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Welcome to “ON Organic”

Evan Elford, New Crop Development Specialist, OMAFRA

Welcome to the November issue of *ON Organic*. As you have read in the previous issue, Hugh Martin, OMAFRA’s Organic Crop Production Program Lead has retired from OMAFRA after 34 years of service and we wish him well in his future endeavours. My name is Evan Elford and I work as the New Crop Development Specialist with OMAFRA to develop production and marketing information on a variety of specialty crops in the province. I look forward to working with the *ON Organic* team at OMAFRA and the contributing authors and associations who bring you this monthly newsletter. We hope you continue to enjoy *ON Organic* as we do our best to provide up to date information and resources for the organic sector in Ontario.

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/newsorganic.html>

The French version of these newsletters is available at:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/french/crops/organic/news/newsorganic.html>

The OMAFRA Organic pages are linked from:

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

The ON Organic Team

Evan Elford – editor, OMAFRA, New Crop Development Specialist
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 Hill – OMAFRA, Client Service Representative

Importance of Providing Roughage to Organic Growing/Finishing Pigs

by Greg Simpson, Swine Nutritionist, OMAFRA

Pigs are naturally curious and keen to explore their environment. Exploring, foraging and rooting behaviours are a large part of pigs' general activities and are performed to search for possible locations of food and to gather general information on their surroundings. The requirements for increased space allowances and outdoor runs for organically raised pigs allow them more possibilities to be active and express their natural behaviours. Roughage is an important element in organic production systems as it can influence the pigs' activity pattern and social interactions by increasing their motivation to explore and forage (Roberts et al., 1993). By increasing the time spent foraging or rooting; roughage can keep pigs occupied and potentially reduce stress and aggression between individuals.

Roughages can also make a significant contribution to the pigs' diet. Although they are monogastrics, pigs have a capacity to digest forage fibres in the hindgut. Research has shown that roughage can be included in the total diet up to 18–19% of dry matter and that pigs over 60 kg, are able to consume 10% of their daily energy requirement from roughage (Carlsson et al., 1999). Roughages may also be a way to improve the well-being of pigs because they positively affect the development of the micro flora and epithelium in the gut.

In a recent study, Høøk-Presto et. al. (2009) examined the effects of roughage on organic growing/finishing pigs' activity behaviour and social interactions. Their proposal was that access to additional roughage in the outdoor area would make the pigs use this area more frequently, change their activity pattern and reduce aggressive behaviour and stress among the pigs. In the first part of their experiment a total of 377 organic pigs of mixed gender from 3 different herds were used. All pigs were of (Landrace x Yorkshire) x Hampshire breed and were purchased from two organic piglet-producing herds. The pigs were randomly allocated according to sex and live weight to either a control treatment (C) or one of three treatments with access to additional roughages; hay (H), grass silage (GS) or whole crop barley silage (BS).

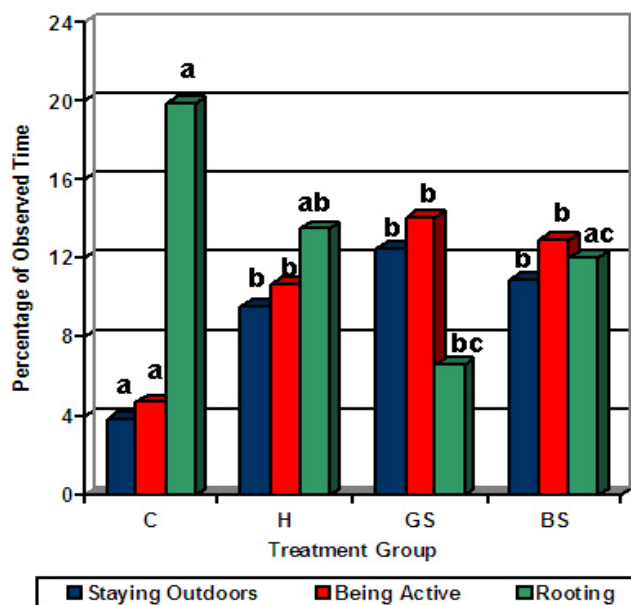
The experiment was carried out during November–February when the pigs were housed indoors with access to an outdoor run. The average outdoor temperature during this time was 0.7 °C (min. –10.0°C and max. 10.5 °C). Each barn was divided into pens which contained a bedded lying area, unlimited access to water and feeding troughs which allowed all pigs to eat simultaneously. The total indoor area provided was 1.5 m²/pig. Each pen also allowed access to a concrete outdoor run that provided at least 1.0 m²/pig. Pens that were allocated to roughage treatments (i.e. hay, grass silage or whole crop barley

silage) were given their respective roughages ad libitum in feeding hedges in the outdoor area. Roughage was replenished every morning and if needed in the afternoon. Behaviour observations were performed in all pens at arrival and later every four weeks throughout the growing/finishing period.

The researchers found that pigs that had access to roughage in feeding hedges stayed outdoors more frequently than pigs without roughage (Figure 1). Pigs that were provided hay, grass silage or whole crop barley silage stayed outdoors on average 9.6%, 12.5% and 10.9%, respectively, compared to 3.8% for pigs in the control group. Exploring behaviour (defined as rooting in straw or other and eating roughage) did not differ between treatments which may have been due to the availability of bedding in all pens. Interestingly, the percent of observed pigs that were eating roughage did not differ significantly between the hay, grass silage and whole crop barley silage treatments.

When analysing the behaviour variable being active (defined as standing and eating roughage), pigs in roughage treatments were significantly more active than control pigs (Figure 1). Control pigs were significantly less active (standing and eating roughage) outdoors than pigs with additional roughage, which indicates that the roughage encouraged pigs to go outdoors and to be more active.

Figure 1: Effect of Roughage on Pig Activity and Level



Importance of Providing Roughage to Organic Growing/ Finishing Pigs (cont'd)

Indoors, the frequency of aggressive behaviour in the lying area was lower for pigs with access to roughage than for pigs in the control treatment. Outdoors, the frequency of aggressive behaviour did not differ; however, the frequency of aggressive behaviour outdoors was in general low.

The results from this study show that access to additional roughage outdoors reduced the frequency of aggressive behaviour in the lying area. They also confirm that access to additional roughage in the outdoor run encourages pigs to go outdoors more frequently and suggests that pigs might be more motivated to use the roughage to explore and forage. Although straw bedding was provided indoors, access to additional roughage outdoors increased the activity level of the pigs and reduced aggressive behaviour. This indicates that roughage is an important resource that can influence the well-being and the behaviour of pigs especially in organic production systems.

Sources:

Roberts, S., Matte, J.J., Framer, C., Girard, D.L., and Martineau, G.P. 1993. High-fibre diets for sows: effects on stereotypies and adjunctive drinking. *Appl. Anim. Behav. Sci.* 37: 297–309.

Carlsson, D., Lærke, H.N., Poulsen, H.D., and Jørgensen, H., 1999. Roughages for growing pigs, with emphasis on chemical composition, ingestion and faecal digestibility. *Acta Agric. Scand., Sect. A, Animal Sci.* 49: 129–136.

Høøk Presto, M., Algers, B., Persson, E., and Andersson, H.K. 2009. Different roughages to organic growing/finishing pigs — Influence on activity behaviour and social interactions. *Livestock Science.* 123: 55–62

Things to Consider When Negotiating a Lease

by Jennifer Stevenson, Business Finance Program Lead, OMAFRA

The high cost of land acquisition has prompted many producers and aspiring producers to consider leasing, rather than owning farm property. Leasing land allows a producer the flexibility of controlling the farming decisions, while avoiding some of the pitfalls of ownership. While it is a popular method of gaining access to necessary resources, there are some factors to consider when negotiating a short or long-term lease.

There are several types of leases used in agriculture, however they fit into two main categories: the first is where the landlord shares no risk for the crop or livestock along with the tenant and the second type is where the landlord and tenant both share risk for the crop (it may or may not be equal risk). Where the risk is not shared, the lease is a pure charge for the rental of land, buildings or equipment. The Canada Revenue Agency does not view this type of lease income as farming income. The second type of lease is where both parties jointly share the costs for input costs such as labour, utilities, fuel, insurance, seed etc. Both parties would share the income, according to their negotiated agreement. The Canada Revenue Agency may view this type of income by the landowner as farming income.

Before negotiating a lease, both the tenant and landlord should be aware of the type of agreement that they are entering into as a lease is a legal contract. Typical information included in a lease contract includes

information which is required in order for the contract to be valid, as well as information to support the additional lease terms.

Required information includes a legal description of the land, buildings and/or equipment in question. In the case of land or buildings, it should also specify areas to be excluded. Additionally, it is important for organic farmers to request proof of organic status, and for landowners a request that no unauthorized chemicals be applied.

Another required item is the lease rate. When, and how much is to be paid must be clearly spelled out. As there can be a wide variability in lease rates over Ontario, it is good practice for landowners and tenants to familiarize themselves with the current rates in their area. As there are no published rates, the easiest way to find out is by word of mouth. Feed supply stores and elevators can be a good source of information.

The lease length and renewal process is also a required item. This outlines how long the lease will be in effect for, and what the process will be to renew the contract. In the event of a planned renewal, tenants and landlords will have to give some thought on how the lease rates for subsequent years will be negotiated. Over the recent years, higher commodity prices have driven up lease rates. Producers and landlords may consider using an unbiased rate such as the Consumer Price Index (CPI) published by

Things to Consider When Negotiating a Lease (cont'd)

Statistics Canada to determine the annual lease increase rate.

Other non-mandatory information that might be included in a lease document is water use: can it be used, is the use restricted in any way. Other items are the right of inspection by the landowner, what will happen if the landowner sells the property, how can the lease be broken, how may the tenant use the land (are there any restrictions in crops or livestock use), environmental matters (what would happen

if there is an environmental concern, and whose responsibility would it be to remedy the situation), insurance, utility fees, right to sublet, production methods and management decisions, compensation for damages, option to purchase.

There are many components to a lease. It is important that each party in the lease agreement familiarize themselves with their potential rights and obligations prior to signing an agreement.

Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) Update For Ontario Growers

By Pam Fisher, Hannah Fraser, Denise Beaton, OMAFRA

In recent weeks, spotted wing drosophila (SWD) populations have increased throughout Ontario. In late September, SWD was found at 8 new locations, including the first detections east of Toronto. As of October 12, 2011, SWD has been found at 27 agricultural sites in total, representing approximately 50% of currently monitored sites. SWD has been found in traps near peaches, apricots, raspberries, day-neutral strawberries, blueberries, grapes and blackberries. At a few sites where SWD has been present since early August, trap catches have increased dramatically in late September.

We have collected fruit from some unsprayed sites and reared SWD flies from this fruit, indicating that this pest does indeed infest fruit in Ontario. Fortunately, there have been no reports of problems with infested fruit on a commercial scale.

Harvesting is now complete in most fruit crops in Ontario; however, growers with fall fruiting raspberries, especially raspberries in high tunnels, should be on the lookout for a late season build-up of this pest.

Why is SWD a problem? SWD are like other vinegar flies; they lay eggs in fruit, where larvae develop and pupate. The difference is that normal vinegar flies, like the annoying ones you find in your fruit basket in late summer, are attracted to

OVERRIPE or DAMAGED fruit, that is about to spoil anyway. By the time the larvae develop, the fruit is usually spoiled or mouldy. SWD is different in that it lays eggs in fruit that is RIPENING, or NEARLY MATURE. This means that SWD eggs or larvae may be present in fruit when it is harvested. Infested fruit breaks down very quickly, and is especially leaky, reducing the expected shelf life

OMAFRA Articles

substantially. Consumers are likely to notice infested fruit because the larvae will try to escape from the fruit as it is cooked or frozen.

What crops are most affected? Information from other regions suggests blackberries and raspberries are preferred hosts, followed by blueberries, strawberries and other soft-skinned fruit. Tender fruit, such as apricots, peaches, plums, and possibly tomatoes and some types of grapes are also potential hosts for this invasive pest.

Will SWD overwinter in Ontario? We expect a small percentage of SWD adults will overwinter in southern Ontario in most years. We expect they will overwinter in sheltered locations, such as around building foundations and wild hosts. We don't know how quickly populations will build up each year. Also, we have more to learn about alternative and wild hosts for SWD in the spring and early summer. We expect that wild raspberries, wild blackberries and possibly other wild fruit such as elderberries will provide reservoirs for this pest.

What can I do to prepare for next year? Learn as much as you can about the pest. Think about how you can manage field culls and unharvested fruit to reduce build up during harvest. Investigate options for custom spray application during harvest. Plan to attend some meetings where you can learn about experience in other regions. For example, Dr. Rufus Isaacs from Michigan State University will be speaking about this pest at the Ontario Berry Growers Association Annual Meeting in February.

Is there any good news? We are learning a lot about SWD from our colleagues in British Columbia, the Pacific Northwest, Michigan and Florida. The Ontario Berry Growers Association has secured some funding for us to expand our monitoring project next year. We will continue to monitor for this pest and provide the latest news and information in 2012. The other good news is that SWD is manageable. An effective IPM program will include monitoring, sanitation and organic products applied when necessary.

More information: Do you have questions about SWD? More information is posted at the following sites:

- Identification of SWD: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/pest-alert-swd.htm#id>
- Monitoring program and weekly trap catches for Ontario: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/swdcatches.htm>
- Management of SWD in Ontario: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/swd-management.htm>
- Registered products for SWD in Ontario 2011: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/swdregistrations.htm>
- Links to more information about SWD: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/swd-links.htm>

Still didn't find the info you are looking for? Send us your question and OMAFRA's SWD team will do their best to address it. pam.fisher@ontario.ca, or hannah.fraser@ontario.ca

From The Ontario Berry Grower newsletter

Sweet Potato Chilling Injury

Melanie Filotas, Specialty Crops IPM Specialist

It's fall, temperatures are dropping and Ontario's sweet potato harvest is underway. At this time of year, growers are often concerned about the potential impact of heavy frosts on roots still in the ground. However, it is important to remember that temperatures above freezing can also negatively affect sweet potatoes.

Sweet potatoes are highly susceptible to chilling injury, which can be defined as damage to fruits and vegetables when exposed to temperatures above their freezing point but below some minimum temperature. In the case of sweet potatoes, that's below 10-12°C. Chilling injury is relatively common in plants originating from tropical or subtropical regions, but the effects differ from that of freeze damage. When plants are frozen, damage is due to ice crystals forming in the tissues and is immediately obvious. With chilling injury, exposure to low temperatures can damage cell membranes or affect the normal metabolism of plant tissues, resulting in a cascade of other reactions. Unlike freezing damage, chilling injury is not always immediately visible. A sweet potato root with chilling injury may appear fine when dug, but may decay quickly during curing. In other cases, symptoms of chilling injury may not even become evident until several weeks after roots are placed into storage.

Symptoms of chilling injury in sweet potatoes can be hard to diagnose, but can include surface pitting, loss of dry

matter, internal breakdown, discolouration or changes to the texture and taste of the root. Chilling greatly increases susceptibility of roots to decay organisms, leading to higher incidences of storage rots. Chilling can also lead to hardcore, in which areas of the root remain hard even after cooking.

Chilling injury is more commonly observed post harvest, if storage temperatures become too low, but can be a problem in the field later in the harvest season. Remember that it is the soil temperatures around the root, rather than the ambient air temperature, that is important, so it is a good idea to monitor soil temperatures directly when determining if there is potential for chilling injury to roots. In southwestern Ontario, the risk of injury from exposure to chilling temperatures increases greatly as we move from late September into October.

Chilling injury is a function of both the temperature and the length of exposure, so one or two hours at 4°C may cause the same amount of damage as several hours at 8°C. The effects are also cumulative – one brief period of exposure to soil temperatures below 10°C may not result in any damage, while several days where soil temperatures dip below 10°C for short periods could cause extensive injury.

All of these factors combine to make avoiding chilling injury a challenge. Monitor soil temperatures frequently, preferably early in the morning when they are likely to be lowest, and try to finish harvest before soil temperatures are consistently dropping below 10°C. If you are forced to harvest later in the season, consider separating these roots from earlier harvested roots, as these will be more likely to develop fungal rots in storage. Ensure harvested roots are moved out of the field as quickly as possible if air temperatures during harvesting operations are dropping below 12°C.

From HortMatters newsletter

The Apple File

Leslie Huffman, Apple Specialist

Apple Harvest – Enough Rain for You?
Whew! Most growers are finishing up apple harvest and no one can remember slogging through as much rain and mud as this year. There was lots of mud in 1992, but likely not this bad. Fortunately, many growers report large fruit size and better yields than expected. Some crop was downgraded due to scab, and a bit of russetting, but not as bad as expected.

Fruit quality seems quite good, with good flavour and firmness, and hopefully few storage issues. Those really

hot days in July and August were hard on farmers and workers, but the trees took advantage and made sugars and filled cells.

Take a good look at the health of your trees, your soil and your crop to observe and think about what season-long water can do for apple growers. As long as drainage was adequate, tree growth and health in general is very good (hopefully with good fruit buds for next year). Many growers harvested more crop than expected, but many have work to do to repair ruts and improve drainage. I've been wondering about the role of irrigation in achieving high yields, and perhaps we should be targeting irrigation earlier in the year. Many apple growers (and researchers) don't think irrigation is necessary, but as we move to more intensive orchards, higher costs and the drive for higher yields, maybe it's time to reconsider the need for irrigation. Love to hear your thoughts!

From HortMatters newsletter. Full article available: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/hort/news/hortmatt/2011/28hrt11.pdf>

Bitter Rot of Apples

Michael Celetti - Plant Pathologist - Horticulture Crops Program Lead

The hot weather during the summer of 2011 may have resulted in the development of diseases of apples that are more common in the Southern regions of North America than in the temperate regions such as Ontario. Recently I was brought samples of Macintosh fruit that had developed an uncommon rot. Close inspection of the spores and development of the rot under the microscope confirmed that the rot was caused by the fungus

Colletotrichum gloeosporioides. Several *Colletotrichum* spp. can infect apples and cause the disease known as bitter rot (Figure 1). This disease is more common in the hot regions of the Southern US where it can cause significant damage to fruit if not kept under control.



Figure 1. Sunken lesions on Macintosh apples caused by the bitter rot fungus *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*.

The bitter rot pathogen can be found almost anywhere apples are grown in the world. It can also cause diseases in strawberries, pears, peaches, grapes and a few other fruits and vegetables under the right conditions. In apples,

the pathogen can cause cankers on limbs and leaf spots but these are very rare. The fungus over-winters in infected mummified fruit left in trees from chemical thinning or that had dropped to the orchard floor. It has also been found to over-winter in cracks and crevasses in bark or in cankers caused by the pathogen itself or other pathogens. Spores are disseminated by rain splashing almost all season long. Although fruit can become infected anytime during the growing season starting at petal fall, most severe infections occur between midseason and harvest. Early infections appear as tiny grey or brown spots that do not enlarge until much later in the summer when the fruit begins to mature. Later infections appear as small circular sunken brown spots that become larger as the season progresses. The optimum conditions for infection and rot development include wet, humid weather during temperatures around 26°C. The spores require free water to germinate and can infect through the skin of the apple directly or through a wound. A red halo may develop around the small circular spots particularly on yellow skin varieties. When lesions become about 25 mm (1 inch) in diameter, pin head size black fruiting bodies often arranged in concentric rings may appear in the center giving the lesion a "target spot" appearance. During wet or extreme humid conditions, masses of orange, pink to salmon coloured spores are produced on the surface of the lesions (Figure 2). Epidemics of this disease occur when warm to hot weather occurs early in the growing season together with rainy periods that extend into the later part of the season. As the fruit lesions enlarge, a diagnostic V-shape rot progresses towards the core (Figure 3). Bitter rot is often more severe on early than late maturing varieties and can show up in the orchard or in storage.

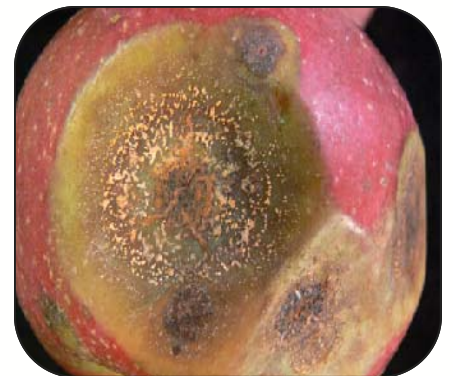


Figure 2. Orange, pink to salmon coloured spores are produced on the surface of the sunken bitter rot lesions.



Figure 3. Bitter rot lesions develop a diagnostic V-shaped rot that progresses towards the core.

Other common fruit rots such as white rot caused by *Botryosphaeria dothidia* and black rot caused by *B. obtusa* do not cause sunken lesions with orange, pink to salmon coloured spore masses and do not develop a V-shaped rot towards the core which distinguishes them from bitter rot. Blue mold caused by *Penicillium expansum* and grey mold caused by *Botrytis cinerea* are common post harvest storage rots that develop in wounds and do not usually cause sunken lesions and produce either bluish or grey spore masses.

Most apple cultivars are susceptible to bitter rot however; Empire, Freedom, Golden Delicious, Fuji, and Granny Smith are particularly susceptible. Management of bitter rot is through good orchard sanitation. Removing old cankers of other disease such as fireblight and black rot cankers as well as mummified fruit left in the trees will remove the primary inoculum from the orchards. Mulching or removing fruit on the orchard floor will also reduce inoculum and the potential of infection.

From HortMatters newsletter

Major Changes to Compensation Program for Livestock Damaged by Wildlife in Ontario

Tom Hamilton - Beef Program Lead-Production Systems

The Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program came into effect on July 1, 2011. It is part of Growing Forward, a federal, provincial and territorial initiative. It incorporates many significant changes to compensation for the owners of livestock, poultry and bees which are killed and/or damaged by wildlife.

Among the changes is an expanded list of eligible species of animals:

Table 1. Eligible Animal Species

As well, the list of eligible predators has been lengthened.

Alpaca	Llama
Bison	Mule
Cattle	Ostrich
Donkey	Poultry
Emu	Rabbit
Farmed deer	Rhea
Farmed elk	Sheep
Fur-bearing animal	Swine
Goat	Beehives, bee colonies and beehive equipment
Horse	

Compensation for damage to livestock and poultry may be available for wildlife damage caused by:

Table 2. Eligible Predators for Livestock and Poultry Damage

Bear	Hawk
Bobcat	Lynx
Coyote	Mink
Crow	Raccoon
Eagle	Raven
Elk	Turkey vulture
Fisher	Weasel
Fox	Wolf

The program may cover, for beehives, bee colonies and beehive related equipment, wildlife damage caused by:

Table 3. Eligible Predators for Bee Related Damage

Bear	Raccoon
Deer	Skunk

Potential Value of Compensation for Cattle

The maximum potential compensation for registered cattle is \$8,000 per hd. The maximum potential compensation for non-registered cattle is \$2,500 per hd.

Process For Determining Losses For Weaned Beef and Dairy Calves

The award is determined by estimating the weight and using the current price for the class of animal in published industry averages.

For Young Calves (not weaned)

This option represents the minimum standard. Beef calves are assumed to weigh 500 pounds at weaning age. The current market price for a weaned calf is determined by consulting published industry averages. Newborn calves and calves up to 1 month of age are to be compensated at 70 % of weaning value. If the market price of weaned calves is \$1.70 per pound, then a 500 pound calf is valued at \$1.70 x 500 = \$850.

Newborn and calves up to 1 month of age will be compensated at 70 percent of the total value or 70 % x \$850 = \$595.00.

The value increases by 5% per month and reaches full value at 7 months of age. For example, a 2 month old calf is 75% of value, 3 months is 80%, 4 months is 85% and 5 months is 90% and 6 months is 95%.

For more details on the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program and related topics please visit: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/predation.htm#identify>

New OMAFRA Staff

Welcome (back) to Helen Fisher

Dr. K Helen Fisher has joined OMAFRA's Agriculture Development Branch as Tender Fruit and Grape Specialist in Vineland. She will be working with tender fruit and grape growers, researchers and industry to provide them with information and best management practices for these Ontario crops.

Many will remember Helen as the Fruit Crop Specialist at Harrow in the early 1970's, working with orchardists and the fledging grape industry at the time. Helen received her MSc from the University of Guelph and her PhD from Cornell. She joined the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario (HRIO) at Vineland in 1978 and has had a long and distinguished career as a plant physiologist and grape breeder. With the transition of HRIO to the University of Guelph Helen assumed teaching responsibilities in addition to her research activities. She has also taught at Brock University and Niagara College.

Helen is widely known and highly respected in the Niagara region, across Ontario and internationally.

Welcome new Pome Fruit IPM Specialist

Kristy Grigg-McGuffin has been appointed as acting Pome Fruit IPM Specialist for OMAFRA in Simcoe, who is replacing Kathryn Carter presently on leave.

Kristy will be working with apple growers, researchers and industry to provide them with information on managing insects and diseases in Ontario orchards. Her research will involve the following projects:

1. National apple scab and powdery mildew resistance survey
2. Management of apple leaf curling midge and San Jose scale
3. GF-120 in conventional orchards for apple maggot control
4. Status of brown marmorated stink bug in Ontario orchards, and
5. Insecticide resistance testing of codling moth and mites.

Kristy received her MSc in Environmental Biology and Toxicology from University of Guelph, where she studied the susceptibility of codling moth in southwestern Ontario apple orchards to currently recommended insecticides. Prior to her MSc, Kristy worked with OMAFRA in 2008 as the acting vegetable crop specialist for cole crops, root, bulb and leafy vegetables.

New OMAFRA Nutrient Management Horticulture Crops Program Lead

Deanna Nemeth recently joined the ministry as the Horticulture Technology Unit's Nutrient Management Horticulture Crops Program Lead.

Deanna holds a Dip. (Horticulture Production) from Olds College, Alberta, and a B. Sc. (Agriculture Honours) and a M.Sc. (Soil Ecology and Climate Change) from the University of Guelph. Deanna has previously worked as a Special Project Coordinator with the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association. Deanna is pleased to work with of the horticulture industry and will be working out of the OMAFRA Vineland Resource Centre.

Food Industry Update & Training Opportunities

NEW - Online Food Safety Workshops—Register Today!

Reduce your risk of food contamination and expand your customer base by putting in place a food safety program. OMAFRA is here to help you keep up to date on the latest food safety practices! Join these online workshops from the comfort of your home or business. All you need is an internet and phone connection.

- **Hygiene and Sanitation** – November 25, 10:30 am - 12:00 noon. Learn how to implement a worker hygiene program and a building and equipment sanitation program, with good agricultural practices that you can customize for your farm operation.
- **Pre and Post Harvest Water Use** – February 14, 10:30 am – 12:00 noon. A pre and post harvest water use program is an important step in reducing risks of produce contamination. Evaluate your risks and learn

how to construct and monitor a water sanitizing program.

Register today! Call 1-877-424-1300 or register online at <http://omafra.webex.com>.

HACCP III: Train the Trainer

Date: December 1-2, 2011,

Location: GFTC (Guelph, Ontario)

Equip yourself and your HACCP team members with the knowledge and skills to be effective trainers in your facility. Learn to train plant staff on the importance of the HACCP system, the requirements of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs or HACCP Prerequisite Programs) and the essential management of Critical Control Points (CCPs). At the end of the program, you will be able to:

Food Industry Update & Training Opportunities (cont'd)

- Apply the principles of adult learning to your training efforts
- Construct your own HACCP training plan including training sessions for your personnel
- Practice newly acquired training skills (train with confidence)

For registration enquiries, contact Annette Crewson, tel 519.821.1246 ext. 5028 or email acrewson@gftc.ca. For general information on the course, contact Erin Moore, tel 519.821.1246 ext. 5018 or email emoore@gftc.ca or visit the website at www.gftc.ca.

Events

Seeds of Co-operation - Guelph Organic Conference January 26-29

For a full listing of events go to
www.guelphorganicconf.ca

Conference Program

January 26, 2012

- EFAO Courses
- Symposium: Building local organic value chains using co-operative structural models
- Climate Change Charette: Community input leading to workable solutions

January 27, 2012

- EFAO Courses
- Successful Agriculture
 - Introduction to seed production
 - The whole farm approach to managing crops and livestock
- OCO Trade symposium
- Financial viability of small-scale farming
- Organic Food & Wine Dinner
- Keynote Forum

January 28, 2012

- Organic Trade Expo & Tasting Fair
- 20 Workshops

January 29, 2012

- Organic Trade Expo & Tasting Fair
- 8 Seminars

OCO Events

Organic Dinner and Jazz Night at Hart House

Featuring keynote speaker Dr. Ralph Martin, Loblaw Sustainability Chair at the University of Guelph
Date: November 25, 2011 6:00 pm -11:00 pm
Location: Hart House, University of Toronto, 7 Hart House Circle, Toronto, Ontario

Cost: \$125/person, \$95/person for groups of 6 or more

For more information or to order tickets please contact:
info@organiccouncil.ca or call 519.827.1221

2nd Annual Ontario Organic Awards and Dinner

Date: January 28, 2012 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Location: River Run Centre, 35 Woolwich Street, Guelph
Cost: \$45 general public, \$40 students and OCO members

Nomination forms will be available November 15, 2011 and will be accepted until December 20, 2011

For more information or to order tickets please contact:
info@organiccouncil.ca or call 519.827.1221

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention (OFVC)

Date: February 22-23, 2012
Location: Scotiabank Convention Centre, 6815 Stanley Ave., Niagara Falls, Ontario (*NEW LOCATION*)
For more information visit the website at: www.ofvc.ca

Eco Farm Day 2012 – eastern Ontario's premier farm conference

Hosted by the Canadian Organic Growers – Ottawa Chapter

Theme: "Vibrant Business in Organic Agriculture"

Date: February 24-25th, 2012

Location: The Ramada Inn, 805 Brookdale Ave., Cornwall, Ontario

For more information visit the website at www.cog.ca/ottawa/ecofarmday/ or email enquiries to: info@ecofarmday.ca

Society of Ontario Nut Growers Technical Meeting

Date: March 6, 2012. 9:30 am – 4:30pm

Location: The Simcoe Research Station, 1283 Blueline Rd., Simcoe, Ontario.

Cost: \$15 includes lunch. Call Bruce Thurston at 519-740-6220 to register for lunch or visit the website for more information www.songonline.ca.

Cover Crop Open House

Wednesday, 9th November 2011

For commercial growers and agribusinesses

Near Chatham and Ridgetown, Ontario

Two locations – Different things to see at both sites

9:30 am at OSCIA demonstration site – 400m west of 911#
10708 Northwood Rd. between the Mull and
Harwich Roads –Look for solar panel.

11 am across the road of 911# 20701 Victoria Rd (formally
21 Hwy), north of Gosnell Line (Near Ridgetown).

Lunch provided after the tour

- No cost. No preregistration required. CCA credits have been applied for
- Missed last year's Open House – Come see cover crop growth this year
- Worth the extra cost? – Compare oilseed radish common vs. named varieties
- Cover crops were planted after tomatoes, snap beans, sweet corn and seed corn
- Many different cover crops (alfalfa, red clover, vetch, crimson clover, forage pea, oilseed radish, mustard, ryegrass, as well as mixtures)
- Funding provided by OSCIA Nutrient Management BMP Demonstration Grant, Seed Corn Growers of Ontario and OMAFRA.

For more information, contact Prof. Laura Van Eerd at University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus at 519 674-1500 x63644
lvaneerd@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca .

Links to Organic Agriculture Information

Organic Council of Ontario (OCO)
<http://www.organiccouncil.ca>

Ecological Farmers of Ontario (EFO)
<http://www.efao.ca>

Canadian Organic Growers (COG)
<http://www.cog.ca>

Organic Agricultural Centre of Canada (OACC)
<http://www.oacc.info>

OMAFRA Organic Agriculture
<http://www.ontario.ca/organic>

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