

FARM VIEW

44th year of publication!

February 2021
Volume 44 #02

A newspaper with something for everyone

Inside:

**Coverage from
Grey-Bruce
Farmers' Week
and
the Ontario
Agriculture
Conference**

**Concerns
about The
Carbon Tax
and
Farmland
Preservation**

**Virtual
workshops**

**Grow Hope
Markdale
Project**



**Complimentary copy for
the FARM household**

AGcalendar

Farm View's Ag Calendar is free to non-profit agricultural groups, up to a maximum of 40 words. All others are invoiced at \$25 per month. Please note the format of the listings below and submit your item by mail or email, in a similar fashion.

January 26: Elmvale Fall Fair AGM

Flos Agricultural Society (aka Elmvale Fall Fair) will be holding their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Tuesday January 26th, 2021 from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.**, via Zoom. Call Linda Murray for details **705-322-5067**

January 28: Bell Let's Talk Day

Bell donates 5 cents for connecting with friends and family. Please see the article on page 8 for details.

January 28 - April 8: Winter Webinars

Virtual courses offered by Grey Ag Services. Full details on page 15.

February 10: Grain Marketing Seminar

Hosted by the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture this virtual event takes place on **Wednesday February 10th 10 am - 1 pm**. Pre-registration required by February 5th. Details in the advertisement on page 13.

February 10: The Dufferin Soil and Crop Improvement Association Annual Meeting

All are welcome to join this virtual meeting. **Wednesday February 10th 10 am - 12 pm**, full details in advertisement on page 18.

February 14: Valentine's Day

Roses are red,
Violets are blue.
Tell that someone special,
How much they mean to you!

February 15: News and Advertising Deadline

Advertising and news deadline for the March issue of Farm View is **Monday, February 15th**.

March 12: Equine Hardship Program deadline

Equine Hardship Program, costs incurred between March 17, 2020 and February 28 2021 will be eligible. Enrolment and claim forms will be accepted until March 12, 2021, or while program funding remains available please read MPP Doug Downey's article on page 10 for more details.



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Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

Always let your boss have the first say.

A sales rep, an administration clerk, and the manager are walking to lunch when they find an antique oil lamp. They rub it and a Genie comes out. The Genie says, "I'll give each of you just one wish."

"Me first! Me first!" Says the administration clerk. "I want to be in the Bahamas, driving a speedboat, without a care in the world." Poof! She's gone. "Me next! Me next!" Says the sales rep. "I want to be in Hawaii, relaxing on the beach with my personal masseuse, an endless supply of Pina Coladas and the love of my life." Poof! He's gone. "OK, you're up," the Genie says to the manager. The manager says, "I want those two back in the office after lunch."

Never underestimate an old man.

An elderly man had owned his large farm in Louisiana for many years. Right at the back of the farm there was a large pond that was ideal for swimming. The old farmer had fixed it up real nice with picnic tables, horseshoe courts and some apple and peach trees.

One evening the farmer decides to go down to the pond, to look it over, as he hadn't been down there for a while. Before setting off, he grabs a five-gallon bucket as he decides he'll bring back some fruit.

As he nears the pond, he can hear voices shouting and laughing with glee. Clearly someone is having a good time. As the farmer gets closer, he can see a bunch of young women who are clearly skinny-dipping in his pond.

He makes the women aware of his presence and immediately they all swim over to the far end.

One of the women then shouts, "We're not coming out until you leave mister!" The farmer replies, "Ladies, I didn't come down here to watch you swim naked or make you get out of the pond. You carry on."

The wily old timer then holds up his bucket and says, "I just came down here to feed the alligators!"

Devotional Corner

Kathleen's column will return next month.

If you have a question for Kathleen or would like to comment on something you read, send it to farmview@on.aibn.com, or directly to her at kathleengreidanus@yahoo.ca.

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OFA urges farmland preservation to maintain demand for locally sourced food

By Peggy Brekveld, President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

The value of local Ontario food goes beyond the amazing taste of DeBruin's Greenhouse tomatoes, Thunder Oak cheese and My-Pride Farm veal – a few of my local favourites. It is also about the importance of food security, its economic impact and our regional identity. To have local food, we need farmers and growers to take on the challenge of raising crops and livestock. We also need to quote our licence plate slogan, "Places to Grow" in Ontario. The importance of farmland preservation and long-term land use planning has been highlighted in our current pandemic.

The COVID-19 health crisis has forced the world to press pause on our normally busy lives and re-evaluate what is most important as a society. Amid challenging obstacles brought on by the pandemic, consumers now more than ever before are looking to source locally grown produce, meats and dairy products. This newfound demand for local has proven its longevity. However, for Ontario farmers to maintain the supply the demand for local products, farmland needs to be preserved and urban sprawl contained. Long-term land use planning needs to focus on protecting agricultural land to ensure we have the resources available to continue producing food for the future. Otherwise, we're left asking the question, where will Ontario source its food products from in years to come.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) believes that agricultural land is a finite and shrinking resource we require in order to effectively produce food, fibre and fuel. Urban sprawl has threatened the sustainability and viability of our sector for decades. To put the problem into perspective, from 1996-2016, Ontario lost 1.5 million acres of farmland to development, at a

daily rate loss of 175 acres per day. According to OMAFRA's 2016 census data, the average Ontario farm is 249 acres with many of our farms being family-owned and operated. Our province loses an average of five farms per week to development in an effort to keep pace with Ontario's growing population.

When the pandemic first hit, the main concern amongst Ontarians was that our food supply chain would collapse, resulting in shortages and skyrocketed prices for consumers. Our sector rose to the challenge and proved that Ontario's agri-food supply chain is strong and resilient. At OFA's 2020 virtual annual meeting, Premier Doug Ford identified how important the agri-food sector is to the provincial economy and how instrumental the industry will be for solidifying economic recovery post-pandemic.

Farmers continue to be the definition of innovation, producing more yield with less inputs. However, the reality is that farming in Ontario will always require arable land and an environment that supports the growth of our more than 200 diverse commodities. The rate at which our province is losing agricultural land is not sustainable, especially with the demand to increase the production of food, fibre and fuel for an ever-growing population, as our finite resources continue to diminish.

Local food production and processing is extremely vital to the economy, providing a significant economic impact both locally and provincially. From field-to-fork there are many important contributors along the food supply chain, and available land is vital to ensuring we have enough food processing facilities to keep up with demand. These facilities are integral to our food security.



Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Preserving farmland can go hand-in-hand with housing needs. It can include rejuvenating and renewing our cities, as well as infrastructure investment in our rural hubs. Ontario farmers need the government's support to contain urban sprawl and to keep our domestic agri-food sector strong. Less than 5% of Ontario's land base can support agricultural production of any kind. In 2020, OFA expressed concerns to Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the recent proliferation of Minister's Zoning Orders. We cannot afford to prioritize urban development over that of farmland. Protecting and preserving farmland is the only solution to ensuring Farms and Food Forever.

Protecting and preserving Ontario's agricultural land for the purpose of growing, harvesting and producing food has and always will be a main priority of our organization. The OFA will continue to advocate on behalf of our 38,000 farm families to ensure that farmland is not only preserved, but that farming is sustainable and profitable for the next generation of your family.



Peggy Brekveld



On the Cover

Beautiful Percherons are the showcase of this winter scene. Read inside of Horse Day and a new Equine Support program.

Photo from 2017 archives

DEADLINE for the March Farm View is February 15th

The creative team at Farm View can help you design and plan an effective advertising campaign that will sell your products and services to **grow your business.** Call Roslyn at **705-722-0138** or email farmview@on.aibn.com

If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.



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FROM THE EDITOR

This past Christmas day our family received the news that my Great Aunt Hazel had passed away. Great Aunt Hazel had the best laugh I have ever heard. She would throw her head back and laugh with the most beautiful smile, as you can see in these photos. I loved hearing the stories from my Grandma (Red) of the wild adventures her and Hazel had. I hope you enjoy a few extra 'Aunt Hazel's' this month in her honour.

The February issue has great coverage from the Ontario Agriculture Conference as well as Grey-Bruce Farmers' week. We will provide more coverage of both events in the March issue as well.

February is heart and stroke month across Canada. Dennis Gannon's column focuses on this very important subject. As many of you know my mom, Jill Beischer, passed away suddenly in May of 2019 of cardiac arrest. Dennis explains the difference between heart attacks and cardiac arrest and highlights the importance of defibrillators.

I'll take a moment to introduce you to our new Farm View monthly advertisers. In January, MPP Doug Downey, John Stark Insurance and Ontario Wide-Financial became monthly advertisers and beginning this month we have Legacy Funeral Home and Gillanders Auction Services. Please take a moment to review the services they and the other advertisers have to offer.

On the lighter side, as always during production time, my sister, Diana, sent me a funny joke to keep me going during the longer work hours.

"Due to the lockdown, I'll only be texting inside jokes."

Thank you Dee, your humour is very much appreciated!

I hope you all enjoy the February issue and the bit of humour relief throughout.

Take care of yourselves and one another,
Roslyn



Top photo left to right: Close family friend Mrs. Korstanje, Mrs. Lillian (Red) Leitch and Mrs. Hazel Bleakley. Photo at left: Red and Hazel on a vacation together.

Hazel Joyce Bleakley 1925-2020

Passed peacefully at Eagle Terrace, Newmarket, on Friday, December 25, 2020 at the age of 95 years. Hazel Bleakley (nee Grieve), predeceased by her husbands Frank Caveen and Cyril Bleakley. Dear mother of Frances West (John) of Bellville, Denise Greenwell (Larry) of Pefferlaw and Joyce Caveen of Queensville. Loving grandmother of Jim West (Shalyn) of Thomasburg, Shauna West of Belleville, Meghan Caveen of Ottawa, Rachel Greenwell of Sutton and Cassandra Caveen (Kevin) of Peterborough and great grandmother of Kaidyn, Sienna, Rowan and Parker. Fondly remembered by her extended family, the Leitch family of Keswick, her friends and especially those of the "Black Diamond Girls." Cremation has taken place. Arrangements in care of the Forrest & Taylor Funeral Home, Sutton (905) 722-3274. Memorial donations to the Alzheimer Society would be appreciated by the family. Memorial condolences may be made at www.forrestandtaylor.com



Remembering Aunt Hazel

By John Beischer, former publisher, Farm View

I first met Aunt Hazel the summer of 1970, about 8 months after meeting Jill in 1969.

Hazel was best friend to Jill's mother (Lillian Leitch, better known as Red) since grade school.

Hazel and Red were wonderful outdoor people who enjoyed camping at various Ontario Parks such as Emily Park near Lindsay and Sibbald's Point Park on the East side of Lake Simcoe.

Hazel and her husband Cy [a world war 2 Tank Corps veteran] had a cottage on Six Mile Lake in the Muskoka's at that time, and all of us were invited for a weekend visit. It was a wonderful time and an enjoyable weekend. Years later, Cy and Hazel sold that cottage and retired to an acreage in Sprucedale [west of Burk's Falls]. It was here that Hazel began her newspaper writing career.

Hazel submitted a weekly column to the Burke's Falls newspaper reporting on the activities in and around Sprucedale and nearby Emmsdale.

Many years later Jill and I purchased the Farm Review newspaper and asked Hazel if she would share some of her Northern Ontario wisdom with our Farm View readership in Central Ontario. And she did so for many years in the column "Worth a Chuckle and life lessons" by Aunt Hazel. Then she retired from her writing career and we continued her column [with her permission], garnering most of the articles from the internet. Thank you Aunt Hazel for the wonderful experiences at your cottage and your incredible friendship these past many years.

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The Farm View is also available online at www.farmviewonline.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Farm View invites letters to the editor. They should be fewer than 300 words and deal with a single topic affecting farmers. All letters must be signed, including your full name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to editing for brevity.

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In memory of Jill Beischer

Farm View attempts to present a forum for varying points of view from the agricultural community. Editorial opinions are freely expressed by individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the executives or directors of the federations unless specifically noted.

**"Burn down your cities and leave our farms,
and your cities will spring up again as if by
magic, but destroy our farms and the grass
will grow in the streets."**

W.J. Bryan

OFA Members Service Representative:

Leah Emms 1-866-660-5511 email: Leah.Emms@ofa.on.ca

OFA Zone Director for Peel, Simcoe and York:

Keith Currie: 705-444-1398 email: keith.currie@ofa.on.ca

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By Leah Emms
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Farmland Preservation, a complicated issue

Another year and another shut down.

OFA has created a "Stay At Home" exemption template letter for our members to use during this period of essential travel only. Just a reminder that agriculture and associated businesses are deemed essential and are authorized to continue to operate. To access this letter just visit our website www.ofa.on.ca

The issue of farmland preservation has been around for many years. The message is easily supported by the general population and farmers. But the issue is more complicated than meets the casual observer's eye. Farming in the shadow of the urban landscape presents challenges that are not obvious to those outside our sector. The survival of farms and farmland is a complicated balancing act involving many moving parts. Our sector is continually being bombarded with new legislation and changing regulations. Some good and worthy, some not so. Consider this example currently happening in the City of Brampton. In the spring of 2020, City of Brampton council approved a new by-law to collect fees to support their growing costs to build and manage stormwater to all properties in the City. Agriculture was never specifically mentioned in the by-law, nor was it consulted. The by-law initiated a stormwater management charge based on impervious surfaces on every property via a mapping tool. Impervious surfaces include rooftops, parking lots & driveways. The first billing period this fall invoked anger among our members, and rightly so. Some of these members received stormwater management bills that exceeded the amount of their property taxes!

The Peel Federation of Agriculture along with OFA have great concerns regarding this unfair charge and are working together to lobby the City of Brampton Council to make amendments to this by-law to recognize and value the stormwater retaining abilities their agricultural properties provide. The Ecological Goods & Services provided by farmlands was never given any credit in this current by-law. In conversations with City of Brampton staff, they recommend that you apply for the credit program by completing an application form. But this also comes with the possibility of you, having to hire an engineer to complete a report to justify a credit of only up to 50% of the charge. If you are accepted into the credit program, it is only valid for five years. Any money saved from the credit program could be spent hiring an engineering firm.

Farmers do not have the means to re-coup these stormwater management charges. This demonstrates another burden applied to our farmers while society enjoys the benefits our farmlands provide. Urban growth has contributed to stormwater issues far beyond that of its neighbouring farmlands. So, while its good to acknowledge that we need to preserve food producing lands, there also needs to be some critical thinking

applied to certain situations and areas where operating a farm business is proving to be difficult for a number of reasons. Farmland preservation can be achieved within the GTA but not by applying onerous charges to our farmers. Municipalities cannot sing the praises of farmers and agricultural lands, then tie one hand behind our back with unfair charges. Stormwater Management Plans are now a part of municipal planning exercises. Be aware and get engaged if this topic appears on a municipal council agenda in your community. Many urban municipalities in Southern Ontario have implemented stormwater management charges in last few years. Should agricultural properties share the same or greater cost burden as residential or commercial properties that use municipal infrastructure and exist on a property that has very little natural lands left? I think not.

Worth a Chuckle... and life lessons

by Aunt Hazel

A couple were going on vacation together but the wife was on a business trip so the husband went to the destination first and the wife would meet him the next day.

When the man reached the hotel, he decided to send his wife a quick email.

Unfortunately, when typing her address, he mistyped a letter and his note was directed instead to an elderly preacher's wife whose husband had passed away only the day before.

When the grieving widow checked her email, she took one look at the monitor, let out a piercing scream, and fell to the floor in a dead faint.

At the sound, her family rushed into the room and saw this note on the screen:

Dearest Wife,
Just got checked in. Everything prepared for your arrival tomorrow.

P.S. Sure is hot down here.



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Carbon Tax on Food Production Not Sustainable

Grain Farmers of Ontario, the province's largest commodity organization, representing Ontario's 28,000 barley, corn, oat, soybean and wheat farmers, is infuriated by the Federal government's continued campaign to tax food production for Canadians.

Recently, the Canadian government presented a climate plan: "A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy" from Environment and Climate Change Canada, which includes a steady increase in carbon price of an additional \$15 per tonne per year beginning 2023, rising to \$170 per tonne in 2030. This is an accelerated increase to a tax that was already burdening the businesses that Canadians rely on

for food.

The current carbon tax schedule, once fully implemented in 2022, will cost Canadian farmers around \$60 million per year for using natural gas and propane to dry their crops. The recent announcement could triple that cost.

"It is simply not acceptable to burden farmers with these increased costs. Grain farmers in Ontario, need to dry grain to make it viable for use and consumption. The fuel needed to dry it is subject to carbon tax. We absolutely need this exempted," said Markus Haerle, Chair, Grain Farmers of Ontario. "Farmers cannot just simply raise the price of our grain to help cover these increased costs. We do not set those prices.

It's incredibly frustrating to see this shortsightedness continue."

Farmers are exceptional stewards of the land:

Over the last 30 years, grain farmers have increased land use efficiency by 39 per cent

Farmers have reduced their climate impact by 45 per cent in corn production

Farmers have reduced their climate impact by 36 per cent in wheat production

Farmers in Ontario implement cover crops, crop rotation, nutrient management, and soil health best practices

"This is another example of our government implementing a program without truly understanding the detrimental impacts it will have in the larger picture of the Canadian economy, food system and rural communities," Haerle continued.

The increased carbon tax comes on the heels of two years of record U.S. payouts to their grain farmers, soybean and corn especially, creating a competitive advantage for U.S. farmers, who can cover increased costs like this, while Ontario's farmers, cannot.

Highlights of the Carbon Tax Plan

By Roslyn Watkins

In 2016, the federal government began work with provinces and territories on Canada's first comprehensive climate action plan, which includes, in the governments words, "a stringent, fair, and efficient price on carbon pollution."

Provinces and territories had the flexibility to maintain or develop a carbon pollution pricing system that would work for their circumstances, provided it met the federal standard. On July 3, 2018, the Government of Ontario ended its climate plan, including its cap-and-trade pollution pricing system.

On April 1st, 2019 The Federal Carbon Tax plan began in Ontario. The carbon tax is charged to any individual or business that uses carbon-based energy such as natural gas, diesel and gasoline. The tax or fee is charged for every one tonne of greenhouse gases (GHGs) that is emitted into the atmosphere.

The Carbon Tax began at \$20 per ton and is set to increase by \$15 a tonne per year starting in 2023. The government of Canada's website is quoted stating "Carbon pricing is expected to directly impact a relatively small subset of farm operating expenses." It has been reported that producers are already facing a \$60-million increase in costs during the next few years because of the carbon tax.

A few areas of farming that are affected:

- Increased cost of propane and natural gas.
- Increased cost for supplies required in

all aspects of farming due to suppliers paying higher tax rates.

- Increased cost of electricity used for heat, irrigation and seed cleaning (as examples).

- The carbon tax applies to Canadian farmers, and not to their international competitors.

Farmers cannot raise the price of grain to help cover these increased costs as a grocery store or any other supplier would. The prices of grain are not set by the farmer. Rising costs of the production required to run a farm business are not passed along.

There is a little good news. The government is offering carbon rebates for farmers to assist producers with the purchase of:

- Equipment that improves energy efficiency.
- Grid-connected solar panel systems that can be used to generate electricity and reduce emissions of farms.

- New or upgraded low-pressure irrigation equipment, improving water efficiency and reducing energy use.

For more information on Canada's Carbon Tax plan, please contact your local government or your local farm organization.

Editor's note:

Farm View would like to hear your opinion on the governments carbon tax plan. How is the carbon tax affecting your business, do you think it is fair? Write to farmview@on.aibn.com or mail a letter to 8 Luella Blvd., Minesing ON L9X 0W7



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Growers Mineral Solutions, it's all about helping farmers

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Growers Mineral Solutions is a liquid fertilizer that took 25 years to develop.

Larry Webb, District Manager for Growers Mineral Solutions, believes in what he sells. He was first introduced to Growers Mineral Solutions when he owned an apple orchard. This product worked to help his apple trees thrive. He took a job with the company driving a delivery truck part-time before he was approached to join the sales team. He said the local Simcoe and Dufferin counties sales representative, Jason Keating, also started as a pleased customer on his Dundalk beef and crop farm.

Growers Mineral Solutions is the result of many years of research by noted researcher and educator Dr. Victor A. Tiedjens. His research started in the 1930's and over the next 25 years he continually refined the ingredients until he arrived at the formula still manufactured today.

Growers Mineral Solutions manufactures out of the original factory using that same original formula though it now sells not only to the United States but in Canada as well. It came to Ontario in the 1960's. The third generation of the founding family just took over the business, Larry reports.

This product isn't just sold, it comes complete with customer service expertise. "We take the time to get to know what the customer needs to make their business more profitable. The environment is very important to the company and since 1955, we have practised and supported the 4R's in the farming community. We start at the very beginning with the potential customer going for a walk in the fields, looking at soil

conditions, even taking soil samples if necessary," he said.

Larry had a hard time deciding what success stories to share because there are so many. There are farm families in their third generation buying the trusted Growers Mineral Solutions each year. One of the success stories was from a hazelnut farmer. He had to pull out all his peach trees as the peach canning business moved to the United States. New hazelnut trees were planted and had been growing for 5 years when Larry got involved. Three days after the first spray of Growers Mineral Solutions, the farmer called to report that he had seen a noticeable difference already with bigger and darker healthy leaves growing.

The second story was a fruit tree nursery grower that sells 1.5 million trees a year. The farm manager reported that Growers Mineral Solutions put an extra foot on each tree. "That extra foot of tree sold for an additional dollar so the business made an extra 1.5 million dollars a year," Larry explains, "it's all about helping farmers."

Growers Mineral Solutions is also used for crops like corn, soybeans and wheat as well as in the fruit and vegetable sectors.

Advertising is done here in Farm View because "it is interesting to read. Roslyn does a great job. It's a nice publication for the farmer and we are happy to be part of it," he said.

Growers Mineral Solutions can be found at: www.growersmineral.com

Did you miss reading an issue of Farm View?
Visit us on the web for back copies.
www.farmviewonline.com

Bell Canada and St. John Ambulance – partners in reducing the stigma of Mental Health

A news release from St. John Ambulance

Bell Let's Talk Day is Thursday, January 28th and we're joining in to help drive progress in mental health.

COVID-19 has affected every aspect of our lives, including our mental health. According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, 38% of Canadians say their mental health has declined due to COVID-19, and people already struggling with their mental health were 2 times more likely to say their mental health has declined due to the pandemic.

Please join us this Bell Let's Talk Day by showing your support for all those who live with mental illness and those taking action to help them. On January 28th, Bell donates 5 cents to Canadian mental health programs for every applicable text, local or long distance call, tweet or TikTok video using #BellLetsTalk; every Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Snapchat, TikTok, Twitter and YouTube view of the Bell Let's Talk Day video; and every use of the Bell Let's Talk Facebook frame or Snapchat filter.

Mental Health and Wellness for the Workplace – Virtual and In-Class Learning Platform Options Available

Intended to equip employees in how to offer peer-to-peer support for a colleague who's experiencing a mental health injury, this one-day course helps participants better

recognize when and how to take action if someone is in distress and guide that person to the appropriate help.

We believe it is everyone's business to care about mental health and wellness in the workplace. This course tackles topics such as:

- Reducing the stigma surrounding mental health issues in the workplace.

- Providing participants with skills, comfort and knowledge to better identify someone in distress and feel empowered to take action to offer aid.

- Having difficult conversations with coworkers about mental health, suicidality, and trauma.

- Building healthy workplaces to aid in the prevention of mental health injuries.

Instructors for this course are qualified to handle the sensitive, triggering issues that can emerge when discussing serious mental health situations. For more information on this and other SJA courses please visit <https://www.sja.ca>

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Ontario Agriculture Conference

Dynamic Diseases: A focus on Tar Spot

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

It is the changing weather patterns that have introduced the disease, "Tar Spot" to corn fields. It was first found in the American cornbelt of Illinois and Indiana- but in 2018 it settled strongly in Wisconsin and has spread out from there. Tar Spot was a discussion topic for Session 11 titled "Dynamic Disease" of the Ontario Agricultural Conference held virtually this past month with speaker, Dr. Damon Smith, an associate professor and director of the Nutrient and Pest Management Program at the University of Wisconsin and Albert Tenuta, Field Crop Extension Plant Pathologist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Tar Spot is named for its appearance, raised dark spots on corn leaves. When Tar Spot first appears, Dr. Smith warned, "it can be confused with (the common disease) rust. Do a visual inspection or sample inspection if you suspect Tar Spot, I have been wrong in diagnosing it before from pictures." He added that if one can push off the "Tar Spot" on the leaves with ones finger, it is not Tar Spot.

It's not the appearance that makes Tar Spot a problem though it is certainly not attractive with it looking exactly like splatters of tar across the green leaf of the corn plant or in late maturity, it can change to resembling fish eyes surrounded by halos. This disease does damage to the corn. "The (corn) plant begins to shut down and it dries up early," he explained adding this is a problem for his home state in Wisconsin that is located in the corn belt. Wisconsin corn is essential to feed the state's dairy cattle as silage. Tar Spot damaged corn often becomes unusually dry and that impacts the quality of the corn silage as moisture is a key component of quality silage.

Tar Spot is now in parts of Ontario. Dr. Smith explains once it is found, it seems to spread out to more counties each year. He is a member of a Tar Spot Working Group of professionals, including crop growers, that are aggressively monitoring and doing field trials with this disease as it has the power to greatly impact corn crops. He said there has been a clear link to this disease to specific weather patterns. He stated, "Weather is the reason for Tar Spot. It really is caused by too much wetness on the leaves of the corn."

Tar Spot thrives in the new weather of those uncomfortable days of high humidity that are now frequent in the summer. When the humidity is high, it is not uncommon to have seven hours at night of dampness. This keeps the corn leaves wet and Tar Spot thrives. An average monthly rainfall of 5.9 inches (14.9 cm) is ideal, along with 10-20 foggy days per month. Monthly averages of warm temperatures of 63F (17C) to 72 (22C) are also desired.

Dr. Smith said that Tar Spot can be greatly reduced by applying fungicides. He reported the Working Group found that "there are some common products that can control Tar Spot, if applied at the right time" in the corn plant's life. The short "tassel" time seems to the prime time for application, field trials have indicated.

Another crop disease was discussed, SDS in soybeans. SDS stands for Sudden Death Syndrome. SDS is now in Ontario and is spreading. As the name implies, this disease can kill a soybean plant, fast. It effects the roots and the leaves. Again, a Working Group has been put in place to quickly learn as much as possible to keep this disease under control so it will not greatly effect soybean yields.

According to Dr. Smith, a great help in managing SDS is to "look at SDS resistant varieties of soybeans. These varieties have shown, in field trials, that they can keep SDS "at bay" from damaging the soybean plant so it does not effect yields greatly." Albert Tenatu added, "Get to know your fields and scout them looking for any sign of SDS. Each field is an individual and no one management tool works best for all your fields," he said.

He added that there is continuous research being done on crop diseases and much of this information is available at: www.CropProtectionNetwork.org

Marketing Madness: Soybean farmers watchful of South American weather

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

The Ontario Agricultural Conference (OAC) was a virtual presentation this year because of COVID-19. The OAC is a combination of the Southwest Agricultural Conference, Golden Horseshoe and Heartland Soil Crop Improvement Associations and Eastern Crop Conferences. There were 40 sessions all presented in an easy-to-access format with highly experienced and knowledgeable presenters.

Marketing Madness was session 15 with crops farmer and independent agronomist, Steve Kell.

The weather in South America and COVID-19 are two of the biggest influencers of this year's crop markets.

Canadian farmers sell crops on the world markets. One of the biggest players in the world markets is South America where the majority of crops are grown.

"Central Ontario farmers have learned to be experts on South American weather because South America is the biggest soybean producer," Mr. Kell said adding that right now, the South American crop is in the ground. "The South American farmer right now is extremely concerned about the condition of the crops- and are reluctant to sell what they have stored. Brazilian soybeans are now worth more than American soybeans," he reported. It is at this time, in January and February, where the critical rains are necessary. At this time, La Nina has arrived meaning below normal sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean near the equator that impacts weather around the world and expectations are western South America will continue to be drier than usual.

"Soybean farmers in North America are experts on South American weather," he adds.

In Ontario, there were approximately 3 million acres of soybeans planted in

2020.

The majority of soybeans, according to Mr. Kell are exported. "Three out of four soybeans grown here in Ontario are put on a boat and moved out of here" adding there is "substantial demand for soybeans."

The majority of soybeans are sold on the world market. China consumes close to 50% of the world's soybeans in a year. China has two-thirds of the world population, he reported meaning that China's need for soybeans makes for a strong market. There have been two issues that have caused China to reduce buying in 2018 and 2019. The first was the African Swine Flu that resulted in huge losses for the Chinese swine herd. The second issue concerned tariffs between China and the USA but that has since been resolved. The Chinese swine herd is now also recovered so the demand for soybean feed is back at its normal high rate.

Wheat is "corn's little brother," he said explaining that where corn prices go, wheat prices will follow. Wheat follows corn because the two are interchangeable in feed for livestock. That is where all surplus wheat goes that is not used in the flour mill industry for the domestic North American market. Wheat is not usually exported on the world market

Nearly half of the US winter wheat acres are planted in areas that are now reporting soil moisture as below normal. Ontario's winter wheat planting though is thought to be higher and it has been suggested, Mr. Kell reported, that acreage could be up about 10% which is about 1.15 million acres. Wheat prices for the future need to be watched carefully with North American weather being the biggest factor.

Corn is a huge commodity, the world produces 1 billion tons. In 2020 North America had the third biggest harvested crop of all time. The corn prices may



be effected by what happens with COVID-19.

One third of all corn in North America goes into the gas tank as it is used for ethanol production. For the past ten years, USA data showed a consistent need for 1,050,000 barrels to 1,090,000 barrels a day which meant it ate up about 5.2 billion bushels of corn in a year. All changed though in March 2020 with the arrival of the COVID-19 Pandemic and everything was shut down to the point that people were not driving. Ethanol production dropped to only 500,000 barrels per day.

"Ethanol production has bounced back but not to the usual 1 million barrels yet, it is still around 900,000. What we need is for everything to re-open and have people driving out to hockey games and events again," Steve Kell said.

Corn prices for 2021 are a big unknown at this point however, the recent COVID-19 numbers are not suggesting ethanol production will be increasing any time soon.

Steve Kell will be a keynote speaker at the SCFA's Grain Marketing Seminar as well as The Dufferin Soil and Crop Improvement Association Annual Meeting. Please see the Ag Calendar on Page 2 for more details.



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More coverage of the Ontario Agriculture Conference to follow in the March edition of Farm View.

Equine Support Program

By MPP Doug Downey

During the pandemic, many horse experience related activities, such as riding schools, trail ride operations, and horse camps have been unable to operate. The disruption of these activities is causing challenges for horse experience operators in caring for their animals this winter.

The Equine Hardship Program, launched on January 18, 2021, will provide individual businesses offering horse related experiences up to \$2,500 per horse up to a maximum of \$20,000 in financial support to help cover direct costs for feed, water, veterinary care and farrier services to maintain their horses' health and well-being.

Horse experience businesses will be eligible for funding if they earned at least 50 per cent of their revenue in 2019 from horse experience activities, their 2020 revenue was less than half of what was earned in 2019 due to the pandemic, and they attest they are facing hardship as a result to COVID-19 that will make it difficult to care for the horses.

The Equine Hardship Program was specifically designed for horse experience businesses that are not eligible for other agriculture related programs that help farmers manage risk, such as the Risk Management Program and AgriStability.

The funding is in addition to the government initiatives launched this year to assist the agriculture sector in meeting challenges related to the COVID-19 outbreak, including:

- The \$25.5 million Agri-food Prevention and Control Innovation Program to help reduce disruptions in business operations and risks of COVID-19 exposure in the workplace;
- The launch of a portal to connect farms and other agri-food sector business with labour needs to job seekers;
- The creation of a \$26.6 million Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program in partnership with the federal government;
- The investment of an additional \$50 million into the Risk Management Program for 2020, one year earlier than originally promised.

Quick Facts:

- There are approximately 150 horse experience businesses in Ontario, including more than 50 horse camp or trail ride operations, at least 15 carriage operators, at least 14 therapeutic riding centres and many riding schools. These businesses also include horse drawn carriage or sleigh rides.
- Under the Equine Hardship Program, costs incurred between March 17, 2020 and February 28 2021 will be eligible. Enrolment and claim forms will be accepted until March 12, 2021, or while program funding remains available, whichever comes first.
- Eligible business owners may be provided up to \$20,000 (total) to maintain horses used to provide these experiences. A cap of \$2,500 per eligible animal will be applied.

Heart Attack or Sudden Cardiac Arrest, the difference and how you can help

By Dennis Gannon

Do you know the difference between a heart attack and Sudden Cardiac Arrest? Are they different or is it just the way we say it? If we encounter someone suffering from either do we treat them differently?

The answer to these questions is yes, there is a difference and we all should know what to do.

While often used interchangeably, they are not alike and are uniquely different. Medical professionals tell us that a heart attack occurs when the flow of blood to the heart is blocked. The blockage is most often a buildup of fat, cholesterol and other substances, which form a plaque in the arteries that feed the heart.

A heart attack, also called a myocardial infarction, can be fatal, but treatment has improved dramatically over the years. Heart attacks can strike suddenly, but many people have warning signs and symptoms hours, days or weeks in advance. The earliest warning might be recurrent chest pain or pressure that's triggered by activity and relieved by rest.

Heart attacks are preventable and while damage may occur to the heart, with treatment the results can be reversed and a healthy life can still be had.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest is the unexpected loss of heart function, breathing and consciousness. The condition usually results from a problem with the heart's electrical system, which disrupts the heart's pumping action and stops blood flow to the body.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest isn't the same as a heart attack, when blood flow to a part of the heart is blocked. Sudden Cardiac Arrest occurs unexpectedly and often without warning which is the most significant difference between it and a heart attack. A heart attack can however sometimes trigger an electrical disturbance that leads to Sudden Cardiac Arrest. With its pumping action

disrupted, the heart cannot pump blood to the brain, lungs and other organs. Seconds after a Sudden Cardiac Arrest, a person loses consciousness and has no pulse. Death occurs within minutes if the victim does not receive treatment.

So what can you do for someone who is suffering from either a heart attack or Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

For both, access to immediate medical attention is key. Call 9-1-1 and provide as many details as you can to the emergency call taker. Know the address of the location of where you are and the phone number from the phone you are calling from. This information is important to ensure that the closest emergency responders get to the scene.

If the person is not breathing and has no pulse, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) must be started immediately. If you don't know CPR, start chest compressions. Keeping the heart pumping blood to the brain is key. Even if the chest compressions are not perfect, the flow of blood provides the person with the best chance of survival.

Call for an Public Access Automated External Defibrillator (AED). In shopping malls, ice rinks, community centres, parks and many office locations, Public Access AEDs are often available. Public Access AEDs will never hurt a person who has a beating heart. These units provide verbal and pictorial step by step instructions on how to use them and for Sudden Cardiac Arrest, they are invaluable.

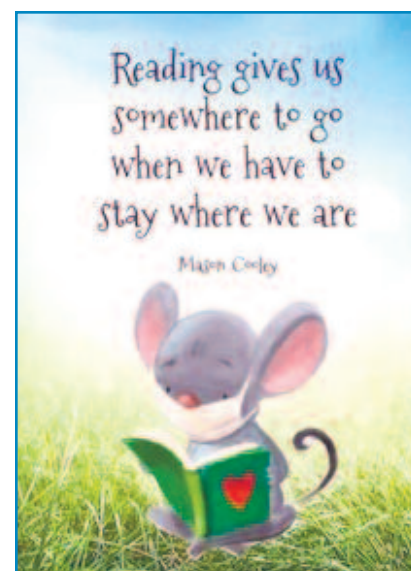
Public Access AEDs are becoming more common. Technology over the years have made them more affordable and easier to use. As well, these life saving devices can be housed outdoors so that they are available year round in cabinets that can heat and cool them and monitor their readiness. A number of municipalities in Ontario have started to have Public Access AEDs in outdoor locations. Locally, in the fall of 2019, the Township of Springwater moved

almost all of their AEDs into outdoor cabinets so that they are available at all times for the public to use. All the community centres, sports field, tennis court and library locations as well as the administrative centre in Springwater have Public Access AEDs located outdoors for everyone to use in the event of a Sudden Cardiac event.

There are also homeowners who have stepped up and placed an AED on the side of their home so that their neighbours can also access them. Some have done so through crowdfunding platforms or others just through their own generosity. Like insurance, the hope is that it is never needed but it is available if and when it is.

February is the month that we celebrate the heart and love with Valentine's Day and through educational programs about heart health. This February if you haven't already, learn CPR through an online course. When out, look for the location of AEDs and perhaps consider getting one in your neighbourhood. The life that you could save will be the life of someone's loved one.

For more information on AEDs or outdoor cabinets you may contact me through this newspaper.



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Updates from the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture



John Morrison

It has come to my attention that in the December issue of Farm View, we overlooked naming Jim Partridge, the Past President, included in the executive committee. Your executive committee for SCFA for 2020-2021 is John Morrison, President; Dave Ritchie, 1st Vice President; Paul Maurice, 2nd Vice President; Jim Partridge, Past President; and executive members John Elder, Dorothy Lange, Josephine Martensson-Hemssted, and Colin Elliot. If you go to our website, you will find your directors for your area. If you have an issue you want to bring forward, notify your director, and he or she will bring it to the board for discussion. That's what we're there for. From there, we can take it to the OFA or, if it's a county concern, we can take it to the County on your behalf.

At our January meeting we had Alan Priest from Powell Jones give us a presentation on how to read financial statements and the roll and responsibilities of directors of a board. We found it quite interesting.

Our Marketing meeting is Feb. 10, and if you haven't registered, please do so, so that we can send you the link. We are still hoping to host an Ag. Precision virtual meeting sometime in March or April. Stay tuned for more information. We are also seriously investigating signs for hiking trails telling the hikers what farmers have done to improve the environment and our role as stewards of the land. This would be a great way to keep the public informed as to what we are doing to improve the environment. As this pandemic is still with us for the foreseeable future, we will probably not be hosting a Keep Kids Safe event or a Farms Feed Families event again this year.

We received a letter from the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan 10 year review wanting our comments. Some of our comments were:

1. what they are doing seems to be going in the right

direction as water quality has improved;

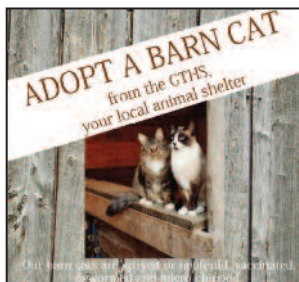
2. with all of the development proposed, they must keep a watchful eye on the water from roads, parking lots, houses, and so called 100 year storms;

3. agricultural lands would be the least of their worries.

We also sent a letter to MPP Doug Downey supporting his Bill 88, the merging of farmland. If a landowner owns two properties side by side, they are considered one in the eyes of government even though the owner gets two separate tax bills. Bill 88 would treat them as two separate parcels.

It's good to see the roll out of vaccines—maybe things will get back to normal. Most, if not all of us, are getting tired of COVID 19.

Be Safe
John Morrison
President, SCFA.



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No farm shows to escape to this year?

If your internet connection, or skills are a little weak, you're going to miss out on the information segment of the virtual show.

So let's talk about soil health. It's getting to be popular recently. Lately, the agronomists are starting to recognize calcium as an important element. The old story about using calcium to change soil PH is only partly accurate. Calcitic limestone has a PH of 7 so no matter how much you put on, your soil will only get to 7. It's actually the Magnesium that is the problem. It binds the soil particles that causes several problems for you and your crop.



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Grocery Costs on the Rise: A CFFO report

By Paul Bootsma, Field Services Manager
for the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

One of the items that has had some attention in the media is an expected increase in food prices for 2021 across Canada. According to Canada's Food Price Report 2021, a family of four, two adults and two children, will spend close to \$695 more on the same food they purchased in 2020. This represents a 3-5% price increase, bringing the average annual cost of food close to \$14,000.

A food basket is established consisting of the basic food this family would be purchasing and these items are used to determine prices. What should be noted here is that the items in this basket are based somewhat on the Canada Food Guide recommendations, and the last guide has been criticized for its more costly choices.

The Report notes that the average grocery bill has increased 170 percent in the last two decades, and they expect the cost to keep rising, surpassing the general inflation index.

There are several suggested reasons for this expected increase. The first is the fallout

from Covid-19 and its impacts on food processing and food loss. Other reasons include environmental factors and global issues, such as trade deals, that are out of our control.

Undoubtedly, the buying habits of some will change due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Already, we are seeing more interest in local food and Canadian-produced food. Food that is transported over a long distance and handled several times may be more suspect of disease or lack of quality.

This leaves us with the question if any of this increase in the consumer's cost of food will result in more revenue to the farmer who began the production of this said food.

The CFFO has always called for farmers to receive a fair return for their efforts. Farmers are price takers, not price setters. When prices increase to the consumer but none of that ends up in the farmer's pocket, there is a sense of unfairness in the system.

On the other hand, the last year has seen new opportunities for many farmers, thanks to increased public interest in local food. With the food system no longer being taken for granted, we could see further expansion of these opportunities.

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QUILTING



On a snowy day in January, Lillian Watkins photographed these two barn quilts located between Thornton and Cookstown.



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After The Chores: Watching Rabbits

By Cathy Hamill-Hill



The rabbit business was tried by Sweetie twice in that empty space. The first time he bought a whole rabbit operation from cages to stands and a lot of really nice looking rabbits. The owner of these rabbits didn't lie, he just did not divulge any important information. No doubt those beautiful rabbits did have litters of babies. The key question would have been to ask when these rabbits had babies last. The rabbits were mostly retired happy attractive senior citizens that loved to eat. The next batch of rabbits from someone else were young rabbits but they were fully infected with ear mange. Also, nearly all the young does (females) purchased turned out to be actually young bucks (males). The rabbit business was ended-again.

When I told Sweetie that rabbits is what I wanted to do next, he said that all the cages and water bottles were behind the barn. He also said- and you can see why I call him Sweetie- that he would do all my rabbit chores when I was busy with baby lambs or kids. With equipment and extra help in my busy season, all I needed were rabbits. With two rabbit buying disasters behind us, I was extra cautious this time around so decided to get educated help from my Friend that is provincially recognized for her top quality utility (meat type) rabbits.

It was April when I got a call from Friend to get my trio. A trio is rabbit talk for a buck and two unrelated does of the same breed of the same colour. I was at my friend's place in a flash to pick up my new farming project. They were presented to me as a Gift. And about two weeks later, Friend gave me a doe with six babies, also as a Gift. There have been few gifts in my life as appreciated as those rabbits.

Sweetie built me new stands from the old stands because I believe in location equality. I didn't think it was fair for one level of rabbits to live low while the next level had a view. These rabbits were pretty, they looked like Siamese cats being of the same colour and they looked to be painted in varnish as they were Satins.

The first few litters were easy. I remembered the does were bred "one month from Mother's Day Sunday" so the babies were all born in the new nest boxes Sweetie built for me. These does were young but experienced so it was like Christmas morning when I spied moving fur in the nest boxes. I spent a lot of time peering, from all directions, into the nest boxes that happy summer and fall. Friend said to never touch the box as these mothers were highly protective.

The second year my rabbit business had tripled and I was fully hooked on rabbit farming. I learned that I cannot remember "one month from the bad storm day in April" when I first came to the barn to find dead baby bunnies strewn around the cage floor. I felt like such a mean, stupid loser for forgetting such an important date. Sweetie got me a calendar, a pen, clothspins and notes for the barn because recording the babies' expected arrival dates that is pinned on each cage's feeder is rule #1 for raising rabbits.

My rabbit population did not triple the next year, it did not even double. That led me to rule #2- don't assume you will get does. That next year I had retained 11 nice looking rabbits, I assumed 9 were does. The group of 11 had only 2 does.

Larry is my other helper for raising rabbits. Larry is a joyful rabbit hunter. It is usually the babies that get out- and then I call in the faithful Labrador. Once I point, Larry looks and he then he leaps into action. He races over to the lost bunny- and scoops the baby into his gentle, soft mouth and rushes to my side with his prize. I praise him lavishly because crawling under the cages in pursuit of a rabbit is not my version of joy.

The grand plan is to greatly expand the rabbit operation in the future. I have no more plans for purchasing any tv movie services because I am busy watching Rabbits.

Mental Health Program for South Simcoe Businesses

Nottawasaga Community Futures Development Corporation wants business owners in the South Simcoe area to know they are not alone.

To that end, it has partnered with the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, the Town of Innisfil and the Town of New Tecumseth to launch a mental health pilot program they hope will instill some peace-of-mind in turbulent times.

We wanted to offer mental health support for people who weren't coping very well with the downturn of the economy, especially with their own businesses.

In addition to helping guide business own-

ers through government programs and funding alternatives to alleviate their losses, Nottawasaga CFDC wants to help relieve emotional and psychological strain caused by the pandemic with free, confidential, one-on-one support sessions with a mental health professional for up to five hours per candidate.

The confidential service is complimentary to businesses within the Nottawasaga CFDC catchment area, regardless of size or sector. People requiring more information or wanting to participate, can contact Kuzma at 705-435-1540 or martin@nottawasaga.com to answer some qualifying questions unrelated to personal health.

Grain Marketing Seminar

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Virtual

Instructor: Steve Kell

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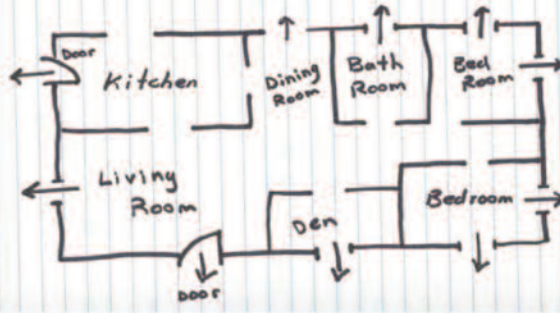
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Fire and smoke can travel so quickly that despite their best efforts, firefighters may not be able to rescue you or your family if a fire occurs in your home. You **need** to be *out of your home* when the firefighters arrive!



For more information, contact your local fire department.

Grey Bruce Farmers' Week, Horse Day Pasture Management

By Cathy Hamill-Hill

Grey-Bruce Farmers' Week is a seven day agricultural conference. The conference dedicates one full day to one specific sector of agriculture. Providing extensive coverage including producer panels that educate from their own personal farm experience. The event attracts about 1,300 people each year over the week. Due to the virtual platform Farm View was able to attend two days, the first was "Horse Day."

Christine O'Reilly, Foraging and Grazing Specialist from Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs presented "Horse Pasture Management."

She began the presentation by clarifying the difference between "pasture" and "turn outs." A pasture is a paddock with enough grass to be a key component of the horse's diet while a turn out is a paddock with not enough grass to feed the horse causing the need for the horse to be fed hay.

Pasture is made up of plants. These plants have leaves on top of the ground and a network of roots under the ground. The top leaves, she said, are "solar panels" which take in sunlight and through photosynthesis turn the light into sugar which feeds the plant. She said, several times, that just because the plant "looks green" it is not ready to be considered "pasture."

"When the plant is at the two leaf stage, it looks lush but its not ready yet. It needs more leaf power still and it will not be strong enough to put the energy back in the plant," Ms. O'Reilly said explaining that pasture plants need to be strong enough so that when they are eaten off by the horse, they can grow back up again. If plants are not strong enough to regrow then the pasture will not have any good regrowth for the rest of the season or may even kill the plant. The pasture should be not used until there are 3-4 new green leaves on the

plants.

New leaf growth on the plant is the horse's favourite part of the pasture. "New leaf growth is the sweetest, most delicious in the whole paddock," she said adding that horses will come back over and over to the same plant that is trying to grow more leaves. Horses don't eat pasture evenly, they continue eating the same delicious stuff to the point they visit the same area 90% of the time and other areas of the pasture 10% of the time. The pasture becomes uneven with one part gone to rough and one part like a carpet- unless rotational grazing is practiced, she said.

Rotational grazing is moving the horse from one paddock to the next so the pasture can recover and rest. In the spring pasture needs about 4 weeks to recover and in the summer when it is hotter or drier it requires about six weeks or longer. Each group of horses should be moved out of pasture to allow the pasture to rest and recover. Christine O'Reilly said a "sandy turn out with hay being fed" is one option. "One 1,000 pound horse needs 1 acre of well managed grazing pasture per grazing season," she said adding she is well aware that this is not possible at many smaller farms. Ms. O'Reilly said the key is to "manage the pasture you have because any pasture is cheaper than hay."

It is easy for the horse to quickly take the pasture down to a dangerously low level because the horse "can crop the grazing pasture extremely close to the ground because their teeth are angled out," she said explaining that pastures need help in recovering from the horses grazing. She added horses are selective grazers and won't eat any plants they do not like.

To keep the pasture evenly growing, it will need some help. "Mow the pasture with the bush hog, take down the plants the horses don't like and when

they regrow, it can be as equally delicious as the rest of the pasture," she said adding the pasture should not "look like the lawn when done" and the bush hog should be set to have 3-4 inches left off the ground when finished mowing.

Using the correct fertilizer can help pastures recover faster, but it is important to not guess at what the pasture needs. There are tests that can be done for plant nutrients that can be checked by testing that is available with local farm fertilizer suppliers. Another fertilizer option is to use horse manure but it must be well composted and well rotted. Horse manure must be composted to the stage it is not clumped because that can smother the pasture plants and likely will be replaced by the growth of weeds. The best time for manure application for horse pastures is in the fall. Once manure is put on the pasture, the horses must come off pasture for the rest of the grazing season.

According to Ms. O'Reilly, one of the most common questions about horse pasture is about "dragging pasture" for manure management. This means sending harrows through pasture to break up clumps of manure. "Dragging can kill worms and parasites but the temperature must be 25F or more and it must be sunny outside," she stressed adding that if its not warm with sunshine the dragging could actually increase parasites by spreading live parasites all over the pasture from the harrowing process. She suggested going to a veterinarian to check for parasites before the dragging pasture practice takes place.

Next Month Farm View will feature GOAT Day from the Grey-Bruce Farmers Week with specialists Dr. Mary C. Smith and Dr. Tatiana Luisa Stanton.





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2A NEW AgriSuite: Field Management - Organic Amendment Nutrient Balance

What is that organic amendment worth to your production system and through the crop rotation on your farm? OMAFRA has recently upgraded AgriSuite to include the ability to take in your manure analysis (or when not available - use a pre-existing organic amendment database) to calculate this value and project the economics around it! Walk through these new features in the field management tool. Get ready to work through this tool once you are trained, & bring your data to the table ~ let's get started!

2B NEW AgriSuite: PLATO Phosphorus - Loss Assessment Tool for Ontario

We all know that phosphorus is a critical nutrient for crop growth. You have also probably heard of the current concern over too much phosphorus reaching our rivers and lakes causing algal blooms and dead zones. In this workshop you will receive hands-on-training in using a convenient on-line calculator called PLATO (Phosphorus Loss Assessment Tool for Ontario). You will use PLATO to evaluate just how well you are doing at optimizing your phosphorus fertilizer sources (fertilizer, manure, biosolids, soil reserves, etc.) for both crop production and in preventing phosphorus from leaving your fields. The session also introduces you to a handy online service for estimating annual soil erosion rates on your fields - an input needed for the PLATO tool.

A great experience at Rundle's Painting

By Roslyn Watkins

Some of you may have noticed the vehicle I have been driving for many, many years as I have gone about distributing copies of the Farm View to the local businesses and advertisers. Heck, some of you may have heard the vehicle I have been driving for many, many years. While the Toyota Sienna was without a doubt the most comfortable, reliable vehicle I have ever ridden in and we have so many cherished memories of family road trips, this past fall it was time to retire her and find a replacement. I must admit it didn't take long. A few years ago my husband introduced me to his love of Jeeps so I didn't think twice. The only thing on the Wrangler that I did not like were the wheels. So I contacted John Rundle to ask him to paint them.

I wanted to share the results as I could not be happier. They look terrific, I can't wait for the snow to melt and replace the winter tires with the 'new' all seasons.



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The history of Lake Simcoe Ice Company

Harvesting ice from Lake Simcoe was once big business, providing winter employment for hundreds of area farmers. One of the largest ice companies operating on that body of water was the Lake Simcoe Ice Company, a thriving business that endured for more than half a century.

In the 19th and first half of the 20th century, the primary method of refrigeration - vital for the operation of restaurants, hotels, and butcheries - came from ice painstakingly cut from countless northern lakes. At the time, Lake Simcoe ice was widely considered to be the best in North America.

Ice harvesting as an industry began on Lake Simcoe in the early 1870s but took a massive leap forward when James Fairhead's Spring Water Ice Company branched out from Lake Wilcox and Bond Lake to Lake Simcoe. In 1894, Fairhead changed the business' name to the Lake Simcoe Ice Company in order to capitalize on that lake's reputation

for ice purity. Rapid shipment to distant markets was important in order to reduce melting in transit, so harvesting was limited to locations where railways came close to

the shoreline.

The Lake Simcoe Ice Company had facilities at Jackson's Point and Belle Ewart. The Jackson's Point operation consisted of four large icehouses with a combined capacity of ten thousand tons. Upwards of 40 train cars of ice were shipped daily in peak season. At Belle Ewart, a spur line was built linking water to rail.

Since harvesting couldn't begin until the lake surface had frozen solid, the industry depended largely upon the whims of nature. Harvesting began in earnest once the ice had reached 10 to 20 inches in thickness which, in a typical year, occurred in January or February. It was then a mad dash to bring in the yearly quota before the ice began to melt in March.

The process of harvesting ice began by horses pulling scrapers across the lake's frozen surface in order to smooth it to acceptable levels. Then, the outlines of blocks were marked out with charcoal briquettes. Originally these blocks were cut by manually using hand saws, but by the turn of the century the process became mechanized, with saws driven by steam and, later still, automobile engines. Blocks typically measured 22 by 32 inches and weighed between 50 to 300 pounds. They were brought to shore via channels cut into the ice, then deposited in warehouses or directly

into waiting railcars by way of a conveyor belt. Sawdust, up to a foot thick, insulated the ice to prevent melting.

Ice from Lake Simcoe was delivered as far away as cities along the eastern seaboard of the United States, some even reaching the Carolinas and Florida, though in the latter cases as much as 40% of the mass would be lost on route. For its part, the Lake Simcoe Ice Company focused its attentions on the Toronto market.

Harvesters for the Lake Simcoe Ice Company, who were mostly farmers or summer rail hands, earned 30 cents an hour, a very decent wage for the time. The horses employed in the operation were those used in the summer to pull the company's fleet of twenty-five delivery wagons across Toronto.

Starting around 1920, artificial ice began to slowly supplant natural ice for most uses because there are inherent drawbacks in harvesting rather than manufacturing ice: Wastage was inevitable during the lengthy shipment by rail; it was time consuming to make blocks fit with the ice-boxes of the day; unseasonably warm winters could undermine profits; and sawdust had to be washed away before delivery.

Artificial ice was clearly the way forward. The last commercial ice cut on Lake Simcoe was around 1950, more than a decade after the Lake Simcoe Ice Company had cut its last block.

Village stories

by Andrew Hind

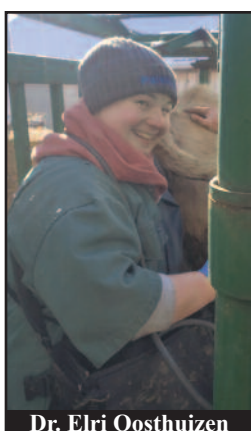


Announcement

North Simcoe Veterinary Services

is pleased to announce that

Dr. Stefanie Nickerson & Dr. Elri Oosthuizen have joined our veterinary practice.



Dr. Elri Oosthuizen

Dr. Elri Oosthuizen is a 2019 graduate from the Ontario Veterinary College. After graduation she spent the summer at Cornell University, participating in the Summer Dairy Institute; an intensive dairy herd health management course for new vets. She then spent the last 1.5 yrs practicing large animal medicine with all farm species... from dairy and beef cattle to small ruminants and horses. Her heart lies in dairy medicine and preventative herd health management.

Dr. Stefanie Nickerson graduated from the University of Guelph with an undergraduate degree in 2009, and subsequently the University of Dublin

Ireland; College of Veterinary Medicine, in 2013. Post-graduation, Stef remained in Ireland and worked at a mixed animal practice. Upon her return to Canada in 2014 she began to practice at Woodbine Racetrack until joining our practice in the fall of 2020, Stef has developed skills and special interest in equine medicine & surgery.



Dr. Stefanie Nickerson

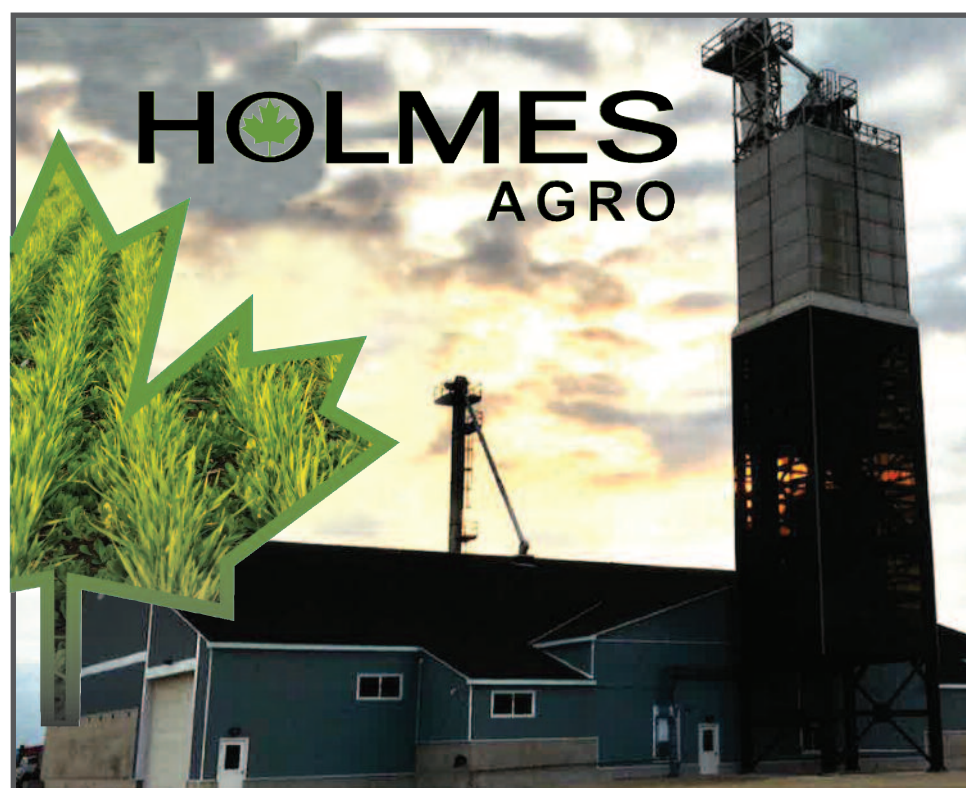
Drs. Elri & Stefanie have joined Drs. Joel & Rose Rumney and Dr. Shauna O'Brien in providing veterinary care for farm animals and horses. Companion animal services are provided by Drs. Edie Habersellner (Rumney), Suzanne Abray, Mike Irving & Ashley Mann. North Simcoe Veterinary Services provides veterinary care for farm animals of every species. The clinic is one of 12 in the province to have an accredited food animal hospital and surgical facility. "Ship ins" are welcome and encouraged. North Simcoe Veterinary Services has provided veterinary care to North Simcoe County and surrounding area since 1983.



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Innovative GTHS Humane Education Program for Youth Goes Digital

The Georgian Triangle Humane Society (GTHS) has launched innovative online Humane Education courses for youth aged 10-17. The COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges in how youth in the Southern Georgian Bay area can access existing GTHS programs. The online Humane Education courses are the first of their kind in Canada and will provide hours of learning about everything from what to know before selecting the right pet to creating a pet sitter business.

The GTHS launched a groundbreaking initiative for youth in the Southern Georgian Bay community in November 2017. Since then, the GTHS Humane Education program has proven to increase social and emotional skills in children facing barriers through strengthening the human-animal bond. The GTHS is grateful to be the recipient of a grow grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) which will fund the program over a three-year period. The GTHS has partnered with the Ontario SPCA to develop program and deliver new and innovative courses to the youth in our community. The Humane Education program aligns itself with countless academic studies across international boundaries that suggest developing empathy for animals will result in increased caring for all human beings; empathy has been shown to be a building block for pro-social behaviour.

Based on a successful pilot project of school-based classroom visits, group workshops/after school and summer programs and one-to-one mentorships, this program has now moved online. This online platform consists of two engaging courses for youth (the Pet Sitter Certificate and Responsible Pet Ownership courses), and one course specifically designed for educators (the Animal Wellness Certificate program).

Recently, the GTHS has secured approval from several school boards for secondary students to complete two specific online courses to fulfill their community service involvement hours. Students in Simcoe, Simcoe Muskoka and Peel are encouraged to visit our website for further information or email education@gths.ca directly.

Pet Sitter Certificate Course

The Pet Sitter Certificate Course is made up of a series of eight modules and takes 8-10 hours to complete. It is designed for youth who love learning about animals and caring for them. This course is targeted to students who want to turn that passion into a job. Participants will learn how to: feed, water and exercise pets, identify and handle emergency situations, practice dog and cat care basics, and create a business and marketing plan. The fee for this course is

\$39.00. Registrants who complete the course will receive a certificate of completion, which they can use to market their business.

Responsible Pet Ownership Course

This course is for anyone thinking about bringing a new pet into their home and for all existing pet parents. Topics include guidelines for responsible pet ownership: why we have pets and the health benefits of pet ownership, the five freedoms that pet owners must provide for their companions and the ten responsibilities that go with those freedoms. This course is recommended for youth but is open to all ages. There is no fee for this course thanks to the grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Registrants who complete the course will receive a certificate of completion.

Junior Animal Wellness Certificate Program

GTHS also offers another innovative online program, the Animal Wellness Certificate Course to Grade 6+ teachers and home school parents in the Simcoe/York regions. This program is taught online to youth through the direction of an educator. It replaces the in-class, in-shelter course that was offered before the COVID-19 pandemic. Registrants who complete the program will receive a certificate of completion.

"The GTHS Humane Education courses are uniquely designed to teach youth the skills they need to take their love of animals to the next level. By focusing on the bond between animals and children, education is key to empowering youth to become a more informed, respectful and a compassionate generation. This program and these courses are the first of their kind in Canada and we at the GTHS are extremely proud of delivering them to our community and possibly beyond," said Sonya Reichel, GTHS Executive Director.

"We are excited about the excellent job the Georgian Triangle Humane Society has done to create an in-depth, easy-to-understand series of online programs for youth and adults. These creatively executed, engaging courses are professional and will make learning about animal care and the importance of empathy a fun learning experience," said Daryl Vaillancourt, Ontario SPCA.

For more information on the GTHS Humane Education program, please visit

www.gths.ca/services/humane-education/ or contact Karen Marsh, Humane Education Coordinator at 705-445-5204, Ext. 213

Grow Hope Markdale

By Roslyn Watkins

This past fall I became aware of the North Simcoe Grain project when Sam Langman passed away. After learning of Mr. Langman's involvement in the program I was intrigued and did some research on the Canadian Foodgrains Bank Initiative.

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 Canadian churches and church-based agencies working together to end global hunger. They work with locally-based organizations in developing countries to meet emergency food needs, achieve long-term solutions to hunger and work to foster informed action by Canadians and governments.

There are many ways to participate: You can become a corporate sponsor, start a fundraiser, make a one time or monthly donation to name a few. The project that caught my attention was the Community and Growing projects opportunity. Through this program Farmers can donate their crops or resources. I discovered you

don't need to have farmland to participate. You can donate services as well. Such as trucking, insurance, chemicals and fertilizer to name a few examples. Through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank program a person can also support a crop that will be donated. This is what I decided to do this past Christmas on behalf of all the advertisers in the Farm View newspaper.

We are now sponsoring an acre of farmland in the grow Hope Markdale project. GROW HOPE enables more people, churches and groups to get involved in helping end hunger by sponsoring an acre before the crop is planted. Farmers will grow crops for a Foodgrains Bank member. During the growing season, they will send field updates on the crop and I will share them in the Farm View. Once the crops are harvested, The farmer will sell them and donate the entire proceeds.

I'm excited to be participating in this new venture on behalf of Farm View advertisers.

 **JIM WILSON, MPP**
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Association Annual Meeting**

Wednesday February 10, 2021 10 am to 12 pm

*To be held virtually due to the pandemic***Guest Speakers include:**

- **Steve Kell** to speak on grain marketing
- **Peter Johnson** Lead Agronomist Real Agriculture
- **Tammy Whelan** (Education Lead)
- **Canadian Mental Health Association** (Peel/Dufferin)

For more information contact

Jim Irvine 519-835-9929

jimi@greatlakesgrain.com

Brandi McCabe 519-940-6679

brandi_mccabe@hotmail.com

Kristen Carberry 226-343-1344

kristen@holmesagro.com**Join Zoom Meeting**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5199863756?pwd=aTJjd25YbExZ-clBCRm5MbzRiN3hpQT09>**AUCTION SALE****BOOK YOUR SALE WITH US FOR QUALITY
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The Beef Farmers of Ontario, the Ontario Sheep Farmers, Mapleseed, and the Ontario Forage Council, invite you to nominate a deserving producer for the Mapleseed Pasture Award.

This is an excellent opportunity to recognize individual producers who are doing an outstanding job of pasture management. The Mapleseed Pasture Awards are also a way of encouraging producers to implement pasture management strategies that maximize production per acre.

For each category, Mapleseed contributes a cash award of \$250 to the winner. The winner of each category will also be invited to share a presentation about their operation at their respective commodity AGM (pending for 2021 due to COVID safety protocols).

Additional to these prizes and recognition, each winner will receive a 25kg bag of their choice of a Mapleseed Forage Mix.

The deadline to submit applications for the sheep pasture award is

October 1, 2021

Send completed applications to:

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c/o Ontario Forage Council

Box 463

Markdale, ON, N0C 1H0

E-mail: support@ontarioforagecouncil.com Subject line:

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Local MP and MPP praise rural internet connectivity projects: Broadband Is Coming to Town

In December the province announced that all contracts were signed in Simcoe County under the SWIFT (South Western Integrated Fibre Technology) project, ensuring that construction of up to \$41 million in broadband infrastructure in a number of local communities will now move forward.

Once complete, these projects will connect 12,700 more homes and businesses in Simcoe County to fast, reliable internet. Many of these homes are located in Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte communities such as: Edgar, Dalston, Craighurst, Anten Mills, Hillsdale, Moonstone and Horseshoe Valley.

"When I speak to residents in Springwater and Oro-Medonte, access to reliable internet has always been high on the priority list," said Doug Downey, MPP for Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte. "The need for good connectivity has increased dramatically this year. Internet has become a vital part of everyday living - for work and for school. These projects will help provide that stability. They will ensure people can spend more time with their families and less time struggling with connectivity issues, making life easier and less stressful for many local families."

"In the past year it has become more evident than ever

before that connectivity is critical to all Canadians. Many businesses and residents of Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte have been advocating for better service," said Doug Shipley, MP for Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte. "This investment in broadband infrastructure is a solid step towards digital equality with our urban neighbors. As we acknowledge this milestone, I remain committed to advocating for further investments for those residents who are still awaiting access to reliable internet."

Quick Facts

- SWIFT (South Western Integrated Fibre Technology) is a not-for-profit corporation initiated by the Western Ontario Wardens Caucus to address connectivity in South Western Ontario and support the critical expansion of broadband to underserved areas.

- Federal and Provincial Governments are each contributing more than \$63 million to SWIFT through the New Building Canada-Small Communities Fund.

visit: farmviewonline.com for advertising information

A message from Jim Wilson, MPP

Applications are now open for the Ontario Small Business Support Grant. As you may know, this program will help small businesses that have been required to close or significantly restrict activities due to this lock down. The grants will be for a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$20,000. Businesses will be permitted to use this grant in any way that makes the most sense to them.

You can apply for this and other programs such as Property Tax and Energy Costs Rebates here: <https://www.app.grants.gov.on.ca/msrf/#/>

I am encouraged by the new Ontario Small Business Grant and hope that it will provide some meaningful support for our small businesses during this shutdown period.

Read more about the Ontario Small Business Support Grant here: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59968/applications-now-open-for-ontarios-small-business-support-grant>

We're working on our next issue...

Do you have a story idea for us?
See contact information on bottom of page 4.



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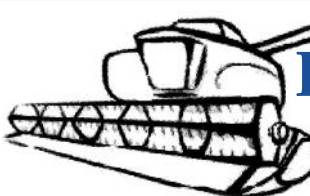
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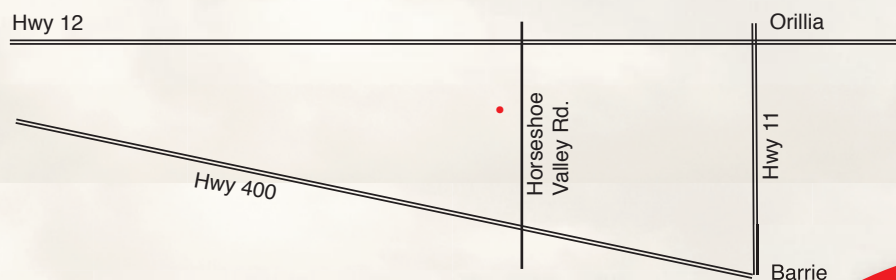
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