



Environmental News

Welcome to the winter issue of Farm & Food Care's Environmental News. Here we review the work that Farm & Food Care is doing with environmental issues on behalf of our members. And we also highlight the great work done by our member organizations. If you have more newsworthy items, please forward them to mel@farmfoodcare.org

Ground Current| We continue to work with the OFA, CFFO and Hydro One on the issue and have made some headway streamlining the investigation process to a simple 1 page form. The group has visited several affected farms to study the problem.



FARM & FOOD
Care ONTARIO

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This newsletter highlights what Farm & Food Care is working on related to farming and the environment. Your comments and suggestions are welcome!

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Ontario's Ag Minister visits the dribble bar at COFS

Manure Dribble Bar Demonstration Tour| The equipment demo reached thousands of Ontario farmers this summer, over seven farm events including the Canadian Outdoor Farm Show. This demonstration highlighted the benefit of manure application to living crops, along with the benefits of odour reduction.

Food Waste Coalition| An estimated 40% of food (\$27 billion) is wasted in Canada and the Provision Coalition has spearheaded a study and a steering committee that spans the entire value chain. Farm & Food Care is representing agriculture on the steering committee and welcomes other commodity boards to join the conversation.

Land Rental Agreements| Farm & Food Care just signed an agreement with OSCIA's GLASI program to work on a land lease template that would include environmental stewardship clauses. In Ontario, over 35% of land is rented and nearly half of these landowners are investors. There is evidence that rented land does not receive the same care and attention to soil health. Working with farmland-owners and farmland-renters, along with OMAFRA, U of Guelph's Dr. Brady Deaton, Innovative Farmers, Ontario Farmland Trust and Miller Thomson LLP, we are beginning the discussion and creating an educational component on this issue.

Soil Health Tour| We are working with the OMAFRA Soils Team to bring a travelling roadshow across the GLASI target watershed (Lake Erie and SE Huron) this winter. Keep your eyes peeled for this workshop in your area!

Keep reading for details on Farm & Food Care's Smart Water Assessment Project and involvement in the Great Lakes Phosphorus conversation...



Smart Water Assessments

Farm & Food Care is partnering with the Holland Marsh Growers Association and Enviro-Stewards to work with vegetable growers and their washing facilities to minimize water use through efficiency and reuse, saving farmers money on water treatment options. In some cases, water savings of 50% to 70% may be achievable. Farm & Food Care is also creating a series of video case studies to highlight the challenges and opportunities available for these facilities to minimize water usage.



Enviro-Stewards
Engineers & Scientists



Katie Gibb from Enviro-Stewards runs Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) treatment and tests on wastewater from carrot washing facility.

Strategic Planning for Healthy Great Lakes

A June 16 release from the Great Lakes Commission has set an aspirational target of 40 percent reduction of total phosphorous from 2008 levels (~11,000 metric tons TP) by 2025 for Lake Erie. This past July and August, Farm & Food Care Ontario brought the agricultural industry together to discuss Bill 66 and the potential repercussions and opportunities for our sector. Over 200 people attended the three meetings, including representatives from nearly all of the commodity groups, along with OABA, the provincial farm organizations and both provincial and federal government representatives. Farm & Food Care aims to keep the conversation going among farm groups and to involve environmental groups and the government in order to work towards the best solution for both agriculture and the environment. Stay tuned!



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Pork's Sustainability Study



ONTARIO PORK

Ontario Pork has employed an environmental consulting group based in Montreal to measure the pork industry's footprint. **Groupe AGÉCO** has created sustainability assessments for a number of sectors and their philosophy is simple: if a business *does* the right thing and *says* the right thing, it will build public trust and result in good product differentiation. This fit with Ontario Pork's own strategy to tell their story with both words and actions. The study examined the whole life cycle, including crops for feed, barns, manure, and transportation. It used 120 farmer responses to measure producer behavior: manure testing, soil sampling, tracking water usage, and nutrient management planning. Ontario Pork now has a snapshot of their industry and their next assessment is scheduled for 2018. Their results will be released shortly, along with commitments to make progress in certain areas.

FFC'S NEW FACES



We are pleased to announce **Paul Wettlaufer** as the new Environmental Advisory council chair. He and his sons farm in Grey County on land that his ancestors bought from the Crown. He has been involved in Farm & Food Care for many years, and is also a director of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, as well as the CCA board and the Ontario Pesticide Education Program. Welcome Paul!



Another welcome addition to the team is **Melisa Luymes**, as Environmental Coordinator. Her family runs a cash cropping operation in Wellington County and she is involved in many organizations, including the OFA, OSCIA, AAC and Innovative Farmers. Mel has taught English in Korea, has a Masters degree from Guelph and most recently worked for a Conservation Authority.