



Grassroots Innovation
Since 1939

N.E.O.S.C.I.A. - Executive

President:

Darren Gray (705) 647-9465

Secretary/Treasurer:

Neil Tarlton (705) 692-7276

**Ontario Soil & Crop Association
Regional Director**

*Algoma, Manitoulin, Sudbury, Nipissing,
Parry Sound, Muskoka, Cochrane, Temiskaming:*
Mack Emiry (705) 865-2249

District Soil & Crop Assoc. Contacts

Algoma:

Harold Stewart (705) 842-0392

Cochrane:

Dan Cook (705) 272-3964

Manitoulin:

Marca Williamson (705) 859-2528
wfarms@amtelecom.net

Muskoka:

Ken Pearcey (705) 385-2844

Nipissing West/Sudbury East:

Steven Roberge (705) 594-9370

Parry Sound/Nipissing East:

Klaus Wand (705) 724-2314

Sudbury West:

James Found (705) 969-4597

Temiskaming:

Dennis Jibb (705) 563-8405

Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs



Northern Ontario Regional Office

Ontario Ministry of
Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
P.O. Box 521, Hwy. 64

Caldwell Township Building, Verner, ON P0H 2M0

TOLL FREE / General Inquiry 800-461-6132

FAX (705) 594-9675

firstname.lastname@ontario.ca

Regional Manager, Northern Ontario

Mary Ellen Norry Car

Regional Administrative Coordinator

Diane Unger

Client Service Representative

Monique Roberge

Agriculture Development Advisor (North Region)

Julie Poirier Mensinga

THESSALON

1 Colver Rd., RR #1, Thessalon, ON P0R 1L0

Agriculture Development Advisor

(Algoma) Dave Trivers

GORE BAY

Box 328, 35 Meredith St., Gore Bay, ON P0P 1H0

Agriculture Development Advisor

(Manitoulin and West Sudbury) Brian Bell

NEW LISKEARD

Box 6008, 280 Armstrong St., New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0

Agriculture Development Advisor

(Temiskaming and Cochrane) Daniel Tassé

Agriculture Development Advisor

(North Region) Barry Potter

Beef Cattle Production Systems

Program Lead Tom Hamilton

Breaking Ground

(in Northeastern Ontario) *Summer 12*

A Publication of the North Eastern Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (NEOSCIA)

Field Corn Planted Under Plastic Mulch

by *Graham Gambles, Regional Communication Coordinator, NEOSCIA*



What is probably Temiskaming's biggest "field research" project ever got underway early this spring. Located in a number of fields around Earlton (including the 2009 IPM site) more than 500 acres of field corn has been planted with a revolutionary seed drill. Developed in Ireland and designed for farmers who plant corn in cool climates, the Samco Integrated Crop System provides a planter that places the seed in the bed and covers it with a biodegradable plastic mulch in the same pass.

Although initial trials were in Europe, it was first tested in North America more than a decade ago, in Newfoundland. In a seven year test period, average results show more than a 1/3 yield increase with similar economic benefits. It has since been successfully used in the Maritimes. All locations have been noted for cool soils and short growing seasons with a low corn heat unit record and the high risk of a spring

Continued on page 3

NOTE: Sponsors/Advertisers needed for coming year. \$500 for 4 issues!

This newsletter is published 4 times per year. Articles can be submitted in either English or French and should be submitted to the Communication Coordinator (see below). Please supply translation, if available.

Material in this newsletter is based upon factual information believed to be accurate. Action taken as a result of this information is solely the responsibility of the user. We reserve the right to edit articles.

Send articles to:
Graham Gambles
Box 586, Temiskaming
Shores, ON P0J 1K0
Tel: (705) 672-3105
Fax: (705) 672-5959
E-Mail:
gamblesgraham@yahoo.ca

COMING EVENTS



Invitation **Temiskaming Crop Coalition and GFO District 15 2012 Crop Tour**

Date: July 19, 2012

Place: Koch Farms, 125364 Gravel Road,
Earlton, Ontario

Time: 4:00 - 6:30p.m. Barbeque
6:30p.m. Board Buses for
Annual Crop Tour

10:00 - 10:30p.m.
Return to Koch Farms

Sites to be Showcased:

1. Corn Under Plastic
2. Bayer Crop Science Canola Plots
3. Soya Beans Plot Trials - 15 Highbreds
4. Alfalfa Trials
5. Wheat

Canola Crop Tour: July 24, 2012

(Ontario Canola Growers Association)

Host: Wabicroft Farms
(Don, Thomas, and
Laurie McLean)

Location: Turn West onto "Golf Course
Road" at the "Husky" on
Hwy.#11 at Temiskaming Shores.
Travel 1 km. Turn right just
before the Wabi River Bridge.

AGENDA:

10:00am: Variety Trial Tour
(Bayer, Pioneer, Brett
Young, Monsanto)

Noon: Lunch Provided

1:00pm: Bunge ETGO Crushing Update

1:15 pm: "Market Outlook" with Victor
Aideyan

2:15pm: Conclusion

NEOSCIA Saguenay Bus Tour

July 23 to 27, 2012

(\$675.00 per person)

*Call Graham Gambles at 705-672-3105
for information and last minute seating.*

Algoma Community Pastures Annual General Meeting, April 11, 2012

by Sharon Lane, Regional Correspondent to Breaking Ground



The AGM for Algoma Community Pastures was chaired by Dennis Kirby at Algoma District Services Administration Board office in Little Rapids. Minutes of the 2010 AGM were presented by Secretary David Wolgemuth. He presented the financial report for 2011 and explained the traceability project that included the new handling facility and the instruments to read the tags. Funding has been accessed from both the provincial and federal governments.

Pasture Manager's Report

Ray Prestedge, pasture manager, reported that 147 animals were pastured in 2011 as opposed to 155 in 2010. The weight gain was 1.71% this year – better than the average for previous years.

Report From Annual Meeting of Ontario Community Pastures

Brian Whelan and Ray Prestedge attended the AGM for the Ontario Pastures in Guelph. The fee for the provincial organization was set at \$825 for 2012. Most pastures in Southern Ontario can't get cattle to pasture in the Community Pastures. Farmers are putting in tile drainage and planting crops. Community Pastures

groups are cautioned if they are erecting windmills on their land. They may lose their "not for profit status" if making money from the generation of electricity.

From the conference, the delegates learned that 'the better the feed, the better the gain for pastured cattle'.

The bobolink bird has been put on the threatened species list under Ontario's Endangered Species Act 2007. The bobolink makes its nest in hayfields, and haying time coincides with its nesting time. All parties, conservationist and agricultural organizations, are working to find a solution.

For every pound of animal, one square foot of pasture is needed.

Weed Wiper

Ray informed the attendees that the Weed Wiper purchased by the Algoma Soil & Crop Improvement Association (ASCI) is available to rent by area farmers and Algoma Community Pastures.

Rain

Errol Caldwell from Rural Agri-Food Innovation Network (RAIN) gave a brief report on the funding applications submitted for projects important to the rural community. These included one for crop trials at the Community Pastures on alder and one on research for which canola variety is best for Algoma and canola crop rotation statistics to be conducted at Algoma University. Plans are progressing for the canola seed crushing plant at Bruce Station.

OMAFRA Report

Dave Trivers reported that April 21 has been selected for an information session on seed drills for canola. A poultry specialist has been booked for April 23-24 to

discuss handling and nutrition of poultry.

Under the Growing Forward Growing Farm Profits plan there is money available for training, for financial advisors and business plans. If interested, contact Harold Stewart.

Guest Speaker

Barry Potter, New Liskeard OMAFRA office, was the guest speaker. He used a farm version of the fable, Beauty and the Beast as a Pasture Romance. In the spring, May and June, Beast (cattle) gets its protein from Belle (grass) that grows quickly. In the summer, July and August, the heat from the sun and the lack of rain causes the grass to grow slowly so the pastured animal eats lower on the plant and eats less. Some varieties of forage, orchard grass and meadow brome grass, are better to pasture later in the summer.

The chaperone (farmer) has to remember to provide the necessities for the grass to grow. Nitrogen has to be applied as early in the spring as one can get on the land. Planting legumes (alfalfa /red clover) also will provide nitrogen. Good soil in the pasture is important. It should not be too acidic and needs to be well drained. Since cattle are walking on it, the sod needs to be strong. The pasturing animals will supply nutrients in their mature.

The farmer must also provide water for the animals and the grass. Each beast will need 100 litre per day. The water should be 400-500 feet from the pasture, and the saltlick as far away from the water source as possible so beast will graze on its way. 20 cm of grass is good for pasturing but when it gets to 30 cm, it should be cut.

Ray Prestedge presented Barry with a gift of local maple syrup at the end of his presentation.

Field Corn Planted Under Plastic Mulch

Continued from page 1

killing frost. (Much like northern Ontario!)

With its high-profile test sites adjacent to Hwy.#11, the 4 farmer project has gained a lot of attention from growers both in Temiskaming and far beyond. The earliest planting did show a challenge from strong northerly winds. Perhaps 10% of the plastic in that trial was damaged before germination took place. Fields planted later, after the wind switched direction, are in far

better shape. Two types of plastic are being tested.

Farmers are invited to attend the Temiskaming Crop Coalition "Evening Tour" on Thursday, July 19, to have a close up examination of this new technology for northern corn farmers.

For more information on the Newfoundland trials, search <Samco+Agriculture Canada> on the internet.

California Agriculture

by Neil Tarlton, Secretary Treasurer, NEOSCIA

Innovative agricultural techniques are being studied and used to improve the efficiency of crop production. NLARS are pursuing research on mulch and row covers for the more efficient production of berry crops.

California has seen an increase in these techniques too although they have a longer growing season than northern Ontario.



Photo shows traditional irrigation being used on a spinach crop.



Photo from Ventura county shows plastic mulch and drip irrigation being used to produce strawberries later in the season.

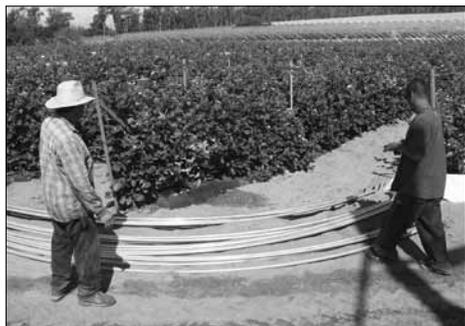


Photo shows high row covers being installed over a mulched and irrigated blackberry crop. The extra costs are justified by increased yields a longer season and better weed and pest control.



Photo from the Santa Ynez valley shows an example of the size of the berries most of which are exported to eastern north America.



Photo shows the harvest operation under way. The workers are Mexican.



Photo shows post irrigation on a crop of spinach in the fore ground and chrysanthemums in the background. They are grown for the production of the organic insecticide, pyrethrum.

Californians are, like all farmers, keen to develop their agricultural production techniques to the greater efficiency and sustainability of their crop production.

Cowhorse Recreation

by Graham Gambles:
NEOSCIA Regional
Communication Coordinator

Down on the farm, we work hard - but we play hard too! Three years ago, the Northern Ontario Cowhorse Association (NOCHA) was formed to promote and develop the working cowhorse and the ranch lifestyle. One of the main components of this lifestyle is the necessity to train horses (and their riders) to work with cattle. In southern Ontario, western Canada, and in the USA, this essential skill has evolved as an entertaining sport called "Team Penning".

This timed activity takes place in a large arena or corral. It requires a small herd of cattle with numbers attached to their backs. The cattle are numbered so that three of them have the same number (3 of #1, 3 of #2, 3 of #3) plus one cow with no number that is referred to as the "Trash Cow".

Teams of three riders and their horses will now try to selectively separate the cattle, who's natural instincts are comparable to a school of fish - they want to stay together! The goal is for the riders to remove up to 3 head with the same number (randomly chosen by a time-keeper) from the main corral and move them into a smaller pen through an open gate. Points are awarded based on time and the number of animals penned. However, if the Trash Cow or an individual with the wrong number makes it into the small pen, the whole team receives a "zero" on the attempt.

A variation of this sport is called "Team Sorting" where numbered cows are separated from the herd in sequence and guided into the small pen.

The NOCHA is based in Temiskaming, but does have members from surrounding Districts. On the second Friday of each month during the summer, the riders meet at Cougar Ridge Farms (operated by Dennis Peddie at 024065 Green Bridge Road) For an evening training session. They also have public events throughout the summer, and will be at the New Liskeard Fall Fair in September, as well as the Temiskaming Plowing Match.

The group is headed by President Dan

Continued on page 5

Cowhorse Recreation

Continued from page 4

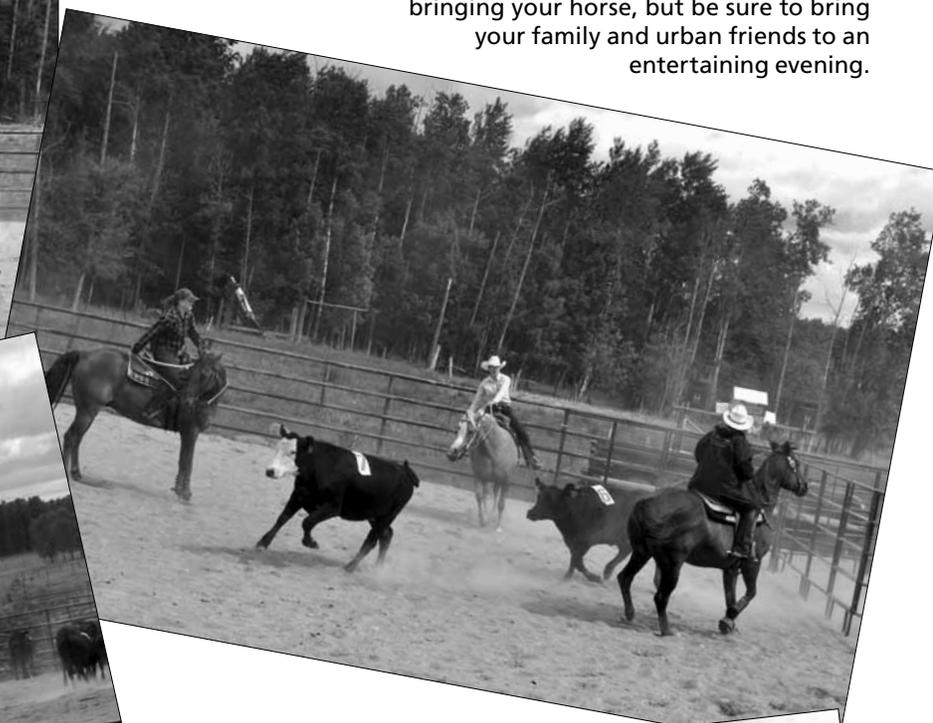
Grenier-Ducharme. (For more information, contact him by telephone at 705-563-8118.) Members currently range in age from 8 to 74 years of age, so it can truly be classed as a "family sport"! All have their own mounts. Western saddles should be of good quality and helmets are recommended for youth and inexperienced riders. During public events, members are encouraged to wear "Western" attire.

About half of the members are from working farms. Although "Quarter Horses" are preferred, any horse that is comfortable with cattle can be used. These animals are usually older than 6 years of age. The cattle themselves are beef heifers, preferably between 500 and 700 pounds.

Here in the north, the sport is in it's infancy. As such, the activity is considered to be non-competitive with no prize money offered. Events that are limited to 90 seconds in other areas are al-

lowed 2 minutes for completion locally. Other than the Cougar Ridge training corral, clinics are also held in different locations. Small groups of riders currently train for the events in Algoma, Manitoulin, and Parry Sound districts. NOCHA membership cost is \$30 per year, and participation in any event is an additional \$30.

For an entertaining "western" experience here in the North, come out to Cougar Ridge in the evening of July 13, August 10, (and maybe October 12). Consider bringing your horse, but be sure to bring your family and urban friends to an entertaining evening.



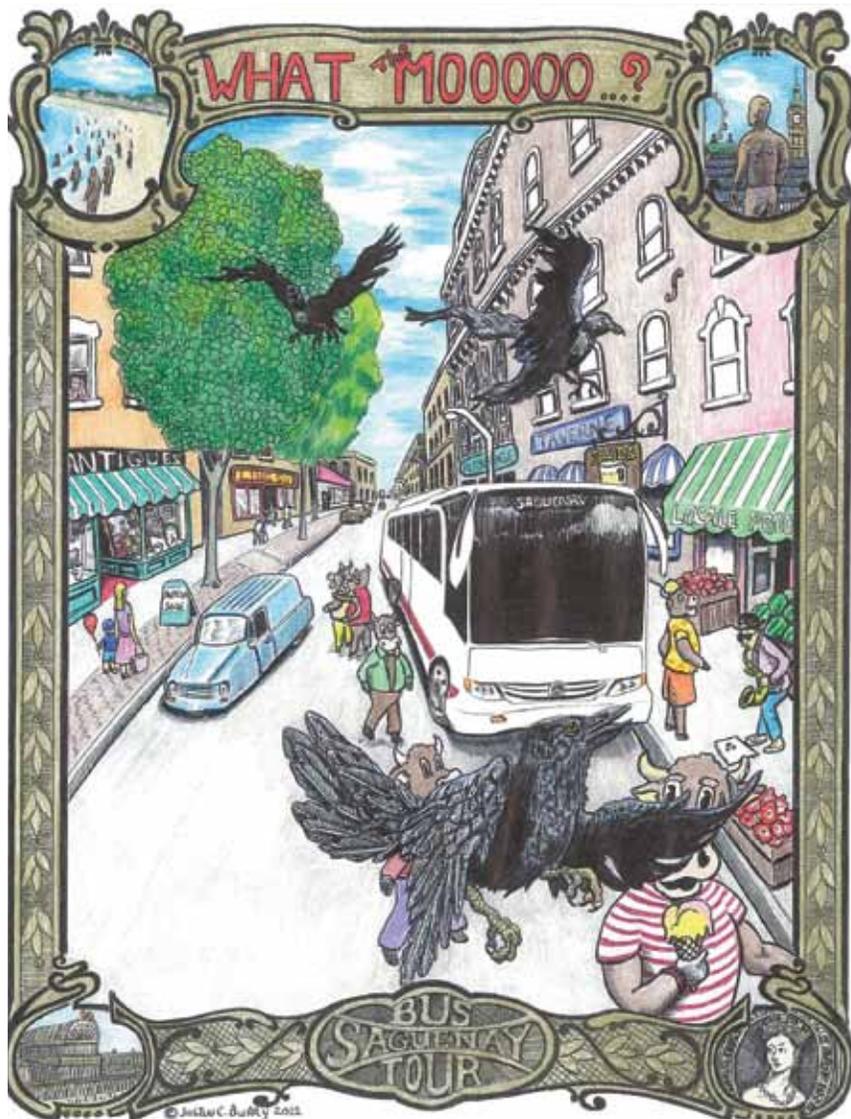
Earlton Farm Show

by Norm Koch

The 2012 edition of this annual event had a "new energy" and "commitment to the agriculture industry" according to one of the 60 plus exhibitors who filled the Earlton Arena April 13 and 14. With the support of Temiskaming Crops Coalition a new organizing group emerged this year spearheaded by the Temiskaming Federation of Agriculture.

Over 2000 passed through the doors during the 2 day trade show and were treated to a variety of new features and events. The official opening at noon Friday offered a kick-off luncheon for the exhibitors and the early public. The Charlton Agriculture Society, who catered this event as well as the breakfast Saturday morning, which was a tribute to the late Morley Sheperdson for his decades of volunteer work, locally and abroad for agriculture, kept the crowds well fed all weekend from the upstairs kitchen.

The exhibitor's auction, a new attraction, featured four auctions of exhibitor products over the 2 days and proved to be a very popular addition. It became even more popular when at the end of every auction a draw was held and one lucky winner took their purchase home for free. Also new this year was several pens of live animals for the enjoyment of children.



This month's artwork comes from Justin Burry of Englehart. View more of his work at <http://justin-burry.tripod.com>



Not all was new. The traditional Forage & Seed Show featured entrants from Nipissing, Cochrane and Temiskaming, and when all results were tallied, Temiskaming had taken back the coveted Golden Pitchfork.

The other big winners at the show were four local food banks who picked up over a ton and a half of donated food plus over \$500 in cash. This was



made possible when organizers eliminated admission fees at the door and replaced them with a free will donation.

The show enjoyed enthusiastic sponsorship from many suppliers and agri businesses who are already looking forward to next year. Mark your calendar - the weekend after Easter.

N.E.O.S.C.I.A.

North Eastern Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
Serving the Northern Agricultural Community since 1966

These are the sponsors that bring YOU 4 issues of Breaking Ground every year. Please make a point of thanking them by giving them YOUR business support!

Committed to Sustainable Agriculture



www.temiskamingshores.ca
1-705-672-3363



DARREN GRAY
New Liskeard, Ontario
705-676-6710
Quality Seeds Ltd.
8400 Huntington Road
RR #1 Woodbridge Ontario L4L 1A5
905-856-7333, 1-877-856-7333
support@qualityseeds.ca,
www.qualityseeds.ca



KOCH GRAIN ELEVATOR (EARLTON) INC.

Licensed Grain Buyers
affiliated with
Parrish & Heimbecker Ltd.

Buyers and Sellers of all
Grains and Commodities

Box 387 Earlton, Ontario Canada P0J 1E0
Tel: (705) 563-8325 Fax: (705) 563-2843
E-mail: normanrkoach@hotmail.com

Flexible Financing

We can't predict the weather, but we can help you plan for your future needs.

That's why we've developed a program to finance your business called Scotia Flex® for Agriculture.

For More Information please contact one of our Agriculture Banking Advisors at your local Scotiabank Branch.

Agricultural Banking



* Registered trademarks of The Bank of Nova Scotia.

We bring you the latest technology in Northern Ontario.

Put your confidence in the **DEKALB® BRAND**



ALL SEASON STRONG

www.dekalb.ca

DEKALB® and DEKALB and Design® are registered trademarks of Monsanto Technology LLC, Monsanto Canada, Inc. licensee. ©2010 Monsanto Canada Inc.



Farm Credit Canada
Financement agricole Canada

Agriculture...
It's all we do.

L'agriculture...
notre raison d'être.

1-800-387-3232



Stratford Agri Analysis

In association with
Northern Feed & Supplies Ltd.
New Liskeard

Offers

Soil Sampling & Analysis

Your key to better

- Yield
- Profit
- Stewardship

Call Jason at
(705) 647-5365



JOHN DEERE

Ag Nor Ltd Joins Green Tractors

To Our Valued Customers,

I am happy to announce that Ag Nor has joined the Central Ontario John Deere dealer group Green Tractors Inc. With the strength of our combined locations, we look forward to the opportunities this partnership creates for our customers and this vibrant ag community we are all proud to call home.

This merger allows us to remain strong in this highly competitive ag industry, and in Green Tractors, we have found a partner with complementary capabilities and a shared view on how a company should run.

Our goal at Green Tractors Earlton, as it was at Ag Nor, is to become an even better business partner to you and your operation. I will remain Branch Manager and you will recognize all of my staff from Ag Nor. Please stop in soon for a visit.

Thank you for all your support over the years.

Sincerely,



Denis Trudel
Branch Manager,
Green Tractors Earlton



Our Solutions. Your Success.

MILTON	905-870-2121	ROSE FERRY	800-818-9020
BRAMPTON	905-842-2511	OMAREZ	800-563-5601
NOBLETON	905-301-0608	EARLTON	705-523-2124

www.greentractors.ca

BROWNLEE EQUIPMENT

Serving Northern Ontario for over 30 years!

Agricultural & Industrial

(705) 563-2212

www.bequip.ca brownleb@nt.net
HWY. 11 N., EARLTON, ONTARIO

SALES & LEASING • RENTALS & CONTRACTING

VALTRA GEHL TORO Kioti
BEARUS Zetor MacDon MASSEY-FERGUSON

CO-OP FS

CO-OPÉRATIVE RÉGIONALE DE NIPISSING-SUDBURY LIMITED

ALGOMA
Algoma AG Center
Tel: 705-248-2201 Fax: 705-248-1109
Toll Free: 1-800-361-9255

THORNLOE
Tem AG Center
Tel: 705-647-6639 Fax: 705-647-9699
Toll Free: 1-800-861-7217

VERNER
Verner AG Center
Tel: 705-594-1268 Fax: 705-594-2229
Toll Free: 1-800-361-9255



Bayer CropScience



Marieke Patton
Territory Sales Manager
Cell: 519-766-5205
marieke.patton@bayer.com
www.bayercropscience.ca/InVigor

Nothing outperforms InVigor!

Remember to book your InVigor Hybrids this fall!

InVigor Liberty PROLINE



West Nipissing Soil & Crop Improvement Association



Quality Laboratory Analysis for:

Feed, Soil, Manure, Water



1-503 Imperial Rd. N., Guelph, ON N1H 6T9
(519) 837-1600 (800) 265-7175
Fax: (519) 837-1242 lab@agtest.com
www.agtest.com

Temiskaming Crops Coalition (TCC)

a partnership of:

Temiskaming Soil & Crop Improvement Association

N.E. Ontario Wheat Growers
Temiskaming Grain Growers

SUPPORTING TEMISKAMING FARMERS



LEISURE FARMS CONSTRUCTION LTD.

Supplier and Erector of Building Systems

Steel



Conventional buildings

Fabric



Overhead doors



A full time crew does nothing but erect buildings year round.

744 Quesnel Road, Sturgeon Falls, Ontario, P2B 2W3
Tel. : 1-888-828-0364 • Fax : 1-705-753-1876



Nipissing University announces that the first installment of its web-based agricultural decision support tool, GeoVisage, is now online and available for use. This first installment facilitates access to Nipissing's five weather stations – Temiskaming Shores, Verner, Sturgeon Falls, Charlton, and Belle Vallée. Twelve properties from these stations, including air temperature, soil temperature, soil moisture, leaf wetness, crop heating units, etc., can be viewed for different time periods. Historical comparisons, comparing values from different locations, as well as plotting multiple properties on the same plot for analysis, are also available. All of these features can be accessed from the GeoVisage web interface.

In the next few months, the next two components of GeoVisage – access to remote sens-

ing imagery and an information sharing forum – will go online. GeoVisage is currently in the "beta"-stage, meaning that some producers may experience some difficulties as the Nipissing development teams works through compatibility issues with the many browser versions (e.g. Microsoft Internet Explorer, Firefox, etc.) being used in the community.

GeoVisage is available at geovisage.nipissingu.ca. New users must register to get a password, but the system is completely free. The developers ask producers to help them to improve GeoVisage to make it even more useful by taking a short questionnaire after they have used the system, and to contact the developers with any problems or suggestions at geovisage@nipissingu.ca.

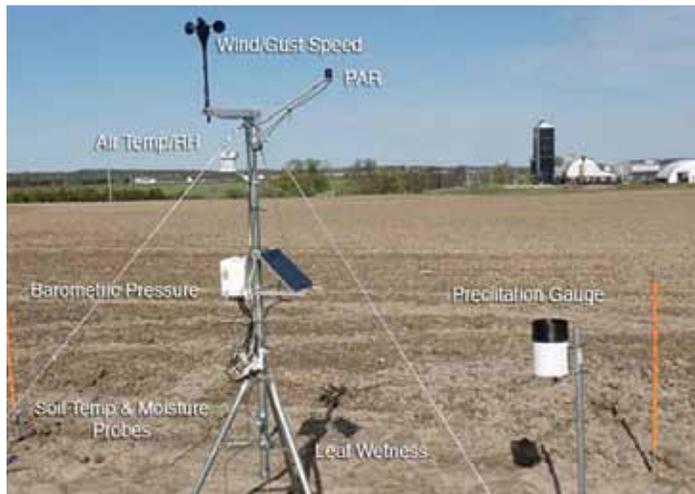
Welcome to GeoVisage, <http://geovisage.nipissingu.ca>

This website was created by Nipissing University students and faculty from both the Computer Science and Geography departments for the producers of Northern Ontario. Weather stations have been placed in various locations within different microclimates, and data is collected and sent to Nipissing where it is then accessible graphically to you.

Please create an account and follow further instructions on how to use the program.

Weather Stations

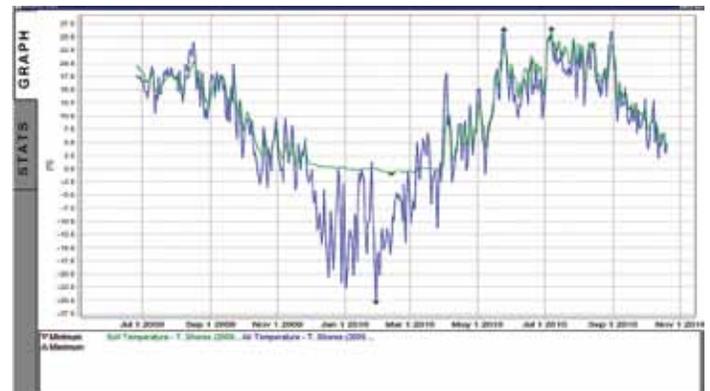
We currently have 5 weather stations located across Northern Ontario fields. These towers contain many sensors and gauges which collect various weather property values, including:



- air temperature
- soil temperature
- leaf wetness
- PAR
- relative humidity
- rain



These values are recorded usually at 5 minute intervals and made available to you for graphing and looking at statistics.



June 17-21, 2012 – Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada adds to local monitoring network

by Autumn Gambles, Nipissing University

Researchers in Geography (Kovacs, Walters, James), Math and Computer Science (Wachowiak) hosted Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada (AAFC) scientists for three days of field work in the Sturgeon Falls/Verner region. The scientists from Ottawa's Eastern Cereal and Oilseed Research Centre are partnering with Nipissing Geography's existing environmental monitoring network adding new specialized soil moisture and temperature monitoring systems on three local farms.

AAFC scientists collected soil samples and detailed profile characteristics at each of the three sites. Then, three soil temperature and moisture probes were installed in profile, at each depth of 1 m, 0.5 m, 0.2 m, 0.05m and surface. Laboratory analysis of collected soil samples will help expand the limited knowledge of soils in northeastern Ontario and provide specific information on moisture and nutrient retaining properties. AAFC and Nipissing University scientists are working together to provide farmers real time data on changing moisture and temperature conditions from these representative sites.



Left to right: *Dave Kroetsch and Xiaoyuan Geng describe and sample soils in a strawberry field at Leisure Farms, Sturgeon Falls. Mapping soil characteristics will add much needed information to the limited soils database for northeastern Ontario.*



AAFC Scientists finish installation of 1 of 3 soil moisture/temperature stations in Sturgeon Falls/Verner region. Left to right: Dave Kroetsch, Patrick Rollin, Xiaoyuan Geng.



AAFC scientists work with local producer Mitch DesChatelets to add additional monitoring equipment to a strawberry field Leisure Farms, Sturgeon Falls. Left to right: Mitch DesChatelets (Leisure Farms), Xiaoyuan Geng, Dave Kroetsch, Patrick Rollin.



AAFC, Nipissing U. and Algoma U. researchers installing weather stations in a strawberry field at Leisure Farms, Sturgeon Falls. Left to right: Dan Walters, John Kovacs, Chunhua Zhang, Autumn Gambles, Xiaoyuan Geng, Dave Kroetsch, Patrick Rollin.