

Breaking Ground

in Northeastern Ontario

Fall 2018 Issue:

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North Eastern Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association



Grassroots Innovation
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SNAPP
SUSTAINABLE NEW AGRI-FOOD PRODUCTS & PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAM
INTAKE 4 now open!
applications accepted from August 26th to October 27th, 2018

Micro-grants for: **Season Extension**
New Product Development
Productivity Enhancement
NEW! Clean Tech in Agri-Food

The Sustainable New Agri-Food Products and Productivity (SNAPP) Program assists Northern Ontario farmers, food producers, communities, not for profits and First Nations with equipment purchases for business expansions such as value-added processing, season extension, productivity enhancements and clean tech projects. The SNAPP program provides up to \$5000 at a 75% cost-share towards the purchase of eligible equipment. Collaborations of 3 or more entities can be eligible for up to \$15,000 at a 75% cost-share.

INTAKE 4 of the Sustainable New Agri-Food Products and Productivity (SNAPP) Program is open now. Applications will be accepted until October 26, 2018.

More information is available at www.rainalgoma.ca/SNAPP

The SNAPP program has funded a number of projects that have adopted clean technology at the farm/business level and support improved environmental performance while fostering productivity, growth and competitiveness. Some examples of funded projects are:

MacFarlane Farm – Desbarats, ON

SNAPP funding supported the purchase of a solar livestock waterer to provide cattle with access to fresh drinking water year-round. The water pump is run via solar panels and batteries and has a thermostat to regulate the temperature during the winter months. This project will eliminate the need for high power consuming water heaters all winter as well as generators and electric pumps to move the water.

Lake of Bays Brewing Company – Baysville, ON

SNAPP funding supported the effluent composition management system achieve a cleaner waste water output from the brewing facility. This equipment allows effluent pH balance to become more neutral and therefore more ecofriendly, it will also allow for less chemicals in order to achieve these effluent balances

Acres of Dreams – Timmins, ON

SNAPP funding supported the purchase of temporary, moveable fencing, corrals and pens, and other materials for establishing rotational grazing for new pasture raised pork. This expansion into pasture raised animals will allow for efficient pasture raised pork and heard growth by 2019.

Kamview Farms – Kakabeka Falls, ON

SNAPP funding supported the purchase of a GPS System to decrease soil compaction, fertilizer and herbicide amounts and reduce the amount of fuel energy. This project will also increase productivity by saving time spent on tractor and allow more time to look after cattle in summer months.

Ontario Canola Growers Association Tour Verner Canola Plots

By Emily Potter, Project Development Advisor with NOFIA & Tanja Gahwiler, Agronomist for Co-op Regionale

On July 18th, 2018, the Beaudry family of Cache Bay (near Verner) hosted the Ontario Canola Growers Association. The day started with a tour of Hubert Beaudry's canola, wheat and soybean research plots, with a focus on the canola plots. This trial featured different varieties, as well as some fungicide trials. The crop was treated with 40-0-0 5.5 (S) Amidas (a urea-based fertilizer from Synagri) and two boron foliar applications. The first boron application was at the 6-7 leaf stage, with a concentration of 1 L/acre, applied with the herbicide. The second application was with fungicide. The results from the boron applications were very positive. Beaudry plans to monitor the yields with a weigh wagon come harvest.

Marika from Bayer Crop Sciences talked about the canola trial. She mentioned that Proline was the number one white mold

fungicide for canola. Another good fungicide for canola is Cotegra. This is a mix of the two active ingredients from sclerotinia, Prothioconazole and Boscalid. Priaxor is another fungicide that can be used on canola to protect from black leg. This fungicide has also been found to have a good yield benefit.

A BBQ lunch and desserts were provided by the family before a compaction demonstration and workshop after lunch. The demonstration consisted of the use of a compaction monitor while testing the effect of different implements on soil compaction at two different depths of soil. They demonstrated this using loaded and unloaded manure tanks, hay wagons, gravity boxes, a combine and more. It was really interesting to see how the different weights and tire sizes of the implements affected the level of soil compaction.

Manitoulin Youth Agriculture Association

Andrew Vokes, a recent Ridgetown College graduate, recently had the idea to start a group to support young farmers on Manitoulin Island. Emily Potter spoke with him to find out more about the Manitoulin Youth Agriculture Association.

How did you get started with the group and what is the purpose of the organization?

I've had the idea to start something like this for a few years now. 4-H isn't really a big thing on Manitoulin island and there isn't much for young agricultural enthusiasts. After finishing my post-secondary education and returning home this spring, myself and a few other guys had the idea to start this group. We were looking at Junior Farmers in the south and wanted to start something like that. We advertised in the newspaper and reached out through social media and elected a president and secretary at our first meeting.

How many members do you have?

We had 8 people at our first meeting and since then we have grown to 12-13 members from all sorts of

agricultural backgrounds. We have some people with 400 cows and some with 20 cows. Some are people who are working off-farm jobs now but want to get into farming in the future.

What are some of the things your club has done so far?

In mid-August we went to Bruce County to tour a few farms. We went to Kevin Frieburger's cow-calf beef farm to see his calving pens set out in the pastures for his 650 cows. What really amazed us was that he was farming on 4700 acres, and that he didn't have to drive more than 15 miles to get to the end of his property. This is unheard of on the island because there's a lake in the middle of everything that farmers have to drive around. We then toured Kevin Schaus' feedlot, where we saw his 810 ft barn. That's 4 acres under concrete! Finally, we toured Bob Reid's hog barn, where he has 2000 animals on farm and raises them from the weaner stage to the finisher stage. It was interesting to see a different part of agriculture that many of us from Manitoulin never would have seen otherwise.

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What are the future goals of the Manitoulin Youth Agricultural Association?

When we first started, we were holding our meetings on Sunday nights at 7 p.m. We had set an age range originally for people aged 16-40, but soon realized that many people were putting their kids to bed at the same time that we were holding our meetings. Right now, the majority of our members are aged 25 and under, so our goal would be to get more people involved and make our meetings more accessible to attract older members as well.

We'd also like to provide services for those who are interested in getting into farming and be able to show them how to get started. We'd also like to hold some fundraisers in the community, such as spaghetti dinners or dances, and bring in guest lecturers. Many of our events will probably be beef focused as Manitoulin island

is predominantly beef farmers, however we want to include all areas of agriculture.

How can people get involved if interested?

We have a Facebook page "Manitoulin Youth Agriculture Association", and we can be contacted at manitoulinagclub@gmail.com or my cell phone (Andrew Vokes) at 705-348-1415.



MYAA touring Ken Schaus' feedlot

Fair Finance Fund

Local Food and Farm Co-ops (LFFC) and Rural Agri-Innovation Network (RAIN) has launched a collaborative project that mobilizes capital to support the local food and farm sector. The Fair Finance Fund will be a social finance investment fund that supports local food and farm enterprises that have values in enhancing local food systems, local economies, and the planet.

We heard from over 450 food and farm businesses in response to the **Fair Finance Fund** survey; thank you to all of you who responded. If you missed the survey, we are holding a Northeast Regional Forum (October 3rd 6:30 – 9:30 at Desbarats Arena) and would love to see you there.

We have heard that getting loans from traditional sources has been a challenge for a range of reasons, including that the business was too new, the amount

needed was too small, there was no collateral, or the interest rate offered was too high. The need for the Fair Finance Fund has been resoundingly confirmed in this survey; the business acumen, vision and viability of the local food and farm businesses is confirmed and makes the sector a prime candidate for the Fund's flexible loan terms and support networks.

In many cases, especially as small or start-up businesses, businesses report relying on credit cards. The



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Fair Finance Fund

loans food and farm businesses would need from the Fair Finance Fund are visionary (a farm to table restaurant), practical (deer fencing, hoop houses) and socially motivated (youth community garden). Reading the responses to the uses for financing should give us hope for the future of the local food and farm sector; participant needs are both concrete and innovative, providing leadership that offers social, community and environmental benefits as part of doing business well.

The Fair Finance Fund will be officially launched in late 2018; the Fund will be designed to be supported by community investment to match the seed capital. The development team includes consultants from the impact investing arena and loan program management, as well as program managers from RAIN and LFFC. We've interviewed approximately 100 stakeholders representing the local food and farm sector, community investors, finance specialists and others. The material will be assembled into a business plan that will provide the basis for the activities, goals and values of the first three years of activity. The Fund is designed to continue as a self-sustaining revolving loan fund.

Please contact us to learn more through the website www.localfoodandfarm.coop or by e-mail info@localfoodandfarm.coop. You can also attend one of our upcoming forums in October. You can register for the forums by visiting www.localfoodandfarm.coop

Fall Forums

- NE region: Algoma - Oct 3rd
- SW region: Puslinch - Oct 18th
- NW region: Thunder Bay - Oct 23rd
- E region: Madoc - Oct 30th

"This is very exciting! Financing is often the limiting factor for innovative local food and farm businesses and this initiative promises to help fill that critical void."

- Ali English, Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario



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Extended the Grazing Season in Northern Ontario

By Emily Potter, Project Development Advisor with NOFIA

Ruminant livestock production is highly dependent on grazing forages. Did you know that you can extend your grazing season throughout the fall and winter? Here are some ways that you can extend your grazing season and get more use out of your land!

Stockpile Grazing:

Setting aside a section of pasture at mid-July or early August to allow for regrowth is one way of ensuring that your livestock can continue to graze throughout the fall months. It may be beneficial to fertilize this land to give it the best regrowth potential, and then allow it to regrow until after a killing frost. Livestock can graze this stockpiled feed until November and into December. A good forage mix for stockpile grazing is meadow brome with 40-50% alfalfa as a source of protein. For the best results, cattle should be moved every couple of days. It is important to keep in mind that stockpile grazing is only effective when snow-cover is light. Once snow is too deep for the livestock to dig through, they will not be able to access the feed.

Cover Crop Grazing:

Grazing a cover crop that has been planted in the summer months, such as oats, that has a high frost tolerance, is another way that the grazing season can be extended into the fall. Livestock may be turned out onto the cover crop in late September and may graze into October and early November.

Corn Grazing:

Unharvested corn may be grazed from mid-August until spring. Livestock may be provided with a new strip every few days. It is important to limit access to the corn to prevent acidosis and bloating due to binge-eating corn cobs. Corn grazing is great in the winter because it is easily accessible, even in the snow.

Swath Grazing:

Cutting annual crops, such as barley and oats, and grazing them in swaths through the winter can decrease the cost of keeping a cow over the winter by 40%. Cutting these crops just before the soft dough stage is best. Livestock may be put out on the swaths in November and may graze until a few weeks before calving, depending on the amount of feed available. They should be given enough to last a few days at a time. It is important to remember to only cut and leave enough swaths to last the livestock until the snow is too deep for them to dig through.

Bale Grazing:

This method can really reduce fuel costs by reducing the need to move and stack hay bales. It also helps to improve the forage production in the field the following year by spreading the manure across the field. Setting the bales on their sides and only allowing access to enough for a few days at a time can help to reduce wastage.

Tips to ensure that you are using extended grazing practices effectively:

In all systems, temporary electric fencing makes managing the livestock easier and helps make the feed last longer. Windbreaks should be provided to help reduce exposure and prevent body condition score losses. Monitoring the body condition score is important to ensure that the animals are meeting their requirements and that their performance is not affected. Snow may be used as a water source as long as it does not become crusted and stays fluffy. Bred or lactating animals will require an additional source of water.

More information on extended grazing practices may be found on the Beef Cattle Research Council website or the OMAFRA website.



September Seeding Options

By Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota, CCA

Apart from grain or forage production, September seeding will help to keep the soils covered and protected during the fall/and winter to early spring or summer. **Winter wheat** should ideally be seeded by the first week of September/or at the most by mid September to obtain economic optimum yields. Winter rye, which is hardier than winter wheat, could be seeded up to September 25. **Winter rye** seeded at LUARS on October 5 and 15 last year survived the harsh winter of 2017-'18 and we could harvest it. However, the grain and straw yield would be lower with October seeding as compared to its seeding in September. It is advisable to increase the seed rate of winter rye from 60 kg/acre in September to 80 kg/acre for October seeding; to ensure enough stems/and heads per unit area. Remember grain yield in cereals will depend upon heads per unit area, head length, grains/head and grain weight. All these traits are likely to come down with delay in seeding from the optimum seeding window (August 25 to September 5 for winter wheat and September 5 to 25 for winter rye).

Taking advantage of relatively early harvesting of spring crops this year, you can seed **cover crops** such as *buckwheat, radish, turnip, spring barley/and oat*; especially in fields away from barns/or in rented fields to build up organic matter in such fields. Winter rye at full seed rate and oat @ 70 % seed rate could also be seeded together. Oat could be harvested/or pastured after 60 days and the winter rye left to regrow for either of the following purposes:

⇒ Seeding spring/or summer crops after killing winter rye by Roundup spray in spring. Canola and soybean could be good options for such seeding.

- ⇒ Harvesting next year either as forage (preferably at boot stage) and seeding another short duration crop after that.
- ⇒ Harvesting next year for grain and straw.

September seeded barley and oat at ~60 days could be pastured or harvested at boot stage for hay/or silage. A 2 MT dry matter yield/acre (~20 % protein content) could be obtained from these crops under good soil moisture conditions. Peas could be cultivated in mixtures with barley and oat to enhance the forage protein content! All cover crops can be pastured. Buckwheat, radish and turnip will be very good for pasturing small ruminants. Cover crops could be left to survive on the residual phosphorus, potassium and sulphur in the soil, but could be supplied with 35-50 kg N/ha for their better growth and establishment. Direct seeding with a zero till drill could be resorted to as long as seeds are placed at a proper depth in the moist soil layer and the seeds get covered by the soil.

For other production practices for winter wheat and winter rye, please refer to:

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July 19, 2018—Temiskaming Crop Coalition Twilight Tour



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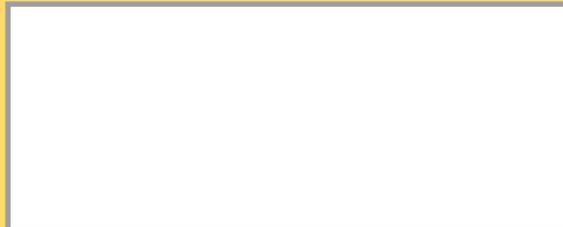


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