



January 2013 NEWSLETTER

Presidents Report

Happy New Year! While I can't predict what 2013 will hold for us, I am sure that there will be many opportunities presented to each of you. I hope that you can recognize the opportunities when they are presented and make the most of them to grow and service your customers better. One thing I know for certain is while farmers may grumble about past events we are all eternal optimists - how else could one choose a career that is open to so many unknown variables. Maybe some of those ideas for new opportunities will become clear to you at our upcoming Annual Meeting in Niagara on February 19, 2013.

While I will not be fortunate enough to attend this year's AGM in Niagara, I feel the exciting lineup of speakers we'll have there will offer valuable insight for you. As you may know, I'm currently concluding my participation in the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program. One component of the program is an International Study Tour, and our class will be travelling to India for our tour as you all gather for our AGM. Don't think I won't be wishing I was sitting next to you in Niagara, while I change shirts for the 3rd time as we travel in tropical heat, longing for subzero temperatures and food not seasoned with curry. On a serious note though, I hope to bring back a great understanding of how agriculture in this massive nation is working to meet the food needs of an ever-growing population.

After returning from a vacation in China last fall, I had several people ask me

what the farms in that country were like and how agriculture ran in the nation we hear so much about. I put it this way, nothing I have seen in my travels made me want to go out and buy their locally grown produce, it was more the opposite. We saw a grand total of one strawberry farm (I should point out this was a tourist trip and not primarily a farm tour) but this farm was like all the other farms we'd seen, run by farmers simply focused on scrapping out a living. Ideas like food safety and traceability were not even on their radar. I bring this to your attention to highlight the fact that while there are always emerging regions that seek to source food for our country, I believe the safest food for Canadians is grown right here, by Canadians, by us, and this is an advantage we should continue to maintain. When consumers start to ask questions about food safety when making buying decisions we can be proud of the job we're doing.

I would close by saying that your board has done an incredible job again this year to work to provide many more member benefit materials for you to take advantage of in 2013, so please listen with open ears to these opportunities in February and take us up on them. Best of luck in the rest of your off season as you plan for the next year ahead and may this New Year be a prosperous one for us all.

Will Heeman
President

From OBGA Headquarters

It certainly looks and feels like winter here in eastern Ontario. We are grateful to have a good snow cover as

temperatures dipped below -25 C a few nights ago.

The New Year has arrived and growers are ordering seeds, plants and other inputs as they start some serious planning for the 2013 season. Your education committee has put together a great couple of days of berry sessions for our meetings in Niagara. You will see details of the sessions later in the newsletter.

As some of you know I am quite actively involved in the planning of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention (OFVC) and I have to say that we listened to your feedback and have made several changes to make the 2013 convention a great success. Moving venues usually brings with it some complications and hopefully we will continue to work through those. Free parking and larger meeting rooms are two of the highlighted changes and an even larger trade show than last year.

The OBGGA will once again be meeting at the Embassy Suites the day prior to the OFVC. We had a very good turnout last year and hopefully we can get even more this year.

We will be taking some time to talk about the proposed National Research and Promotion Council for Strawberries. There was some good background information in the last newsletter and we will get an update from our colleagues from Quebec.

As always I look forward to seeing many of you in person at the meetings in February. **I would highly recommend booking your accommodations at the Embassy Suites as soon as possible.**

There are two ways to make your reservation. You can call 905-356-3600 or you can go to www.ofvc.ca and follow the hotel link to book on line. **When you call in you must mention that you**

are with the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention.

The special room rate of \$125.00/night single and double + taxes and fees will be available UNTIL JANUARY 31st or until the block is sold out

All the best!

Kevin

Achene Report

I hope that everyone has had a good Christmas. Although we did not have a white Christmas at our place we did have a white boxing day and the snow has stayed so far. The Achene Committee met in New Liskeard in November and we were joined by a number of OBGGA members for a tour of the SPUD Unit at New Liskeard. I would like to thank Becky and her staff for the work they did getting things ready for us to come and also for the excellent tour that they gave us.



Strawberry & Raspberry Plants

Your **ONLY** supplier of strawberry & raspberry plants grown under the guidelines of the **'Ontario Plant Propagation Program'**

All plants grown by us are treated with the Amino Acid **'PHCA'** which helps kick start the plants in the spring when planted.

Ask us about this amazing fertilizer! A followup fertility program which includes **'PHCA'** is highly recommended to maximize the potential of the plant.

Also available - Blueberry Plants, Blackberry Canes, Yellow, Purple & Black Raspberry Canes, Asparagus Roots, Rhubarb Roots, Horseradish Roots.

R.R. #2 Simcoe, ON Canada N3Y 4K1
Phone: 1-519-426-3099 Fax: 1-519-426-2573
www.strawberrytyme.com



The main focus of the meeting was succession planning for when Becky retires. There were representatives there from Kemptville College including

the director and the discussion seemed positive with regards to the future of the SPUD unit after Becky retires. The Provincial Minister of Agriculture joined us for the tour of Becky's lab and we had the opportunity to explain to him the importance of the SPUD unit to the berry industry in Ontario. The big question will be how Becky is replaced. One of the options would be a manager position that would not allow for research to be done at New Liskeard anymore. This is not the option that we are hoping for but it would be better than nothing. The Achene committee is going to have to continue to work hard at ensuring the future of the SPUD unit but it looks promising.

Pam Fisher reported to us on the virus survey that she conducted over the summer and her results were surprising and not in a good way. I am sure you will hear lots from Pam in the future about this, but the conclusion was that it is going to be very important to control aphids in the strawberry fields in the future. Newly planted fields especially but also fields that you intend to renovate will need to be protected.

Sincerely,
Paul Watson
Achene Committee Chair

OBGA Promotional Items

There are still supplies of promotional items available if you would like to order any. There are only a few boxes of poly bags remaining so you should speak for them soon

There are lots of other items in stock so take some time and get your order in. Free shipping can occur if you are attending the annual meeting in Niagara Falls

We had very little uptake on the personalized posters. Hopefully you have taken some great photos and will have more time to get this organized for 2013.

New Blueberry Trellising And Netting System



- **Controls bush collapse during harvest**

- **Protects against birds, rain and hail**

- **Increases yields by 25% or more**

Call (877)443-4743 or email gintec@gintec-shade.com



On Farm Food Safety: Your Business Advantage Receiving Inputs

When inputs arrive on the farm, it is always a good food safety practice to check that items are not damaged or showing signs of tampering, and that the received items match your order.

Mistakes can happen during shipping and using the wrong product or a damaged product can lead to a food safety risk.

After you have confirmed your order, sign and date the invoices, bill of lading or packing slips and keep them on file for future reference or a potential food safety audit.

Food safety practices contribute to competitive, productive and sustainable agri-food business. For more information, visit the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs website at www.ontario.ca/goodagpractices or call us at 1-877-424-1300.

OBGA Membership

Thank you to everyone who has sent in their 2013 OBGA membership. If you have not done so please send it in as soon as possible. If you are registering for the annual meeting you can include it with that form.

On Farm Food Safety: Your Business Advantage Instructional Posters for On-Farm Food Safety

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' (OMAFRA) has developed a series of Good Agriculture Practices posters that are available **free of charge** to producers.

The posters are 8 ½ x 11" in size and available in English/Spanish or

French/Spanish versions. They are rip and weather resistant making them durable enough to use in and around your farm.

The posters provide visual instructions for best practices on a variety of topics, including:

- Hand Washing
- Proper use of hand sanitizers
- Food Handling
- Proper toilet use
- Food storage and packaging
- Transportation
- Proper use of animal health products

Food safety practices contribute to competitive, productive and sustainable agri-food business. For more information and to see our posters, visit the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs website at www.ontario.ca/goodagpractices or call us to order your posters, 1-877-424-1300.

Farm Management Canada's Step Up Program

The [STEP UP Mentorship program](#) is an on-farm learning placement. We match those planning or considering a farming career with an experienced farm manager so that new farmers can learn critical aspects of farm business management in a hands-on setting. Mentees are matched with an experienced farm manager who will work with them to engage in the day-to-day management of a farm operation to see how goals are set, decisions are made, expand their professional network *and* get their hands dirty in the process. Mentorships are a minimum of 8 weeks long, and Mentors receive a \$2000 honorarium for participating.

If you are interested in learning more please visit <http://www.fmc-gac.com/step-up>,

Ontario Berry Growers Association – Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention Berry Program

Tuesday, February 19, 2013 – Embassy Suites, Niagara Falls

9:00 am	Introducing Summer – A New June Bearing Strawberry Selection	Dr. Adam Dale, University of Guelph
9:15 am	Grower Profile – Raymont Berry Farm	Brad Raymont, Cottam, ON
10:00 am	Selling The Farm Story - How to Deal with the Media	Wallace Pidgeon, Pidgeon Media, Etobikoke, ON
10:30 am	BREAK	
11:00 am	Working Together for Strawberry Research and Promotion - National Strawberry Council	Jean-Luc Poirier and Sara Boivin-Chabot, Quebec Strawberry and Raspberry Growers Association
11:30 am	Spotted Wing Drosophila in Berry Crops: The Pest, and the B.C. Experience	Tracy Hueppelsheuser, BC Ministry of Agriculture
12:00	How We Manage Spotted Wing Drosophila on Our Farm	Nate Nourse, Nourse Farms
12:15	OBGA Annual Meeting & Lunch 12:15 - 2:00 p.m.	
2:00 pm	Cost of Production – Day Neutral and Matted Row Strawberries	Dragan Galic, University of Guelph
2:30 pm	Temperature Inversions and Pesticide Drift	Jason Deveau OMAFRA
3:00 pm	Round Table Introductions	Kellie Harrison, Ministry of Labour Ken Forth, FARMS
3:15 pm	Round Table Discussions	Join 3 of the 5 discussions 30 minutes per round
	1. Dealing with the Media	Wallace Pidgeon
	2. Preparing for a Farm Safety Audit	Kellie Harrison
	3. Offshore Labour Program	Ken Forth
	4. National Strawberry Council	Sara Boivin-Chabot, Kevin Schooley
	5. Spotted Wing Drosophila	Tracy Hueppelsheuser
5:00 pm	Adjourn	
7:30 pm	OBGA social time and refreshments	

Ontario Berry Growers Association – Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention Berry Program

Wednesday, February 20, 2013 – Scotiabank Convention Center, Niagara Falls

9:30 am	Berry Prices in Ontario – 2012 OBGA Price Survey	Kevin Schooley, Ontario Berry Growers Association
10:00 am	Spotted Wing Drosophila in Berry Crops: Research Results and Developments in the Pacific Northwest	Tracy Hueppelsheuser, BC Ministry of Agriculture
10:30 am	Grower Profile – Nourse Farms	Nate Nourse, Nourse Farms, MA
11:00 am	MustGrow – A New Tool for Managing Nematodes and Diseases?	Paul Schorn, Mustard Products and Technologies
11:30 am	Dealing With The Public When Faced with Tough Questions	Wallace Pidgeon, Pidgeon Media, Etobikoke, ON
12:15 - 2:00	Lunch & Trade Show	
2:00 pm	Strawberry Weed Management – Fitting Betamix, Dual, and Chateau into your program	Kristen Callow, OMAFRA
2:30 pm	Frost Protection for Berry Crops – What we Learned in 2012	Mark Longstroth, Michigan State University
3:00 pm	What is Wrong in My Strawberry Fields? - Recognizing and Preventing the Big Problems	Pam Fisher, OMAFRA
3:30 pm	Berry Production in China: Our Experience at the International Strawberry Symposium Beijing, 2012	Ellen and Peter Jennen Jennen's Family Farm Market, Thamesville, ON
4:00 pm	Day Neutral Strawberry Production – Grower Panel: Jeff And Dan Tigchelaar, Vineland Ontario: Row cover management Peter an Ellen Jennen, Thamesville: Plug plants and fall planting TBA : Runner management	



ONTARIO BERRY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

30 Harmony Way, Kemptville, ON, K0G 1J0

Phone 613 258-4587 Fax 613-258-9129

Email: info@ontarioberries.com Web: www.ontarioberries.com

Tuesday February 19, 2013
Embassy Suites Fallsview, Niagara Falls

Hotel rate is \$125 plus applicable taxes. Call 1-800-420-6980. Please refer to "Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Convention" rates.

OBGA 2013 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

FARM NAME/BUSINESS NAME _____

REGISTRANT(S) NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____

PROVINCE _____

POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE NO. _____

MEMBERS	QTY	EACH	COST
Received by February 15, 2013		\$60.00	
Late Registration		\$80.00	
NON-MEMBERS	QTY	EACH	COST
Received by February 15, 2013		\$85.00	
Late Registration		\$105.00	
		HST (13%)	
		AMT DUE	

PRE-PAYMENT DETAILS
(TO BE PROCESSED Feb/08)

CHEQUE ENCLOSED

VISA

CARD NUMBER _____

EXPIRY DATE

MTH

YEAR

SEND THIS FORM ALONG WITH PAYMENT TO:
ONTARIO BERRY GROWERS ASSOCIATION
30 HARMONY WAY, KEMPTVILLE, ON K0G 1J0
FOR INQUIRIES, CALL 613-258-4587 or FAX Registration to 613-258-9129