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## Welcome to “ON Organic”

*Evan Elford, New Crop Development Specialist, OMAFRA*

The festive season has arrived and with it comes the opportunity to attend training sessions or educational events over the next few months. Many online and e-learning courses for organic agriculture are now available which makes it easier to access organic resources at your convenience. Examples of e-learning courses through the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada for winter 2012 are provided in the newsletter.

During the busy holiday season don't forget about nominations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ontario Organic Awards. Nomination forms are available from the Organic Council of Ontario and will be accepted until December 20<sup>th</sup> (details in the Events section). Thank you to EFAO, OCO and our other partners for continuing to distribute this newsletter to your members and contacts.

Wishing you all the very best this holiday season from ON Organic!

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/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

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# Pay Attention to Grain Quality This Year: Moulds and Mycotoxins

Mario S. Mongeon, Livestock Specialist, OMAFRA

Mycotoxin is a generic term that is used for the toxic chemical products produced by fungi that colonize crops and stored feed. One mould species may produce more than one type of mycotoxin and the same mycotoxin may be produced by various species of mould. Aflatoxin, Zearalenone and Vomitoxin (DON) are examples of mycotoxins.

Moulds can develop on various types of feed, at various growth stages, before harvest or during storage. For example, when weather conditions are right for the growth of moulds, they can grow on grain kernels still attached to the plant in the field. Corn and wheat are examples of grain that can show significant levels of mycotoxins at harvest. Moulds can also proliferate on stored feed like corn silage if oxygen leaks in the silage mass.

Moulds and mycotoxins have a major impact on feedstuff and livestock production. Mouldy feeds are less palatable and may reduce dry matter intake. This in turn leads to a reduction of nutrient intake, reducing weight gains or milk production. Performance losses of 5 - 10% are typical with mouldy feeds even in the absence of mycotoxins. Mycotoxins can impair animal performance and change their normal metabolism. The animal immune function is the main target of toxin effects. Animals under some sort of stress are most susceptible to the toxins and thus, more at risk. Lameness, heat stress and improper ration balancing are examples of stressors. Toxins can cause problems even when consumed at extremely low levels, even when moulds are not readily visible. In other words, you can't tell by looking at the feedstuff, testing is the only way to know.

An OMAFRA ear corn mould survey conducted last fall revealed that some fields had elevated levels of vomitoxins (DON). Severity varied across the province but about 12% of the fields that were sampled showed levels between 2 to 4 parts per million (ppm). A few fields even had levels in excess of 4 ppm. Other sources have reported greater concentrations in some samples. In one case, a silo full of high moisture corn has been analyzed at 12 ppm of DON! Some other data suggests that Zearalenone could be trending higher, more so than vomitoxin/DON.

When mycotoxins are believed to be present, grain and silage should be tested to get an accurate measurement of the mycotoxin concentration. This will help in determining how the feed can be used. If a lab analysis detects Zearalenone or DON, it is most likely that other mycotoxins are present as well. Although ruminants are less susceptible than some monogastrics, lactating dairy cows can tolerate a maximum of 1 ppm DON in the total

ration, on a dry matter basis. Young pre-ruminant and high producing cows are most susceptible to the effects of mycotoxins in the dairy herd.

When mycotoxins are suspected to be the culprits, laboratory testing of all individual ingredients, grains and silage, for mycotoxins is a useful step in determining levels of total dietary mycotoxins and assessing potential problems. If mycotoxins are present, an effective solution is to dilute contaminated grains and silages with uncontaminated ingredients when mixing feed for your herd. The concern level indicates favorable conditions for mycotoxin production (Table 1). Further testing may be required, especially if moderate symptoms are present. The amount of suspect feed included in the ration should be limited, especially if performance and/or health symptoms persist. When mycotoxins reach potentially harmful levels, the toxins might be involved in depressed performance and/or acute clinical symptoms. If severe production decreases occur and/or acute clinical symptoms appear, the use of the suspected feed should be discontinued until further testing is performed.

**Table 1. Suggested guidelines on mycotoxin levels in the ration**  
Total Ration (on a Dry Matter basis)

Mycotoxin	Concern Level (ppm)	Potentially Harmful	
		Cattle (ppm)	Swine (ppm)
DON/Vomitoxin	0.56	2.5 to 6.0	0.6 to 1.0
Zearaleonone	0.56	3.9 to 7.0	0.6 to 3.9
T-2	0.25	0.7 to 1.5	0.7 to 1.5
HT-2	0.25	1.5 to 3.0	1.5 to 3.0

(Adapted from Penn State)

Several strategies can be considered to alleviate the effect of mycotoxins. For instance, cleaning mouldy grains to remove fine particles, dust and lighter grains can substantially reduce mycotoxin concentration. In a similar vein, diluting problematic feed with tested, toxin-free feeds can bring down the level of mycotoxins in the total ration to acceptable levels. Production problems experienced may not be solely caused by mycotoxin. Mouldy ingredients may reduce palatability of the total ration thus reducing total dry matter intake. Before setting an inclusion rate of a contaminated ingredient, the mycotoxin level as well as its impact on dry matter intake should be considered.

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## Pay Attention to Grain Quality This Year: Moulds and Mycotoxins (cont'd)

When contaminated grains are used to produce ethanol, the fermentation process does not break down the toxins. In fact, the by-product of the fermentation will have a much greater level of mycotoxins because they have been concentrated during the distilling process. Toxin levels in corn distillers' grains are approximately three times higher than the toxin level in the original grain corn prior to the ethanol fermentation process. Before buying a load of corn distillers' grains or similar material, it is wise to ask for a laboratory report for mycotoxins.

As well as having feed ingredients analysed, consult your veterinarian and nutritionist. They can help you determine an appropriate management strategy to work through your mycotoxin situation. For more information, please visit: [www.ontario.ca/feedquality](http://www.ontario.ca/feedquality)

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## OMAFRA Articles

### Manure - Tackling the Frequently Asked Questions

Christine Brown, Nutrient Management Lead - Field Crops/OMAFRA

When fertilizer prices start to increase so do the number of questions asked about manure! Manure is a carefully guarded treasure - black gold - for livestock producers that have figured out the nutrient and organic matter value. However, this is a relatively new concept for many crop producers that have access to manure or other organic materials.

#### ***Why bother with manure?***

Manure is nutrient rich and organic matter rich. However, just as with commercial fertilizers, manure must be managed to ensure the nutrients stay where they were applied. In addition to the nutrients found in commercial fertilizers (NPK), manure also has micro-nutrients, such as sulphur, zinc, manganese and calcium, and micro-organisms (including some pathogens) that benefit the soil and add diversity. Similar to commercial fertilizers, the value is only as good as the distribution. Uniform application using calibrated equipment is essential.

#### ***What is the difference between liquid and solid manure?***

Apart from the obvious differences between liquid and solid manures, the biggest difference is nutrient composition. Phosphorus tends to be higher in solid manure, while potassium tends to be higher in liquid manure. The nitrogen composition makes the nitrogen from liquid manure more like commercial nitrogen sources, while solid manure nitrogen behaves almost as a slow-release nitrogen form. As a result, liquid manure can supply over half of a corn crop's nitrogen needs, while most cattle, sheep, or horse solid manure applications will require significant additional nitrogen.

#### ***When is the best time to apply manure?***

Applying liquid manure before or into a growing crop is the best method of maximizing nutrients while minimizing environmental impact.

#### ***Weather isn't co-operating with my application plans. What are my options?***

Soils are saturated and field tiles are running at full capacity. With a wet spring season and this fall's continuing wet weather, many manure storages are at, or close to capacity. A large acreage of corn is still standing in the field and risk of field damage from soil compaction makes any field work prohibitive, especially on heavier soils. The following are a few options for manure application during a wet autumn. However in doing so, risk of water contamination from subsurface drainage systems and surface runoff must be considered.

1. Is this the year for custom application? A custom applicator with site specific or GPS capabilities is able to map where manure has been applied and at what rate, so that commercial fertilizer supplementation becomes easier next spring.
2. Consider alternative storage if available. Some neighbours may have sold their livestock, but still have manure storage space that could be "rented".
3. Injection of liquid manure is not a good option in wet soils. Wet soils smear more easily, especially when combined with additional and concentrated liquids at each injection point. Surface application onto crop residue or cover crops, followed by tillage at the earliest opportunity, will cause the least amount of compaction damage in wet soils.
4. If manure must be applied to snow covered fields, consider the soil under the snow. If the soil is frozen under the snow cover, the risk of snow melt combined with rain leading to contaminated runoff is high. Where will the runoff move? The nutrients may not be where they were intended.

5. Spread on fields or parts of fields with the least slope. Ideally, start with fields where there is no access to surface water. Water flow patterns are obvious in most fields during continued wet periods. Take note of those areas and avoid manure application where there is evidence of ponded water or "streams" through the field.
6. Keep your distance from watercourses. Normally under good spreading conditions, the recommended distance between liquid application and the watercourse is 13 meters (40 ft). Under winter contingency applications, the separation distance should be increased. In the nutrient management regulations, the minimum setback for liquid manure application increases to 100 meters (330 ft) with winter application where slope to the watercourse is greater than 3%.
7. Surface inlets or hickenbottoms act as a direct conduit to surface water. In a wet year, the risk of water contaminated with manure moving through surface inlets increases.
8. Keep application rates as low as possible - 5,600 imperial gallons (6,800 US gal) is the equivalent to ¼ inch (6 mm) evenly applied across spread width. Consider the soil conditions at the time of application. If a quarter inch of rain fell in one minute, would it runoff or move?
9. For all manure application options, monitoring is essential to ensure that contamination of water sources does not occur. Just in case, the Spills Action Centre number is 1-800-268-6060. Murphy's Law - if the farm's contingency plan has been reviewed in advance, it probably won't be needed.

### **When should manure be incorporated?**

Manure should be incorporated as quickly as possible after application. The key to incorporation is having the nutrients distributed uniformly though the seedbed. Injection is considered a form of incorporation. Injection is advantageous for reducing odour and decreasing loss from volatilization, especially with liquids.

### **How much fertilizer value will manure have?**

Fertilizer value varies with manure type and livestock type. Feed rations, storage and addition of bedding or waste water will influence the nutrients applied. It is recommended that manure is sampled for nutrient analysis at the time of application.

### **How do I take a manure sample?**

A manure sample is easiest to obtain at the time of application. The best method to know what nutrients were applied to the field is to take samples from various loads during application and then mix the subsamples to obtain one representative sample. If there is variation in the storage (not agitated or a solid manure pile), taking a sample for each field where manure is applied will give

more accurate results and reveal how much variation there is in the storage.

### **How do I interpret an analysis?**

A manure analysis should include dry matter, total nitrogen, ammonium nitrogen (NH<sub>4</sub>-N), phosphorus, and potassium. For solid manure, the carbon:nitrogen ratio (C:N ratio) will also be useful, especially where bedding is used.

- *Nitrogen* Total N - NH<sub>4</sub>-N = Organic N Organic N = slow release (20-30% available in year of application) NH<sub>4</sub>-N = quickly available (decreases as it remains unincorporated)
- *Phosphorus* liquid: (% P x 1.84) x 100 = lbs/1000 gal of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> added to soil solid: (% P x 1.84) x 20 = lbs/ton of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> added to soil. Where soil fertility levels are very low, only a portion of the phosphorus will be available in the year of application.
- *Potash* liquid: (% K x 1.08) x 100 = lbs/1000 gal of K<sub>2</sub>O added to soil solid: (% K x 1.08) x 20 = lbs/ton of K<sub>2</sub>O added to soil

From OMAFRA Crop Talk newsletter

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/news/croptalk/2011/ct-1111a2.htm>

## **Frost Seeding Forages - How to Plan Ahead For Success**

Gilles Quesnel, Field Crop IPM Program Lead/OMAFRA

"Frost seeding" is the broadcasting of forage seed on frozen ground in late-winter or early-spring. Frost seeding can be an effective way of improving the forage quality and yield of thinning pastures and hay fields. It allows for the establishment of forages in an undisturbed sod at reduced cost and also shortens the non-grazing period in the spring.

The key to successful forage establishment with frost seeding is to start planning the fall of the prior year. For frost seeding to be successful, the top growth of the existing stand needs to be removed in late fall.

This accomplishes two things:

1. exposes bare soil for improved seed-to-soil contact at seeding time, and
2. reduces the vigour and competition of the existing stand in early spring.

### **Site Selection**

For seeds to germinate there needs to be good seed-to-soil contact. The best sites for successful frost seeding are thinning grass stands with some exposed soil. Seedling establishment will be improved by overgrazing or clipping

the stand to 5 cm (2 inches) the previous fall (Figure 1). This will open the sod, allowing for greater freezing and thawing action. This results in better seed-to-soil contact and will also weaken the existing plant growth to reduce early competition. Frost seeding is least successful in fields with thick sod.



**Figure 1. Canopy clipped to 2 inches with bare soil visible**

### *Time of Seeding*

For most of Ontario, the best time to frost seed is from mid-March to early-April, once the snow is all or nearly all melted. Ideally, the ground freezes and thaws at least 2 to 3 times after the seed is broadcasted. This freeze-thaw action helps to incorporate the seeds into the soil surface. Avoid frost seeding on top of snow where run-off from rapid snow melt will wash the seed away.

### *Equipment*

While a grain drill is ideal for uniform seed placement and distribution, drills are not likely able to handle the frozen ground and snow conditions that occur when frost seeding is typically done. Frost seeding is most often done using a spinner-spreader on an all-terrain vehicle (ATV), snowmobile or tractor. In small areas or areas that are very rough, a hand-held broadcaster may be the preferred option.

### *Species Selection*

Red clover is the easiest forage species to successfully frost seed. (Figure 2) The seed is dense, which improves seed-soil contact. It also germinates at low temperatures

and has high seedling vigour, allowing it to start growing early in the spring. However, it is short-lived, so frost seeding of red clover may have to be done every 2 - 3 years or so.

Birdsfoot trefoil and white clover have been frost seeded with varying degrees of success. Trefoil is more difficult and slower to establish than red clover, but it has the advantage in pasture situations of being "non-bloating". Once established, it will grow well under a wide range of growing conditions. It has the ability to reseed itself, so it persists much longer than red clover.



**Figure 2. Frost seeded red clover at 3rd trifoliolate**

Alfalfa is not well suited for frost seeding because auto-toxicity prevents new alfalfa seedlings to grow in the presence of a mature alfalfa plant.

Grass species are much more difficult than legumes to frost seed successfully. Research at the University of Wisconsin by Dr. Dan Undersander demonstrated greater establishment success with orchardgrass and Italian (annual) ryegrass than with timothy or reed canarygrass. Smooth brome grass was intermediate for successful frost seeding establishment, but it is more winter hardy and persists longer than orchardgrass or Italian ryegrass.

From OMAFRA newsletter Crop Talk. Full article available at: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/news/croptalk/2011/ct-1111a3.htm>

## Now Available: 2012 Ontario Forage Crop Variety Performance Brochure

Copies will be mailed directly to producers as inserts in the next dairy, beef and sheep magazines. Individuals and agri-businesses can request hard copies from David Morris, Secretary Ontario Forage Crops Committee [davidtmorris@rogers.com](mailto:davidtmorris@rogers.com)

The PDF version of the Brochure can also be viewed and downloaded online at [www.GoForages.ca](http://www.GoForages.ca).

## New Publications

**Growing Strawberries Organically** is the newest handbook published by Canadian Organic Growers (COG) in its Practical Skills series of technical manuals for organic agriculture. The book and the series continue COG's commitment and success in educating organic and transitioning growers.

Consumer demand is pushing organic production to be the fastest-growing sector in agriculture, and this book will help all Canadian strawberry growers enter this high-demand market. This informative handbook is also relevant to any producer who wishes to reduce chemical applications, thereby saving money.

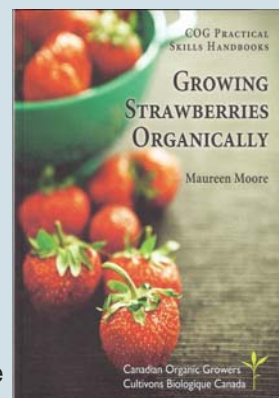
"Consumers frequently contact us to find where they can buy organic strawberries or u-picks, since conventional strawberries rank very high for pesticide residues." said Beth McMahon, Executive Director of COG. "But there are large gaps in the marketplace and many communities across Canada that have no local berry production."

In organic systems, caring for the soil is key, both to provide growing nutrients and to reduce pressure from weeds, pests and diseases. *Growing Strawberries Organically* is based on farm-tested cultural practices and includes the stories of several Canadian growers sharing what works and what doesn't, with advice on topics as diverse as cover crops, insect control, marketing and "weeder geese."

The Practical Skills series and other handbooks are available from Canadian Organic Growers on the web at [www.cog.ca](http://www.cog.ca) or by phone at 1-888-375-7383 (Canada) or 1-613-216-0741. The cost is \$22.00.

*Growing Strawberries Organically* was funded in part through adaptation programming provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. We wish to acknowledge the support of the following organizations for making this publication possible: the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia, the Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council, the New Brunswick Agriculture Council / Conseil Agricole Nouveau-Brunswick, the Territorial Farmers Association and the Yukon Agricultural Association.

For more information on these or other learning opportunities please visit the OACC website at [www.organicagcentre.ca/Courses/course\\_web.asp](http://www.organicagcentre.ca/Courses/course_web.asp)



## Organic Agriculture Courses

### Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC) Web-based Learning Opportunities

The OACC offers many web-based courses throughout the year. Participants can enrol and participate in courses from any location. The Winter 2012 Courses currently being offered include:

- [Key Indicators of Agroecosystem Sustainability](#)
- [Organic Crop Production on the Prairies](#)
- [Organic Field Crop Management](#)
- [Organic Livestock Production](#)
- [Weed Control in Organic Agriculture](#)

# 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.

- **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>.

**Guelph Food Technology Centre**  
**Growing markets in the “better-for-you” food sector ... kosher, vegetarian, clean labels**  
Date: January 25, 2012

Location: Pearson Convention Centre, Brampton, Ontario

There are approximately eight million vegetarians in the United States and 1.4 million in Canada. To meet this consumer demand, COR - The Kashruth Council of Canada, Canada's largest kosher certification agency, working with the Toronto Vegetarian and Vegan Association, is rolling out a vegetarian and vegan certification to accompany its kosher certification called “VegeCert”. Come and hear about this exciting new initiative.

Attend this informative educational session where you will gain insight about this new certification available to food processors, explore the potential opportunities and get all your questions answered by Richard Rabkin, Director of Marketing & Business Development with the [Kashruth Council of Canada](#).

For more information call Denise Horseman at 519-821-1246 ext. 5068 or via email [dhorseman@gftc.ca](mailto:dhorseman@gftc.ca).

## Events

### **Southwest Agricultural Conference**

Date: January 4-5, 2012

Location: University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus, Ridgetown

For more information visit the website at [www.southwestagconference.ca](http://www.southwestagconference.ca)

### **Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association Convention**

Date: January 9-11, 2012

Location: Niagara Falls, Ontario

For more information visit the website at [www.ofvga.org](http://www.ofvga.org) or contact Deanna Hutton 519-763-6160-ext.116

### **Ontario Apple Growers Annual Meeting**

Date: January 9, 2012

Location: Niagara Falls, Ontario

For more information visit the website at [www.onapples.ca](http://www.onapples.ca) or contact Kelly Ciceran 905-688-0990

### **North American Raspberry and Blackberry Growers Association annual meeting**

Date: Jan 16-18, 2012

Location: Sandusky, Ohio

Held in conjunction with the Ohio Produce Growers and Marketers Congress. <http://www.raspberryblackberry.com/>

Includes 1/2 day workshop: **Fundamentals of raspberry and blackberry production** on Jan 17.

### **Seeds of Co-operation - Guelph Organic Conference**

Date: January 26-29, 2012

Location: University Center at the University of Guelph

For a full listing of events please visit the website:

[www.guelphorganicconf.ca](http://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

### **EFO Workshops at the Guelph Organic Conference**

Date: January 26-27, 2012

Location: OMAFRA Building, 1 Stone Road, Guelph (NW corner of Stone Rd. and Gordon St.)

#### ***Essentials of Ecological Farming – New Farmer Focus (Jan 26 & Jan 27) 9am – 4pm***

Learn the basic principles that are essential to successful ecological farming! We'll cover soil biology and fertility, basic crop rotation and weed control, livestock husbandry and manure management/composting, and touch on farm business economics and organic certification. Two successful new farmers will share case studies of their farms, presenting how they apply many different organic management strategies for successful growing!  
*Cost: \$120 EFO members, \$140 for non-members.*

#### ***Digging Deeper into Soils – Exploring and Understanding Different Approaches to Monitoring Soil Health and Fertility (Thurs Jan 26) 10am – 4pm***

Many different approaches to soil testing have been used and promoted by organic farming practitioners. How does a farmer make sense of the conflicting info these approaches present? How do you interpret an analysis so it tells you the real story, or fits with what you're seeing in the field or bin? Explore the various approaches and methods of soil testing and analysis such as Reams, Albrecht, Bio-dynamic, Soil Food Web and others. Bring your soil tests!

*Cost: \$35 EFO members, \$50 for non-members.*

#### ***Ecological Beekeeping (Fri Jan 27) 10am—4pm***

Pollinators are one of the most essential parts of a healthy agro-ecosystem, and are critical to both farming and food. Learn some of the most important ways that you can keep and encourage healthy bees using ecological apiculture practices, and troubleshoot with other beekeepers. Join us for this participatory session!

*Cost: \$35 EFO members, \$50 for non-members.*

For more info and to register please contact Karen in the EFO office at 1.877.822.8606 or email [info@efao.ca](mailto:info@efao.ca).

### **2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:info@organiccouncil.ca) or call 519-827-1221

### **N.A. Farm Direct Marketing Conference**

Date: February 10-16, 2012

Location: Williamsburg, VA, USA

For more information visit the website at [www.nafdma.com](http://www.nafdma.com) or contact Charlie Touchette 413-529-0386.

### **Ontario Berry Growers Association Annual Meeting**

Date: Feb 21, 2012

Location: Embassy Suites Hotel, Niagara Falls (during the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention). Watch the conference website for details at [www.ofvc.ca](http://www.ofvc.ca)

Condensed version of the berry program:

#### **Tuesday, February 21, 2012 - Embassy Suites Hotel, Niagara Falls**

- Introducing Summer Evening – A New June Bearing Strawberry Selection, Adam Dale
- Grower Profile – Avonmore Berry Farm, David and Pam Philips
- Virus Diseases in Strawberry and Raspberry, Pam Fisher, OMAFRA
- Innovation and Project Results for Raspberries in California, Mark Bolda, University of California
- The Do's and Don'ts with Herbicides in Plasticsulture, Kristen Callow, OMAFRA

#### **OBGA Annual Meeting & Lunch**

- New Regulation 119/11 - Implications for labelling and packaging berry crops, Suzete Moniz, OMAFRA
- Employee Recruiting and Management, Michelle Herrle, Herrle's Country Farm Market
- How to get day-neutrals ready for winter and other research results, B.Hughes, University of Guelph

#### **Round Table Discussions:**

1. Food Safety Audits and Traceability – What you need to know, Colleen Haskins, OMAFRA
2. Labelling and Packaging Regulations, Suzete Moniz, OMAFRA
3. Wildlife Management, Mike Gatt, MNR
4. Employee Recruiting and Management, Michelle Herrle
5. Dealing with Charitable Donations Paul Ralph, Cedar Hill Farm and Alf Krause, Krause Berry Farms

## Events (cont'd)

### Wednesday, February 22, 2011 – Scotiabank Convention Center, Niagara Falls

- Why Raspberries Like Tunnels, Dr. Adam Dale, University of Guelph
- Marketing and Promotion Opportunities for Berries, Jenn VanDeVelde, Wholesome Pickins, Delhi
- Managing Wildlife on the Farm, Mike Gatt, MNR
- Management of Nematodes in Berry Crops (with or without fumigants), Dr. George Bird, Michigan State University
- Farm Profile – Krause Berry Farms, Alf Krause, Krause Berry Farms, Langley, BC
- National Berry Marketing Initiative Update Karen Fenske, StratPoint Solutions, B.C.
- California Strawberry Production and Innovations, Mark Bolda, University of California
- Biology and Management of Spotted Wing Drosophila in Berry Crops, Rufus Isaacs, Michigan
- Managing Black Root Rot in Strawberries, Michael Celetti, OMAFRA, Guelph

### 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](http://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 24–25<sup>th</sup>, 2012

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

For more information visit the website at [www.cog.ca/ottawa/ecofarmday/](http://www.cog.ca/ottawa/ecofarmday/) or email enquiries to: [info@ecofarmday.ca](mailto:info@ecofarmday.ca)

### Society of Ontario Nut Growers Technical Meeting

Date: March 6, 2012. 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

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](http://www.songonline.ca).

## Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act (AODA)

Starting January 1, 2012, accessible customer service comes into effect for all Ontario businesses and organizations with one or more employee.

For more information please visit the website at <http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/accessibility/>

### 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 of Ontario (EFO)

<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)