



# OSCIA News...

November 2009

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

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## OSCIA 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

**Date:** February 2 & 3, 2010

**Place:** Sheraton Fallsview  
Niagara Falls

## Message from the President

2009 has been a year of change: the size of the provincial Board was reduced from 19 Directors to 11 to represent the 11 regions in the province. We signed a new 3-year agreement with OMAFRA which signalled another round of Project, Major, Communication and Partner Grants in the counties, districts and regions of Ontario. Many of the ongoing projects will be profiled at our annual meeting in February in Niagara Falls as well as being available in Crop Advances. Many regions took advantage of the Nutrient Management Outreach Grants this year to demonstrate and educate "Best Management Practices" in fertility of the soil.



*Murray Cochrane*

If you have not visited our website lately, it has changed. You will like the new look, the quality of information available, and excellent search feature.

At a recent strategic planning meeting attended by all Directors and several OSCIA staff, it was apparent that local association development, communication and developing strong partnerships with government, universities and other organizations would be paramount to the success of our organization. We continue talks and wish to strengthen our strategic partnership with OMAFRA and the University of Guelph on research outreach through Knowledge Translation and Transfer (KTT).

I had the opportunity to represent OSCIA this past year at a number of forums related to agriculture. There are going to be opportunities and challenges in the future, and we have to be ready to meet them head-on to succeed.

Local association annual meetings will be taking place soon. I encourage you to attend and invite a neighbour to join you. The quality of the projects and guest speakers presented at these meetings are exceptional. If you can spare the time, get involved - a good organization requires hard work and dedication from its members.

As the holiday season approaches, take time to reflect and enjoy family and friends. ♦

## OSCIA Regional NM 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 (NM Act) farm population.

Up to \$4,000 per project is available on a first-come, first-served basis to support regional activities directly related to increasing awareness and adoption of nutrient management regionally.

This grant is available to all regions each year. Contact the provincial office at 1-800-265-9751 with questions. ♦

## GYFP - New Program Manager

Recently, Angela Leach said goodbye to OSCIA to pursue other interests, and in her place, a new Program Manager for Farm Business Management was hired.

Mike Terpstra was raised on a dairy farm in Peterborough County and attended the University of Guelph, completing a Bachelor's of Science degree in Agricultural Business and also a Masters of Science in Agriculture Economics.

After graduating, he worked for six years as the Policy Advisor for the Chicken Farmers of Ontario and the last eleven years with the Royal Bank as an Agricultural Account Manager specializing in Agriculture and Agri-business.

Mike lives in Guelph with his wife Shelley and two children (Megan 11, and Carter 7). Says Mike "I am excited to have joined OSCIA and am looking forward to helping the Growing Forward Business Development for Farm Businesses be a great success for Ontario farmers". ♦



## OSCIA / OMAFRA Grant Guidelines

The 2010 Grant Guidelines are currently being prepared for the coming year.

Changes have been made to the requirements for claims under the Regional Communication Grants that regions will wish to read carefully.

Additional funding is being included in Major Grants for 2010 to provide the opportunity for more local associations to participate in projects.

For the 2009/2010 fall and winter seed fairs, the Ontario Seed Growers' Association (OSGA) has stepped forward as a co-sponsor with OSCIA. OSGA has included some interesting requirements for eligibility that are outlined in detail in the Grant Guidelines.

The 2010 Grant Guideline package will be mailed to local and regional SCIA presidents and secretaries very shortly. ♦

## OSCIA AT CANADA'S OUTDOOR FARM SHOW

Approximately 43,800 people swelled the population of Woodstock for this year's 16th annual COFS. Superb weather helped draw the crowds and since not a raindrop fell from setup to take-down of the tented city, the site hardly noticed the strain.

OSCIA members enjoyed complimentary admission tickets to the show and a brunch. A special thanks to Bayer CropScience for sponsoring this brunch. A total of 1,170 members and their guests were fed during the three days, after which they visited the OSCIA site for information sessions and a tour of the expanded test plot site.

OSCIA and OMAFRA Crop Technology staff presented a number of hands-on demonstrations and displays.

This year's plot displays highlighted:

- IP Soybean Herbicide Options
- Valuing Crop Residues
- Starter Fertilizer Strategies
- Adding Organic Material to Build Better Soils
- Plots of Biomass Energy and Bio-product crops
- An Engineered Wetland used to treat agricultural, milkhouse or greenhouse runoff.



*OSCIA members enjoy the complimentary brunch at the Show, sponsored by Bayer CropScience.*

*- photo by C. Brown, OMAFRA*

Inside the OSCIA/OMAFRA tent, members appreciated displays featuring: 2009 Weather Stats, Wheat Performance Trial Results, Soil and Climate Change displays. A large portion of the tent is used to highlight OSCIA member activities and a picture wall highlighting projects completed under Cost-Share funding through the Environmental Farm Plan. OMAFRA and OSCIA staff were on hand each day to provide information to guests to the tent.

Highlights at the show this year included the newly expanded Cover-All Dairy Innovation Centre, the re-energizing efforts that many of the seed and crop input companies put into their displays, test plots and customer events. Many vendors took the opportunity to hold various customer appreciation events over the course of the show.

“Canada’s Outdoor Farm Show is the place you go to help make informed decisions for your farming operation” says Lorie Jocius, Show President.

By bringing together vendors and speakers on a variety of topics, farm show organizers commit to keeping the show relevant to farmers and their business needs.

Free sponsored admission to learning and trade events like Canada’s Outdoor Farm Show is only one of the many benefits of OSCIA membership. For more details on the advantages of being an OSCIA member contact the provincial office at 1-800-265-9751 or visit the website at: [www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org). ♦

## OSCIA Strategic Planning

At the end of September, the OSCIA Board met for a facilitated session on strategic planning for your Association. A recent survey of Board members indicated very strong support for the current OSCIA Mission Statement to **‘Communicate and Facilitate Responsible Economic Management of Soil, Water, Air and Crops’**. Very strong support was also provided for the OSCIA Strategic Direction: **‘Producer Education’**; **‘Development and Delivery of Stewardship Programs’**; **‘Local Association Development’**; **‘Addressing Consumer Concerns on Agricultural Environmental Issues’**, and; **‘Strategic Alliances to Fulfill Our Mandate’**.

In ranking our performance, Directors felt there were significant future opportunities for OSCIA in ‘Local Association Development’. Locals are seen as the pillar of OSCIA and their work is dependent on the human and financial support from OMAFRA, agri-business and their regions that now encompass a group of counties/districts. Regional Communication Coordinators’ distribution of OSCIA News and OMAFRA CropTalk, along with the organization of major conferences and field days was seen as a very effective way for inter-association networking. Communication among local association generates the most interest where on-farm projects improve farm profitability through new crops/

new markets, improved agronomy and enhanced management of farm natural resources such as soil health and carbon sequestration (improved organic matter).

Local associations are strongest where a spark-plug or two organize and motivate. The need for training opportunities was identified for the locals to ensure the tools are in place to drive their activities.

OMAFRA support is critical to local and regional projects and the related communication of results. Government support through both OMAFRA and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada was acknowledged as essential for technology transfer and adaption. Strengthening relationships with research communities and other like-minded farm organizations was also seen as a priority. Research investment for production systems, the bio-economy, food for health, and environmental sustainability are relevant themes that connect research, outreach and provide practical application on the farm. ♦

## 2009 Ontario Forage Masters Program

Results are in and first-place winners have been invited to participate in the final competition. For a listing of the top three winners in your county, you may contact your local SCIA secretary, or look on the OSCIA website under *About OSCIA*.

A total of 166 entrants participated in the program this year, representing 24 counties. Of these, 23 were 4-H members.

Once again, OSCIA is partnering with Pickseed, Agri-Food Laboratories, and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair to host a final competition to determine the 2009 Ontario Forage Master.

The winner of this event will be eligible to represent Ontario at the Forage Spokesperson Competition held as part of the American Forage and Grasslands Council conference in June 2010 in Springfield, Missouri.

Once again, we wish to recognize our sponsors, without whom this program would not be possible:



check out OSCIA's new website!!

- new look - easy access
- google agricultural news, weather and more

[www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org)

## **UPCOMING SCIA ANNUAL MEETINGS**

The season for annual meetings of local SCIA's is quickly approaching, and preparations will be under way.

In order to make your meeting a success, send out notices and have a feature included on the agenda that will be sure to garner interest. Door prizes will help jazz up the agenda too!

Part of the annual meeting could include presentation of recognition certificates to deserving members, presentation of Ontario Forage Masters awards, and Soil & Water Conservation Farm awards.

**Recognition certificates:** 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"

**Soil & Water Conservation Farm awards:** 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".

Both of the above can be ordered by contacting Evelyn Howse in the provincial office. Please allow two weeks for preparation and delivery.

The annual meeting is also a good time to listen to your members and their ideas that could result in the use of funding for a Major, Project or Education Grant.

**2010 Memberships:** Many SCIA's renew memberships at their annual meeting. Have your members invite a neighbour - you could charge them for lunch and include a free membership for 2010.

Make sure that your provincial director is included on the agenda to provide an update on activities across the province. ♦

## **Wildlife Damage**

*- Murray Cochrane*

Every year resolutions come to the floor at the OSCIA annual meeting concerning wildlife damage to crops - whether it be deer, elk, coyotes, geese, sandhill cranes or a host of other species. The OSCIA Board of Directors have, in response, sent letters to the appropriate agencies. OSCIA is now represented on a committee to try and come up with solutions to the problem.

The "Human – Wildlife Conflict Advisory Committee" brings together representatives from interested groups to talk about workable solutions. Areas of discussion range from problem racoons in urban areas to damage to crops from deer, bear, geese etc. to problem coyotes, both urban and rural. We are one of two farm organizations sitting in this capacity. We have the

opportunity to advise the proper agencies on what method of damage control or compensation should be implemented.

Farmers have a level or threshold they are willing to accept but I feel those severely or constantly effected should receive some type of compensation. There are cost-share dollars available under the COFSP that help farmers reduce or mitigate the damage. These can be very expensive and I feel that top-up dollars should be made available.

I would like members to share proven methods they have experienced to help mitigate wildlife damage so we can make recommendations to the proper authorities. Please contact me directly, or notify the provincial office with your suggestions and comments. ♦

## **OSCIA Farm Gate Signs**

Local associations may wish to acknowledge the efforts of one or more members in their midst by presenting them with an OSCIA farm gate sign.

The gate sign shows that they are a local member of the OSCIA. The sign is designed to match the EFP gate sign in size and weight. They are pre-drilled for mounting and come in either English or French.

Signs may be obtained by local association secretaries by contacting the provincial office. ♦

## **OSCIA Resolutions**

Responses received to the resolutions passed at the OSCIA Annual Meeting held in February have been included as part of the resolutions package posted to the OSCIA website.

To access the resolutions on the website, follow the links from Membership - Annual Meetings - Resolutions.

A printed version of the resolutions with their responses has been provided to each provincial Director. ♦

## **OSCIA List Server**

The OSCIA list server is a service provided to subscribers on a complimentary basis, simply by signing up.

The list server distributes regular information of interest to the agricultural community regarding crop production.

A major role of the list server is to provide details for meetings and coming events, including those held by local and regional SCIA meetings. The boards of those groups are encouraged to regularly submit such information to Neil Moore who serves as the gatekeeper for the site by emailing him at [nmoore@trytel.net](mailto:nmoore@trytel.net). Members can subscribe to the list server by contacting Neil as well. ♦