



Welcome to “ON Organic”

Hugh Martin, Organic Crop Production Program Lead, OMAFRA

Welcome to Issue 4 of the ON Organic OMAFRA newsletter. This issue covers a range of topics of interest to organic producers and processors. This season is once again interesting out in the field with better rainfall than last year but localized problems with storms and a few pest problems.

I want to thank various groups and individuals such as EFAO, COG and OCO who have helped to circulate the newsletter through their email groups. I encourage you to forward it on to colleagues who may find it useful. I welcome your comments on the newsletter.

I encourage you to subscribe to the ON Organic newsletter so that you receive it directly as some of these groups will not forward it in the future, relying on your subscription to get it to you. Subscription is easy and free.

To subscribe to this newsletter, go to the webpage:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/subscribe/index.html#organic>

The French versions of these newsletters are available at:

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

The OMAFRA Organic pages are linked from:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/organic/organic.html>

IN THIS ISSUE...

- Farmers' Markets Get Boost from Province
- Canadian Organic Regulations—Update
- Organic Growers Receive Emergency Use Registration for Apple Maggot
- Great Lakes Community Shared Agriculture Conference
- New Funding Programs
- Organic Food Market Continues to Grow
- Links to Organic Agriculture

The ON Organic Team

Hugh Martin – editor, OMAFRA, Organic Crop Production Program Lead

Jack Kyle – OMAFRA, Grazier Specialist

Dorene Collins – OMAFRA, Customer Service and Marketing Program Lead

Helen Prinold – OMAFRA, Client Account Officer (your link to the organic food industry)

Hugh Berges – OMAFRA, Manager Horticultural Technology

Linda Cooper – OMAFRA, Client Service Representative

Farmers' Markets Get Boost From Province

McGuinty Government Expands Buy Ontario Campaign To Better Connect Farmers and Shoppers

The government wants to see more Ontario grown food on the tables of Ontario families. That is why it is providing \$4 million over four years to help people buy food directly from Ontario farmers. The funding will help [Farmers' Markets Ontario](#) and the [Ontario Farm Fresh Marketing Association](#) work with farmers to sell more local food.

This is part of the [Budget](#) announcement of \$56 million over four years that will be used for buy Ontario and buy local initiatives.

"By helping farmers' markets and other venues that directly connect farmers and consumers, we all win with a greater availability of local food, more focused promotions and more sales," said [Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Leona Dombrowsky](#).

"This support will provide a real boost to direct farm marketing in Ontario. For 35 years Ontario Farm Fresh has been providing Ontario farmers with the tools necessary to be successful selling directly to the consumer - things like research, training and sharing best practices", said Mark Saunders, President of the Ontario Farm Fresh Marketing Association. "This new funding will also expand our ability to train farmers in product lines like meats, grains and fibres."

"The future just got brighter for farmers and farmers' markets in Ontario thanks to the provincial government," said Philip Powell, Chair of Farmers' Markets Ontario. "We're looking forward to expanding the number of markets, vendors and products they sell, improving the quality of research and training we can provide to them, and, ultimately, increasing the production and sales of Ontario products, which benefits all of us."

Quick Facts

- [Research](#) carried out in 2006 showed that the 125 farmers' markets represented by Farmers' Markets Ontario have annual sales of \$645 million, and have an economic impact on the province of \$1.9 billion.
- On-farm marketing provides seasonal employment for 10,000 Ontario residents, of which 4,500 are students, and represents \$116 million in annual gross receipts, according to a 2005 [study](#).
- 85 per cent of people living in the [Greenbelt](#) agree strongly that locally grown food supports local farmers; 82 per cent agree that it supports the local economy, and 70 per cent agree that it preserves farmland.

Canadian Organic Regulations – Update

By Hugh Martin, Organic Crop Production Program Lead

The Canadian Organic Regulations will be implemented on December 14, 2008. The Organic Products Regulation was published in 2006 with a two year implementation period. We now have 5 months left. The Regulations will give federal oversight to the organic certification system in Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will be the competent authority for organic certification and enforcement in Canada. The new regulations apply to import, export and inter-provincial trade. The regulations also introduce a new organic logo for Canada that can be used by anyone certified under the regulations. The regulations reference the Canadian Organic Standards which is two documents: One outlining the Principles and major requirements for certified organic; The second being the Permitted Substances List. Products produced and sold within Ontario are not required to be under the federal regulation but in many cases markets will require certification to the federal regulation.

Since Dec. 2006 there has been a lot of activity to update a number of outstanding issues in the standards. Many of these are editorial. Some are intended to clarify clauses that were commented on in 2006. These changes are currently being finalized and have been balloted by the Canadian General Standards Board process. The finalized standards will now be sent to the Standards Council of Canada for approval as a Canadian Standard. It is also expected that the regulation will be amended due to a couple issues that have arisen since 2006. All standards and regulatory revisions are expected to be finalized by December 14, 2008.

CFIA has established the Canada Organic Office (COO) to manage the new regulations. COO has also been working to establish the accreditation system for Certification Bodies in Canada. They will be recognizing the Accreditation Advisory Bodies and Certification Bodies once they have been accredited. In Ontario, I expect most of the major certification bodies that are currently operating here will be accredited to the new Canada Organic Regulations. Watch for more information from your certification body.

Two links for more info:

Organic Food and Farming Certification
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/organic/certification.htm>

CFIA Canadian Organic Office
<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/otfgtspbe.shtml>

**Organic Apple Growers in Ontario,
Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince
Edward Island And Saskatchewan
Receive Urgently Needed Emergency
Use Registration for APPLE MAGGOT**

By J. Chaput, OMAFRA, Minor Use Coordinator, Guelph

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) recently announced the approval of an emergency use registration for GF-120 Naturalyte Fruit Fly Bait (spinosad) for suppression of apple maggot in organic apples in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Ontario and Saskatchewan. GF-120 Fruit Fly Bait was already labeled in Canada for control of cherry fruit flies in cherries and blueberry maggot on blueberries. Furthermore a complete minor use label expansion was submitted to seek eventual, full registration of GF-120 for apple maggot control on apples in Canada.

The apple maggot (*Rhagoletis pomonella*) is indigenous to North America and has been found in all Canadian provinces with the exception of Newfoundland. It is a quarantine pest in Canada, especially widespread throughout eastern Canada, causing fruit damage and significant economic losses. Organic apple producers have only one other pest management option for apple maggot; that being Surround crop protectant. However, Surround provides only suppression of apple maggot and leaves a white, powdery residue on the trees and apples which can be a concern for workers working in the orchard for long periods of time.

Dr. Julia Reekie and Eric Specht of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's research team in Kentville, Nova Scotia conducted efficacy studies for GF-120 in collaboration with OMAFRA and grower cooperators in 2007. This work funded by the Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Pest Management Centre, Pesticide Risk Reduction Program has demonstrated that GF-120 is an effective and viable option for management of apple maggot in Canada.

The emergency use registration of GF-120 Fruit Fly Bait will help to manage apple maggot in organic apple orchards in 2008. The following is provided as general information only. Users should consult the complete label before using GF-120.

GF-120 Fruit Fly Bait can be used for suppression of apple maggot in organic apples in Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan until October 31st, 2008 only.

For the suppression of apple maggot, apply 1.5 litres of GF-120 NF Naturalyte Fruit Fly Bait in 6 litres of water per

hectare. Begin applications as soon as monitoring traps indicate flies are present in the orchard and continue coverage until flights stop. Repeat applications every 7 days, reapplying sooner if rain washes off the deposit. Do not apply more than 10 applications per season. Proper application techniques help ensure adequate coverage and correct dosage necessary to obtain optimum control of apple maggot. A large spray droplet size of 4000 to 6000 μ (4-6 mm) is recommended to optimize length of bait attraction.

Follow all other directions for use on the GF-120 Fruit Fly Bait label carefully.

GF-120 Fruit Fly Bait should be used in an IPM program and in rotation with other management strategies to adequately manage resistance.

We wish to thank Dr. Julia Reekie, AAFC, Kathryn Carter and Hannah Fraser, OMAFRA for preparing the rationale documents on behalf of Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan organic apple growers as well as the personnel of the agriculture departments of Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, PEI and Nova Scotia for their input, support and assistance. We also wish to thank the personnel of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Saskatchewan Environment, PEI Environment, Nova Scotia Environment, New Brunswick Environment and Dow AgroSciences Canada for their support of this registration and the personnel of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency for evaluating and approving this important pest management tool. Special thanks are expressed to Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association who generously covered the submission fee for this emergency use registration.

For copies of the emergency use label contact Kathryn Carter, OMAFRA Apple specialist at Simcoe 519-426-4322, Jim Chaput, OMAFRA, Guelph 519-826-3539 or visit <http://www.dowagro.com/ca>

**Great Lakes Community Shared
Agriculture (CSA) Conference 2008,
November 21–23, 2008, Orillia, Ontario**

Southern Ontario CSA farmers have been busily working in preparation for the Great Lakes CSA Conference 2008 to be held November 21 to 23, in Orillia, Ontario.

The 2008 conference program features both formal educational opportunities and time for informal exchanges. Under the theme *Seeding the Future—Growing Together*, the content is being crafted by organic CSA farmers, so those

attending will be sure to get technical information that they can apply to their operations going forward.

Canadian CSA pioneer Dan Wiens will give the keynote presentation at the conference. On land outside Winnipeg, Manitoba, Dan runs Wiens Shared Farm, a CSA where urban and suburban residents receive weekly deliveries of seasonal produce. Dan is currently the water and food security coordinator for the Mennonite Central Committee, and from 1999 to 2007 worked for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank designing initiatives to educate people about world hunger.



Photo 1. Garden Team July Field Walk and Harvest Planning

The conference program will focus on a broad range of issues related to organic farming under a CSA model. Planned are sessions on:

- Production – seed saving, cover crops, crop rotation, season extension and tillage
- Marketing – business guidelines for CSAs, winter CSAs, and member retention and recruitment
- Social aspects of CSA farming – alternative land tenure, using volunteers and the urban/rural paradigm
- On-farm energy use – alternative energy strategies and horse-powered CSAs

“This is a focused conference for exactly what I do. Almost everything that will get discussed there applies to me or might give me ideas for my CSA,” says CSA farmer and conference organizing committee member Heather Lekx.

A CSA Mini-School, offered Friday, November 21, will introduce the concepts and practices of CSA farming. The school will benefit anyone interested in CSAs, but is designed for beginners or those planning to start a CSA soon. Five experienced CSA farmers, each running a different style of CSA, will lead the mini-school.

“There always seems to be lots of young people and new

farmers interested in CSAs,” says Caitlin Hall, a second year CSA farmer and conference organizing committee member. “At the conference they can network, learn what others have experienced in running a CSA, and maybe save themselves a bit of work in the future.”

The organizers hope many CSA farmers and small-farm advocates will come learn, share and celebrate at the conference.

Organizing partners for the conference include the Ignatius Jesuit Centre of Guelph, the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario, Heifer International, Canadian Organic Growers and the National Farmers Union-Ontario. The conference will be offered in both English and French.

For more information on the conference, including prices, visit <http://www.csaconference2008.ca> or contact Heather Kepran, conference coordinator, at (tel) 519-341-0959 or (email) info@csaconference2008.ca.

New Funding Programs

High Performance New Construction

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) has a new building construction incentive program for builders/owners and architects. It gives design and financial assistance for new construction or additions, and major renovation projects that exceed Code. Building owners will receive from \$50 to \$400 incentives per verified kilowatt saved; the greater the electricity savings, the greater the incentives. It also supports 100% of the cost of modeling a building up to \$10,000. Eligible buildings include industrial and office buildings, and retail spaces, among others. To qualify, projects must be located in Ontario (excluding the 416 area code). Projects must be completed by December 2012. Buildings that obtained a building permit between August 2007 and March 2008 are also eligible.

For all the program details, criteria and applications please visit www.hpnc.ca. The website also has links to other energy savings programs including those offered by Enbridge Gas, Union Gas, Natural Resources Canada, the City of Toronto, and other OPA programs.

****Ontario Wheat Innovation Support Fund****

New funding is available for product development and innovation that incorporates more Ontario wheat. Companies can receive up to 75 percent of the cost of developing innovative products, to a maximum of \$25,000. The Ontario Wheat Producers' Marketing Board just announced this *Innovation Support Fund*. The funding will help companies by providing financial support and

expertise in the areas of product analysis, pilot scale trials and packaging techniques. Studies over the last three years at the Canadian International Grains Institute have shown that a number of Ontario wheat varieties can be a direct substitute for western wheat. For more information on the support fund, please speak with Erin Fletcher at the Ontario Wheat Producers' Marketing Board at 519-767-4129.

Other Funding Updates and Reminders:

Advanced Manufacturing Investment Strategy (AMIS)

A program providing up to \$10 million in a five-year, principal and interest-free loan. Projects must **EITHER** be at least a \$10 million investment over a five-year period, **OR** create **OR** retain 50 jobs. The loan will cover 30% of the cost of a project. The key to this program is "advanced manufacturing." For example, technology or processes new to Canada/Ontario, state-of-the-art, leading edge, centres of excellence, and so on. Capital expenditures qualify as eligible project costs. To find out more about the program and its next "call for proposals" or to apply, visit the Advanced Manufacturing Investment Strategy website at http://www.ontariocanada.com/ontcan/en/progserv_amis_en.jsp

Federal Budget 2008 improvements to the Scientific Research and Experimental Development Tax Credit Program (SR&ED)

(Adapted from an article in Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium's (EMC) March 2008 newsletter, <http://www.emccanada.org>)

In the federal budget several changes to the tax credit program were announced that broaden the benefits to companies. These include:

- A higher expenditure limit. An increase in the expenditure limit from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 means companies may receive a federal refund of \$1,050,000 (\$3,000,000 X 35%), up from \$700,000.
- A higher taxable income limit. Canadian-Controlled Private Corporations (CCPCs) with taxable income above \$400,000 (which is the Small Business Limit), will receive higher refunds/credits.
- A higher Taxable Capital Limit. CCPCs with taxable capital above \$15,000,000 historically were reduced to the 20% Tax Credit.

This meant that a company in a loss position could not use the tax credits generated by a good SR&ED claim. The increase in the limit to \$50,000,000 will open the door for many larger companies that are not currently earning a profit to receive refunds on SR&ED claims.

- Foreign Salaries. SR&ED related salaries and wages may now be eligible even if they were not incurred in Canada. Inclusion of these wages is limited to 10% of the total.
- Better Service: The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has committed to a couple of key initiatives including 'consistent application' across the country.

For more information on this and other tax measures announced in the federal budget, visit the federal budget website at

<http://www.budget.gc.ca/2008/plan/ann4a-eng.asp>

Next Generation of Jobs Fund (NGOJF)

Under this fund, the **Jobs and Investment Program** is designed to help companies in a wide range of sectors to expand in Ontario and develop innovative products for global markets. Projects must **EITHER** create **OR** retain at least 100 jobs, **OR** invest \$25 million over five years. Projects must support the program's purpose to support research, development and commercialization in innovative industries and attract new investments and jobs in areas of great potential for Ontario. The key is "next generation" JOBS. For example, highly skilled jobs that are being created/retained, projects that are innovative and using leading-edge technologies and projects that result in the development of new or improved products. This program will also support investment in capital. For more information or to apply, please visit

http://www.ontario-canada.com/ontcan/en/nextgen_jip_en.jsp

Upcoming Events

Ontario Food and Beverage Processing HR Summit September 29 & 30, 2008

New resources and programs to help employers address skills shortages in Ontario's food and beverage industries will be unveiled at the first ever HR Summit in September. The event for food and beverage companies is being hosted by the Alliance of Ontario Food Processors, in conjunction with the City of Toronto and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' Business Development Branch. Be sure to attend this event! Organizers expect 150 small, medium and large-sized companies from all parts of the province to meet, discuss the issues and hear about the latest programs that have been developed to address their workforce recruitment and retention efforts. The first evening is targeted at owners, presidents and senior management of food and beverage companies. Following dinner, they will hear the latest observations and suggestions of Roger Martin, Chair of Ontario's Task Force on Competitiveness, Productivity and Economic Progress as the evening's keynote speaker. Mr. Martin was recently appointed by the Premier to study workforce competitiveness and skilled workforce issues in Ontario. The following day will be more operational in nature. The program will see new resources unveiled for food and beverage companies to support their ongoing efforts to recruit and retain a quality workforce. These resources have been developed in a project called "Destination Excellence" which was overseen by the organizers and conducted by a partnership among the

Guelph Food Technology Centre, the University of Guelph and James Farrar and Associates. Government and other community employer support programs for food and beverage manufacturers will also be described during this day. More details will be circulated in coming weeks. Please contact Michele Poisson 519-767-5374 at the Alliance of Ontario Food Processors for more information.

Recent Articles from Other OMAFRA Newsletters

The Transition to Grow Organically?

By Hugh Martin, Organic Crop Production Program Lead

Once you decide to seriously look at organic production, one of the challenges is what to do first. I suggest going slow and doing your research.

The first stage of transition to organic is to look closely at yourself and your abilities. Why do you want to do this? What do you need to learn? What crops or livestock would you want to grow? What would be the issues to produce them organically? In many cases, yields will drop during the transition and then increase for several years. Once fully organic, yields may still be lower but prices for certified organic products are higher. You will need to factor in slightly more labour and more tractor time. For most crops, the cost of production for organic is very similar to conventional production. However, this varies with the crop or livestock species.

Full article available in June CropTalk at:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/news/croptalk/2008/ct-0608a7.htm>

Wonderful Wind Protection!

Anne Verhallen - Soil Management Specialist, OMAFRA

Thunderstorms and intense cold fronts have been bringing high winds into Ontario on several occasions this spring. How did your soil fare? If it was loose and bare for planting odds are you and the neighbours have been exchanging topsoil - an expensive activity. You've lost fertility, possibly pesticides and soil organic matter. Last year with some soil tests, a quick calculation showed that this was worth \$13 per acre per wind event, it's probably considerably more this year with the increase in fertilizer prices.

So what to do? Early spring planted cover crops have been highly effective this year. Take a look at cover crop pictures below. Barley or oats at 1.5 to 2 bushels per acre, planted in early spring did the trick to protect tender, emerged seed corn and newly planted tomatoes recently. And the cost benefit? As this grower says, "There is no excuse for being blown out anymore!"

From HortMatters, for full article go to:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/hort/news/hortmatt/2008/11hrt08a1.htm>

Learn From The Cover Cropping In Vegetable Systems Tour Held June 12 In Michigan

By Kate Leich, MSU Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies

June 12 was a wonderful day at the Kellogg Biological Station (KBS); the weather was great, the speakers were fascinating and the cover crops were looking good. We started the day indoors, listening to five talks from professors and Extension educators. PowerPoint presentations from this program are available at <http://michiganorganic.anr.msu.edu/>. A summary of the workshop is given below and on the main page with links to the presentations.

Anne Verhallen from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, gave an overview on cover crop attributes in vegetable systems. Her talk was particularly attuned to the audience's interests and there was opportunity for feedback and questions throughout her presentation.

Mathieu Ngouajio, associate professor of horticulture at Michigan State University (MSU), taught us about biofumigant cover crops. We learned about the biochemistry of biofumigants and how this information can help to develop more efficient cover cropping practices.

Darryl Warncke, MSU professor and Extension specialist in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, talked about nutrient management using cover crops. He provided a lot of interesting information about the dynamics of nutrient cycling and how understanding those dynamics can help improve nutrient availability.

George Abawi, professor of plant pathology at Cornell University's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, gave a presentation on the role cover crops play in soil health and root disease management. We learned a lot about a particular soil testing system Dr. Abawi is developing.

Daniel Brainard, assistant professor of horticulture at MSU, spoke about cover crop mixtures for integrated weed and nitrogen management. Throughout his talk he made points about the financial pros and cons of cover cropping. From New Agriculture Network newsletter <http://www.new-ag.msu.edu/issues08/6-25.htm#3>

Organic Food Market Continues to Grow

by Hugh Martin, Organic Crop Production Program Lead

Organic retail food sales in Ontario continues to grow. Sales were estimated by Nielsen to have grown 17% in 2007 (compared to 2006) for products sold in grocery+drug+mass merchandiser stores. Total sales for Ontario (in these stores) were \$237M (compared to \$654M nationally. This was slightly lower than the reported growth in Canada (20%) for 2007 and the 24% growth reported for Ontario in 2006 in grocery stores. Growth in non-organic food categories was reported to be 4% in 2007. Note this study did not include organic food sales at other channels such health food stores, institutional, food service, farmers markets and direct customer sales which in a 2007 study totalled almost 50% of the total market.

Fresh fruits and vegetables make up almost 40% of sales. Vegetables showed growth of growth of 25% and 14% for fruit. One of the fastest growing sectors of vegetables is bagged salads and bagged broadleaf vegetables (almost all imported). Dairy products increased to 27% of the total sales and showed 16% growth in 2007.

New OMAFRA Factsheet

Irrigation Scheduling for Tomatoes - An Introduction

This factsheet is available online at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/08-011.htm>

or order a printed copy from Service Ontario Publications (<http://www.publications.serviceontario.ca/ecom/> or 1-800-668-9938).

Other Links: Sources of Organic Products

by Hugh Martin, Organic Crop Production Program Lead

There are 500-600 certified organic farms in Ontario and over 100 processing operations and numerous retail stores, restaurants and local markets offering organic food and other products to consumers. Below are links to some of the directories and lists of where to buy organic products.

Canadian Organic Growers website:

<http://www.cog.ca/buyorganic.htm>

Directory of Organics in Canada:

<http://www.cogdir.ca/>

EFAO Producers and Products Directory:

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

Community Supported Agriculture: Ontario Directory:

<http://csafarms.ca/>

CSA (Community Supported Agriculture):

<http://www.biodynamics.com/csacanada>

Organic Advocates (Knives and Forks):

<http://www.organicadvocates.org/guide.html>

OACC Local Organic Food Sources – Ontario

http://www.oacc.info/Consumers/local_ontario.asp

Organic Trade Association Online Directory:

<http://www.ota.com/directories.html>

Planet Friendly - How & Where to Buy Organic

<http://www.planetfriendly.net/organic.html#food>

Organic Farms & Markets:

<http://www.consumerhealth.org/links/organic.html>

Vegetarian Directory:

<http://veg.ca/content/blogsection/11/114/>

Organic Principle:

http://www.organicprinciple.com/CM_marketsonfarms.htm

Note: This list is likely far from complete and the author has no knowledge of the current organic status or claims of each operation. Some lists may also not be up to date.

Links to Organic Agriculture Information

Organic Council of Ontario (OCO)

<http://www.organiccouncil.ca>

Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario (EFAO)

<http://www.efao.ca>

Canadian Organic Growers (COG)

<http://www.cog.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

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

www.ontario.ca/omafra