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## Welcome to “ON Organic”

*Hugh Martin, Organic Crop Production Program Lead, OMAFRA*

June is when we get into the heat of the summer activities. Planting is being completed, weed control consumes much of our attention and haying begins on the farm. June also starts the market period for many vegetable farms. Prioritize your time to get the most out of each day while leaving time for yourself and your family. I have also included many of the summer tours and courses that are available by various organizations. Take time to look around at what others are doing. Don't be too busy to learn how to improve by listening to others who have done it.

I hope you enjoy the June 2010 issue. Thanks to the contributing authors and to OCO and EFAO and others who pass it on to other colleagues in the organic sector. We always appreciate 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/indx.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>

## The ON Organic Team

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## Late Blight in US Growing Regions

by Michael Celetti, Plant Pathologist Program Lead – Horticulture Crops/OMAFRA; Janice LeBoeuf, Vegetable Specialist/OMAFRA

Late blight caused by *Phytophthora infestans* was confirmed on tomatoes in home gardens in Louisiana in early May 2010. Subsequently the disease was found in greenhouse tomatoes in Maryland by mid May and in Northern Kentucky and Northwest Pennsylvania by late May 2010. There have been no confirmations or reports of late blight in either tomato or potato in Ontario so far this year.

The infected greenhouse tomato plants in Pennsylvania and Maryland have been destroyed. New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland researchers have checked tomato plants destined for sale in retail centers in the US and have not found any infected plants. The original source of the disease this year has not yet been identified. However there is a good chance that the disease may have over-wintered in infected potato tubers carried over from 2009.

The disease caused significant problems for tomato and potato growers particularly in organic production systems in 2009. Last year the source of the disease was traced to infected tomato transplants sold and distributed through home garden retail centers across the south and eastern US states. The disease eventually arrived in Ontario by late June or early July in 2009 on weather systems carrying spore sacks (sporangia) that blew up from the US. The cool wet weather that occurred throughout most of the eastern states and provinces (including Ontario) in 2009 was ideal for infection, disease development and rapid spread.

Spore sacks called sporangia are the main means of dispersal. They are easily dislodged and can be wind blown to susceptible crops several kilometres away. Although ultraviolet light can kill these spore sacks, in a study several years ago, the spore sacks were found to survive for up to 24 hours in storm clouds during cool wet conditions. The researchers estimated that with a wind speed of 20 to 40 km/hour during a storm, the spore sacks could travel 80 to 160 km in four hours. That is why late blight is considered a community disease. Once it is found in a region, all susceptible crops nearby are threatened.

Given the earliness of infection in the US, this disease is considered a threat to Ontario tomato field and greenhouse crops as well as potato production this year. Although recent weather conditions in much of Ontario have been hot and dry, which is **not** conducive for the spread of this disease, this disease has potential to spread into Ontario from the US and become established in tomatoes and potatoes growing in home gardens, greenhouses or commercial fields this year particularly if the weather becomes wet for an extended period of time (5 days).

Growers and scouts should be vigilant in monitoring for signs or symptoms of this disease as well as for volunteer potatoes that may sprout in last year's potato

fields. Symptoms first appear as water soaked grey lesions on leaves and stems of tomato and potato plants.

During warm wet or humid conditions the lesions expand rapidly often surrounded by a light green or yellow halo (Figure 1). On stems and leaf petioles, late blight lesions appear chocolate brown.

Depending upon the pathogen strain or tomato cultivar, the brown stem and petiole lesions may appear to have a silvery or grey sheen to them (Figure 2). Water soaked greasy patches develop on the top or along the sides of



Figure 1. Late blight symptoms on tomato leaves appear as water soaked grey-brown lesions often surrounded by a light green or yellow halo.



Figure 2. On tomato stems and leaf petioles, late blight lesions appear chocolate brown sometimes with a silvery or grey sheen.

infected tomato fruit eventually becoming sunken and developing into a dry brown rot (Figure 3). Under favourable conditions, entire crops can be destroyed within 5 – 7 days.



Figure 3. Water soaked greasy patches develop on the top or along the sides of infected tomato fruit eventually becoming sunken and developing into a dry brown rot.

It is imperative at this time that all tomato and potato growers become aware of the late blight situation in the US. If late blight is detected or suspected in a tomato or potato crop, please contact the OMAFRA Vegetable or Potato Specialist or Plant Pathologist as soon as possible. Tomato growers who want to minimize their risk should initiate their fungicide program early in order to protect their crops from the threat of late blight. Apply a protectant fungicide such as Bravo, tank mixed with mancozeb (check with your processor or buyer on any limitations on fungicide use) before the disease arrives. When late blight is found in a small area of the tomato crop, the area should be destroyed immediately and the rest of the crop, if salvageable, should be sprayed with Tanos or Revus tank mixed with Bravo 500 immediately.

There are also links to more late blight information at:

Organic Management of Late Blight of Potato and Tomato with Copper Products

<http://www.extension.org/article/18351>

Organic Management of Late Blight of Potato and Tomato (*Phytophthora infestans*)

<http://www.extension.org/article/18361>

Organic Late Blight Management Webinar

<http://www.extension.org/article/24987>

## Potential Organic Energy Ingredients for Swine Diets

By Greg Simpson, Swine Nutritionist/ OMAFRA

For organic swine diets, ration formulation is made more difficult without the use of animal or grain by-products. However, several less commonly used feedstuffs can be grown organically and incorporated into swine diets. The following is a summary of possible alternative energy ingredients and a brief description of their potential inclusions and limitations in swine rations. The approximate nutrient composition of these energy ingredients is provided in Table 1. As with any feed ingredient, nutrient composition will vary. The best method to determine nutrient composition is to obtain a representative sample of the ingredient and send it to a commercial laboratory for nutrient analysis.

In most swine diets, energy, amino acids and phosphorus are the three most expensive nutrients. Cereal grains provide the major source of energy in swine diets as they are high in carbohydrates, palatable and highly digestible. However, cereals tend to be low in vitamins, minerals, lysine and other amino acids when compared to the pig's requirements. Therefore, cereal-based diets must be supplemented with other ingredients to meet the pigs' requirements for optimal health and performance.

- **Barley** is higher in fibre and protein than corn. Due to its high fibre content, the energy value of barley ranges from 85% to 95% of corn. Barley is particularly well suited to grow-finish diets since feed intake is usually not a limiting factor. Barley can also be used as the sole cereal grain for gestation diets. However, its low energy density means limiting the use of barley to 85% of the cereal grain portion in lactation diets and 25% in nursery pig diets.
- **Hulless barley** contains more protein and less fibre than 6-row barley. Despite its higher nutritional value relative to barley, the performance of pigs is generally similar when fed either barley or hulless barley.
- **Buckwheat** is most commonly grown as a grain for human consumption. The protein quality of buckwheat is considered to be among the best in the plant kingdom because it has a higher concentration of essential amino acids than other cereal grains. However, buckwheat is relatively low in digestible

**Table 1: Nutritional Comparison of Potential Energy Ingredients for Use in Organic Swine Diets<sup>1</sup>**

Ingredient, %	DE	ME	CP	Lys	Ca	P	Fat	Anti-Nutritional Factors
	(MJ/kg)	(MJ/kg)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	
Barley, 6 row	12.8	12.23	10.5	0.36	0.06	0.36	1.9	
Barley, hullness	14.1	13.9	14.9	0.44	0.04	0.45	2.1	
Buckwheat	11.8	11.0	11.1	0.57	0.09	0.31	2.4	Fagopyrin, trypsin inhibitor, tannins
Oats	11.6	11.3	11.5	0.40	0.07	0.31	4.7	
Oats, naked	14.6	14.3	17.1	0.47	0.08	0.38	6.5	
Rye	13.7	12.8	11.8	0.38	0.06	0.33	1.6	Trypsin inhibitor, ergot
Sorghum, grain	14.1	14.0	9.2	0.22	0.03	0.29	2.9	Tannins
Triticale	13.9	13.3	12.5	0.39	0.05	0.33	1.8	Trypsin inhibitor, ergot
Wheat, hard red spring	14.2	13.6	14.1	0.38	0.05	0.36	2.0	
Wheat, soft white spring	14.2	13.7	11.8	0.33	0.05	0.35	2.1	

<sup>1</sup>Nutrient Requirements of Swine. 1998. 10<sup>th</sup> Edition. National Research Council

energy compared to other grains due to its high fibre and low oil content. The other significant factor limiting the use of buckwheat in swine diets is the presence of the anti-nutritional factor, fagopyrin, which causes skin lesions and intense itching when pigs are exposed to sunlight. Inclusion should be limited to no more than 50% in grow-finish diets and 90% in gestation diets. Buckwheat should be avoided in starter and sow lactation diets.

- **Oats** are higher in fibre, protein and lysine than corn, resulting in an energy value of approximately 80% of corn. Oats are highly palatable to swine, however they are high in fibre (10% to 15%). As a result, oats tend to be fed at low levels in the diet, especially for young pigs. The best use for oats is in gestation diets, where they can constitute the sole grain source. Oats are frequently used to add fibre to sow diets to help overcome constipation problems, especially around farrowing time. For lactation sows, oats should be kept to 20% of the diet. At a level of 10% to 20%, oats can be helpful in minimizing diarrhoea problems in nursery pigs.
- **Naked oats** (hulless oats) are much lower in fibre and higher in oil and protein content than oats. As a result their digestible energy content is 30% to 35% higher than regular oats. Hulless oats have a good balance of

amino acids with only lysine and methionine present in amounts insufficient to meet the pigs' requirements. Hulless oats can support satisfactory growth performance when used as the sole grain source for grow-finish pigs with almost no supplemental protein required.

- **Rye** has an energy value intermediate to wheat and barley and the protein content is similar to barley or oats. Although amino acid balance is similar to barley and wheat, its amino acid digestibility is 5% to 10% lower. Furthermore, rye is very susceptible to ergot, a fungus that reduces pig health and performance. With modern varieties and agricultural practices, extensive ergot contamination is rare, and the restrictions on levels are only necessary to compensate for poor palatability of diets with high rye levels. Rye also contains several toxic anti nutritional factors that reduce its nutritional value for swine. There is no limit to the amount of rye that can be fed to gestation sows, for grower finisher pigs (over 30 kg) rye can constitute up to 50% of the diet. In lactation diets, rye can be included at 40% of the diet.
- **Grain sorghum** is similar to corn in nutritional value and can completely replace corn in swine diets. Grinding is essential for efficient nutrient utilization because the grain is small and hard. Care should be

taken with specially developed bird resistant varieties of grain sorghum that are high in tannins, as they have only 80% to 90% of the feeding value of corn. Tannins interfere with the utilization of some nutrients, particularly protein, in grain sorghum, thus decreasing its nutritional value for swine. Due to its reduced feeding value, bird-resistant grain sorghum should be avoided in lactation and nursery diets.

- **Triticale** is a grain produced by crossing Durham wheat with rye. Even though it has a digestible energy value similar to wheat, it is similar to rye due to the presence of several anti-nutritional factors and susceptibility to ergot. Triticale has 95% to 100% of the feeding value of corn.
- **Wheat** can be efficiently utilized by swine of all ages. In terms of feeding value, wheat is equal to corn and is also highly palatable. Wheat is higher in crude protein and lysine than corn. This makes wheat a more expensive energy source than corn. Dependent on the growing season, mycotoxins can be a concern.

A wide variety of ingredients can be used in swine diets, but as with any new ingredient, producers should work with their feed consultant or swine nutritionist to ensure diets are appropriately formulated to meet the nutrient requirements of swine at all stages of production.

Adapted from: Feeding for Niche Swine Production. 2010. Whitney, M, Shurson, J, Johnston, L, Koehler, B. Hadad, R. and Koehler, D. National Swine Nutrition Guide. PIG 07-07-01

## Do You Operate a Small-scale Farm? Have Your Say!

The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council is researching the labour needs on farms with less than \$100,000 in gross receipts. Your responses will be used to better understand employment needs of smaller farms and will ensure that operations from Ontario are represented in the research. Go to [www.cahrc-ccrha.ca](http://www.cahrc-ccrha.ca) or call CAHRC at 1-866-430-7457 ext. 228 to complete the survey by phone. All respondents can enter for a chance to win \$100.

**About CAHRC:** The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) was created to address human resource issues facing agricultural businesses across Canada. CAHRC works with industry leaders,

governments, and education stakeholders to research, develop and communicate solutions to the challenges in agriculture employment and skills development.

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Complete our online survey for small scale farm operators and enter for a chance to win \$100! Go to [www.cahrc-ccrha.ca](http://www.cahrc-ccrha.ca) and click on the survey link.

## OMAFRA Articles

### New Puppies and New Trees

By Leslie Huffman - Apple Specialist/OMAFRA

A new puppy has arrived at our home, and we are enjoying the joys and challenges of a new pet. I've been researching puppy training - and found there are similarities to training apple trees. Two topics that surface time and again are: the importance of being consistent and of showing the proper leadership. Let's start with leadership. Newly planted and young established trees require a tall, strong leader to induce the formation of a calm, fruitful branch structure. The dominance of the tree's leader is provided by its height (this is why the tall spindle structure works well), and by the plant hormones that are exported from the growing tip to the other shoots in the tree. It is critical that only one strong growing shoot dominate the tree. Now is the time to walk all young plantings and ensure that only one leader exists by breaking out competing shoots. Seems that leadership is easier done for trees than on puppies!

Consistency is a concept that is easier to apply to puppies than to some blocks of trees. However, when trees are consistent in an orchard, each orchard operation is easier to manage successfully - pruning, thinning, pest management and harvest. So how do we achieve consistency in an orchard?

- Choose and prepare orchard sites as well as possible. Improve soil organic matter, drainage, and fertility, and correct pH if necessary.

- Planting uniform nursery trees gives a good start - if nursery trees are not consistent, sort and plant uniform trees together eg. by number of feathers, trunk caliper, or height.
- Tree training over the first few years is critical - remove "problem" branches that are too large, and tie down branches to encourage fruit buds. Use minimal numbers of cuts but cut judiciously when needed.
- Using plant growth regulators to manage excessive growth (Apogee), chemically thin (Maxcel, NAA, Sevin, NAD) and possibly induce more consistent fruiting (Ethrel and Maxcel).

What can be done when an orchard is inconsistent? Same as with training a puppy - decide on your goals (eg. # of fruiting laterals), set some rules (eg. remove overly-large branches, defruit when too many spurs are formed), and practice patience and repetition. Hopefully my puppy and your trees reach the goals we have set for them.

From OMAFRA HortMatters newsletter.

## Tune Up Your Irrigation System, Summer is on the Way!

By Rebecca Shortt - Water Irrigation Engineer/OMAFRA

Give yourself some extra time before starting to irrigate this spring and take a good look at your irrigation equipment. All components of your system need maintenance and some may require repair or replacing. Your user's manual should help you decide on the regular maintenance your equipment requires. Here are a few general tips for checking and maintaining your irrigation system.

### Sprinklers

#### Big guns

- Check nozzle for wear
- Use machinist's calipers to check ring nozzle for appropriate diameter
- Replace ring if worn
- Monitor rotation speed of gun, bearings may be worn and need replacing

#### Impact sprinklers

- Check nozzles for wear
- Replace dented or worn brass nozzles
- Replace cracked, chipped or worn plastic nozzles
- Check rotation of each sprinkler by swinging the

impact arm 10cm to the right and releasing. The sprinkler head should freely and smoothly move several centimeters. Repeat this test and ensure that the amount of rotation is consistent each time the sprinkler head is released. If the sprinkler is not consistent then replace the sprinkler head.

### Travelers

As well as regular lubrication and fluids

- Apply multipurpose grease to inlet spindle thrust washer, wheel bearings, turntable bearing ring and gun cart wheel bearings
- Apply oil to Chains (except drum) and to Gearbox

### Pumps

- Inspect all system piping connections for leaks and misalignment
- If stress on the pump case is suspected, adjust pipe supports to correct. For flange connections, ensure that there is no separation or shifting of mating flanges. Adjust pipe supports until flanges mate without force
- Check foundation, ensure that it is sound and all securing bolts or lags are secure
- Complete all lubrications recommended in your operation and maintenance manual
- Inspect pump packing gland or mechanical seal for possible replacement. Examine shaft sleeve (if present) for wear and replace if necessary.
- Inspect bearings for signs of wear. Repack or replace as required.
- Inspect valves and ensure that they are all fully operational and not stuck
- Check pump impeller for proper clearance
- Inspect pump impeller, housing and seal chamber for signs of excessive wear or corrosion
- Ensure the hand primer is operating properly.

Disassemble and inspect the diaphragm for excessive wear or cracks. Replace if necessary

\*\*Follow the maintenance schedule as laid out in your equipment manual.

From OMAFRA Hortmatters newsletter

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/hort/news/hortmatt/2010/11hrt10a2.htm>

## Rotational Grazing Primer

By Jack Kyle - Grazier Specialist/OMAFRA

### What Is Rotational Grazing

What is rotational grazing? As I talk to farmers across the province about grazing management, I have come to realize that rotational grazing means different things to different people.

The dictionary definition of rotation is "to change or alternate in a particular sequence; regular variation". To a crop producer, rotation means a different crop or sequence of crops in a field over a number of years. When we talk about rotation in relation to grazing, the most important factor is the state of the grass growth. The guiding principal of rotational grazing is to give the grass crop every opportunity to grow and produce forage for the livestock. The rotation refers to the movement of the livestock from one paddock to another during the grazing season.

According to the University of Guelph and OMAFRA Beef Cow-Calf Benchmarking Study, the biggest cost component is feed. When asked about grazing practices, over half of the participants reported that they were rotational grazing. However, there was a big range in the results that they were achieving.

### Grazing & Rest Periods

The concept behind rotational grazing is to harvest the grass quickly and then give the forage time to recover and re-grow. This is accomplished by giving the livestock enough grass for the prescribed feeding period and then moving them to a new field. The more frequent these moves, the more productive the pastures will be. The maximum length of time in a paddock should be 5 days. Why 5 days? Grass starts to re-grow five days after it is harvested. When does a hay field begin to green-up after being cut? There is usually new growth started in 5-6 days. In a pasture, this new growth is candy to the livestock and they quickly re-graze it. This re-grazing depletes the root reserves of the plants, reducing plant vigour and subsequent growth.

An optimal rotational grazing system has the livestock moving to fresh grass every 1 to 3 days. If the grazing period is longer, there will be reduced performance by both the livestock and the grass. Think of the pasture field as a feed bunk. Would you expect livestock to

perform well if the feed bunk was only filled every five days? Fresh feed encourages consumption and increased consumption means increased performance.



**A well managed rotational system provides high quality forage.**

### Number of Paddocks Required

For each group of livestock that you have on pasture, there should be a minimum of 10 paddocks to give the grass an opportunity to recover from the grazing. Twenty paddocks will go a long way to encouraging increased animal intake. Thirty paddocks will allow you to realize the full potential of both the pasture and the grazing livestock. This may seem like a lot of paddocks, but with the use of electric fence, including some temporary or portable fence, it does not need to be insurmountable. Cattle trained to electric fence and accustomed to moving every 1-2 days to fresh grass will meet you at the gate for their next move.

### Increased Season Long Carrying Capacity

Grass growth varies during the season. Rapid growth occurs in May and June. Much slower growth happens during July and August, when temperatures are higher and moisture is less available. Pasture managers who use an effective rotational system find that they have increased grass growth and carrying capacity throughout the season and a dramatically reduced need for feeding hay.

Rotational grazing means fresh grass every 1-3 days and a sufficient rest period for the grass to grow to the optimum grazing height (20-40 cm). Rotational grazing at this level will provide the most high quality forage at the least cost. Refer to the following websites for more detailed information:

[www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/forages.html](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/forages.html)  
[www.ontarioforagecouncil.com](http://www.ontarioforagecouncil.com)  
[www.foragebeef.ca](http://www.foragebeef.ca)

From the OMAFRA Virtual Beef newsletter.  
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/beef/news/vbn0510a2.htm>

## New OMAFRA Factsheets

**10-027: Developing an Agri-Tourism Operation in Ontario**, Agdex 842; New.  
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/facts/10-027.htm>

**10-029: Developing a Marketing Plan**, Agdex 842; replaces 95-079, <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/facts/10-029.htm>

**10-021: Diagnosing and Managing Cash Flow Problems**, Agdex 818; b/w, replaces 06-085, <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/facts/10-021.htm>

**10-023: Components of a Farm Succession Plan**, Agdex 812; b/w, replaces 04-073, <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/facts/10-023.htm>

**10-025: Farm Succession Planning Steps and Checklist**, Agdex 812; New, b/w (a companion to 10-023) <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/facts/10-025.htm>

**09-031: Nutrient Management Act, 2002, On-Farm Bin Composting of Deadstock**, Agdex 725/400; replaces 03-083.

**10-031: Farm Corporations**, Agdex 812; replaces 01-057

**10-019: Manure Agreements with Brokers and Neighbours**, Agdex 750/538; replaces 09-057

**10-035: Nutrient Management Act, 2002, Understanding When Farms Require a NMS, NMP or NASM Plan**, Agdex 720/538; New.

**10-037: Improving On-Farm Food Safety Through Good Irrigation Practices**, Agdex 200/560, replaces 05-059

Publications can be ordered through ServiceOntario Online at [ServiceOntario Publications](#)

By phone through the ServiceOntario Contact Centre Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

416-326-5300  
416-325-3408 (TTY)  
1-800-668-9938 Toll-free across Canada  
1-800-268-7095 TTY Toll-free across Ontario

In person at [ServiceOntario Centres](#) located throughout the province or at any Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Resource Centre. [OMAFRA office locations](#).

## Food Bulletin News

### Wanted: your input on changes to Regulation 386 – Maple Products

OMAFRA is moving to modernize Regulation 386 (for maple products) under the Farm Products Grades and Sales Act. As a first step, we are seeking input from you, our stakeholders.

You will find an information paper on our website that describes the proposed changes. There is also a link for email comments. We must receive your comments and feedback by July 16, 2010.

View a summary of the proposed changes now (with links to related legislation, a discussion paper and other information)

<http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=3502&language=en>

The proposed changes will help us:

- Eliminate red tape
- Keep up with changes to federal standards
- Focus on food safety and protection from economic fraud.

#### Next steps:

- We will be meeting with a number of stakeholder organizations to gather more feedback.

- We will also send out a notice to industry newsletters asking for comments.

Help us make Ontario's maple industry work smarter!

## Guelph Food Technology Centre takes the lead in food safety certification

Demand for certification is growing in the food industry. It's a great way to separate your business from the rest of the competition. Guelph Food Technology Centre (GFTC) has just become the first organization based in Canada to be accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The GTCC can now certify Canadian food businesses based on two key global standards:

- Safe Quality Food (SQF)
- British Retail Consortium (BRC).

### What does this mean to the Canadian food industry?

- These standards are recognized by the Global Food Safety Initiative. Regulators in the U.S. are also considering incorporating them into federal legislation. Being certified to global standards may make it easier for North American food and beverage companies to tap into foreign markets, including the U.S.
- ANSI accreditation also assures clients that the GFTC's management system is accountable, current and compliant (to ISO Guide 65). Before receiving ANSI approval, the GFTC had to pass through an extensive review of its written policies and documentation, as well as a thorough evaluation of auditors in the field.

## Call for data on methyl eugenol: due August 21, 2010

Health Canada's Food Directorate is asking food industry stakeholders to gather data about the use of:

- methyl eugenol as a flavour
- essential oils or plant parts such as leaves, stems and seeds, that naturally contain methyl eugenol as flavouring ingredients in foods offered for sale in Canada.

The main source of methyl eugenol is food. It is a naturally occurring substance found in the essential oils of several plant species such as basil, tarragon, lemon grass, bay leaf, nutmeg, allspice, cloves and mace. It has

also been found in oranges, bananas and grapefruit juice.

### Why is Health Canada asking for this data?

Draft research reports released in March 2010 noted that methyl eugenol is entering or may be entering the environment in a quantity or concentration or under conditions that may constitute a danger in Canada to human life or health. But no Canadian data were available to estimate dietary exposure to methyl eugenol. As a result, the Food Directorate is following up with stakeholders to:

- gather information to fill this knowledge gap, and
- determine what, if any, necessary risk management measures are needed.

### What data do I need to provide?

Where applicable, you need to capture:

- the types of foods to which methyl eugenol, essential oils, or plant parts are being added, and
- the **amount** of methyl eugenol, essential oils, or plant parts that are added.

### How do I submit my organization's data?

You can send your report by mail to:

Health Canada  
Bureau of Chemical Safety  
Tunney's Pasture, PL: 2203B  
251 Sir Frederick Banting Driveway  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L2

Or, send your report by email to:

[bcsc-bipc@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:bcsc-bipc@hc-sc.gc.ca)

### Have your say on gluten-free labelling

Are you or your business affected by the changes now being discussed for gluten-free labelling? If so, Health Canada wants your input. This is your chance to tell government what you think about their plan to revise the regulations for gluten-free labelling. Feedback is welcome from both the public and stakeholders.

Deadline for comments: July 11. [Learn more now.](#)

## Call for comments on the new guide for Scientific Research and Experimental Development Reviews

Is your organization engaged in research that could qualify for the Scientific Research and Experimental

## Summer Courses and Tours

Development (SR&ED) tax program? If so, you may be affected by recent changes to the guide used by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to review and evaluate claims. As of June 1, two new documents have replaced the *Guide to Conducting a Scientific Research and Experimental Development Review Part 1: The Technical Review* dated January 14, 2000. These documents are:

- The *Claim Review Manual* – used by CRA’s Research and Technology Advisors (RTAs). It outlines their requirements for reviews.
- [The SR&ED Technical Review: A Guide for Claimants \(Draft\)](#) – written for claimants who would like an overview of the process used to review claims.

### How to provide your comments

As the CRA moves to finalize the Guide, it would like to know:

- Would the Guide be helpful for claimants who have to prepare for a technical review? If not, what could be done to improve it?

Are there other best practices we should include in the Guide to make the technical review process work better? Deadline for comments: August 1, 2010. Please email your feedback to: [sred-rsde@cra.gc.ca](mailto:sred-rsde@cra.gc.ca).

### What’s new in ONT-TAXS online?

ONT-TAXS online offers secure, simple and convenient access around the clock to your Ontario business tax accounts. Now it’s even better. With the latest enhancements you can easily:

- Send a secure electronic message to a ministry representative using the *Messages* feature.
- Process returns online for Gas, Fuel and Tobacco Tax. You can even upload these returns using an XML data file.
- View a PDF copy of letters that the ministry sends to your business.

### Test drive ONT-TAXS online now!

<http://www.rev.gov.on.ca/en/services/onttaxs/demo/index.html> Or, to learn more, visit [ontario.ca/revenue](http://ontario.ca/revenue).

### Processed Meat Manufacturing: Products, Ingredients and Calculations

**When:** June 16-18, 2010

**Where:** Guelph Food Technology Centre, 88 McGilvray Street, Guelph, ON, N1G 2W1

**What you will learn:** Understand the principles of safe manufacture of processed meat products (i.e. sausages, bacon, ham, deli style cuts). Gain the knowledge, skills and tools necessary to manufacture a high quality product in this three-day, hands-on meat processing workshop.

**Who should attend:** Food scientists, ingredient suppliers, product development managers and personnel, R&D managers and staff.

**Cost:** \$1,420 for members; \$1,578 for non-members

[Learn more and enrol http://www.gftc.ca/courses-and-training/course-details.aspx?course=RDP07](http://www.gftc.ca/courses-and-training/course-details.aspx?course=RDP07)

### Gluten-free Baking

**When:** June 17, 2010

**Where:** Guelph Food Technology Centre, 88 McGilvray Street, Guelph, ON, N1G 2W1

**What you will learn:** Understand gluten intolerance and its effect on consumer health. Learn how to create gluten-free formulas, using alternative flours and their functional products. Gain a clear understanding of labeling requirements for products that contain gluten.

**Who should attend:** Anyone interested in creating gluten-free products or needing to understand labeling requirements for products that contain gluten.

**Cost:** \$426 for members; \$473 regular

[Learn more and enrol http://www.gftc.ca/courses-and-training/course-details.aspx?course=RDS14](http://www.gftc.ca/courses-and-training/course-details.aspx?course=RDS14)

### The 3 A’s of Leadership and Authority – Level 2

**When:** June 29, 2010

**Where:** Loyalist College, 284B Wallbridge-Loyalist Rd., Belleville, ON K8N 5B9

**What you will learn:** Gain new insights into the use and misuse of authority. Discover and apply practical ways to use organizational authority to lead individuals and teams to a higher level of contribution.

**Who should attend:** All managers, supervisors and others who have completed level one of this series.

**Cost:** \$529 plus taxes. Includes binder/materials, parking and lunch. [Learn more and enrol](#)  
<http://www.loyalisttraining.com/default.aspx>

## Food Processing Safety Techniques

**When:** This full-time, one-year certificate program starts in September 2010

**Where:** Durham College, 2000 Simcoe Street North, Oshawa, ON L1H 7K4

**What you will learn:** Learn all the main safety components required to work in the food processing industry. Ensure safe food production following government regulations and practices using automated high-speed equipment in a global competitive environment.

**Who should attend:** Students, workers who seek a career in the food processing industry.

**Cost:** \$2,350 (tuition)

[Learn more and enrol https://myplace.durhamcollege.ca/durham/program.do?from=subject&programID=1414](https://myplace.durhamcollege.ca/durham/program.do?from=subject&programID=1414)

## Soil & Water Management Workshop

June 29, 2010, London-St. Thomas Area.

For more information phone the Woodstock OMAFRA office at 519-537-6621

## FarmStart Programming

For more information and to register for FarmStart workshops go to: [www.farmstart.ca/workshops](http://www.farmstart.ca/workshops)

1. **Skills Building Field Day Series**— monthly across Ontario
2. **Farm Start-Up Workshop Series: Ready to Buy a Farm?** - Toronto, Wednesday, June 16, 2010, 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm at The Stop, Green Barn, 601 Christie St. Cost: \$55
3. **Direct Farm Marketing EFAO workshop** with Ann Slater.  
Sunday, July 18, 10 am – 5 pm at FarmStart McVean Incubator Farm Facility (directions will be sent to registrants), Brampton. Cost: \$95
4. **Farm Business Enterprise Series: Pastured Pigs and Poultry.** Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup> 9:30am—5:00 pm at Greenbeing Farm, Neustadt

This very popular workshop offered by Tarrah Young on her farm in Neustadt will be offered twice this season, once in the summer and again in the fall. In case you are only interested in half of the course, 9:30-1:00 for poultry, 1:30-5:00 for pigs. This is part of the FarmStart Farm Business Enterprise Series. Cost: \$100. To register: [gayl@farmstart.ca](mailto:gayl@farmstart.ca) and specify whole or half course (and which half!).

## 5. Training Opportunities NEW!

For full details see <http://www.farmstart.ca/current-events-workshops/>

## EFAO Tours

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

### 1. Post Harvest Handling and the New Farm Skills Building Field Day

Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 4 pm, at Creemore, 9783 Nottawasaga 6/7 Sideroad,

Brent and Gillian offer over a 150 varieties of premium quality seasonal vegetables from their 100 acre farm, which they call handmade as everything is grown the good old fashioned way, with hand tools. In the afternoon, participants will see how the high level of quality is maintained through their harvesting/processing/packing procedures. A map is available at [www.thenewfarm.ca](http://www.thenewfarm.ca).

Cost: \$20 per person, or \$30 per family. To register: email [gayl@farmstart.ca](mailto:gayl@farmstart.ca) .

This event is co-sponsored by EFAO and FarmStart. All welcome.

### 2. EFAO Farm Tour of Amish Ice House, Garden, Goat Dairy and Pastured Pork

Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1 pm – 4:30 pm at Aylmer  
For more information call the EFAO office, 1 877-822-8606 or [info@efao.ca](mailto:info@efao.ca)

1 pm – 2:30 pm at 10737 Walker Road. Amish farm of Franz Seeburger and family, whose certified organic operation includes a goat dairy in a cover-all type building, pastured Berkshire pork, and flour milling with a retail store.

2:45 pm – 4:15 pm at 52259 College Line. Off-grid warehouse which houses the Amish vegetable co-op where the production of more than 2 dozen families is pooled to market to chain stores and other

customers. They have developed a clever ice-powered forced air cooling and cold storage system to prolong the shelf life of their vegetables.

3. **EFAO Farm Tour of Harro Wehrmann Farm and On Farm Biodiesel Plant**  
Saturday, July 10th, 10 am – 3 pm  
South West of Ripley at 460 Sideroad 20 South, Huron Township  
For more information call 519-955-0386  
A 750 acre mixed organic cash crop farm with a focus on processing oil seeds for vegetable oil and for biodiesel production. The morning will be a tour of the farm and after lunch there will be a tour of the biodiesel plant. Bring a brown bag lunch.
4. **Oxford Organic Growers Tour of Bill Scheurman's farm**  
Saturday, July 10th (rain date July 17th), 1 pm – 4 pm, 345195 Quaker St., Burgessville and composting demo at 3 pm at Tom Boon's, 593780 Hwy 59. For more information: Call Tom Boon (519) 424-3113
5. **Summer Crop Symposium**  
Wednesday July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Rob Fleischauer's Farm, Gad's Hill  
Corn and Oat plots with 3 soil amendments
6. **Steel in the Field - Guelph NEW!**  
Saturday, July 17th, 10 am - 4 pm  
Ignatius Jesuit Centre, 5420 Hwy 6 North (Workshop), Guelph  
Cost: \$50.00 (EFAO members), \$70 (non members) To Register: EFAO office, 1 877-822-8606 or [info@efao.ca](mailto:info@efao.ca)

## Everdale Workshops

For more information on these workshops and to register visit: [www.everdale.org/node/222](http://www.everdale.org/node/222)

1. **The Buzz on Bees**  
With local bee keeper extraordinaire – Jay Mowat  
Saturday, July 18, 2010, 10 am–4pm, at Everdale Farm, Hillsburg. Cost: \$92
2. **Introduction to Sheep**  
With Les Richards of Bowbells Farm  
Saturday, October 2, 2010, 10 am–4pm at Everdale Farm, Hillsburg Cost: \$92

## Other Courses

1. **Southern Ontario Draft Horse Basic Workshops Aug. 12 – 14** at Orchard Hill Farm, Sparta  
In this three day workshop you will learn basic skills such as feeding, grooming, hoof care, harnessing, hitching and driving one and two horses. You will get experience on various vehicles and field implements as well as an introduction to plowing with a riding plow. We will also do some logging in the woods. No previous horse experience is necessary. A \$50 deposit is required to hold your place in this workshop. The Level I workshop is limited to 6 – 7 participants. For more information: Ken Laing, 519-775-2670 or [kmlaing@orchardhillfarm.ca](mailto:kmlaing@orchardhillfarm.ca), [www.orchardhillfarm.ca](http://www.orchardhillfarm.ca).  
Cost: \$500 plus GST, including meals.  
Accommodation available.

2. **Ontario Farm Fresh Marketing Association (OFFMA) <http://ontariofarmfresh.com/> Introduction to Social Media**  
Tuesday, July 13th, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Kemptville College, Kemptville

The morning will cover Web 2.0 and some of the different tools that are out there like blogs, Twitter, Facebook, Podcasting and RSS. The afternoon session will focus on developing a social media strategy for your business; establishing your goals, measuring return on investment and risk management in the social media world.

Cost: \$120.00 + GST, including material and lunch (Second person is \$85.00 + GST)

**To resister:** Deadline to register is Thursday, July 8, 2010. Please call the OFFMA office at 905-841-9278

## Events

### COG Annual General Meeting, at the Banff Park Lodge

**When:** Tue, August 10, at the Banff Park Lodge ([map](#))  
Join us for our Annual General Meeting in Banff Alberta. The meeting will take place in the Black Bear room at the Banff Park Lodge, with keynote speakers, a business meeting and reception afterwards. Please RSVP to [office@cog.ca](mailto:office@cog.ca)

**Feast of Fields, Canadian Organic Growers Ottawa**

Sunday, September 12, 2010,

Website [http://www.cog.ca/ottawa/feast\\_of\\_fields/index.html](http://www.cog.ca/ottawa/feast_of_fields/index.html)

Email: [feastoffieldsottawa@cog.ca](mailto:feastoffieldsottawa@cog.ca)

Phone: 613-244-4000 ext 5

**Feast of Fields, Organic Advocates**

Cold Creek Conservation Area, King Township,  
Ontario

Sunday, September 12, 2010 from 1 pm to 5 pm

<http://www.feastoffields.org/> or call 905-859-3609

**Canada's Outdoor Farm Show**

September 14 -16, [www.outdoorfarmshow.com](http://www.outdoorfarmshow.com),  
Woodstock

**International Plowing Match**

September 21 -25, [www.ipm2010.com](http://www.ipm2010.com), St. Thomas

**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](mailto:ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca)**

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

**[www.ontario.ca/omafra](http://www.ontario.ca/omafra)**