



FARM ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Welcome to the first edition of the Farm Environmental News

This newsletter will highlight what FFC is working on related to farming and the environment. This information will be included in the regular Farm & Food Care e-newsletter on a quarterly basis with links to more resources. If you have any comments or recommendations, please send them to our office.

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What's new at Farm & Food Care?

OMAF Pesticide Survey 2013

Farm & Food Care has been contracted by The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food to conduct a pesticide survey of crop protection chemicals used during the 2013 growing season. It is important to agriculture as a whole that trends in the use of crop protection products are periodically examined. Producers are encouraged to consult their records and follow the link below to contribute. The 2013 pesticide use information collection is now live at: www.ontariopesticidesurvey.ca

[You can download a hard copy of the pesticide form here](#)

WRAMI Results Conference and Symposium

WRAMI is an 18 month (2013-2014) program that has allocated approximately \$900,000 to various demonstration and pilot projects. The objectives are to help Ontario farmers be better prepared for low water response, drought preparedness and adapt water use practices to cope with the growing impacts of climate change. A WRAMI results conference and symposium is planned for March 6, 2014 in Guelph.

[Register for the conference here](#)

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS)

CoCoRaHS is a national volunteer weather service where individuals submit their precipitation information daily to a central website. CoCoRaHS is looking for weather watchers to join the Ontario network. Individuals and existing networks are encouraged to join. Follow the link to www.cocorahs.org/canada, and for more information. To sign up contact Karla at: ONcocorahs@weatherinnovations.com

Upcoming Events & Meetings

- March 6, 2014 - WRAMI Results Symposium, Holiday Inn Guelph
- April 15 & 16, 2014 - Farm & Food Care AGM, Milton

Watch us on YouTube



Follow Farm & Food Care on our YouTube channel to see the latest videos from our environment projects.

New videos are uploaded each month. Follow this [link](#) to our YouTube page. Subscribe to the channel for more interesting videos.



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What's new at Farm & Food Care? *Continued.*

Uncontrolled Electricity

Farm & Food Care is a steering committee member of the **Uncontrolled Electricity Agriculture Working Group**. The group is currently working with utility providers and farmers to determine the causes of ground current and stray voltage on some Ontario farms and to develop solutions to mitigate the issues. Recently, a video demonstrating some causes and testing procedures was published by Farm & Food Care. Watch the video [here](#).

Past Meetings & Conferences Attended

Commitment to Sustainability Conference

The Commitment to Sustainability Conference was held by Canadian Grocer Magazine and Unilever on October 8, 2013 in Mississauga, Ontario. Key food and beverage industry sustainability directors were present from Wal-Mart, Loblaws and Nestle Waters to provide a thought-provoking discussion.

Provision Coalition Sustainability Portal Launch

On October 24 the Provision Coalition Sustainability Portal Launch took place. The Provision Coalition is a coalition of 11 member associations representing the sustainability interests of food and beverage manufacturing and input supply sectors across Canada. Providing valuable resources, programming and advocacy, Provision Coalition is the industry's leading voice of sustainability.

Southwest Agriculture Conference 2014

Even in the extreme cold, over one thousand farmers, agronomists, crop advisors, policy makers and researchers crammed the halls and classrooms of the 21st annual Southwest Agriculture Conference. Seminars ranged in topics from soil health to weed control to nozzles and beyond.

Have a friend or family member who is interested in visiting a farm? Did you know you can from the comfort of your own couch? Visit Virtual Farm Tours today.



Hot Topics

The following are current issues in agriculture and the environment:

- **Bee Health:** Bees and colony deaths are still a top priority for many Ontario farmers. The issue is being monitored closely by the Bee Health Working Group developed by the province of Ontario. Research is being conducted throughout Ontario to determine causes and to determine what policy is required to mitigate bee health issues
- A Trent University led research project has been funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). The project will focus on Lake Erie, quantifying the impact of nutrient loading on lakes and improving understanding of the complex aquatic ecosystems present in the Great Lakes. Read the full article [here](#).
- Phosphorous-loading from agricultural sources (particularly into the Great Lakes) is a popular issue in Ontario. Many researchers are working to determine the sources, impacts and solutions to mitigate the issues. At SWAC, spring runoff was named as an agricultural contributor to phosphorous runoff. Planting into growing crops and planting cover crops were both recommended as current solutions.

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