



May 2016 NEWSLETTER

Presidents Report

It's that time of year again where we are left wondering what the heck happened to winter, and how the heck have we gotten so busy so fast. I find this time of year my mind wanders all over the place, from the pessimistic worries like wondering what type of weather we will face, what will the disease & insect pressure be like, to optimistic views like wondering how new varieties and R&D projects will turn out or if the market has grown or shrunk.

These are concerns that I am sure we all have, on our own there is only so much that we can do to safeguard risks and invest into R&D. It is for these reasons that I believe it is important to have strong representation from a commodity board.

The berry grower day that took place in Niagara this winter had an excellent turn out and was a very informative session. If you were able to make this year's tradeshow, or any tradeshow in recent years, you would probably have noticed that other fellow growers presented many of the topics. We are fortunate to have a grower group that is willing to share their experiences and growing tips. I am hopeful that the proposal for the Farm Products Marketing Commission is well accepted and liked by all of our growers because it would be nice to have stable funding that could allow for more research funded projects could get presented at the Niagara Convention.

It's tough to tell what this season will bring, but we can do our best to prepare and safeguard against disease, insect damage/virus, and weather. Hopefully everyone was able to take advantage of

the Weather Risk Mitigation funding. We owe a great deal of thanks to the dedication of those on the CHC who lobbied for us to bring this funding support back into the growing forward 2 program.

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It is always a good idea to identify your goals clearly before starting something new, whether that is goals for work, goals for your personal life, or goals for your involvement with your grower commodity board. As I begin my role as President of the OBGA I would like to openly identify my goals.

For my work, I would like to see yields equal to or higher than the previous season, I would like to improve worker safety, worker productivity, and build worker responsibility so that I can delegate more and micro manage less. I would also like to strive to recuperate margin loss due to higher wages and higher packaging costs from the increase in \$USD.

For my personal life, I would like to get on the boat fishing at least once in July, get out bow hunting at least twice this fall, and spend more time with family and friends.

For my role as president with the OBGA, I would like for us to build a mutually beneficial relationship with the blueberry growers, build partnerships with outside industry that can help fund research projects and programs, strengthen our relationship and networking with other provincial and international berry growing commodity groups, identify areas to improve upon with our applications for minor use registration, pursue the hiring of a full time Ontario researcher, and finally see us become a marketing board so that we can have stable funding and improve upon all of the above.

I would like to thank Jenn VanDeVelde for the time, effort, and dedication she gave to the OBGA over the last 2 years. Jenn has made significant progress on the proposal for the Farm Products Marketing Commission and will continue as lead on the proposal, which is currently on volume 31 (give or take). The OBGA will be hosting information sessions to answer any questions that you might have about the proposal later this season and I encourage you to attend.

I look forward to seeing you all this September at the Twilight Meeting at Barrie Hill Farm. Have a safe and stress free season.

Sincerely,

Kevin Howe, President

From OBGA Headquarters

We had a successful education day back in March talking about Biocontrol in berry crops. Your board would like your input on upcoming programs so if you have any suggestions don't hesitate to send me an email or give me a call.

Education and the sharing of knowledge is an important part of our organization and the benefits of being a member.

The proposal to form a marketing board has made another step towards a possible vote. The proposal was presented to the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission in April and they have some questions for us to help when we participate in the May meeting. The best case scenario would be a fall vote but you will hear more once we have any more information.

I talked about crazy weather in my last column and not much has changed as we saw snow today and look at three nights with below freezing temperatures. Strawberries should be find but blueberries will not like this weather

All the best!

Kevin Schooley

Achene Report

The Achene Committee is currently working on forming a sub-committee to co-ordinate a variety trial project. At this point in time Pam Fisher and Sandra Carther have volunteered to be on the committee.

In the last Achene Report, as presented at the OBGA AGM, there was mention of a proposed project with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to obtain some variety selections from Nova Scotia for testing and performance evaluation. That project has been dropped and there will be no further discussion on it.

Progress has been made regarding shipping plants to the US with Netherlands origin. Without going into details, it appears that the New Liskeard lab will be able to take the necessary steps in order to accomplish its objective, and satisfy the CFIA and USDA.

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Again there was discussion on the future of the propagation lab at New Liskeard. Currently work is being done on behalf of berries, potatoes, asparagus and garlic. Becky Hughes also has a hemp project on the go, with the possibility of Haskaps becoming a new endeavour.

Also, as far as berries are concerned, the program needs at least two propagators to keep it running, and so far that has been happening. New varieties added this year include three from the Netherlands.

As mentioned in previous reports, the Ontario Verification Trials this year are at Heeman's, and several members of the committee will evaluate the plants later this summer. We thank the Heeman Family for hosting this trial. Regarding the Southern Verification Trials, Adam Dale visited the trial in February, and all the tissue culture plants look OK.

The Committee will formally meet again in September.

Best Regards

Andy Megens
Chair, Achene Committee

Mark Your Calendars

International Strawberry Symposium
August 14-17, 2016
Quebec City, QC www.iss2016-quebec.org

North American Strawberry Growers Association Summer Tour
August 17, 18 2016
Quebec City, Quebec www.nasga.org

Ontario Berry Growers Association
Twilight Meeting
September 13, 2016 4:00 pm
Barrie Hill Farms, Barrie, ON

North American Strawberry Growers Association Annual Meeting and Conference.
December 5, 6, 2016
Grand Rapids, Michigan www.nasga.org

North American Raspberry and Blackberry Association Annual Meeting and Conference.
December 5, 6, 2016
Grand Rapids, Michigan
www.raspberryblackberry.com

Great Lakes EXPO
December 6-8, 2016
Grand Rapids, Michigan www.glexpo.com/

[PMRA Information Note Regarding Pesticide Use in High Tunnels](#)

“Pesticides currently registered in Canada have not been specifically assessed for use in high tunnels. While the PMRA is developing a regulatory position, the application of pesticide products registered to manage specific pests on crops grown in field and/or greenhouses will be permitted for use in high tunnels, unless stated otherwise on the label.” Please refer to the link for

complete information or type “*Health Canada information note high tunnels*” into your search engine.

Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Conference presentations are now on line

http://ofvc.ca/session_notes.html.

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Book Your Hotel Now!

North American Strawberry Growers, North American Raspberry and Blackberry growers, December 4-6, 2016 and Great Lakes Expo – Dec 6-8, Grand Rapids Michigan

Hotels fill up fast, so make a room reservation now.

<http://www.glexpo.com/attend-register/location-lodging>.

For more information about NASGA call Kevin at 613-258-4587 or info@nasga.org. or about NARBA call Debbie 919-542-4037

What’s your plan for strawberry aphid control?

By Pam Fisher, Berry Crop Specialist, OMAFRA

Strawberry aphid, *Chaetosiphon fragaefolii*, is the main vector of strawberry virus diseases in northeastern Canada. This aphid is a major pest which routinely requires control. **If you don’t have a plan for managing the strawberry aphid, your fields will continue to decline year after year from virus diseases.**

What’s your plan to monitor and control strawberry aphids?

When to spray for aphids:

- Overwintering aphid eggs begin to hatch in early May. Check for eggs on the lower leaf surface of overwintering strawberry leaves. If eggs are easy to find, they should be controlled after all aphid eggs have hatched but before aphids begin to fly around to new places in the field.
- Aphids begin to fly early to mid-June and the flight period can last for 6-8 weeks. Aphid monitoring and control is required throughout this period. Check for aphids weekly to know when your fields are most at risk. Collect 60 new, unfolded or partially unfolded leaves from strawberry plants throughout the field, and determine the number of aphids per leaf. Economic thresholds have not been determined. However, because aphid populations can build quickly, try to keep populations below 15 aphids/60 leaves. This is especially important in new plantings!

Insecticide options for strawberry aphid control:

Cygon 480-Ag and Lagon 480E (dimethoate, Group 1B): These systemic insecticides are very toxic to bees and should not be used when white buds or bloom is present. These products are economical and effective, and good

options for non-bearing plantings. Use of Cygon 480-Ag and Lagon 480E during the pre-bloom period will also control tarnished plant bug adults. These broad-spectrum insecticides will probably have some activity on leafhoppers, leafrollers and clipper weevils.



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Thionex 50 W (endosulfan, group 2):

This product has provided poor-mediocre control of aphids in recent years. It has a 7-12 day re-entry period and will not be registered after 2016. When targeting aphids, use Thionex 50 W only when aphids and tarnished plant bug are present together. Re-assess control and be prepared to apply another aphicide if needed.

Admire 240 F and **Alias 240 SC**

(imidacloprid, group 4A) : These systemic insecticides are highly toxic to bees. They can be applied at different rates, as a high volume spray to the soil or (Admire only) as a foliar spray. The soil applications will provide good aphid and leafhopper control for approximately

3 weeks, but will limit the use of other group 4A insecticides for the rest of the season. For example, if you apply Admire or Alias as a soil drench, you should not apply Admire, Assail, Clutch or Actara for any pest for the rest of the year. However, they are a good choice in new plantings where white grubs could also be a problem.

Assail 70 WP (acetamiprid, group 4A):

This locally systemic insecticide is moderately toxic to bees. It is also labelled for tarnished plant bug (at the high labelled rate) and leafhoppers, so it is a good choice when these pests are also a concern.

Sivanto Prime (flupyradifurone, group 4D):

This is a recent registration and is expected to provide good aphid control. Unlike most group 4 insecticides, Sivanto is considered safe to beneficial insects and bees, although it should not be sprayed directly on bees when they are working. It can be used in rotation with other group 4 insecticides if there is no other option. It has no known activity on strawberry pests other than aphids, although it controls leafhoppers and whiteflies on other crops. This should be a great product to use in rotation with Beleaf.

Beleaf 50 SG (flonicamid, group 9):

This product provides good control of aphids, is safe to bees and beneficials, and will also suppress tarnished plant bug (at the high labelled rate). Although aphids apparently stop feeding within hours of being treated, they might take a few days to die. This is a great product to use in rotation with Sivanto.

Malathion, Mako, Decis, Matador,

Rimon : These products do not control aphids in strawberries!

Monitoring and control of strawberry aphids is an important part of a strawberry pest management program. Weekly scouting and 3-5 insecticide applications a year are part of the "new

normal” and important for virus management in strawberries.



Follow the ONFruit blog:

The new ONfruit blog provides information on production and pest management for all fruit crops grown in Ontario. OMAFRA Fruit Specialists contribute to the blog and can answer technical questions you may have.

The OMAFRA Berry Bulletin will be posted at ONFruit.wordpress.com.

To get notifications of new posts, go to ONfruit.wordpress.com, and look on the right hand side for a “Follow” symbol. Click on the symbol to follow.



What is your plan for Spotted Wing Drosophila control in 2016?

By Pam Fisher, berry crop specialist, OMAFRA

Spotted wing drosophila is an invasive insect pest that is here to stay. We know it is present from Windsor to Ottawa and at least as far north as New Liskeard. Management of this difficult pest requires a plan.

Plan to improve spray coverage:

Make sure that each spray provides the best possible control by ensuring very thorough coverage of the crop. SWD flies are weak fliers and hang out around the inside and lower canopy. Prune your crop for better spray penetration and better SWD control.

Plan your insecticide program:

Insecticides which are fully registered for spotted wing drosophila have been included in OMAFRA Publication 360, Guide to Fruit Production, 2016-2017.

We expect that additional products will be registered through the emergency use registration process. Check the OMAFRA website (Ontario.ca/spottedwing) and ONFruit.wordpress.com for a full listing of products registered in 2016. Weekly insecticides are required when flies are active and ripe fruit is present. It is important to choose products from different groups rather than use one product or group of products repeatedly.

Plan to harvest routinely: When SWD is active, crops should be harvested every 2-3 days and all ripe fruit removed with each pass. Unmarketable fruit should be removed from the field at the same time as fruit is harvested.

Plan a continuous cold chain after harvest : Harvested fruit should be cooled quickly and stay cold throughout the various stages of marketing. Temperatures below 2°C (35°F) will slow the development of any SWD eggs and larvae in the fruit. A high percentage of eggs and larvae will be killed in cold storage.

Plan to do salt-water tests : We think that monitoring fruit for early signs of SWD infestation is easier and more efficient than trapping. Information on how to do this test is posted at Ontario.ca/spottedwing. Collect your supplies and make the salt water solution up ahead of time, so the task can be a simple routine during harvest.

Plan to say informed: The Ontario Berry Growers Association and OMAFRA will co-ordinate a regional monitoring program for SWD in 2016. Traps will be set at 20-25 sites across Ontario and maintained with the help of volunteers and OMAFRA students. Updates on SWD activity will be posted weekly at Ontario.ca/spottedwing and ONFruit.wordpress.com. Check these information sources often for updates on SWD activity in your area.

GF2 Webinars – How to complete an application

Participate in an information webinar to learn about the *Growing Forward 2* Funding Assistance for Producers Program.

These webinars will provide an opportunity to learn about completing an online application using the GF2 Client Portal. Whether you wish to apply online or in person, these sessions will help provide guidance to ensure your application is complete.

To participate in a webinar, you need an internet connection as well as a telephone line. You must register for webinars as there are a limited number of participants per session.

- June 20th, 7:30 pm ENGLISH
Workshop Leader - Robin Brown
- June 21st, 7:00 pm FRENCH
Workshop Leader - Michel Champagne
- June 22nd, 12:00pm ENGLISH
Workshop Leader - Robin Brown

Visit
<http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/growing-forward-2/> to register.

If you have any questions, please contact gf2@ontariosoilcrop.org or call 1.800.265.9751

2016 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE BENEFITS FARMERS

In early May, you will receive a letter with easy to follow instructions on how to complete your questionnaire.

Census of Agriculture data are the definitive source of community-level data. By drawing on these data, decision makers will be assured that they are acting in the interest of farmers, farm communities and agricultural operations.

Farm organizations are heavy users of census data and draw on this information to formulate policy recommendations, produce communications and outreach work, and conduct market development. Regional, provincial and federal government policy advisors use Census of Agriculture data to help develop programs related to farm support and to evaluate the impact of natural disasters (such as floods, droughts and storms) on agriculture. This allows for a quick reaction when a natural disaster does occur. The Census of Agriculture has other benefits:

Support your community and complete your Census of Agriculture questionnaire in May 2016! It can be completed by anyone who is responsible for, or knowledgeable about, the day-to-day management decisions of your farming operation.

As required by the *Statistics Act*, the information you provide will be kept confidential and used only for statistical purposes.

Important changes made to the online questionnaire for 2016:

- Streamlined and easy to complete
- Shorter and 30% faster to complete than in 2011
- Respondents are no longer required to provide detailed farm expenses
- Automatically adds totals and skips questions that don't apply to your operation.

Completing your questionnaire online is quick and easy:

- Go to Statistics Canada's website at www.statcan.gc.ca and select the online questionnaire
- Use the secure access code you will receive in the mail in May and conveniently complete your questionnaire.

As a farm operator, you are legally required to participate under the *Statistics Act*

OBGA Website

Please add to your list to check your listing on the OBGA website. Your operation may have changed since you last updated your farm information or your farm may not even be listed.

This is the OBGA's main marketing tool. We do our best on social media advertising to drive consumers to the OBGA website. If you have any other suggestions that would help make the website better please let us know.

OBGA Promotional Items

The poly bags are going fast so if you are interested please contact me as soon as possible. For all other items check the order form on the OBGA website in the Growers and Members section.

Even more new products for berry growers.....

Pam Fisher, Berry Crop Specialist,
OMAFRA

Publication #360, Guide to Fruit Production, was updated during the winter and copies are now available from most OMAFRA offices, and on line (*Ontario.ca/crops*). Thanks to the Ontario Berry Growers Association who provides a copy as a member benefit.

The updated publication includes over 30 new products, new uses or new formulations that affect berry crops. A summary of these new products and uses was presented at the OFVC Berry Day Feb 18 and can also be found on line. To find it, go to *ONFruit.wordpress.com*, click on the tab for berries, then scroll down to "New products for berry growers" posted March 18. You will find a link to a pdf file lists details on the new products. Meanwhile even more products have been registered for berry crops, and

these will be added in a supplement to Publication #360, on line.

Sivanto Prime (flupyradifurone) Group 4D. Registered for aphids on strawberry, blueberry, currant, gooseberry, saskatoon berry, haskaps and other berry crops in Crop Group 13-07B (bushberries). Also registered for control of blueberry maggot. (Bayer CropScience)

Luna Tranquility SC

(fluopyram+pyrimethanil) Group 7+9. Registered for control of botrytis grey mould and powdery mildew on strawberry, raspberry and blueberry and other berry crops in Crop Group 13-07A (canberries), 13-07B (bushberries), and 13-07C (low growing berry sub group except cranberry). (Bayer CropScience)

Inspire Super

(difenaconazol+cyprodinil) Group 3+9. Registered for control of mummyberry and suppression of rust on blueberry, control of anthracnose fruit rot on blueberry, elderberry and huckleberry, control of foliar anthracnose on currants and gooseberries, control of alternaria and botrytis on blueberry, currant, elderberry, gooseberry. (Syngenta Canada)

Kasumin 2L (kasugamycin) Group 24. Registered for fire blight control on raspberry, blackberry and saskatoon berry. (Arysta LifeScience)

Phostrol (mono and dibasic sodium, potassium and ammonium phosphites) Group 33. Registered for control of septoria leaf spot and suppression of Phytophthora root rot on highbush blueberry, currants, gooseberries, saskatoon berry and sea buckthorn and other berries in Crop Group 13-07B (bushberries). (Engage Agro)

Torrent (cyazofamid) Group 21. Registered for control of phytophthora root rot on blackberry and raspberry. (Engage Agro)

