

#ForageFocus 2022

FREE Webinars

12-1pm daily

- **Tuesday, November 22nd: Dr. Debbie Cherney**
Topic: grass in dairy rations
- **Wednesday, November 23rd: Dr. Luiz Ferraretto**
Connecting the dots – fiber digestibility, animal performance, and feeding behavior
- **Thursday, November 24th : OMAFRA specialists**
Topic: Bt-resistant corn rootworm

Register



In this Issue....

A Message from the President Terry Nuhn	Page 2	Advanced Grazing Mentorship Program in ON	Page 6
Forage Information Resources	Page 2	Call for Mapleseed Pasture Award Nominations	Page 6
OFC Manager's Report	Page 3	Protect your feed supply from corn rootworm!	Page 7
CFGAs Update & Conference Announcement	Page 4	OFC Members	Page 8
Ontario Forage Expo Returned in 2022	Page 5		

A Message from the President Terry Nuhn



I am happy to report that the OFC has been able to host and participate in our first live events in a very long time! The very popular and successful Forage Expo was held in July near St. Jacob's with a large and enthusiastic crowd. There was great support from all

aspects of the Forage Industry with an excellent line-up of equipment for demonstration. Producers and exhibitors alike commented on the quality of the program and how great it was to be back in person once again. Our goal is to have two of these events in 2023 and cover a larger portion of the province.

The OFC also took part in Canada's Outdoor Farm Show in Woodstock this past September with a very similar atmosphere. All in all, it was great to make face to face connections and socialize with our industry peers.

Southern Ontario was impacted by dry and drought like weather conditions for a large part of the first and second cut window. August rains led to better 3rd and 4th cuttings, but over-all forage inventory

remains lower than average. Hay Growers in Eastern Ontario and parts of Northern Ontario are reporting good volumes of hay in most regions. If you are looking to make connections for additional feed, please utilize ontariohaylistings.ca and the Ontario Hay Marketing Forum for Ontario Industry contacts. This information is available through our website.

The Forage Focus will continue to be a Live Streamed event taking place November 22-24th 2022. We feel this is the best way to reach the entire province with this high quality and valuable information. This platform allows the programs to be viewed at times that are best suited to your busy schedule. Profitable Pastures will also continue to be a Live Streamed event taking place in March. Be sure to register in advance for these excellent events.

I wish everyone a safe and happy fall harvest!

Regards,

Terry Nuhn

President, OFC

THE BACK 40 PODCAST

Interested in Ontario Agriculture?

SCAN ME

OVER 50 EPISODES
Now Ready to Stream!

APPLE PODCASTS, SPOTIFY, YOUTUBE, GOOGLE PODCASTS

Forage Information Resources:

[Ontario Forage Council](#)

[GoForages.ca](#)

[Ontario Hay Listings](#)

[Beef Cattle Research Council](#)

[Forage U-Pick](#)

[Field Crop News](#)

[Forages and Pastures - OMAFRA](#)

[Canadian Forage and Grassland Association](#)

[Forage Beef](#)

[Midwest Cover Crop Tool](#)



Grey Bruce Farmers' Week 2023

Beef Day - Wednesday January 4th

Dairy Day - Thursday January 5th

Goat Day - Friday January 6th

Sheep Day - Saturday January 7th

Horse Day - Sunday January 8th

Ecological Day - Monday January 9th

Crops Day - Tuesday January 10th

In-person at the Elmwood Community Centre and Livestreamed
Visit www.gbfw.ca for more info.

OFC Manager's Report



After what has seemed like a period of hibernation for a couple of years, a new normal is gradually returning. A real highlight for OFC was the return of Ontario Forage Expo in July this summer. Waterloo County Soil & Crop Improvement Association came on Board and OFC to co-host the Expo, and it was a tremendous

success. I want to thank everyone who contributed in any way, to make it so successful!!!! You can read about the Expo on page 5 of this issue.

Going forward, planning is progressing well for the Ontario Forage Focus 2022 Conference on November 22, 23 and 24. During the past couple of years, the Live Stream system has worked very well for some conferences. We have decided to carry on with that format for Forage Focus. It has permitted us to bring in high caliber speakers, with no concern for weather conditions, travel and hotel arrangements and allowed attendees to watch from the comfort of their residence or local venue. I trust everyone will take advantage of this opportunity.

The Ontario Hay Marketing Forum continues to be an important element of OFC. They have often been described as the "All Star Team" within the forage industry. They are a highly reputable group and has proven to be a good marketing arm for forages in Ontario and beyond. The Ontario Hay Marketing Forum is the first entity we think of when referring producers to a reputable hay supplier. It can be an excellent marketing tool, that gives you constant exposure to a broad clientele and at a reasonable price.

The Ontario Hay Listings website continues to gain traffic as producers thrive to shift this year's hay and forage. Please remember to recommend this site when speaking with your contacts and clients this fall.

OFC is providing the provincial delivery of the Advanced Grazing Systems program in conjunction with CFGA. This is an excellent grazing program, and should appeal to producers wanting to maximize their pasture production. More info on page 6.

OFC has joined our Eastern Canadian colleagues to expand the reach of the Forage U-Pick tool from coast to coast. This initiative will not only result in a comprehensive forage selection tool customizable by the producer, but is also an excellent opportunity to connect with forage councils across the country.

The Canadian Forage & Grassland Association (CFGA) 13th Annual Conference is scheduled to take place virtually on November 29 to December 2, 2022. With the

theme Cross Pollination: Co-Creating Ideas in the Forage Industry, this virtual, fully bilingual, event offers a program packed with educational sessions on a variety of themes including living labs, grazing management exports. Don't miss out – sign up for updates to stay up to date.

As OFC strives to effectively return to more regular activities and assist our OFC Board Members to actively fulfill their obligations for meeting attendance, they have decided to hold bi-monthly meetings on Zoom, thus requiring less time per meeting.

Wishing everyone a safe and productive Fall harvest season!!!

Ray Robertson
Manager, OFC

An advertisement for 'THE JUICE' Hay Preserver. The background shows a blue and white machine pouring green liquid into a large green container in a barn setting. The text includes the hashtag #JUICEKEEPITCOOL, a list of benefits for TMR, and contact information for NUHN FORAGE. Social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are also present.

#JUICEKEEPITCOOL

KEEP YOUR TMR FRESH WITH THE JUICE TMR MOULD INHIBITOR

- ADD DIRECTLY TO YOUR TMR
- PROLONGS "BUNK LIFE" OF MIXED FEED
- REDUCE SORTING
- PROVEN MOULD INHIBITION

THE JUICE
HAY PRESERVER

NUHN FORAGE
1-800-965-9127
WWW.JUICEHAY.COM

f i t

What's new with the Canadian Forage & Grasslands Association?

Learn how to get more out of your pasture

Rotational grazing has many functions for both the environment and the family farm. That is why the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association (CFGA) is focusing on the rotational grazing practices stream of the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) in Alberta, British Columbia, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

The CFGA's Advanced Grazing Systems Program is centered on increasing the total acres under a rotational grazing system. To implement it in various growing regions across Canada, the Advanced Grazing Systems program has a two-fold approach:

- To provide producers in Alberta, British Columbia, Quebec and Saskatchewan access to funding to reduce possible financial challenges associated with trying or expanding the practice of rotational grazing in their operations

- To provide producers with information and resources they need to implement rotational grazing as it makes sense for their operations

Participating in the CFGA's Advanced Grazing Systems Program means producers can:

- Learn the basic techniques of rotational grazing independently with the Advanced Grazing Systems online courses, which use curriculum developed with Farmers for Climate Solutions
- Create a grazing plan with the help of a grazing mentor
- Apply to OFCAF for financial assistance to put your grazing plan into action if they are a producer in Alberta, British Columbia, Quebec and Saskatchewan
- Receive support throughout the entire process

Find more information, and sign up for updates, on the CFGA website (<https://www.canadianfqa.ca>) under Projects/Projets.



Cross Pollination:
Co-Creating Ideas in the Forage Industry

Pollinisation croisée:
co-création d'idées dans l'industrie fourrager

13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Canadian Forage and Grassland Association

13E CONGRÈS ANNUEL
de l'Association canadienne pour les plantes fourragères



Canadian Forage & Grassland Association
Association Canadienne pour les Plantes Fourragères

Ontario Forage Expo Returned in 2022

By Emily McKague, Grey County Agricultural Services Centre

July 14th 2022 marked the return of the Ontario Forage Expo after a two year hiatus resulting from COVID 19. The event was a resounding success with over fifty pieces of equipment on site for exhibition and roughly 400 people in attendance.

Ontario Forage Expo is run by the Ontario Forage Council and was held in conjunction with the Waterloo Soil and Crop Improvement Association. It was generously hosted by Scott and Darlene Martin whose farm is located on the outskirts of St. Jacobs.

Ian McDonald, a Crop Innovations Specialist with OMAFRA was involved in coordinating equipment demonstrations throughout the day. He commented that he was “pleased as punch with how this year’s event turned out.” One of the unique things about Forage Expo, in his opinion, is the variety of producers who attend. He said that you can have a beef farmer with 50 cows and a dairy producer who milks 1000 head, and a cash cropper with hay in the rotation all growing the same crop on different scales. Accordingly, there was a good range of equipment on display to fit the variety of needs in the audience.



Mowers lined up for the first demo of the day!

Photo credit:
Patricia Ellingwood

The day’s demonstrations kicked off with a welcome from Terry Nuhn, president of the Ontario Forage Council, and then moved quickly into demonstrations run by Ian McDonald. Mowing-conditioning equipment made their passes through the alfalfa first, followed by tedders and rakes, and balers after the lunch break. In addition to traditional hay making equipment, an in-field tire deflation/inflation system, a pre-production model individual bale wrapper, a small square bale bundler, forage harvesters, silage dump boxes, a silage bunk packer, and drone technology for spray and seeding were all demonstrated.

McDonald mentioned that one piece of equipment which intrigued him was an Italian made wheel rake. He noted that wheel rakes are typically notorious for placing rocks in windrows and causing damage to baling equipment as a result. The double wheel design of the Italian rake is new to Canada and could address that problem.

In general, McDonald said that hay producing equipment hasn’t changed hugely over the decades, although the

introduction of disc mowers and large square balers has improved capacity immensely. With hay being a low density, high volume crop, he said that producers need to look for the bottleneck in their system and that often is the ability to move bales safely and efficiently from the field to storage. He looks forward to including more accumulator equipment for demonstration in coming years.

The wide variation in operations producing hay make it necessary to exhibit equipment with a variety of features. Manufacturers had the opportunity for a rapid-fire review of their machine and its features before sending it off for a pass down the field. Audience members heard and saw the results of many innovations both new and old. Side by side comparison was made for mowers conditioning with steel drum, rubber roller and flail conditioners or no conditioning options at all on machines targeted to silage production.

A Case tractor showed off turf tires which minimized both compaction and damage to live alfalfa crowns. A John Deere large square baler knotter finished the knot in a loop, which improved knot strength and had no cut ‘tails’ of twine loose in the bale. A self-propelled harvester with an option for locking the rear wheels when in road mode demonstrated a safer ability to steer. A bale monitoring program which maps where bales are dropped in the field and helps producers find them after dark was pointed out. Many manufacturers spoke about quick change knife systems, easy access to key mechanical components for maintenance, and mechanical configurations meant to reduce wear on the machine and prolong its lifespan.

Not only were equipment suppliers on site for the day, but a tradeshow at the field’s edge included seed companies, hay acid suppliers, inoculant product representatives and more. It was truly an excellent representation of all major components of the forage production industry. With a casual atmosphere and roughly 400 attendees, networking was an important component of the event as well. The Ontario Forage Council, Waterloo Soil and Crop Improvement Association, and OMAFRA should all be proud to have brought back such an excellent event with so much value for producers who attended. Producers should mark their calendars now for the 2023 edition!

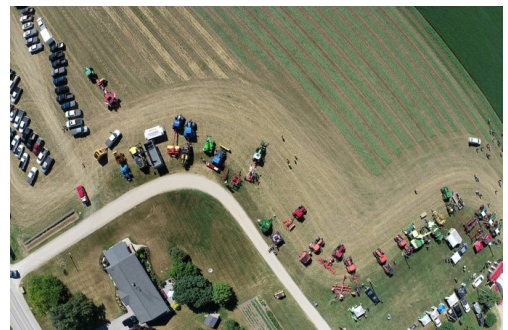


Photo credit: WONDERFULLINC.
DJI AG Drones Canada

Advanced Grazing Mentorship Program in ON

The Ontario Forage Council is providing the provincial delivery of the [Advanced Grazing Systems](#) program, a program that is supported by Farmers for Climate Solutions in partnership with the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association. The Advanced Grazing System program is a training program to provide producers with expertise in rotational grazing and confidence in the implementation process. This training will help them to develop rotational grazing plans for their operation. The curriculum is designed to teach advocates of rotational grazing a foundation for rotational grazing on their operation. In addition to the course content, the program will create a support network of other grazing producers and provide instructional support resources.

If you would like to take your learning to the next level, consider signing up with a mentor to help you in learning about rotational grazing. In Ontario the mentorship modules will be delivered in three separate series of seven online sessions; followed up by a series of field days to demonstrate implementation of systems outlined in the program modules during the spring and summer of 2023. By the end of the program, participants will have completed a personalized grazing plan for their operation that will increase eligibility for funding through Ontario Soil and Crop Association's Ontario On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF). Participants are asked to advise their mentor if they have pre-approved projects through this program.

Available sessions are outlined below:

Each series is 7 sessions

Series 1 – Anita O'Brien – In progress—registration closed

[Series 2 – Dean Cober– Thursdays 7:30 pm – 9 pm October 13 – November 24](#)

[Series 3 – Birgit Martin– Tuesdays 7:30 pm – 9 pm January 10 – February 21](#)

Registration numbers for each session will be capped, so early registration is recommended. Those who are unable to attend the session that best suits their schedule are encouraged to register for the independent learning opportunities outlined below. These participants will still have access to a live mentor for questions and advice building their grazing plan.

Register for a session by clicking the session listed above, or by visiting our website.

Or, learn independently

Whether you're managing a large operation that keeps you on the farm, have an off-farm job or possible family commitments, this program was designed for people who are interested in learning, but may not always be able to attend the many great workshops available. With a device, an internet connection and a will to learn, the Advanced Grazing Systems is a course to provide anyone wanting the basics on rotational grazing a foundation of the most important concepts.

[Register to access the Advanced Grazing Systems course online.](#)



ATTENTION GRAZERS!!

The Beef Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Sheep Farmers, Mapleseed, and the Ontario Forage Council, invite you to nominate a deserving producer for the **Mapleseed Pasture Award**. The Mapleseed Pasture Awards are also a way of recognizing producers who implement pasture management strategies that maximize production per acre.

Prizes include; a cash award of \$250 to the winner, an invitation to share a presentation about their operation at the BFO or OSF AGMs, a 25kg bag of their choice of a Mapleseed Forage Mix.

Sheep Application Deadline: **October 3, 2022**

Beef Application Deadline: **November 30, 2022**

Check our website for entry forms

Protect your feed supply from corn rootworm!

By Christine O'Reilly, OMAFRA Forage & Grazing Specialist

Corn rootworm is a serious pest of continuous corn. For 16 years, producers growing corn-on-corn have relied on hybrids with rootworm Bt traits (Bt-RW), sometimes called “below-ground protection”, to minimize crop damage. Since 2019, populations of corn rootworm with resistance to Bt-RW were identified in Ontario. Producers who grow corn for grain or silage to feed their livestock need to be proactive about how they grow corn going forward to protect their feed supply and mitigate rootworm resistance.

Corn rootworm larvae hatch in early summer and feed on corn roots. Root damage prevents the crop from taking up enough water and nutrients to reach full yield potential. In addition, this root clipping makes the corn more likely to lodge during high winds or thunderstorms. Lodged corn is difficult to pick up with the harvester and increases the risk of soil contamination in silage. Soil elevates ash levels and may introduce bacteria that can cause butyric silage, which reduces intakes and animal performance. Adult corn rootworms are beetles that feed on corn silks, which could impact pollination and kernel set, and reduce grain yields and the starch content of silage. The adults then lay their eggs in corn fields, where the eggs overwinter in the soil. If corn is planted in the same field the following year, the cycle continues, and the corn rootworm population builds.

Significant yield loss occurs before symptoms are even noticed. For every root node clipped, there is a 15 to 18% grain yield loss. While the impact of corn rootworm damage on silage yields has not been thoroughly documented, the impact is expected to be equal to or greater than in grain, because both quality and yield are affected. Additional crop loss occurs when portions of the field lodge due to this root clipping, making harvest difficult or impossible.

While many seed companies carry hybrids with Bt-RW traits, switching hybrids does not solve this problem. All the Bt-RW traits available have similar modes of action, and the Bt-resistant corn rootworm populations have resistance to all of them. Other management techniques are required to keep corn rootworm populations low.

Crop Rotation

Crop rotation is the most effective and least expensive way to keep corn rootworm populations low. Larvae live in the soil and don't move around

much, so if they don't find corn roots where they hatch, they starve to death. Corn rootworm larvae do not feed on legume roots, so implementing an alfalfa-silage corn (without Bt-RW) rotation is an excellent way to break the corn rootworm lifecycle. In situations where rotating out of corn is more difficult, there is room for up to three years of corn-on-corn. By rotating a field out of corn, populations crash and take at least two to three years to build back up enough for the crop to need protection again. That means first- and second-year corn won't need – and shouldn't be using – Bt-RW hybrids. Save the Bt-RW hybrids for third-year corn, then rotate out of corn again (Figure 1).

Another forage option for taking a field out of continuous corn is to double crop a winter cereal and sorghum-sudangrass. Fall rye or winter triticale can be successfully established after silage corn harvest. Seed at a rate of 110 kg/ha (100 lbs/acre) and at 2.5 cm (1 in.) depth, or deeper to seed into moisture. For fertility guidelines, see Chapter 4 of OMAFRA Publication 811: Agronomy Guide for Field Crops. Apply 55-80 kg/ha (50-75 lbs/acre) of nitrogen at green-up in the spring to encourage tillering and increase forage yields. Cereals should be harvested between flag-leaf and early boot stage for high-quality forage. Cut the crop at the optimum maturity stage and wilt to the target moisture for ensiling or baleage. If the cereal shows signs of regrowth, a burn-down to terminate the crop will prepare the field for seeding sorghum-sudangrass.

Sorghum-sudangrass requires soil temperatures above 12°C to germinate, so conditions to seed generally occur in the last week of May or early June in southern Ontario. Seed at a rate of 33-44 kg/ha (30-40 lbs/acre) and at 2-4 cm (0.75-1.5 in.) depth. Use the phosphorus and potassium guidelines for corn (see [Chapter 1 of OMAFRA Publication 811: Agronomy Guide for Field Crops](#)). Apply 80-100 kg/ha (90-110 lbs/acre) of actual nitrogen up front, and 50 kg/ha (45 lbs/acre) after first cut. Sorghum-sudangrass is a two-cut crop. It should be harvested before heads emerge, which is typically about 60 days after planting. To encourage regrowth, leave 10-18 cm (4-7 in.) of stubble when harvesting. A second cut is typically ready 30-35 days after the first cut. Ensure that the crop is at least 65 cm (26 in.) tall before cutting. Wait for some regrowth, then terminate the sorghum-sudangrass with glyphosate to prepare the field to go back into rye.



Follow us on Twitter!
@ForageCouncil

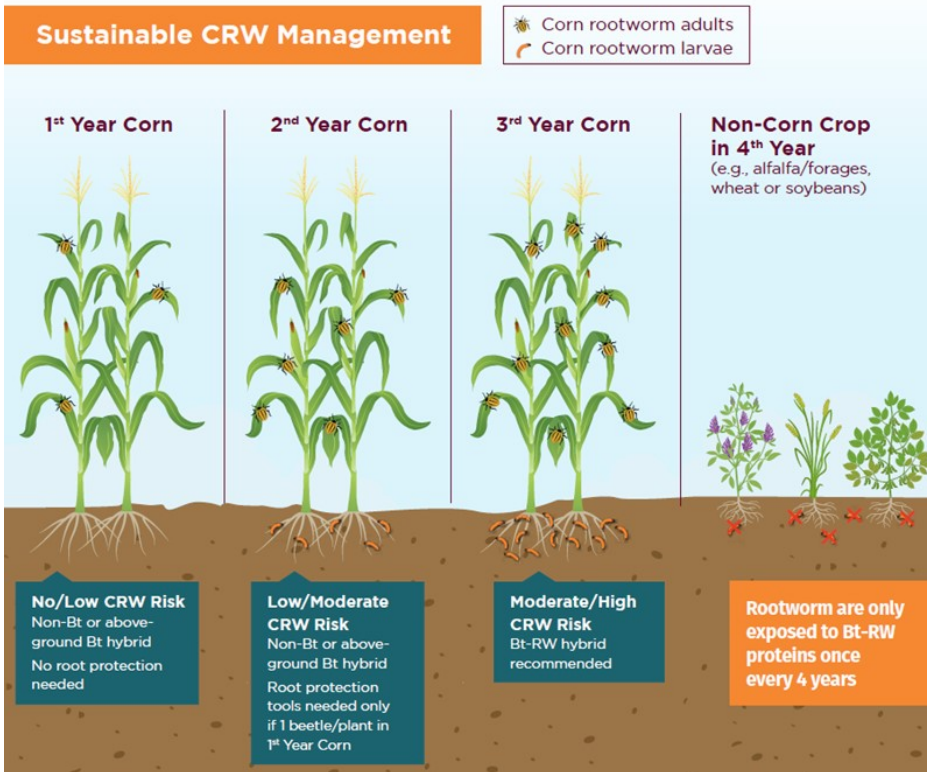


Figure 1. Sustainable corn rootworm management. Diagram taken from the Manage Resistance Now Factsheet "Managing Corn Rootworm in Bt Corn in Continuous Corn Fields." Note: above-ground Bt targets other pests, like European corn borer and western bean cutworm, and does not impact corn rootworm.

Insecticide

Soil-applied insecticides have been tried in the U.S., where Bt-resistant corn rootworm is already widespread. Corn rootworms are so adaptable that within a couple of years of applying insecticides to Bt corn, U.S. producers had rootworm populations resistant to both Bt and insecticides. While insecticide could be used on its own with a non-Bt hybrid in second-year corn, after-market installation of an insecticide box to the corn planter is expensive.

Scouting

Bt-resistant corn rootworm poses a major threat to livestock farms who use grain or silage corn for feed. If you haven't checked your Bt-RW hybrids in continuous corn fields yet this month, do so. Report any unexpected damage, like lodging and goosenecking, to your seed provider and Tracey Baute, OMAFRA Field Crops Entomologist and Chair of the Canadian Corn Pest Coalition (tracey.baute@ontario.ca). As you prepare to order corn seed for 2023, talk to your seed supplier or agronomist about implementing a crop rotation to manage corn rootworm without Bt traits.



The Ontario Forage Council thanks the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs for their continued support!

Disclaimer Statement

The information contained herein is provided as a public service with the understanding that Ontario Forage Council makes no warranties, either expressed or implied, concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of the information.

GOLD MEMBERS

A & L Canada Laboratories

Beef Farmers of Ontario

Dairy Farmers of Ontario

Sheep Farmers of Ontario

Kubota Canada Ltd.

CORPORATE

Can Grow Crop Solutions Inc.

DLF PICKSEED

GROWMARK

International Stock Food

Mapleseed

Marcrest Manufacturing

Nuhn Forage Inc.

OSCIA

ProRich Seeds

Quality Seeds Ltd.

Semican

SGS Agrifood Laboratories

Silo-King Forage Treatment

Speare Seeds

University of Guelph