



ONTARIO BIOMASS PRODUCERS  
CO-OPERATIVE INC.

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*for a cleaner tomorrow*

# OBPC Growth Strategy

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Ontario Biomass Producers Co-op

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# Review of Switchgrass Evolution in Ontario

## Growing Switchgrass is now a viable option in Ontario:

- ✓ In 9 years of production we have worked out the basic Ag How-To's
- ✓ Economically attractive with steady profitability
- ✓ Low risk crop with minimal inputs and work required
- ✓ Highly beneficial for our environment.
  - Clean water
  - Erosion control
  - Improved soil health
  - Clean air

# Recent Progress and Accomplishments

- ✓ Improved Start-up Economics with Nurse Crop
- ✓ Further Progress with Switchgrass Agronomics (OFC/OFIP grant research project)
- ✓ Switchgrass Acceptance gained for:
  - Animal Bedding
  - Mushroom Substrate
  - Feed Rations
- ✓ Progress with ACC Financial Programs for Producers
- ✓ Improved Cultivars from REAP-Canada

# Where we are heading to

- Expanded seed breeding program to accomplish:
  - Much improved yields
  - Better establishments with lower seed dormancy
  - Improved characteristics, matching specific applications
- Switchgrass can become an **attractive future rotation**, improving soil health and increasing yields of follow-up crops

**We need to expand the biomass acreage and OBPC membership base!**

# Our Short Term Goal ...

OBPC is a province wide organization for biomass producers and its short term goal is:

**Many farms with a modest switchgrass acreage, resulting in a respectable biomass base!**

This strategy allows new growers:

- To become proficient with minimal risks
- To produce quality bedding for own livestock

# Our Long Term Goal ...

OBPC's long term goal is:

**Extensive Switchgrass Acreage to meet the needs of new biomass applications**

Farmers with biomass experience will be ready for primetime!

# Bioeconomy needs Producers

## “Chicken & Egg” dilemma:

- The bioeconomy value chain starts with biomass, produced by farmers.
- OBPC is the provincial organization to promote and drive the biomass production sector.
- OBPC needs a **strong membership** base to perform its functions.

# OBPC Memberships

## Memberships for Farmers:

- Producers (shareholders)
- Start-up Producers

## Memberships for non-farm sectors:

- Individual Associate Members
- Business Associate Members

Membership online applications and information on [www.ontariobiomass.com](http://www.ontariobiomass.com)





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## Thank you!

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