting and resurfacing as a major potential threat to corn. This article is a brief summary of my project as a CCA-mentee under the 2021 CCA-ON mentorship program.

Corn rootworm is a destructive pest. The larvae feed on the root system from mid-June until August which interferes with nutrient and water uptake. Secondly, these clipped roots reduce the stalks' ability to anchor to the soil and thus can lodge. Each clipped root can result in a 15-18% yield reduction. Beetles can feed on pollen and silks which can reduce pollination. Overall producers can experience up to 50% yield reduction as lodged corn increases harvest losses even at reduced harvest speeds. Producers/advisors should be scouting in August for lodged corn, clipped silks and/or roots and count the number of beetles at ear height. If they observe any signs of damage, they need to rotate away from host species the following year. Risk factors include continuous corn and heavy textured soils. Table 1 differentiates common species.

Non-Host Species:	Host Species:	Unknown:
Alfalfa	Reed Canary	Ryegrass (Italian & Westerwold)
Soybeans	Meadow Fescue	Orchard grass
Wheat	Green & Yellow Foxtail	
Sugar Beets		
Sorghum-Sudan		
Fall Rye or Triticale		
Timothy, Smooth Brome, Tall Fescue		

**Table 1:** Corn rootworm host and non-host species.

In 2021 a massive collaborative project was dedicated to identifying and learning more about the populations of rootworm across the US and Ontario. The 2021 Corn Rootworm Trap Network revealed some startling observations and trends which solidified the need to repeat the trap network in 2022. With a total of 91 sites in Ontario, collaborators would secure sticky traps to the stalks (just above the ear) on four separate plants with 50 meters between traps. Traps were collected, species identified, recorded and a new trap attached, weekly for up to eight weeks. Field history (tillage, crop rotation, previous rootworm pressure, etc.) were recorded for each site. I was responsible for three of these sites which were located in Napanee, Brighton and Springbrook, ON. Similar to my observations, the vast majority of Ontario sites experienced significantly more WCR pressure vs NCR. Figure 1 illustrates the WCR concentrations experienced across Ontario.



**Figure 1:** WCR counts during 2021 growing season across Ontario.

There are some management strategies to tackle this pest. The most effective and reliable practice is to rotate away from corn. Without a host crop, the populations starve and thus pressures drop significantly. There are some situations where rotating away from corn isn't a viable option (e.g., dense livestock regions). These producers will need to diligently utilize soil applied insecticides, foliar insecticides, high-rate seed treatments and rootworm resistant hybrids. Relying on resistant Bt-RW hybrids has significant

limitations as all of the rootworm hybrids share similar proteins. Figure 2 shows how hybrids share similar proteins and thus when rootworms become resistant to one trait package, they can quickly develop resistance to all trait packages.

Trade Name	Bt-RW Proteins
Agrisure Duracade® 5122	mCry3A + eCry3.1Ab
Agrisure Duracade® 5222	mCry3A + eCry3.1Ab
Agrisure® 3122	mCry3A + Cry34/35Ab1
Optimum® AcreMax® XTrem	Cry34/35Ab1 + mCry3A
Qrome	Cry34/35Ab1 + mCry3A
SmartStax®	Cry3Bb1 + Cry34/35Ab1
SmartStax® Enlist	Cry3Bb1 + Cry34/35Ab1
SmartStax® Refuge Advanced	Cry3Bb1 + Cry34/35Ab1

**Figure 2:** All available Ontario hybrids share similar proteins.

Continued on page 6.

Continued from page 5 ~ **CORN ROOTWORM RESISTANCE AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS-APRIL 2022**

Resistant rootworm is now suspected in numerous counties in Ontario. With its massive reproductive capabilities (300-1000 eggs/female) this pest can and will develop widespread resistance extremely fast. Management against this resistance must be implemented immediately. Crop rotation is the gold standard and will provide the best results. If rotating away from corn isn't an option, limiting the use of Bt-RW hybrids will preserve this technology. Utilizing a non-Bt hybrid the first year of corn, an above ground only Bt hybrid the second year and a Bt-RW hybrid the third year will reduce the rootworm exposure to the proteins. The fourth year must be a non-host crop. This will help break the cycle and reduce overall resistant rootworm populations from becoming the 'new normal'.

There are a few sites across North America trialing nematodes that feed on corn rootworm. These trials are very preliminary but are offering some positive initial results. At this time, it's too early to rely on it as an immediate widespread solution. There is hope that one day it will become a viable option for all producers.

Feed alternatives like sorghum, winter cereals and small grains can help bridge the gap in areas that are trying to rotate away from corn. None of these alternative feeds will be as versatile or as complimentary to traditional feed programs however they can be a viable substitute if planned, managed and harvested properly. The lower yield potential of these alternatives will cause some producers to be hesitant, however losing 50% of their silage/grain yield to lodged corn will also be problematic. Working as a team with the producer and nutritionist will benefit everyone involved.

CCAs play an integral part in reducing the risk associated with rootworm resistance. It will be important to educate producers, as well as scout and encourage proper rotations. Reporting suspected cases to OMAFRA and contributing to the 2022 Trap Network, CCAs will help monitor suspected resistance and shifts in populations.

To all the OMAFRA staff, farm cooperators and crop protection representatives who contributed to this project, your time and expertise is appreciated. Thank-you to the CCA association and the Board for the opportunity to partake in this program. Interacting with other agronomists across the province offers unique perspective on how vast the CCA program is, and the depth of talent within the organization. Thank-you! 🌱

---

## Ag Mental Health Resources

- Mental Health First Aid [www.mhfa.ca](http://www.mhfa.ca) (not agriculture specific)
- ConnexOntario, 24/7 healthcare services information, <https://www.connexontario.ca/en-ca/>, 1-866-531-2600 (not agriculture specific)
- In the Know training developed by University of Guelph offered in Ontario, PEI, Nova Scotia, BC, Alberta and Manitoba – [www.ajbresearch.com](http://www.ajbresearch.com),
- Do More Ag Foundation list of therapists [www.domore.ag/](http://www.domore.ag/)
- Emergency Response Model for Mental Health During Agricultural Crises – [www.ajbresearch.com/resources](http://www.ajbresearch.com/resources)
- Farmer Wellness Initiative
  - 1-866-267-6255
  - 24/7, 365 days, English and French
  - four free counselling sessions for Ontario farmers and families
  - Developed by Canadian Mental Health Association (Ontario Division) in partnership with OFA
  - Service is provided by Life Works 🌱

---

## Save the Date! Soil & Water Day in November

In partnership with Mosaic, the Ontario CCA Association will be hosting the 6th Soil & Water Information Day on Wednesday, November 16, 2022. The event will take place at Springfield Golf & Country Club in Guelph.

There will be 4.5 Soil & Water CEU credits available for the day.

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



The end-to-end drone solution for agriculture

**eBee X**



- Quick, high precision Intel
- Fully featured
- Fits how you work, large coverage
- Ag Workflow Compatible, fully integrated
- Reliable Insights

**CARTO CANADA**

[sales@cartocanada.ca](mailto:sales@cartocanada.ca)  
1-519-343-5454  
[www.cartocanada.ca](http://www.cartocanada.ca)

# Industry Updates

## Conservation Authorities Update

*Submitted by: Michael Dick*

### ONFarm

ONFARM is a four-year research initiative developed by OMAFRA and delivered by OSCIA that has been focusing on soil health and water quality. On-farm Applied Research & Monitoring (ONFARM) is the continuation of the work established under GLASI and research priorities identified by Ontario's Soil Health and Conservation Strategy (OSCIA).

Five Conservation Authorities support the program by continuation of the monitoring and modelling established in the GLASI Priority Subwatersheds. Supported activities include water quality and quantity monitoring, water quality computer modeling, and examining the cost-effectiveness of different best management practices. As many farmers as possible will be surveyed within each subwatershed to record their cropping practices. Local agronomists and CCAs will be helping with the surveys.

### Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund

Conservation Ontario is working 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.

### Two Billion Tree Program

Many of the Conservation Authorities are participating in the Government of Canada's Two Billion Tree Program. The 2 billion Trees (2BT) program aims to motivate and support new tree planting projects. Over a period of 10 years, up to \$3.2 billion will be invested in tree planting efforts to support provinces, territories, third-party organizations (for and not-for profit) and Indigenous organizations to plant two billion trees across Canada. Planting trees helps capture carbon, enhances biodiversity, and supports human well-being by creating more green spaces for recreational activities.

### National Agricultural Policy Framework

Conservation Ontario participated in Round Table discussion on Feb 9th with the Provincial Ministry of Agriculture. This was to consider input to questions the Minister posed in advance of a Federal, Provincial, Territorial meeting that she will be attending in April on the Ag Policy Framework. The discussion revolved around Conservation Authority programs including soil health initiatives, natural infrastructure solutions, watershed monitoring and low water response programs.

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is helping Ian McDonald, OMAFRA host and promote a number of strip till/bio strip demonstration field meetings in several Counties. Dates are not yet finalized.

St. Clair Region CA hosted a successful Soil Health Conference last January.

Many Conservation Authorities offer a cover crop incentive funding and other stewardship cost share programs. 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 Joesse*

AAFC Research and Development Centres continue to perform science activities while adjusting as needed to address any challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Project delivery continues with minor adjustments and overall, a strong delivery on final project goals. Meeting attendance continues to be done virtually as much as possible, with many employees working in a hybrid arrangement.

It was announced February 22nd that On-Farm Climate Action Fund projects for Ontario were awarded to Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association and Eco-Cert. Direct support to farmers will fall under three target areas: cover cropping, nitrogen management and rotational grazing. Program details have not yet been announced.

Continued on page 8.

# SWAT MAPS

**Soil, Water and Topography MAPS**

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

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	?

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

[jz@fieldwalker.ca](mailto:jz@fieldwalker.ca)

[www.fieldwalker.ca](http://www.fieldwalker.ca)





## The Agricultural Climate Solutions

Living Labs program was launched for Ontario on March 24th with a virtual engagement session. Agricultural Climate Solutions – Living Labs is a new 10-year \$185 million program that will establish a strong, Canada-wide network of regional collaborations based on the living lab approach, bringing together farmers, scientists, and other sectoral partners. Together, they will develop and share management practices that store carbon and mitigate climate change. This work will also produce important environmental co-benefits, including protecting biodiversity, improving water and soil quality, while strengthening farmers' bottom lines.

Living Labs is based on an expanded model of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's "Living Labs" network already underway in Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island. The second application period for Agricultural Climate Solutions – Living Labs grants opened on March 15, 2022.

## University of Guelph

*Submitted by: Dave Hooker*

- Dr. Erick Lyons is the interim chair of Plant Agriculture as Hugh Earl is taking a leave
- Financial challenges of OAC departments and Ridgetown Campus continue. Negotiations between UG and OMAFRA on a new agreement are critical for sustaining operations and for filling retired positions of Art Schaafsma and Ivan O'Halloran.
- A job posting will be announced shortly for Dr. Bill Deen's former position, who retired in November 2020; the position is funded by a donation of \$2 million.
- Anyone interested in pursuing their MSc or PhD – even part-time – should contact Dave Hooker for more information.
- Construction of the new Field Crop Services Building on Ridgetown Campus has been completed

## OMAFRA Report

*Submitted by: Christine Brown*

### New Field crop staff

- Cereal specialist – covering for Joanna Follings while she is on a leave is Sophie Krowlikowski
- Laura Scott – Cropping Systems Specialist based out of Kemptville.
- Fertility specialist hiring is in progress
- Hiring for a hort crop sustainability specialist is currently underway.

### Re-start of OSMRSC (soil management research and services committee)

- This committee was part of the Agriculture Research Institute of Ontario until OASCC (Ontario Ag services coordinating committee) was discontinued in 2009
- OSMRSC continued to meet because this committee was also responsible for approving research updates to crop fertility recommendation and other recommendations for OMAFRA publications
- With the recent change on how OMAFRA gathers information for research priorities, and with a move away from the TAG (Theme Advisory Groups) there is renewed interest in having more input from groups such as OSMRSC

### SHAP lite

- Soil health assessment and plan was revamped, and some soil collection was done last summer to try and build a database for soil health samples and test lab capacity and promote interest in testing for soil health.
- Feedback to the soil team suggests that something very simple is required so there is a new version called SHAP lite that looks at bare minimum data input with the soil testing. A more complete module version is available for people that want more.
- SHAP lite will be part of the YEN project to try and determine the impact of soil health where so many other metrics are being measured.
- CCAs will be asked to be involved in the SHAP lite – information will be sent out shortly

### Topsoil survey

- Over 500 sites have been evaluated and initial results were shared at the Ag Conference
- Remaining sites will be sampled this summer with most of those sites in Central Ontario
- Results from the topsoil survey will also be included the soil health data base. Collected soils are shared with UoG researchers for their research in topics such as organic matter and biological differences.

### AgriSuite tools

- Newest Agrisuite tools include the regulatory nutrient management tools as well as the MDS tools
- Manure Storage and Sizing was released last fall and currently there is work being done on a greenhouse gas calculator – based on an Ontario-ized version of HOLOs (developed by AAFC in Alberta). The goal to start will be for simple comparisons to give a better idea of what practices increase GHGs.
- There is also work being done to add other features to current tools. There was a deadline to ensure that current tools were available before Microsoft stopped supporting the Silverlight platform. pH and liming will be added to the field management and crop production tool



### Ag breakfast meetings

- Start April 5th – Exeter/Mt Forest, Ridgetown/Simcoe, Eastern Ontario and up North

### Diagnostic days

- Being planned for two locations: Ridgetown and TBD, but there will also be a virtual component.

## Grain Farmers of Ontario

*Submitted by: Marty Vermey*

### Great Lakes YEN (Yield Enhancement Network)

The 2022 season will have 56 Ontario farmers involved in the 2022 Great Lake YEN. Several CCAs are involved this year helping to make this project possible. This expanded from the UK which started 12 years' ago, and the hopes are this will be an ongoing project in Ontario. Around 150-200 wheat farmers are on board per year. All the soil testing is being done in Michigan to keep everything in one location. This could make it hard for consistency issues because each lab could have a different range. Right now, GFO is currently focusing on winter wheat and working with other experts to expand to other crops. Winter wheat was chosen first, because there is less known about it and this was an opportunity to gain information and conduct research.

GFO is putting together a tool for data collection that farmers can use – CropTrack in the US is the partner and can be used as an app or on the computer. An announcement will be out in the next few weeks to everyone who is participating in the project.

Cover crop farmer feedback survey was released in December. The survey and report were completed by Calum Morrison from the University of Manitoba. The report can be found at <https://gfo.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Ontario-Report-V12-Dec-1st-For-PDF-conversion-for-publishing.pdf>

The report was also presented by Callum Morison and can be found at <https://youtu.be/oUfphM1DqDE> 🌱

## August Exam and Exam Registration

**T**here will be an opportunity to write the CCA exams from August 3rd to 10th.

The cost to write the International exam is \$165 US + \$53 proctor fee = \$218 US. The cost for the Ontario exam is \$100 US + \$41 proctor fee = \$141 U.S.

Registration for the exam can be done online and will be open from April 4th to July 6th. You can cancel at any time up to the registration deadline. Note that you will only receive a refund for any amount over \$75.00 and that the exam fee is non-refundable after the registration deadline passes.

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

## Need assistance writing the CCA Exam?

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](mailto: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 the exams and you will need to provide documentation of your request. 🌱

## 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. 🌱

## COLLECT MORE SAMPLES IN LESS TIME, AND MAKE 12 HOURS FEEL LIKE A SHORT DAY.

GATHER SUPERIOR QUALITY PROBE SAMPLES IN ALL SOIL TYPES  
WITH THE FASTEST AUTOMATIC SOIL SAMPLERS IN THE FIELD.



 **Ag Business & Crop Inc.**

[support@AgBusiness.ca](mailto:support@AgBusiness.ca) 226-989-6208 [www.agbusiness.ca](http://www.agbusiness.ca)

# Business Etiquette for Remote Communications

## Messages

- For emails and phone messages, it's courteous to respond by the end of the day, if possible, but not longer than 24 hours. You don't want to leave people hanging.
- Acknowledge the email even if you can't send the requested information right away. Send a quick response that you're working on it and when you expect to have the information to the sender. Alternatively, inform the sender you are unable to assist them. Ignoring an email is just rude.
- Avoid using "reply all" to emails if the response does not pertain to all. It only adds to a busy person's Inbox.
- If you will be out of the office for an extended time, set an automatic notice on your email and record an out-of-office voice message on your phone. This helps callers understand why you may not be able to respond as quickly.

## Virtual meetings

- For Zoom or Teams meetings, remember it is still a meeting. Much of the etiquette that applies to in-person meetings (e.g., don't be late) still applies to virtual meetings.
- Come prepared. Although this is always part of meeting etiquette, it's especially important during video meetings.
- Have your video camera on for every meeting (attendance at webinars and conferences are exceptions). This should be your default unless having the camera on hinders your meeting in some way (e.g., due to a slow internet connection). Conversely, muted audio should be your default. One of the most disruptive (and potentially embarrassing) on-line meeting faux pas is when you forget to mute yourself.
- Don't multi-task. You might think you are using your time efficiently by answering emails during a meeting, but you're not. Multi-tasking isn't good for your productivity. In fact, multi-tasking is mostly a myth. A study found that only 2.5% of people can process multiple tasks at once. The rest of us don't multi-task, we just switch between tasks. Task switching makes you more prone to mistakes and strongly reduces your productivity. Perhaps more importantly, when you're doing other stuff during an on-line meeting, you're not giving the other participants, or the subject matter, the attention they deserve. 🌱

# CCA Fees Increasing

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

The ICCA office has increased the international portion of the renewal by \$10 Canadian.

For 2023 renewal = \$70 for Ontario and \$85 for International = \$155 CAN plus HST (forecast, subject to exchange rate).

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

---

# You are the Best Marketer of the CCA Certification

**T**he 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 650+ 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;
- write an article for the CCA column in Ontario Farmer;
- 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 purchase 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 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. 🌱

## Updating Your Personal Information

**N**ote to all Ontario CCAs, please make sure that if your personal information changes (mailing address) that you update the information online via your CCA account. We send your CCA renewals to the address that we have on file, so if your address is incorrect, you won't get your CCA renewal!

Also don't forget to keep your email address updated! Email is the primary means of communication for CCAs, if you don't have your email updated you could miss important information. The CCA office aims to send out emails to all CCAs a couple times a month. It is important that you don't miss this communication.

Please contact Laura at the CCA office to update your information if it has changed or if you are unsure how to update it yourself: [laura.tfio@bell.net](mailto:laura.tfio@bell.net). 🌱

---

## CCA Mentorship Program

**E**ach year, the Mentorship Committee will select two CCAs to participate in Board meetings and work on a CCA-related project. The goal is to encourage and prepare newer CCAs to take on a leadership role. Preference was, and will be given to CCAs who have been certified within the last five years but others may certainly apply.

The following two CCAs have been selected for the 2022/2023 Mentorship Program:

Liam Bracken, Direct Sales Associate with Corteva

Lauren Benoit, Market Development Agronomist with Bayer Canada

Liam's project will look at developing a program approach on how to manage against herbicide resistance.

Lauren's project will be hosting CCA agronomic trivia sessions to increase your knowledge on "Back to the Basics of Agronomy" which will be open to all CCAs later in the year.

Both Liam and Lauren will be asking CCAs for feedback so please complete their on-line polls when you receive the request. As mentees, Liam and Lauren attended our spring CCA Board meeting and will be completing their projects over the Summer and Fall. At the Fall Board meeting, they will present their results and recommendations to the CCA Board. They will also give presentations on their projects and experience in the mentorship program at the CCA Conference in January. 🌱

## Relaunch of the CCA-to-CCA Mentorship Program

**T**he CCA-to-CCA Mentorship Program was designed to provide new CCAs (ideally certified within the past five years) with the opportunity to engage and learn from seasoned and experienced CCAs in the industry.

The program aims to provide a resource for a new CCA to become more familiar with the industry and the roles of having the CCA designation. The program matches experienced CCAs from a variety of specialities with new CCAs. This allows mentees to match mentors based on areas of interest the mentee wishes to focus their career and expansion of knowledge on.

If you are interested in becoming involved as a mentee or a mentor, contact Laura at the CCA office, [laura.tfio@bell.net](mailto:laura.tfio@bell.net) 🌱

---

## Job Postings

**I**f your company is looking to fill vacant positions within your organization, you can post those opportunities on the CCA website. <http://ccaontario.com/careers>

Please let your human resource department or the person within your organization who is responsible for hiring, know that this service is available. There are still many companies who post their ads on other recruiting websites. Why not use the CCA website as an avenue for finding the right fit for your company?

Rates are available upon request by contacting the CCA office. 🌱

---

## Follow us on Social Media!

**F**ollow CCA Ontario on Facebook and Twitter! Catch up on CEU events, relevant articles and get to know more about your fellow CCAs! 🌱





# Thank you to all of our CCA Conference Sponsors



CERTIFIED CROP ADVISOR ASSOCIATION® • 39 William Street, Elmira, Ontario N3B 1P3  
(519) 669-3350 • Fax: (519) 669-3826 • [www.ccaontario.com](http://www.ccaontario.com)