



FARM ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Welcome to the Farm Environmental News

This newsletter highlights what Farm & Food Care is working on related to farming and the environment. This information is 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?

Water Adaptation Management and Quality Initiative

A total of 28 projects have been selected by an expert review panel from 43 eligible applications for Water Adaptation Management and Quality Initiative (WAMQI) funding over the coming year. This research and demonstration initiative will allocate approximately \$1,250,000 to encourage demonstration and pilot projects that showcase innovative technologies and solutions for agricultural water conservation/efficiency and projects that support the efficient use of nutrients and effective nutrient management related to water quality. To know more about the program, click [here](#).

Funding is provided through Growing Forward 2 (GF2), a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. Projects have been chosen that support farm water quality and water quantity objectives and will benefit Ontario agricultural producers and organizations. The program is administered by Farm & Food Care Ontario.

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS)

Are you a weather enthusiast? Do you keep regular rainfall records? There is a new weather network for you.

Farm & Food Care Foundation is pleased to announce its involvement with the Canada-wide Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) and the official Ontario launch of the program. The Ontario program is supported by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Ministry of Environment and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Ministry of Rural Affairs in the amount of \$65,000 over two years. CoCoRaHS consists of a network of volunteer observers who upload daily precipitation information to the program website, www.cocorahs.org/canada.

For more information, email ontario@cocorahs.org



Upcoming Events & Meetings

⇒ Farm Innovation Tours

June 12, 2014 departing from London
 August 12, 2014 departing from Guelph
 September, 2014 departing from Guelph

⇒ Breakfast on the Farm:

Stanlee Farms Avonmore, ON
 August 2, 2014

⇒ Find Farm & Food Care at:

- ◆ Pork Congress June 18 & 19, 2014
- ◆ Canada's Outdoor Farm Show
 September 9-11, 2014

⇒ Harvest Gala October 30, 2014

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.

What's new at Farm & Food Care? continued.

Farm & Food Care Ontario Annual General Meeting 2014

Farm & Food Care Ontario hosted a successful environmental conference during the first day of the AGM, April 15. The conference included presentations and discussions by a panel of sustainability experts each involved with different parts of the agricultural supply chain. Presentations were delivered to 50 people and were well received. The goal of the session was to explore the network of sustainability in the agricultural supply chain and provide information about what sustainability means to different sectors.

Nick Betts of Grain Farmers of Ontario discussed the challenges and opportunities of agriculture to sustainably meet the needs of a growing global population. Cher Mereweather of the Provision Coalition similarly looked at risk and opportunities within the beverage manufacturing industry. Karen Tracey of the Northern Ontario Aquaculture Association spoke about how fish farms in Northern Ontario are already ahead of the curve with sustainability initiatives and discussed how other sectors could learn from their challenges. Lastly, Heather Mak discussed the opportunity for the Retail Council of Canada to be involved in encouraging uptake of sustainability through the retail supply chain. Many different insights and opinions were provided, though the panelists agreed on one key thing: sustainability will be a major part of the future of agriculture.

Five Additional Farm Innovation Tours Planned Across Ontario

The first of six Farm Innovation tours planned for 2014 and coordinated by Farm & Food Care, was held on April 3, 2014. The tours are designed to showcase advancements in animal welfare and farm environmental initiatives. The initial tour was attended by more than 30 guests including staff from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ontario Ministry of Environment, agribusiness and more. Participants first learned about animal welfare practices at Grober Nutrition's veal farm in Cambridge. They were also shown how an anaerobic digester at the site creates enough power for 500 homes locally. A lunch was held at the Grand River Conservation Authority, featuring a talk on how Best Management Practices have improved in the Grand River Watershed and how they will continue to evolve to meet the needs of the watershed's inhabitants. The final stop of the tour was at Nuhn Industries in Sebringville where visitors saw the company's revolutionary manure tankers, spreaders and agitators.

Upcoming tours will be held across Ontario including **June 12** in the London area, **August 28** in the Holland Marsh area and a **September 2014** tour featuring aquaculture and cranberries near Parry Sound, departing from Guelph. The cost for the tours is \$40 per person, and includes a full day's program, transportation and lunch. The tours are free to OMAF staff. For information about future tours, visit: <http://www.farmfoodcare.org/component/content/article/10-farm-food-care/>

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

- 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. New Best Management Practices are being implemented in an attempt to curb bee deaths in Ontario. Initiatives such as informing nearby beekeepers of the use of treated seed and pesticide spraying times are just two of the suggestions for the 2014 growing season suggested by this new BMP. [Know more about the new pollinator BMP here](#)
- 4 Rs of fertilizer application:** The management of agricultural nutrients from dry fertilizers, liquid fertilizers and manure continues to be an important issue as we look closely at sources of nitrogen and phosphorus in the Great Lakes. Tom Bruulsema, Director at the International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) will lead a group of speakers during the next Farm & Food Care Environment Advisory Council meeting as we look closely at responsible management of agricultural nutrients using the 4R nutrient stewardship concept. These are: Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time and Right Place. The IPNI is a not-for-profit, science-based organization dedicated to the responsible management of plant nutrition for the benefit of the human family.

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