

Berry Bulletin for February 1, 2010

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Happy New Year Berry Growers!

The days are already getting longer and it's just a few months till spring. Meanwhile there are lots of meetings to attend and quite a few funding programs for you to consider.

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What's going on in the field? You might be interested in a project that we are conducting in Norfolk County in conjunction with Weather INnovations Incorporated. We hope to study the effects of different overwintering treatments on strawberries. We are monitoring the temperatures in an Albion strawberry field, comparing soil and crown temperatures in plots covered with straw or floating row cover, to uncovered plots. You can track the temperatures for each week at this link: <http://www.weatherinnovations.com/strawberry.cfm>. You can also see the air temperature at the standard height of 1.2 m and compare this to the temperatures recorded on your own farm or local weather station. If you would like more information on this project or are interested in seeing the weather records since the beginning of the project in December, let me know.

Berry meetings and coming events: Plan to attend some berry meetings coming up soon.

Tuesday, February 23, 2010: Ontario Berry Growers Association Annual Meeting and Conference, Four Points Sheraton Suites, St. Catharines. Please pre-register by calling the OBGAs office 613-258-4587 or kconsult@allstream.net

Wednesday, February 24 and Thursday February 25, 2010: Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention and Trade Show, Brock University. The Berry Day is Wednesday, and there is a program on high tunnels Thursday. To find out more about these and other concurrent sessions see <http://ofvc.ca/>. It's a good idea to pre-register.

March 2, 2010: Berry Research Update and Discussion for OBGAs members: Contact the Ontario Berry Growers Association for details.

March 30, 2010: Strawberry School, Newtonville, Ontario (just east of Newcastle and Bowmanville). This is a one-day short course very similar in content to last year's Strawberry School in Guelph. Speakers will cover the basics of strawberry plant physiology, production and marketing. You must pre-register through the Ontario Berry Growers association 613-258-4587 or kconsult@allstream.net.

Berry Webinars: It's easy to participate in this series of berry webinars organized by Cornell Co-operative extension. Sign up for the remaining webinars or view the archives of webinars past. <http://www.fruit.cornell.edu/Berries/webinarschedule.htm>

Contact Laura McDermott lgm4@cornell.edu. You must pre-register for these webinars, but there is no registration fee.

February 3, 2010 - 12:45 PM EST Bramble Disease Management Webinar
Managing Bramble Viruses, Pam Fisher, OMAFRA, Ontario, Canada.

Controlling Root and Crown Diseases in Brambles, Dr. Kerik Cox, Cornell University.

February 17, 2010 - 12:45 PM EST *Bramble Insect Management*

Controlling Crown and Cane Borers, Dr. Hannah Burrack, North Carolina State University.
Controlling Japanese Beetles and Other Miscellaneous Pests, Dr. Don Johnson, University of Arkansas.

Permit to take water workshops: A Permit to Take Water is required for anyone taking/pumping more than 50,000 litres per day for agricultural irrigation. There is no fee for an agricultural permit.

Friday February 5, Simcoe OMAFRA office, 9:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.

Thursday February 18, St Mary's Hall, Barrie St (31 Fredrick St), **Bradford**, 10:00 a.m.

More workshops TBA..

Please register by calling 1-877-424-1300. For more information:

http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/facts/pttw_course.htm

Funding Opportunities:

Be sure to review the updated Factsheet by Rob Gamble for an updated list of programs and funding opportunities <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/facts/09-053.pdf>

The 2010 Food Safety and Traceability Initiative

The 2010 Food Safety and Traceability Initiative (FSTI) was announced today. This program provides 50% reimbursement of eligible expenses up to a maximum of \$25,000 to:

- Implement written food safety programs.
- Implement a working traceability system.
- Assist in the purchase and installation of equipment that improves food safety or traceability.
- Train staff to increase the adoption of food safety and traceability.

Growers should prepare submissions and fill out applications between now and March 1, 2010 using the 2010-11 application form. Applications will be accepted starting at 9:00 a.m., March 1, 2010. You can email your application directly, fax it, mail it or deliver it directly to 1 Stone Rd. Applicants will be required to attend an information session.

List of info sessions (most are in

February 2010): <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/foodsafety/grants/infosessions.htm>

Program details are on the OMAFRA website

at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/foodsafety/grants/fsti.htm> .

For more information, call toll-free: 1-888-479-3931 or E-mail: FSTI.omafra@ontario.ca

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

Tuesday, February 23, 2010 - Four Points Sheraton Suites, St. Catharines

OBGA Annual Meeting

9:30 a.m. **Using Chateau and Aim Herbicides** Kristen Callow, OMAFRA.

9:45 a.m. **Weed Management in Plasticulture & Organic Weed Management with Mulches** Rob Nurse, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

10:15 a.m. **Grower Profile** Calvin Dentz, Dentz Orchard and Berry Farm, Iroquois, ON.

11:00 a.m. **Blueberry and Raspberry Viruses** Annemiek Schilder, Michigan State University.

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. **OBGA Annual Meeting & Lunch**

1:30 a.m. **Value-Added Markets and Opportunities for Berries**, John Kelly, Erie Innovations and Commercialization.

2:00 p.m. **Modified Poly-Tunnels for Raspberries**, Jean-Pierre Privé, AAFC, New Brunswick.

2:30 p.m. **Berry Industry Trends in British Columbia**, Mark Sweeney, BCMAF, British Columbia.

3:00 p.m. **Round Table Discussions:** Join 4 of the 6 discussions, 30 minutes per round:

Marketing New & Unusual Berry Crops	Evan Elford, OMAFRA
Promoting the Health Benefits of Berries	John Kelly, OFVGA
Weed Management	Rob Nurse, Kristen Callow
Day Neutral Strawberries	Adam Dale
Frost Protection	Pam Fisher, OMAFRA
Raspberries Under Cover	JP Prive

Wednesday, February 24, 2010 - Brock University, St. Catharines

Berry Day

9:30 a.m. **Dealing with the Media in Difficult Times** Kevin Schooley, Ontario Berry Growers Association *When unfortunate weather becomes front-page news, the whole industry is affected. How to talk to the media the day after a disaster.*

10:00 a.m. **Evolution of Cane Management in Raspberries** Jean-Pierre Privé, AAFC, New Brunswick *Raspberry cane management has a big impact on yield. Learn how and why different pruning techniques affect raspberry production and profit.*

10:30 a.m. **Day Neutral Strawberries In and Out of Tunnels** Becky Hughes, University of Guelph, New Liskeard. *This research team from the University of Guelph has just completed two years of work on crop management of day neutral strawberries. Find out what they learned in Ridgetown and New Liskeard.*

11:00 a.m. **Growing Blueberries on Marginal Soils** Mark Sweeney, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. *The BC blueberry industry has expanded fast and furiously. Is anyone making money?*

11:30 a.m. **New Product Update with Industry Representatives**

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lunch & Trade Show

2:00 p.m. **Organic Berries: A Conventional Future?** Graham Moore, Farm Advisory Services Team Ltd, United Kingdom. *A dynamic market, new research and resistant pests are encouraging British berry growers to adopt a more a more biological, less synthetic approach to fruit growing.*

2:30 p.m. **Small Farm, Big Ideas** Sue Hilborn, Red Barn Berries, Woodstock. *The parking lot is always full at Red Barn Berries, especially when its time for pick-your-own strawberries. Find out how Sue Hilborn uses her marketing skills to sell berries and other fresh produce.*

3:00 p.m. **Management Options for Black Root Rot** Annemiek Schilder, Michigan State University. *Composts and organic matter, or fungicides and fumigation? There is more than one way to deal with this soil-borne disease of strawberries.*

3:30 p.m. **Cyclamen Mite Management** Pam Fisher, OMAFRA. *This tiny mite is hard to see and hard to deal with. Find out why strawberry growers lose money to this pest every year and what to do about it.*

Thursday Feb 25, 2010 Brock University, St. Catharines

High Tunnel Program

High tunnels provide an opportunity to extend your production season. Starting with the nuts 'n bolts of high tunnel selection and construction, this session will dig deeper into the challenges of soil and microclimate management, and high tunnel production of fruit and vegetables.

9:30 a.m. **What is a high tunnel?** Adam Montri, Michigan State University.

10:00 a.m. **High tunnel planning & construction** Adam Montri, Michigan State University.

10:30 a.m. **Soil & water management in tunnels** Judson Reid, Cornell University Cooperative Extension.

11:00 a.m. **Managing microclimate in tunnels** Graham Moore MBPR, Adviser, FAST Ltd, and Agronomist, Haygrove Ltd, United Kingdom.

11:30 a.m. **Questions, answers & applications.**

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lunch and Trade Show Time

2:00 p.m. **Berry Production in High Tunnels in the UK** Graham Moore BSc MBPR, Adviser, FAST Ltd, and Agronomist, Haygrove Ltd, United Kingdom.

2:30 p.m. - **Vegetable Production in High Tunnels in New York** Judson Reid, Cornell University Cooperative Extension.

3:00 p.m. **High tunnels in Ontario: what's the future?** John Cooper, Strawberry Tyme and Carl Halstead, TunnelTech.

3:30 p.m. - **Questions and answers** with the program speakers.

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