



# Ag Biz Quarterly

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ONTARIO AGRI BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

*"REPRESENTING THE CROP INPUT, GRAIN & FEED INDUSTRY"*



**SUMMER 2014**

## **A Warm Welcome to our New Members!**

**Bio-Ag Consultants & Distributors Inc., Wellesley**

**Robert C. Cummings Real Estate Ltd., Havelock**

**Hiram Walker & Sons Ltd., Windsor**

**Livestock Research Innovation Corporation, Guelph**

**Nutra-Flo, North Sioux City, South Dakota**

**TRT-ETGO, Port Hope**

## **From the OABA Board Table.....**

As an ongoing feature of the quarterly OABA newsletter, the Board of Directors would like to briefly report on some of the key decisions and highlights from their most recent meeting held in Huntsville on June 23, 2014:



- The board received a number of reports as follows: Financial Report (Treasurer Murray Martin); Crop Inputs Section (Chair: Steve McQueen); Grain Section (Vice-Chair: Troy Snobelen); Feed Section (Chair: Nadine Schwandt); and 2014 Convention Committee (Chair: Matt Gardner).
- The board received a full report on the activities of the 2014 Agri Business Safety Network and reviewed the activities of Fred Spiro in his capacity as OABA's Health, Safety & Regulatory Compliance Specialist for Health & Safety.
- The board received an update from Ron Campbell on progress of discussions with the Ministry of Environment regarding environmental compliance.
- The board reviewed the Association's government relations strategy and discussed the impact of the provincial election on moving agriculture, agri business and rural issues forward.
- The board received an update on the relocation of the Association's "Fall Classic" Golf Tournament to Grey Silo Golf Course in Waterloo on September 16, 2014.
- The board made the decision for OABA to join "The Presidents' Council", a group of organizations representing the agriculture and food value chain that meets to discuss the broad issues and challenges facing Ontario's agri-food sector.

Should you have any questions concerning the items of business noted above, please feel free to give Dave Buttenham a call at (519) 822-3004.

## Hold These Dates!

OABA has been busy organizing a number of events that will take place over the next few months.

### Fall Classic Golf Tournament – New Date New Location

OABA has made a number of changes to the location, timing and format of the Fall Classic Golf Tournament. **New Date** – The tournament will take place on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> in order to avoid conflicts with the Outdoor Farm Show. **New Location** – The tournament will take place at [Grey Silo Golf Course](#) in Waterloo, site of the last two Manulife LPGA Classics. **Improved Format**: The tournament will have a 10:30 a.m. shotgun start, followed by prizes and a bbq dinner which should allow golfers to head home by 5 p.m.

Registration information will be sent out shortly, check the key dates section of the OABA website next week.

### Grain Entrapment Prevention Workshops

OABA is once again holding grain entrapment prevention workshops which will focus on developing the safety and operational policies and procedures necessary to prevent a grain entrapment incident at your facility. The workshops will cover the provincial and federal labour regulations that are related to storing grain; how to better manage stored grain in order to avoid potential entrapment situations; and what should be considered when building new grain bins to prevent entrapment or assist rescue. Keynote speakers Wayne Bauer and Dr. Carol Jones bring a wealth of experience in grain entrapment prevention and response.

This workshop is being offered at two locations: Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> in Blyth at the Emergency Services Training Centre and on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at the Ridgeway campus, University of Guelph. For more information [click here](#).

### Credit & Finance Workshop

OABA is offering a credit & finance workshop on Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Arden Park hotel in Stratford. The meeting will include presentations from Corrie Bouw from Credit Risk Management Canada on how to develop an effective credit application, Pamela Snively from Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt LLP discussing how privacy regulations impact the credit process and an economic outlook from Craig Klemmer, Agricultural Economist with Farm Credit Canada. A copy of the registration form can be found [here](#).

### HR Forum

OABA is holding a HR Forum on Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at the Victoria Park East Golf Club in Guelph. Presenters include Dr. Julia Christensen-Hughes and Dr. Sara Mann from the University of Guelph, Carol Vandenhoeck and Evan Campbell from Miller Thomson LLP, Ron Guest from TwoGreySuits and Cam McNeish from Corporate Benefit Analysts Inc. Topics covered will range from keys to interviewing and terminating staff; developing an HR strategy for your business; developing a 'coaching' plan for your business and developing effective benefit and retirement plans that motivate employees. Meeting and registration information will be released in August.

### OABA Annual Meeting and Convention

Mark your calendars for the OABA Annual Meeting and Convention on December 2-3, at the Fairmont Royal York, Toronto. More details will be available in the near future.

### Soil Fertility Workshop

A three-day soil fertility workshop will take place in Guelph on December 10-12. More details will be available soon in our 'Key Dates' section of the web site.



## OABA Key Dates

*Health & Safety  
Regional Training —  
Summer/Fall*

*Ottawa Valley Retail  
Feed & Seed  
Tournament — July 21*

*Harriston Feed Dealers  
Tournament — Aug. 19*

*Grain Entrapment Pre-  
vention Workshop —  
Aug. 22 & Aug. 25*

*Credit & Finance Work-  
shop — Sept. 03*

*Fall Classic Golf  
Tournament — Sept. 16*

*HR Forum — Oct. 07*

*Fall Classic Golf  
Tournament — Sept. 16*

*OABA Annual Meeting  
& Convention  
— Dec. 2-3*

*Crops Update  
— Dec. 09*

*Soil Fertility Course —  
Dec. 10—12*

[Click here](#)  
for more info  
and more dates.

## **Crops Update**

Crops Update is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at the Lamplighter Hotel and Conference Centre in London. This year's meeting will focus on the 4R Nutrient Stewardship program and discuss the role retailers and agronomists will play in helping producers follow the 4R program in order meet sustainability or regulatory requirements.

## **Mentoring Program**

For those of you who like to plan ahead OABA is looking at holding another edition of the mentoring program in 2015. The program is designed for 'younger' employees of OABA member firms and provides an overview of the agri business sector and OABA and includes presentations on human resources, government relations, value chain management and industry trends. More info on this program will be made available in the fall.

## **GFO Responds to Pesticide Restriction Announcement**

In response to an [article](#) which appeared in the Globe and Mail on July 6<sup>th</sup>, Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO) released the following statement on July 7, 2014:

*"Grain Farmers of Ontario reports it was extremely disappointed to have read the media statement that Ontario's newly appointed Minister of Agriculture intends to make this province the first in Canada to restrict the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.*

*The Ontario grain industry has committed extensive resources over the past two years to mitigate the risk to bees. Many of these initiatives have been launched and put into practice this growing season and the results of ongoing research projects and in-field practices will be paramount in determining any future regulatory decisions. It is counterintuitive to implement a regulatory change without the completion of this research and trials.*

*"The effort and leadership grain farmers have demonstrated on this issue has been second to none, and to have this discounted with such a rash move and announcement through media, is frankly insulting," says Henry Van Ankum, Chair of GFO. "Farmers across the countryside have modified their equipment, are participating in field trials, are using the new mandatory fluency agent which has proven successful, and have forged good, open communications with many beekeepers — we have a lot to share with Minister Leal and have not yet had the opportunity."*

*The move Minister Leal is proposing is a move against Canada's science based regulatory system. Ironically, on July 3rd, Minister Leal sent a letter to Grain Farmers of Ontario for publication in the Ontario Grain Farmer magazine stating "we must continue to ensure decisions are balanced and based in science".*

*Naturally, the organization is confused by these contradictory messages, only days apart.*

*Further, farmers across the province are shocked by the manner this announcement was made. Grain farmers have demonstrated their cooperation with government on this issue since 2012 and have had a positive working relationship with those involved in the bee health file. Grain Farmers of Ontario is extremely disappointed that Minister Leal did not take the time to consult the organization as there will be negative financial impact to Ontario's corn and soybean farmers and the grain industry as a whole.*

*Grain Farmers of Ontario has always had a good working relationship with the Minister of Agriculture and we hope that this continues in the future. This is not a good start — our organization believes in an open and collaborative approach and we encourage this government to work cooperatively with us as we move forward."*

OABA's Crop Inputs Section Committee continues to collaborate with industry stakeholders on this important issue.

## **Community Solutions for Kemptville and Alfred Campuses Being Explored**

Ontario is taking the next step towards finding a sustainable path for the University of Guelph's Kemptville and Alfred campuses. Two former Members of Parliament have been selected as facilitators and will lead discussions on the academic and skills training programs required to meet the needs of rural and Francophone communities in eastern Ontario. Reports from both facilitators are expected to be shared with the province this fall. Working with the local communities, the Honourable Lyle Vanclief, a former federal Minister of Agriculture, will develop options for the continued operation of the Kemptville campus, while Marc Godbout will focus on the future of the Alfred campus.

## **CFIA Extends Comment Period on Food Safety Modernization**

To encourage as much feedback as possible, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has extended the comment period for the following consultations related to food safety modernization:

- [A New Regulatory Framework for Federal Food Inspection: Overview of Proposed Regulations](#)
- [Use of Private Certification to Inform Regulatory Risk-Based Oversight](#)
- [Incorporation by Reference](#)
- [Foreign Food Safety Systems Recognition: Proposed Framework](#)
- [The Draft Integrated Agency Inspection Model](#)

The new deadline is **August 29, 2014**. Information on how to submit comments for each consultation is available at the above links.

## **George Morris Legacy to Continue**

The Board of Directors of the George Morris Centre (GMC) announced in late June their intent to dissolve the organization later this year and transfer the net assets as a gift to the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC) of the University of Guelph, in accordance with the wishes of the late George Morris. The Centre has been an integral part of the agri-food landscape and has made a significant contribution to research and policy discussion over the past 15 years.

In returning to the University of Guelph, the vision of the Centre is going home, as it was domiciled with OAC for its first 10 years. In making the announcement, Board Chair Bob Funk said "We are proud of the reputation and the provocative discussion that has been created over the years by a succession of dedicated GMC team members. George's vision can best be described in his own words: "free thought, free speech and non-compromised analysis to serve the Canadian agri-food sector thus enabling those involved to more effectively compete in the global marketplace".

In the interim period, a transition team is in place to ensure the continued integrity of all obligations of the George Morris Centre. For more information, please contact: John F.T. Scott  
Managing Director, George Morris Centre, Ph. 647-403-9099

## **Grain Section Updates...**

### **Grain Section Update**

OABA hosted a series of beginner and refresher grain grading courses in June. Ninety-one people attended these courses and feedback continues to be positive.

OABA and CSEA members have been involved in discussions regarding the creation of Soy Canada, a new multi-stakeholder organization.

The annual pre-harvest wheat bulletin was sent out earlier this week to Grain Section members. If you did not receive a copy and would like one please [e-mail us](#).

The Grain Section recently wrote a letter to the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission supporting efforts to have oats and barley included under the mandate of Grain Farmers of Ontario.

### **Moisture Conversion Tables**

The Canadian Grain Commission has recently updated the 919 Moisture Conversion Table for soybeans. A copy of the updated form can be found [here](#).

The Commission also updated the charts for Otebo Beans, Small Red Beans, Canola, and Green and Yellow Peas. The complete list of moisture charts can be found [here](#).

### **Canadian Grain Commission Changes to Official Grain Grading Guide Effective July 1, 2014**

The Official Grain Grading Guide was revised effective July 1, 2014. Specific changes can be viewed in the "Revisions" section of the guide by [clicking here](#). If you have any questions or comments, please contact Daryl Beswitherick at 204-983-4627.

## Feed Section Update...

### Feed Section Committee

Both the Feed Section and Nutrition Committees recently met with Dr. Jim Squires the interim Chair of the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences at the University of Guelph. The department is interested in improving communications with industry stakeholders and to develop a curriculum that better prepares graduates for employment.

The committee received a report from the Animal Nutrition Association of Canada updating them on ANAC's efforts to modernize feed regulations.

The Feed Section committee received an update on a feed truck biosecurity project being conducted by the Ontario Veterinary College. The researchers were looking for feedback on how to distribute information to the industry.

### CFO On Farm Food Safety Program

Effective July 15<sup>th</sup> all broiler producers must have letters from their suppliers outlining their biosecurity protocols. This requirement is part of the Chicken Farmers of Canada On Farm Food Safety Program. OABA through the Feed Section and Nutrition Committees worked with other supplier sectors including processors, catchers and hatcheries to create a protocol checklist covering the key components of a basic and enhanced protocol, the committees also developed a biosecurity protocol template that feed mills can use. If you did not receive a copy of these protocols contact [Ron Campbell](#).

## Crop Inputs Updates...

### Crop Inputs Committee

The committee met on July 8th and was joined by conference call with representatives from Grain Farmers of Ontario and CropLife Canada to discuss the neonicotinoid issue. OABA will be participating in industry stakeholder groups to develop a position to present to the provincial government.

Dr. Tom Bruulsema joined the meeting to provide an update on the 4R Nutrient Stewardship program and the role it may play in meeting sustainability and regulatory requirements for farmers. OABA will be working with the Canadian Fertilizer Institute to determine the role the crop input retailer will play in the 4R program. Following Dr. Bruulsema's presentation it was agreed that the 2014 Crops Update meeting should include a focus on the 4R program.

The committee received updates from CropLife Canada, Canadian Fertilizer Institute and the Canadian Seed Trade Association.

The Committee approved the financial statements of the TFIO Foundation and have begun work on updating the by-laws of the Foundation in order to meet new regulatory requirements for non-profit organizations.

### OABA Soil Proficiency Awards Presented at Ridgetown & Kemptville

The Ontario Agri Business Association is very pleased to continue the tradition of presenting an award to a graduating student at both Ridgetown College and Kemptville College with the highest marks in Soil Science. This year's winners were Lynn Lavoie at Ridgetown and Robin Crossley at Kemptville. Each student received an OABA pen and \$100 cheque. Congratulations to Lynn and Robin!

## Health & Safety

### Controlling Grain Dust Fires & Explosions

Grain dust fires and explosions continue to be a major concern of grain elevator and feed mill operators across North America. Since the late 1970's a great deal of research has been conducted by the industry, through its trade associations, to determine what causes these fires and explosions and what can be done to control these occurrences. Many grain elevators and feed mills have used this new information and have made significant capital expenditures to help reduce the possibility of fire and explosion. However, it should still be remembered that every employee must be aware of the grain dust explosion problem and take action to prevent the conditions that may cause a grain dust explosion.

## **FIRE PREVENTION**

Safety and fire prevention experts teach the principles of fire prevention through the "Fire Triangle".

The triangle has three sides: Fuel, Oxygen and Heat. Remove any of the three sides of the "Fire Triangle" and the fire is prevented.

## **EXPLOSION PREVENTION**

The same concept applies to the prevention of grain dust explosions. Grain industry safety experts teach us that there are four factors that are necessary for a grain dust explosion to occur. In addition to needing Fuel, Heat and Oxygen, a fourth ingredient--Confinement--must exist for a grain dust explosion to occur. If any of the four elements of an "Explosion" are removed, then the explosion is prevented.

## **FUEL**

Fuel is the grain dust. Grain dust, in varying amounts, is found in every load of grain delivered from the farm. Grain dust can be controlled. Each employee should feel some responsibility to ensure that proper attention is given to Fuel control activities including the following:

- Housekeeping is properly maintained--dust controlled to less than 1/8th of an inch.
- Dust control and collection equipment is properly operating.
- Leaking of dust into the work areas is promptly corrected.

## **HEAT**

Heat, the second part of an explosion, is often referred to as the ignition source. Controlling the ignition source, as with dust control, is often viewed as a key to grain dust explosion prevention. Like grain dust, ignition sources can be found throughout a grain elevator or feed mill. Controlling ignition sources is imperative in the efforts to eliminate grain dust explosions. The following are some of the activities that can be used to control the ignition sources:

- Institute a Welding, Cutting & Burning Permit Program.
- Ensure that all bearings are lubricated and maintained regularly.
- Maintain all electrical equipment properly. Use only correctly classified equipment.
- No Smoking is a fundamental.
- Avoid storing flammable or combustible materials in the mill or elevator.

## **OXYGEN**

Oxygen, like confinement, in the past has been viewed as universally present and therefore beyond the control of employees. However, many operators have installed explosion suppression systems that chemically control Oxygen. It is imperative that you regularly test and maintain all fire and explosion suppression systems.

## **CONFINEMENT**

Confinement is the final component of an explosion, and like Oxygen, had traditionally been viewed as beyond the control of employees. This traditional view has changed over the past decade, with many operators modifying their facilities by installing explosion relief venting. Sometimes these vents are damaged or are worn out and need to be replaced. It is not uncommon for an employee to improperly replace/repair these devices in a way that would prevent their actuation in an explosion. Employees should:

- Be aware of explosion relief devices and their design.
- Repair/replace explosion relief panels with proper materials and fasteners.

## **TRAINING**

Explosion prevention training should be conducted on a regular basis. The training programs and materials must be updated and personalized to fill the needs of your facility. Employees must be aware of and understand how new technologies are used in their facilities and how they can help ensure that grain dust explosions are prevented.

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**Ontario Agri Business Association**

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