



# OSCIA News...

November 2008

A NEWSLETTER TO UPDATE OSCIA MEMBERS,  
PRESIDENTS, SECRETARIES, TREASURERS, DIRECTORS,  
AND OMAFRA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT CONTACTS —

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## OSCIA 2009 ANNUAL MEETING

**Date:** February 3 & 4, 2009  
**Place:** Sheraton Fallsview  
Niagara Falls

## Message from the President

The September meeting with the Regional Communications Coordinators in southern Ontario was as successful as the previous meeting held in Kingston in July. A lively exchange of ideas and discussion of responsibilities took place.

I can report that all regions are in the process of selecting their provincial Directors to attend the OSCIA Annual Meeting in February. The Executive are in the process of completing arrangements for this event.

We wish to congratulate this year's county winners of the Ontario Forage Masters program. The final competition is being held in conjunction with the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. The Ontario Forage Master's final competition is sponsored by Pickseed Canada, Agri-Food Laboratories, Dey's Equipment Centre (Tillsonburg), and the OSCIA.

The Board of the OSCIA is pleased to congratulate Brent Kennedy on his promotion from Manager of Agricultural Development Branch of OMAFRA to Director of their Client Services Division.

Brent sat on the OSCIA board for close to ten years in an ex-officio capacity. His extensive knowledge of the Association and its activities was apparent in the guidance he provided. The board will certainly miss the support and counsel that Brent brought to the table. We wish him well in his new role.

Seed Fair Grants are available to local associations for the fall and winter of 2008/2009. Ten grants are available on a first-come, first-served basis for those associations who have a firm date set for the event.

This year's corn harvest is well under way following a bountiful soy crop. Soil and Crop projects will soon be completed for this year, and results tabulated. ♦



*Pat Lee*

## Local Annual Meetings

Need a gift idea for your local annual meeting? What about an OSCIA vest and matching hat?



Double-sided fleece vests with the OSCIA logo embroidered, and embroidered OSCIA hats are available for your local association to use at upcoming winter meetings as gifts for a special member or speaker, or as fundraising items at upcoming local annual meetings. Also available are OSCIA member gate signs, Tru-Chek rain gauges, and copies of the 2008 Crop Advances books highlighting results from all the 2008 OSCIA / OMAFRA trials across Ontario.

These items are available to local and regional associations on a cost-recovery basis by contacting the provincial office. ♦

## Promote Your Local Association

OSCIA has four new stand-up displays that highlight the grassroots involvement, membership, and activities of local Soil and Crop Improvement Associations.

These displays work well as a group, and can also be very effective when displayed individually.

This item can be provided to local and regional SCIA's by contacting the provincial office. ♦

Visit the OSCIA website  
[www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org)

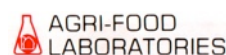
## 2008 Ontario Forage Masters Program

The presentation for the 2008 Ontario Forage Master will take place on November 12. Watch for results on the OSCIA website. In the meantime, the top three winners of each county can be found at [www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org), under the Forage Masters menu.

The person selected as the **2008 Ontario Forage Master** will represent Ontario at the Forage

Spokesperson Competition held as part of the American Forage and Grasslands Council conference in June 2009 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Once again, OSCIA is grateful to the generous sponsorship of this program from the following sponsors:

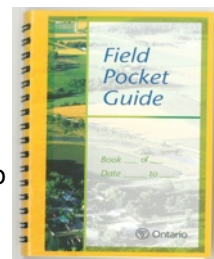


Special thanks to Dey's Equipment Centre of Tillsonburg for their sponsorship of the final competition. ♦

## Field Pocket Guide

Thank you for your feedback!

The Field Pocket Guide is currently distributed free of charge to producers who visit OSCIA displays at regional agricultural conferences, as well as at EFP workshops that are held across the province.



This Fall, your feedback was invited to ensure that it continues to suit your needs. Thank you for your comments. A draw was made from the names of contributors, and on October 10th, the prize of a \$50 gift card was awarded to Larry Davis from Burford.

Look for a new and improved 2009 version coming soon!

## Nutrient Management Outreach Grant

OMAFRA has allocated funding to support new communication activities of regional SCIA's that promote the adoption of NM BMPs to the non-regulated (Nutrient Management Act) farm population.

Up to \$4,000 per project is available on a first-come, first-served basis to support these activities.

All regional SCIA's are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Complete details were distributed at an earlier date, and are yet available, along with application forms, on the OSCIA website [www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org).

Get your members involved! ♦

## Nutrient Management BMP Demonstration Grant

OMAFRA has allocated funding to promote innovative demonstration and validation field projects related directly to improving the management of nutrients on

agricultural lands, and targeting any producers not regulated by the NM Act.

To date, half of the funding has been allocated for approved projects:

- Exploring the NM Ramifications of ESN Nitrogen Fertilizer in Winter Wheat Production - Middlesex SCIA
- Manure on Pasture: Getting It Right - New Liskeard Agricultural Research Station
- Demonstrating Agronomic Efficiency, Apparent Nutrient Recovery and BMP in Sweet Potato, Asian Vegetables, and Broccoli - Simcoe Research Station
- Vegetated Filter Strip Monitoring Project - Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
- Greenhouse Water Run-off Recycling and NM - Soil Research Group

A total of ten grants were made available. ♦

### Cover Crops Conference

The Midwest Cover Crop Council (MCCC) is a diverse group of farmers, researchers, extension, and agri-business personnel. MCCC evaluates cover crops for: adaptation into all types of crop rotations, impact to producers bottom line, and environmental improvements.

For more cover crop information and relevant publications, visit the Council's website at <http://www.mccc.msu.edu/>.

The MCCC will be hosting a meeting in Windsor ON on February 10-11, 2009. For more information on the conference, please contact Anne Verhallen, OMAFRA Soil Management Specialist, Horticulture ([anne.verhallen@ontario.ca](mailto:anne.verhallen@ontario.ca) or phone her at 519-674-1614). ♦

### OSCIA Grant Deadlines

The deadline for local and regional associations to submit their claims for association grants is November 30, 2008.

Local and regional associations are encouraged to submit applications (claims) for projects that are complete. ♦

### OSCIA Awards

#### Soil and Water Conservation Farm Award:

The purpose of this award is to recognize, reward, and acknowledge farmers who practice excellent soil and

water management on their farms, as well as provide high profile to the basic principles of conservation. This is a resin all-weather sign measuring 16" x 19".

**Recognition Certificate:** This certificate is designed to recognize individuals in your community who have contributed to the organization. When requesting the certificate, please indicate the recipient's name and date of presentation. This is a paper certificate, suitable for framing, measuring 8½" x 11".

These awards are ideal for presentation at annual meetings. Both are available by calling Evelyn Howse at the provincial office (1-800-265-9751). Please allow 2 weeks for preparation and shipping time. ♦

### Bioenergy & Manure Management-Related Information

Visit <http://gis.lrs.uoguelph.ca/AgriEnvArchives/bioenergy/bioenergy.html>

Check it out!

### Agriculture in Action

Business, livestock and crop specialists in the Agriculture Development Branch of OMAFRA work diligently to advance the many facets of agri-business in Ontario. Highlights of numerous initiatives undertaken in 2007-2008 are presented as a resource guide in Agriculture in Action, Agriculture Development Branch Research and Programs.

New and existing members of OSCIA may not be aware of the breadth of information and resources available for their use.

Check out the website at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/ag.html>. ♦

### ATTENTION SEED GROWERS

Watch for the notice of the OSGA Annual Meeting coming to your door in November.

The meeting is taking place on Tuesday, December 2 at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in London.