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Welcome to “ON Organic”

Hugh Martin, Organic Crop Production Program Lead, OMAFRA

Welcome to the December 2009 issue of ON Organic. Winter is here. First priority, it is time to relax with family and friends. Then get caught up on some indoor chores, think about 2010. Make plans for the farm for next year. Update the record books. Do your research and attend some meetings. Last month I listed a number of farm conferences. This month I am detailing more about the Guelph organic conference and some of those opportunities. I hope you plan to attend.

Thanks to Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario (EFAO) and Organic Council of Ontario (OCO) for forwarding this on to their email lists, and I encourage you to share it with other colleagues who may find it useful. As always we welcome your comments.

Subscription to this newsletter is easy and no cost. For details go to the webpage:
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/subscribe/index.html#organic>

The newsletter is also posted on the OMAFRA website at:
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/organic/news/news-organic.html>

The French version of these newsletters is available at:
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/french/crops/organic/news/news-organic.html>

The OMAFRA Organic pages are linked from:
<http://www.ontario.ca/organic> and <http://www.ontario.ca/biologique>

Season's Greetings to All

The ON Organic Team

Hugh Martin – editor, OMAFRA, Organic Crop Production Program Lead
Jack Kyle – OMAFRA, Grazier Specialist
Dorene Collins – OMAFRA, Customer Service and Marketing Program Lead
Hugh Berges – OMAFRA, Manager Horticultural Technology
Katie Meagher—OMAFRA, Marketing Specialist
Mario Mongeon – OMAFRA, Livestock Specialist
Linda Cooper – OMAFRA, Client Service Representative

Governments Invest In Improved Biosecurity

Awareness Program Will Help Reduce Risk of Disease, Pests and Pathogens on Farms

Ontario farms will have more help to remain healthy and competitive thanks to the Governments of Canada and Ontario's investment in the implementation of national biosecurity standards.

The Agricultural Biosecurity Program will receive more than \$3 million to help the industry build awareness among producers about the benefits of implementing biosecurity measures on their farms. This may include training, studies and applied pilot projects.

Improved biosecurity can help reduce the risk of disease, pests and pathogens that can financially impact producers and the industry as a whole.

QUOTES

"Farmers have a long-standing history of using preventive measures as a means of keeping animals healthy on Canadian farms. This program will help farmers stay on the cutting edge of good biosecurity practices – ensuring the health of their animals, sustainability of their farm business and strength of the industry as a whole."

— Dave Van Kesteren, Member of Parliament for Chatham-Kent–Essex, on behalf of Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz

"Improved biosecurity measures protect herd and plant health and promote the economic viability of the farm and the agri-food sector. Taking precautions to prevent disease from coming onto farms is one of the best investments producers can make."

— Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

QUICK FACTS

- Canada and Ontario will fund the Agricultural Biosecurity Program for Ontario's livestock and plant sector associations through *Growing Forward*, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative to support the development of a profitable, innovative agriculture sector that is adept at managing risk and responsive to market demands.
- The program will be delivered by the [Agricultural Adaptation Council](#).

LEARN MORE

[Backgrounder](#)
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/infores/releases/2009/120309-bg.htm>

Read about the [Agricultural Biosecurity Program](#)
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/about/growingforward/biosecurity.htm>

Find out more about [Growing Forward in Ontario](#)
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/about/growingforward/index.htm>

Learn more about [Biosecurity in Ontario](#)
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/ahw/bios-title.htm>

Guelph Organic Conference – Our Canadian Identity

January 28-31, 2010, University of Guelph, University Centre

This year marks the 29th annual conference. Those who have been attending over the years have noticed the expansion from a small group of students in the early 80's to an estimated 2,000 people attending the conference in recent years. There will be 4 seminars on Friday, 15 workshops plus the feature speaker on Saturday, and 8 more workshops on Sunday on a range of topics of interest to organic farmers, as well as all partners in the organic value chain (processors, suppliers, consumers, researchers, etc). These workshops are a key opportunity to hear from speakers who are focussed on important issues in organic.

For many the tour of the Trade Show is the highlight, networking with friends from near and far. There are over 160 companies and associations exhibiting booths in the Trade Show and Organic Expo. Some people come to learn, pick up information, try a few samples, buy or sell products, or just to talk.

As this conference has grown, it has become one of the best places for organically minded people to gather and network from across Canada. There are many meetings both public and private, formal and informal that take place in Guelph that weekend.

You will find all the details on the conference at <http://www.guelphorganicconf.ca/>.

To register for the conference go to: <http://www.guelphorganicconf.ca/registration/> or phone 519-824-4120 (x56205).

Here are some opportunities for you get involved in the 2010 Organic Conference:

Thursday January 28th, 2010

1 pm – Talking Turkey workshop – sponsored by Organic Council of Ontario

Discussing issues related to organic farmers working with their commodity associations and marketing boards and their policies.

Friday, January 29th, 2010

9:00 am – Blueprint For Farm Based Seed Breeding Programs

This workshop discusses the successes and challenges of local farm and food communities that are (re) building regional breeding and seed systems across Canada

9:00 am – Social Research in Organic Agriculture

Research papers on the social issues of organic will be presented.

1:15 pm – Natural Sciences Research Session

Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada and other researchers present reports on organic agricultural research from across Canada.

1:15 pm – Market Gardening

Pete Johnson and Meg Gardner from Vermont will explain their production systems – season extension, greenhouse, year round sales, CSA, farmers' market, 50+ restaurants, etc.

4-5:30 pm – Organic dinner (tickets required in advance, sells out early)

7:00 pm – Public Forum and Panel discussion

Organic Values and Ethics vs the Goal of the Competitive Marketplace

Always an interesting event!

Saturday, January 30th, 2010

Trade show 8 am - 5 pm – over 160 Organic Exhibitors

9:00 pm – Feature speaker

Margaret Webb, author and journalist discusses “Think Big Canada,” The organic food fix: A national policy for Canada that will feed our future.

11-5 pm – 15 workshops, various topics, see the website for details.

Sunday, January 31st 2010

Trade show 9 am - 4:30 pm – over 160 Organic Exhibitors

9:30-3 pm – 8 workshops, various topics, see the website for details.

Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario Workshops

These workshops are held on Thursday and Friday in Guelph Jan 28-29, 2010. Contact EFAO for details, Tel: 1-877-822-8606, 519-822-8606 or email: info@efao.ca
http://www.efao.ca/pages/course_schedule.html

Jan 28-29 Introduction to Ecological Agriculture (2 day course)

Jan 28-29 Transition to Certified Organic Farming (2 day course)

Jan 28 Market Garden Crop Rotation (1 day)

Jan 28 Pastured Poultry (1 day)

Jan 29 Composting (1 day)

Jan 29 Finding the Balance: Soil Testing and Amendments for Organic Farmers (1 day)

Organic Council of Ontario Update

By Jodi Koberinski, Executive Director, Organic Council of Ontario

After months of engagement with the Turkey Farmers of Ontario, OMAFRA staff, and the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, OCO and our partners (the NFU, EFAO, COG, Beyond Factory Farming Coalition, and retailers) we are pleased that the Turkey Farmers of Ontario have issued an Organic Turkey Production Policy. OCO has requested TFO send the Policy for review by the Canada Organic Office of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and we are awaiting recommendations from the national Standards Interpretation Committee to determine if the TFO policy is compliant with the Canada Organic Standard.

This issue highlights the challenges and barriers our sector faces. Some of the conventional approaches to livestock and disease management are fundamentally different than approaches and principles of organic production. The organic sector is keen to partner with neighbours and colleagues in conventional production to reduce the risk of disease. Due to the attention this issue has garnered, OCO is opening the lines of communication with other commodity groups, and we are hope to build relationships with our farm organization partners.

Join OCO at the Guelph Organic Conference for an in-depth discussion during our seminar “Talking Turkey: Commodity Associations and the Freedom to Farm Progressively”. The event costs \$40, or \$10 for students/OCO members. A recent TFO Policy prevented organic quota holders complying with the Canadian Organic Standard. This issue provides an opportunity to increase understanding about organic agriculture principles and the

science that supports it. The half-day session looks closely at these issues as they relate to the organic system and how to respond. The goal is to seek understanding and ensure organic agriculture can thrive in the province. Register on line at www.guelphorganicconf.ca

Over the past few months OCO has represented the Organic Sector at several trade shows, including the CHFA show, the Royal Winter Fair with OMAFRA, and Grocery Innovations. We have extended information to many along the Organic Value Chain on the value of organic agriculture and certified organic products, and highlighted the new Canada Organic logo. We also participated in the Organic Value Chain Round Table meetings in Calgary, where we were able to network with our colleagues from other provinces.

Organic Trade Seminar: Canada-US Equivalency Agreement

Sponsored by Organic Council of Ontario

When: Friday January 29th, 1-4 pm

Cost: \$35

Holiday Inn, Galt Room

601 Scottsdale Drive, Guelph, ON N1G 3E7

Agenda

In June of 2009, Canada and the US signed an Organic Equivalency Agreement to recognize each other's organic standards. Since the organic standards between the U.S. and Canada differ in some areas, the equivalency agreement includes some variances. This Trade Seminar aims to provide clarity to Industry on what is required under the agreement, and to offer an opportunity for industry and consumers to ask questions about the agreement.

- Opening remarks: Ted Zettel, Organic Federation of Canada
- Moderator: Jodi Koberinski, Organic Council of Ontario
- Michel Saumur, CFIA, overview of the U.S. Equivalency Agreement, discuss enforcement at the CFIA level, and give an update on other international equivalency agreements.
- Matt Holmes, Organic Trade Association - implications of the agreement for importing U.S. products and exporting to the U.S.
- CHFA (TBA) - Equivalency Agreement's impact on the retail sector and consumers.
- Kathryn Liotta, OMAFRA, Opportunities for Ontario's organic sector under the new Equivalency Agreement, and other export issues.

For more information contact OCO at 519-827-1221 or info@organiccouncil.ca

Seed for 2010

By Hugh Martin, Organic Crop Production Program Lead, OMAFRA

December is the time to start considering your seed orders for next year. For field crops many of the varieties that are available are compared in research plots and reported. I have included links below. Most reports also list the contacts for various seed companies.

Determine the best variety or hybrid for your organic cropping situation. Pick varieties that are disease resistant whenever possible and of course check if they are non-GMO.

Some companies have sources of organic seed. Order organic seed whenever possible to support organic seed growers and to help develop the demand for the organic seed industry. Where the variety you need is not available as organic, determine that now and order non-treated, non-organic seed as permitted by your organic certification body. Many companies run out of untreated seed by the spring if it is not ordered early.

2010 Forage Crop Variety Performance Trials

The variety comparisons for forages species can be found at http://www.plant.uoguelph.ca/performance_recommendations/ofcc/ofcc.htm.

Note that this site has some various factsheets on forages as well as the variety information for alfalfa, bird's-foot trefoil, double-cut red clover, white clover, annual ryegrass, Italian ryegrass, brome grass, timothy, orchardgrass, reed canarygrass, tall fescue, and meadowfescue.

2009 Hybrid Corn Performance Trials

<http://www.gocorn.net/>

The 2009 Hybrid Corn Performance Trials includes the results from 2009 hybrid research trails. These can be found at <http://www.gocorn.net/>. Note that the Crop Heat Unit map was changed last year to reflect earlier planting dates and heat units are now accumulated from May 1 to fall frost (-2° C). This has added approximately 200 heat units to many areas. The month of May will typically accumulate 400-500 crop heat units depending on location in Ontario. If you plan to plant in mid to late May you should pick an earlier hybrid to reflect the expected heat units that will be available for your crop.

In the yield tables GMO hybrids are noted in the “Notes” column. Review yield of the hybrid you need as well as the lodging rating. Some hybrids have been challenged to remain standing this fall.

2010 Report for Ontario Soybean Variety Trials

<http://www.gosoy.ca/soyhome.php>

The 2010 soybean variety report is now available at <http://www.gosoy.ca/soyhome.php>. Look at the yellow hilum non-GMO varieties that suitable for your area. In the notes column, food type varieties are designated (F). Look for high yielding varieties that have disease resistance. Phytophthora root rot tends to be a more serious problem on clay soils where soybeans are grown frequently. Soybean cyst nematode has been becoming more prevalent in recent years but according to Dr. G. Bird, from Michigan State U., this pest has not been found on organic farms. This may be due to better crop rotations that are typical on organic farms.

2010 Performance Trials for Spring Cereal Crops

<http://www.gocereals.ca/>

The 2010 report of the spring cereal variety research trials for recent years including 2009 can be found at http://www.gocereals.ca/Spring_Cereal_Infosheet_2010.pdf. It is important to look at the yield index for several years in your area to see how different varieties perform. Also note the disease resistance, maturity and crop height. Tall varieties give more straw but may not stand as well.

OMAFRA Articles

Checklist For Spring Cereal Success

By Peter Johnson, Cereal Specialist, OMAFRA

With a challenging corn experience fresh on growers' minds from 2009, crops like barley and oats are back on the options list. Here is the checklist for the best possible spring cereal crop:

- **Seed EARLY!** More importantly than any other factor, seeding date will determine your yield potential.
- Maintain **good fertility**.
- **Seed shallow**, but into moisture. With good soil moisture, target 1 inch (2.5 cm) planting depth.
- Excellent **genetics** (www.gocereals.ca) at the right **seeding rate** (Agronomy Guide, OMAFRA Publication 811 <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/pub811/4planting.htm#seeding>).

- **EARLY weed control!** Initial research shows the critical weed control period in barley to be the 1-3 leaf stage. Use the weeder harrow before emergence and as soon after emergence as it is safe to do so (if you have not underseeded forages).
- **Rotation.** Spring cereals work best after a legume, not after corn.
- **Harvest EARLY!** Nothing good happens to the crop after it reaches maturity (28% moisture). Get it out of the field!

Take advantage of **market opportunities!** Lock in some of those good contracts.

Adapted from Ramping Up Production - New Life For Barley and Oats? By Peter Johnson, Cereal Specialist OMAFRA <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/news/croptalk/2009/ct-1109a1.htm>

What Will It Cost to Grow a Tonne of Switchgrass?

By Scott Banks, Emerging Crop Specialist, OMAFRA

There has been a lot of talk about the combustion of crop residues and dedicated crops, such as switchgrass, for bio-energy.

Currently, markets for switchgrass are very limited, but many growers and processors anticipate that this crop could become commercially viable in the future.

So what does it cost to grow a tonne of switchgrass? This is a good question. The economics of growing a new crop needs to be considered to evaluate cropping alternatives. OMAFRA has pulled information from various sources in Ontario, Quebec and the US to develop a crop budget for switchgrass. The switchgrass enterprise budget is available on the OMAFRA website at http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/bear2000/Budgets/Crops/Forages/switchgrass_static.htm

Crop budgets are a simple format for estimating expenses. The example costs are only a guide to illustrate a method of preparing your projections. They are based on many assumptions, including land rental rates, seeding rates, fertilizer costs, etc. Due to regional differences, there may be considerable variation in results. Land costs and projected yield are significant factors in determining the cost-of-production.

In the example switchgrass budget, the Total Establishment Cost per acre is \$389.61. Amortizing the establishment cost over 10 years, the Annual Cost including inputs, harvesting, etc., is \$226.53 per acre or \$73.07 per tonne based on an

assumed yield of 3.1 tonnes per acre.

To project your breakeven price, enter your farm figures in the spaces provided. The resulting estimate can help assist you in choosing your future crop mix, set target prices and develop marketing strategies for your farm.

Excel versions of the crop budgeting worksheets can be found on the "Budgeting Tools" website at: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/bear2000/Budgets/budgettools.htm>

From the OMAFRA newsletter CropTalk found online at: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/news/croptalk/2009/ct-1109a4.htm>

Low Temperatures and Pest Populations

By Gillian Ferguson, Greenhouse Vegetable IPM Specialist, OMAFRA

It seems reasonable to think that shutting down the greenhouse for a few weeks during the cold months to clean up should be sufficient to freeze and eradicate pest populations. However, there are two points that work against this assumption.

Firstly, insects and mites have been extremely successful at adapting to the cold temperatures of winter. For example, pests such as spider mites, Lygus bugs, and European corn borers enter the state of diapause during fall. In this physiological state, they slow down considerably and undergo various internal changes that enable them to survive the winter.

Secondly, temperatures even within an unheated greenhouse are usually quite a few degrees warmer than outdoor temperatures, and therefore, likely never quite reach freezing point. It is for this reason that even those insects that are not specifically adapted to the cold and are in fact found mainly in warmer climates, can still survive in the greenhouse during the winter months. A few examples of pests that do not diapause, but that can still survive a cold period in our greenhouses are provided.

From OMAFRA newsletter Greenhouse Grower Notes. Full article is available at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/hort/news/grower/2009/12gn09a1.htm>

Herbs - It's All in the Family

By Melanie Filotas, Specialty Crops IPM Specialist, OMAFRA; Sean Westerveld, Ginseng and Medicinal Herb Specialist, OMAFRA

A properly planned crop rotation is a key tool in integrated pest management. Rotation to a non-susceptible host can

deprive many persistent pests of suitable food, causing them to die off. For example, crop rotation can be used to help reduce corn rootworm in corn, swede midge in crucifers, and various diseases in beans. Crop rotation can be particularly important for herb growers, as there are few pest control products available for use on herb crops in Canada. The key to making crop rotation work for pest management is to ensure that successive crops are not susceptible to the same pests. One way to do this is to avoid rotating with plants in the same family.

Why is this relevant to herbs? Unfortunately, although there a wide variety of culinary herbs, many are members of only two families (carrot and mints) and consequently may share many of the same pests. Furthermore, some herbs are closely related to other commonly grown vegetable crops - for example dill and celery, or chives and onions.

We have seen significant build-up of soil-borne disease in fields where dill, cilantro and parsley were grown successively. Phoma blight, which has been observed in Ontario dill fields in recent years, can persist in the soil and could affect subsequent crops of fennel, cumin, caraway or parsley. It is therefore important to carefully consider relationships when planning a crop rotation in herb fields. To aid in doing this, we have prepared a table listing the families of major culinary herbs. In addition to herbs, we have included some of the more common vegetable members for each family. Note that the risk of sharing pests is higher for families where the commonly grown members are more closely related (e.g. the carrot family).

From OMAFRA HortMatters newsletter. For full article go to <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/hort/news/hortmatt/2009/23hrt09a1.htm>

Windbreaks Provide Shelter for Cattle

By Harold House, P.Eng., Engineer, Dairy and Beef Housing and Equipment, OMAFRA

Cattle don't always need housing, but they do need shelter from the elements. Windbreaks, either natural or constructed can provide that shelter.

Natural Windbreaks

The downwind influence of a windbreak is 10 times the height. This means that a windbreak of 20 ft high trees will have an influence on the wind pattern 200 ft downwind (see Figure 1). If you are considering planting trees to protect a building or yard, set the windbreak a minimum of 60 to 65 ft upwind of the building or yard to be protected. The windbreak should consist of two or three rows of evergreen trees. Since they tend to grow to different heights at maturity,

a variety of species is planted. For a two row windbreak, plant a row of cedars and spruce. If three rows are planted, then use cedar, pine and spruce. When the spruce are mature the bottom limbs will die down, but the cedar will continue to grow close to the ground.

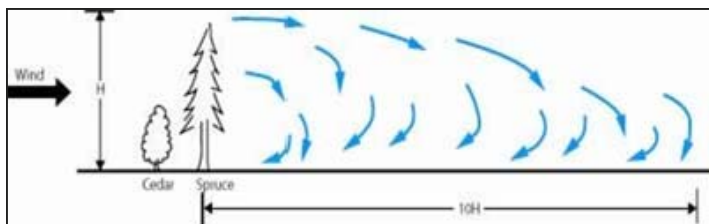


Figure 1. Porous Windbreaks, Such as this Tree Shelterbelt Give Good Protection for a Horizontal Distance of About 10x Their Height.

When selecting a site in a bush, it is best to look for a stand of evergreens, as they will provide the best shelter, but it is important to consider both wind protection and snow patterns. You want to protect the cattle from the wind and snow, but you do not want a location where the trees cause the wind to lose all of its velocity and result in all the snow settling out and accumulating, making feeding and management difficult.

Windbreak Fences

To protect barns and feedlots where natural windbreaks do not fit the farmstead plan, windbreak fences are used. A fence with a porosity of 20% (see Figure 2) provides the best wind protection. Spaced boards (Table 1) allow some air to pass through but the draft is reduced. The height of the fence depends on the size of the area protected. The usual minimum is 8 to 10 ft in height.

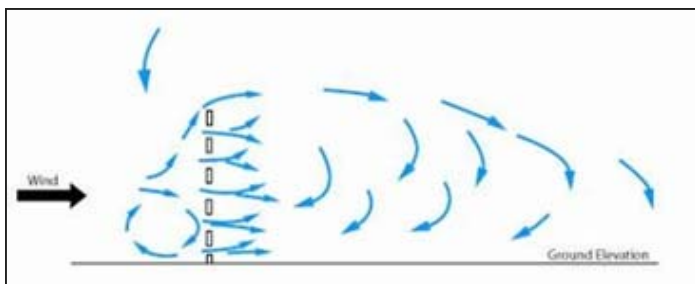


Figure 2. Effect of a 20% Porous Windbreak on Wind Patterns.

Table 1. Windbreak Fence Board Spacing for 20% Opening

Board Size (in.)	Slot Width (in.)	
	Rough Cut Lumber	Dressed Lumber
1 x 4	7/8	3/4
1 x 6	1 3/8	1 1/8
1 x 8	1 3/4	1 5/8
1 x 10	2	2
1 x 12	2	2



Figure 3. A Board Windbreak Showing the Spacing Between Planks

Shade cloth can be used as an alternative to spaced boards for the purpose of wind protection. Shade cloth can be mounted on top of a concrete wall if the wall is needed to keep cattle in the yard. Shade cloth that is at least 20% porous should be used, and it will have to be firmly supported. If the shade cloth becomes plugged with ice or snow it may be torn off in a strong wind. Another alternative to lumber is plastic mesh windscreen. This product is about 25% porous and is designed specifically for windbreaks, and is not the same plastic snow fencing.

If snow protection is a major factor, construct a solid windbreak fence (see Figure 3). An open fence allows the snow through and it deposits on the downwind side. A solid fence, providing it is high enough, deposits the snow on the upwind side. The fence must be high enough to keep drifting snow from going over the top. Recommended height is 8ft. The area downwind from the fence will have reduced air flows, although not as great as with the 20% open fence.



Figure 4. A Solid Windbreak Used Where Snow Is a Factor

A windbreak in the form of a swirl chamber is used protect a building with an open front. The normal configuration is shown in Figures 4 and 5, with a windbreak fence attached to the swirl chamber to add further protection to the barn and yard. The swirl chamber is on the windward side and is set back and away from the corner of the barn. The swirl chamber should be square. The minimum recommended size is 10 ft x 10 ft, with the maximum being 30 ft x 30 ft. A swirl chamber of 16 ft x 16 ft is a good choice. The fence height forming the swirl chamber is important. It should be equal to the height of the eaves or greater. This helps to break up some of the wind patterns that come over the roof and down to the open front barn.

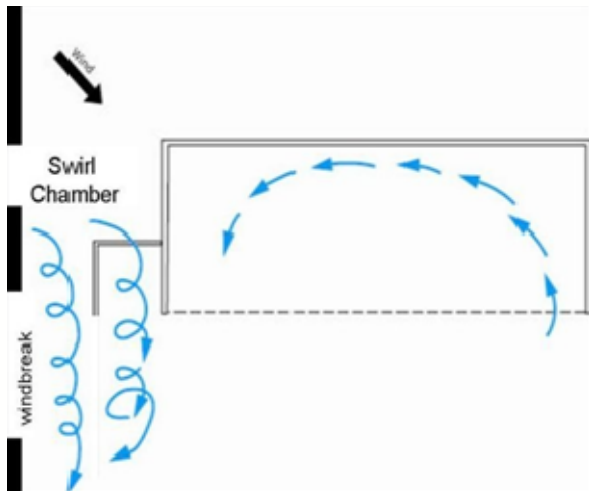


Figure 5. A Swirl Chamber and Windbreak Fence Protecting an Open Front Barn From Wind From the Rear.

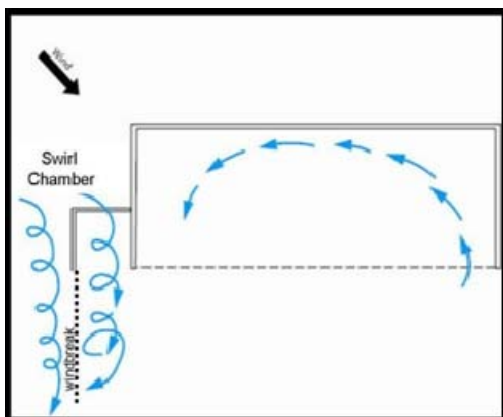


Figure 6. A Swirl Chamber and Windbreak Fence Protecting an Open Front Barn From Wind from the Front.



Figure 7. Barnyard with Interior Windbreak Partitions Which Minimize Wind Chill and Drafts.

Provincial Organic Links Across Canada

For those who want to look at some of the organic information resources from other provinces here are some links to their organic pages.

ON Ministry of Agriculture Food, and Rural Affairs – Organic Agriculture <http://www.ontario.ca/organic>

PEI Department of Agriculture – Organic <http://www.gov.pe.ca/agriculture/index.php3?number=71781&lang=E>

NB Ministry of Agriculture and Aquaculture - Organic Production <http://www.gnb.ca/0174/0174index-e.asp>

NS Agriculture – Organic Industry <http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/marketing/organic.shtml>

Agri-Réseau / Agriculture biologique du Québec: <http://www.agrireseau.qc.ca/agriculturebiologique/> (French only)

MB Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives - [Organic Production Basics http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/cropproduction/faa01s01.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/cropproduction/faa01s01.html)

SK Agriculture - [Organic Agriculture Crops – Organics http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/crops_organics](http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/crops_organics)

Livestock – Organics http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Livestock_Organics

BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands – Organic <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/organics/>

Cyber Help for Organic Farmers (BC)
<http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/>

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
http://www.agr.gc.ca/index_e.php?s1=help-aide&s2=a-z&page=org

Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada,
<http://www.organiccentre.ca>

USDA Co-op Extension Organic website - [eOrganic](http://www.extension.org/organic%20production) -
<http://www.extension.org/organic%20production>

Funding Opportunities

Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program announced

The Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) is a five-year, \$163-million program that aims to help the agriculture, agri-food, and agri-based products sector adapt and remain competitive.

The successor to the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program, CAAP will continue to support industry-led initiatives at the national, regional and multi-regional levels.

- Funding support is available for projects designed to:
 - seize opportunities;
 - respond to new and emerging issues; and
 - pathfind and pilot solutions to new and ongoing issues.

For more information and application forms, visit www.adaptcouncil.org/e/current-programs/caap.php.

New agri-food research competition: call for letters of intent

The University of Guelph's Office of Research is calling for letters of intent to address the research priorities for each of the seven themes established by the OMAFRA/U of G Partnership research program. See the OMAFRA/U of G Partnership website (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/research/omafra/>) for research theme descriptions and more information about the calls. **Letters of intent are due by noon, Friday, December 18.**

OMAFRA's Rural Economic Development (RED) Program

RED plays a major role in supporting rural Ontario. Did you know that food and beverage processors can now apply for project funding individually, without any partnership requirement? Contact your Business Development Consultant for more information.

Advancing Innovation and Manufacturing Excellence additional funds

Innovative small- and medium-sized manufacturers can receive up to \$50,000 thanks to a new initiative designed to provide southern Ontario workers with advanced technological education and skills training. The Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario is investing \$12-million in the Yves Landry Foundation's Achieving Innovation and Manufacturing Excellence (AIME) Initiative. The funds will help manufacturers to accelerate commercialization, attract and retain talent and create leading-edge jobs. More details available at www.yveslandryfoundation.com.

Consultation

Waste not, want not: comments invited on proposed waste diversion policy changes

The Province of Ontario is seeking public input on its proposed new approach to keeping more waste out of our landfills. The proposed changes include:

- Making product manufacturers and importers responsible for the recycling of their products and packaging, and giving them the flexibility to do so in a way that best suits their business;
- Giving Ontarians more opportunities to recycle a wider range of materials;
- Encouraging more diversion through incentives and banning specific materials from landfills.

These ideas came out of the government's consultation on how to improve the province's Waste Diversion Act. They are among the proposals included in *From Waste to Worth: The Role of Waste Diversion in the Green Economy*. The report is posted on the [Environmental Registry](http://www.environmentalregistry.ca) (type in number 010-8164). The registry also accepts comments. **The deadline for comments has been extended until February 1, 2010.**

Have your say on food allergen labelling

Would a proposed new policy and guidelines for food allergen labelling affect your business? Then Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency want to hear from you! They are asking a wide range of stakeholders for feedback that will improve the current approach to advising people that priority allergens may be present in pre-packaged foods sold in Canada. You can participate [online](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/consultation/allergen2009/index-eng.php), using the consultation workbook tool, **until February 10, 2010.**

Learn more about the Consultation on Precautionary Labelling of Food Allergens at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/consultation/allergen2009/index-eng.php>.

Training

These two not-for-profit organizations have lots of interesting training opportunities coming up in December and the new year:

Guelph Food Technology Centre (GFTC)

GFTC's innovative and comprehensive course line-up includes *Understanding and Implementing the BRC (British Retail Consortium) Global Standard for Food Safety* (Dec. 2-3), *Best Practices for Energy Management* (Jan. 21) and *Canadian Food Regulations* (Jan. 25-26). Check out the complete list of training opportunities on the [GFTC website](#).

Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium (EMC)

Throughout the year, EMC hosts many training events on topics such as Lean best practices, health and safety, human capital and other enterprise-wide and advanced manufacturing issues. For a list of upcoming events, check out the [EMC events calendar](#).

Events

January 28 — Ontario Forum on Agri-Food Traceability, Cambridge

How can you benefit from traceability? How should Ontario's traceability system continue to evolve? Join agri-food industry leaders, traceability experts and government officials to discuss these and other questions. You will learn why implementing traceability is a sound business investment. Speakers will describe international, national and

provincial initiatives, and industry perspectives and successes. This is your opportunity to discuss the future of traceability and make sure your voice is heard.

For more information, visit <http://www.ontario.ca/traceforum>. To register, call 1-877-424-1300. An early bird rate of **\$80 applies until December 18** and a further \$20 discount is available when you register your premises in Ontario's agri-food premises registry (see website for details.)

January 28-31, 2010 - 29th Annual Guelph Organic Conference

Theme: Our Canadian Organic Identity

University of Guelph see <http://www.guelphorganicconf.ca/>

February 27, 2010 Eco-Farm Day - Ramada Inn, Cornwall

Workshops, featured speakers, Trade Show
<http://www.cog.ca/ottawa/ecofarmday/>

EFAO Courses and Events

<http://www.efao.ca/pages/events.html>

COG Events Calendar

http://www.cog.ca/news_events/events-calendar/

OCO Events

<http://www.organiccouncil.ca/content.sz?cid=34>

OACC Events

http://www.oacc.info/Events/events_main.asp

Links to Organic Agriculture Information

Organic Council of Ontario (OCO)

<http://www.organiccouncil.ca>

Canadian Organic Growers (COG)

<http://www.cog.ca>

OMAFRA Organic Agriculture

<http://www.ontario.ca/organic>

Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario (EFAO)

<http://www.efao.ca>

Organic Agricultural Centre of Canada (OACC)

<http://www.oacc.info>

Agricultural Information Contact Centre: 1-877-424-1300

E-mail: ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca

Northern Ontario Regional Office: 1-800-461-6132

www.ontario.ca/omafra