

## FORAGE FOCUS 2016

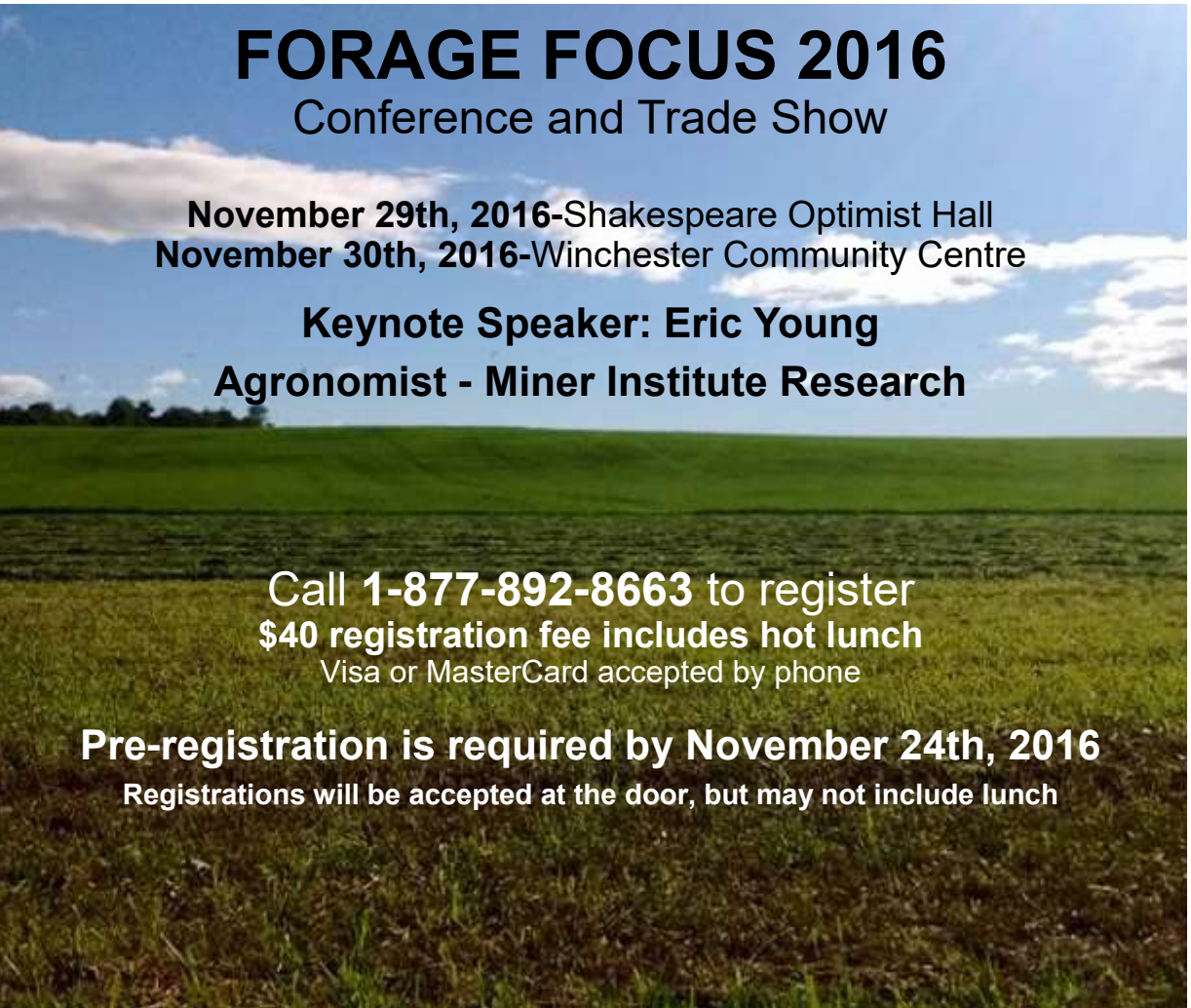
Conference and Trade Show

November 29th, 2016-Shakespeare Optimist Hall  
November 30th, 2016-Winchester Community Centre

**Keynote Speaker: Eric Young**  
**Agronomist - Miner Institute Research**

Call **1-877-892-8663** to register  
**\$40 registration fee includes hot lunch**  
Visa or MasterCard accepted by phone

**Pre-registration is required by November 24th, 2016**  
Registrations will be accepted at the door, but may not include lunch



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# A Message from the President Don Oliver



As fall quickly approaches and we start to harvest our crops, we need to always be mindful that not only ourselves but our crops have been under a lot of stress this summer. To make sure that both you and your forages go into the winter in the best possible shape take some time to rest, make sure that nutrition is at it's optimum, and take time to evaluate what has happened over the summer months so you can adjust for next year. We can't control "Mother Nature" so we need to try to help our forage crops in what ever way possible to

produce no matter what the weather. The moisture lately will help even after the extended period of time without, but whether there will be enough as winter comes is unknown.

If comments at the booth at the Outdoor Farm Show are any indication, a lot forage producers are worried about their forages going into winter especially if it is severe. Watch and wait is all we can do.

Our Forage Focus conferences are coming up quickly, and we hope to see you there!

Have good harvest and winter!

Don Oliver  
President, Ontario Forage Council

## Ontario Hay Marketing Forum Report

By Ray Robertson-Manager, Ontario Forage Council

As harvesting time is nearing completion, it is also a time when producers are assessing their feed situations for the coming months. From a forage perspective, many livestock producers are very much aware of a shortage in supply, due to the drought this past summer. The Ontario Hay Marketing Forum is the first entity we think of when referring producers to a reputable hay supplier. If you are in the hay marketing business, or regularly sell hay or straw, you may find it beneficial to join the Ontario Hay Marketing Forum. It can be an excellent marketing tool that gives you constant exposure to a broad clientele and at a reasonable investment.

This is an exciting time for the forage industry and producers or potential hay producers are invited to join the Ontario Hay Marketing Forum and be part of this entrepreneurial endeavor. You could also become eligible to join the Canadian Forage Export Group.

If you would like an application form or have further questions, you are invited to contact our office.

Ray Robertson, P.Ag.  
Manager, Ontario Forage Council  
Email: [ray@ontarioforagecouncil.com](mailto:ray@ontarioforagecouncil.com)  
Phone: 1-877-892-8663

## Ontario Forage Council Forage Focus 2016 Conference & Trade Show

**November 29, 2016**  
*Shakespeare Optimist Hall*

**November 30, 2016**  
*Winchester Community Centre*

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Eric Young, Miner Institute Research**  
Additional speakers TBA

CEU  
Accredited



**Call 1-877-892-8663 to register**  
\$40 registration fee includes hot roast beef dinner  
& conference proceedings.  
Visa or MasterCard  
**Pre-registration is required by November 24**

### Websites to Visit for Forage Information:

- Ontario Forage Council <http://www.ontarioforagecouncil.com>
- Ontario Hay Listings <http://ontariohaylistings.ca>
- Beef Cattle Research Council <http://www.beefresearch.ca>
- Field Crop News <http://fieldcropnews.com>
- Forages and Pastures - OMAFRA <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/forages.html>
- Canadian Forage and Grassland Association <http://www.canadianfga.com>
- Forage Beef [http://www.foragebeef.ca/app33/foragebeef/index\\_body.jsp](http://www.foragebeef.ca/app33/foragebeef/index_body.jsp)

# OFC Manager's Report

By Ray Robertson-Manager, Ontario Forage Council



The most common subject of discussion on the farm this summer has been the weather, and the resulting effects. In most areas of the province, after a stretch of good weather for seeding once it got started, most farmers experienced a reasonably good hay crop for the first cut, but then a severe lack of rain during succeeding weeks

certainly changed the picture. Many producers have commented that the second cut was almost non-existent, and hay prices really escalated, with reports of some hay reaching \$0.16 a pound at the auction, just a few weeks ago. Many regions of the province have now received some good rains in recent weeks. It has really been a boost for the third cut and has also greatly enhanced the growth of the spring cereals that many producers planted after wheat harvest, to supplement their hay supplies.

The Ontario Forage Council has had a busy summer with many activities underway. This year's Ontario Forage Expo was co-hosted by Grey County Soil & Crop in the west on July 5th, and Dundas County Soil & Crop in the east on July 7th. Both events were very well attended. Despite the extremely dry weather in both regions and the lack of hay volume, the events were extremely successful.

I have previously reported about the Ontario Hay & Forage Co-operative that became registered late in 2015. In conjunction with Ontario Forage Council, they sponsored a Hay Day in St. Jacobs on August 12th. About 125 enthusiastic people attended and there was considerable interest in some new hay drying technology and the co-operative. The co-operative is gaining momentum and invites producers to join the co-op. For more information, you are encouraged to contact Fritz Trauttmansdorff (fritz@dunleafarms.com).

The Ontario Hay Marketing Forum continues to be an effective hay marketing arm for the members in Ontario, who focus on local markets and is also their gateway to the Canadian Forage & Grassland Association's export markets. With the current hay shortage, the Ontario Hay

Marketing Forum is also an excellent avenue by which to connect with potential hay buyers. The Ontario Forage Council offers you an excellent venue to advertise your hay. For more information, please feel free to contact the OFC office.

Hay producers and supplying Agri-Businesses are reminded about the 5th Annual Canadian Dairy XPO (CDX) coming in April 2017 at Stratford. It seems like a fair time away, but it is time to consider your entries in the Canadian Milk Maker Forage Competition. The prize monies have been revised for 2017 and a total of \$1000.00 is offered in each class. The forage entry numbers increased this year, and we are advised that the numbers will be increasing significantly in 2017. We see this as an excellent opportunity to promote the Ontario Forage Council, Ontario and Canadian Forages, and at the same time create another element of interest for the CDX. For more information or an application, please visit the OFC web site [www.ontarioforagecouncil.com](http://www.ontarioforagecouncil.com) or phone 1-877-892-8663 / 519-986-1484.

The Ontario Forage Council is an active member of the Canadian Forage & Grassland Association (CFGAs). Plans are well underway for the 7th Annual CFGA Conference and Annual Meeting to be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on November 15 -17, 2016. The theme for this year's conference is "Grass and Green in 2016" and CFGA has an excellent reputation for being a "Must Attend Event." Advanced registration is now available at a reduced rate until September 30, 2016, so time is short. I anticipate a number of Ontario producers will want to attend. For further information, please check the web site at [www.canadianfga.ca](http://www.canadianfga.ca)

Companies with a keen interest in the forage industry are encouraged to join the Ontario Forage Council. Please feel free to contact us if you would like a membership application form or have further questions on any of the above topics.

Best Regards,

Ray Robertson, P.Ag.  
Manager, Ontario Forage Council

**Canadian Forage and Grassland Association's  
2016 Conference and Annual Meeting,  
Grass and Green in 2016, will be held November  
15 - 17, 2016 - Fairmont Winnipeg - Winnipeg, MB  
Watch the CFGA web site for details and  
registration info:  
<http://www.canadianfga.com>**



## Ontario Forage Council Hosts Ontario Hay Listings



**[www.ontariohaylistings.ca](http://www.ontariohaylistings.ca)**

**A Free Service for People Looking to Buy and  
Sell Hay and Straw**

**For more information, comments or questions,  
call 1-877-892-8663 or  
email [info@ontariohaylistings.ca](mailto:info@ontariohaylistings.ca)**

# Rejuvenating Pastures

By Thomas Ferguson, OMAFRA Forage/Grazier Specialist, Lindsay.thomas.ferguson@ontario.ca

Pasture is one of the most profitable feed sources available to producers in Ontario. A well-managed pasturing system can provide pasture from mid-April to December or even into January. This year has seen a lot of stress put on the pasture fields in Southern Ontario. The dry weather meant that some producers started supplementing hay early in the growing season and pastures tended to get overgrazed. Some late August rains have brought on some cover crops which can be used for grazing, and allowed us to see how the pastures are surviving. Now that the grazing season is wrapping up, we can look back and decide how to enhance the grazing system for next spring.

## Rotational Grazing

The benefits of rotational grazing were quite visible this summer. In systems with enough flexibility to be able to extend rest periods and prevent overgrazing, the farmers were able to get more feed off of their pasture and feed less hay during the summer. Animals should not be allowed to re-graze an area that has new growth starting, so they should be moved at least every three days. Having enough pasture to get through the summer months, can mean having too much during the spring. Cutting some pastures early for hay, or utilizing a hay field for summer grazing can help to increase the rest period. When setting up a rotational grazing program, the access point to water and the shape of the paddocks can affect the grazing pattern of the animals.

## Fertility Management

Maintaining fertility in pasture is very important for maintaining profitability. While a good portion of the nutrients that are consumed pass through the animal and remain in the pasture, nutrients tend to migrate toward the water tank, and some leave the pasture as growth, meat and milk. A soil test is recommended every three years to check the fertility of the soil even in pastures. Soil test results can be compared to recommendations for pH, phosphorous, and potassium in the OMAFRA Agronomy Guide to determine how much lime, fertilizer and/or manure to apply. If the pH is below 6.5, it will affect alfalfa growth and the pasture will need to be limed, or pH tolerant species of forages will need to be chosen. The ideal time to fertilize pastures, is early on in the fall so that the plants have time to utilize the nutrients to build their root reserves before winter. If the pasture is a grass pasture, 50 lbs/acre of Nitrogen can be applied to stimulate growth. The nitrogen will help the grasses accumulate more carbohydrates in the roots, and the grasses can start to grow up to two weeks earlier in the spring.

## Weed Control

Weed control in pastures should be managed by clipping all summer, but if perennial weeds persist then fall is a good time for a herbicide application. In the fall, weeds will be translocating nutrients to the roots, so a

herbicide will be translocated within the plant and be more effective. The ideal height for spraying weeds is at 4-6" so it would be preferable if they were clipped during the summer. Most herbicides have a 7-30 day waiting period before grazing or harvesting for hay. Using a grass herbicide on a pasture will generally take out any legumes or clovers.

## Frost Seeding

If a pasture has been overgrazed or needs some more volume, then frost seeding can be used to introduce more legumes into the pasture. Frost seeding works best with clovers and should be completed in the spring right before the last snow leaves the ground. The snow will allow you to see your tracks and watch the spread pattern of the seed. No-tilling grasses, and legumes in the spring is an option as well. If there are pastures where frost seeding is planned, they should be closely grazed this fall, in order to allow the seed to get to the soil, and reduce early competition from established plants.

## Annual Milk Maker Forage Competition



The Ontario Forage Council (OFC), & Canadian Forage & Grassland Association (CFGA), are pleased to deliver the 4th Annual "Milk Maker Forage Competition"!

This competition is open to forage producers across Canada. Seed companies/dairy organizations can support and encourage their customers/members to participate for a chance to become the Milk Maker Forage Champ-an annual status.

**Cash prizes have been added for the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners in each category! Prizes will be awarded as follows:**

**1st Place - \$500  
2nd Place - \$200  
3rd Place - \$100**

The categories have been modified for the 2017 competition. These classes include alfalfa hay, grass hay, haylage, and silage. Producers are invited to submit samples for lab and visual analysis; the winners, from each category, will be showcased at the 2017 Canadian Dairy XPO in April!!

**\*Attention seed/preservative/inoculant companies!** This is an excellent opportunity to showcase your products. For each winning MMFC entry, we will publish the name of the seed/preservative/inoculant used on each sample. The more entries you encourage, the better your chances of earning bragging rights for the success of the winning sample(s).

# Switchgrass: A Promising Fodder Crop You Can Count on in Dry Years

By Roger Samson, Executive Director, REAP Canada

The severe drought in Ontario caught many farmers off guard for their hay supplies, and they are now searching for alternatives. One crop that producers may want to consider is switchgrass. It is a native perennial grass of the North American tallgrass prairie that has gained popularity in the southern and Midwestern US as a mid-summer grazing species. The other main historic use of switchgrass is as a soil erosion control grass in the US conservation reserve program.

Switchgrass is arguably the most drought proof crop option for Ontario livestock farmers. As a C4 warm season grass like corn and sorghum, switchgrass produces plentiful yields as it uses water very efficiently. What takes it to another level in terms of its drought tolerance, is that it is a perennial with coarse roots that can penetrate up to 10' deep into the soil to access moisture deep beneath the surface. Switchgrass has now been successfully grown for nearly 20 years in Ontario. However, the lack of available markets has been the main challenge for producers. In the past several years, new markets for switchgrass have been sourced, and developed by innovative farmers. The most promising new market opportunities include; dairy and poultry bedding, and niche livestock feeding applications.

The main reasons switchgrass is gaining wider acceptance as livestock bedding is that it is less easily matted by both birds and beasts, with the added bonus of being low in nitrogen. In the case of poultry, switchgrass tends to not cake as easily as wheat straw, and the low nitrogen content makes it less conducive to quick decomposition and supporting harmful bacteria in the litter. In the case of dairy litter, when compared to wheat straw, switchgrass provides more comfort as it better supports the weight of the cows due to its higher fibre strength. Compared to wheat straw, switchgrass also appears less conducive to growing certain mastitis causing bacteria. This is due to a number of factors: it is a very dry material when it is applied as bedding; it better withstands the impact of hooves, enabling improved evaporation of water from the bedding pack; and it has a lower nitrogen content that is not as conducive to growing bacteria.

So, how best can we use this inexpensive, bulky, fibrous low protein fodder crop as a forage in ruminant rations? Well, the main two uses that dairy producers have found are: as a fibre source for TMR rations for high producing dairy cows, and as a dry cow feed. A main challenge for dairy producers, especially those that feed a lot of corn silage, is proper function of the rumen. All too often, producers with insufficient quantities of grass hay fibre in the ration, will have cows suffer from depressed milk butterfat and displaced abomasums amongst other problems.

Farmer experience with feeding 1-2 pounds per day of switchgrass appears to be a promising option for producers that lack sufficient fibre in their dairy rations. Producers with sufficient cool season grass hay in their rations will likely not find any benefit to switchgrass feeding. Switchgrass appears to be helpful to those with "hot rations" as it helps to maintain a fibrous mat in the

rumen to slow passage, and give sufficient time for the slow growing fibre decomposing bacteria to digest materials. As well, it appears to help support cud chewing. The second way switchgrass is being used is as a component of a dry cow ration. The main problems of dry cow feeding include: cows tend to receive excess energy in their rations when too much corn silage is fed; and a second problem is a high amount of potassium in the ration can contribute to milk fever events. Switchgrass is the lowest potassium containing fodder crop available in Ontario. The crop has low inherent demand for potassium so its uptake of potassium from the soil is low compared to cool season grasses or cereal straw. Typically, switchgrass only contains about 0.7% potassium when harvested in the fall. Many switchgrass growers in Ontario also late fall cut a switchgrass biomass crop, overwinter the crop in the field, and bale it in the spring. Potassium in cut fodder crops, laying in the swatch, are prone to potassium loss through leaching. Potassium is highly water soluble, and the overwintering process typically leaches out 90% of the potassium in the crop. This process can create an overwintered fodder source that is remarkably low in potassium (~0.1%K) for inclusion in dry cow rations.

Overall, switchgrass appears to be a promising substitute for cereal straw use in both litter and livestock feeding applications. Producers interested in using switchgrass in their lactating dairy cow and dry cow rations are advised to consult with their nutritionist and make a thorough testing of their rations to increase their chances of having a positive experience when using switchgrass.



# Soil Health—What the Soil Test Doesn't Tell You!

By Eric Young, Agronomist, William H. Miner Institute

A simple definition of soil fertility is a soil's capacity to produce crops. For practical reasons, traditional fertility emphasizes soil chemical aspects that affect yield and nutrient availability. In reality, crop yield and nutrient dynamics are the sum total of soil conditions in a given year, including the effects of tillage and other practices. In short, fertility in the field is a process.

The idea that crop growth potential is a function of multiple interacting factors is the basis of soil quality or soil health (two terms commonly used interchangeably). The concept of soil health attempts to better integrate biological, chemical and physical factors and their interactions with the growing crop as the basis for soil management. While soil health might seem like a buzzword, a concerted research effort by USDA scientists and others has occurred over the last several decades to better understand biophysical and chemical constraints on crop growth. Soil health can be thought of as having a "native" aspect and a more dynamic "management" aspect.

The native aspect of soil health reflects inherent soil properties such as texture/soil parent material, drainage class, organic matter content, N mineralization potential and water-holding capacity. Management aspects focus on cultural practices that can lead to compaction and degraded soil, such as excessive tillage or erosion. Native and management aspects of soil health often interact with management. For example, reducing compaction increases air and water infiltration into the soil; this in turn impacts oxygen status, root growth, nutrient uptake and soil N reactions, all of which impact crop growth and final yield.

While traditional agronomic soil testing remains the mainstay of land-grant university fertility guidelines, this approach can miss important physical and biological constraints on yield and nutrient dynamics. For example, soil physical properties, compaction, seasonal nitrogen (N) availability and weather are all important variables explaining yield variation, yet not accounted for by routine fertility guidelines. Assume a field has a silt loam texture and is derived from limestone. The soil test reported high P and K levels, an optimal pH at 6.8 and 4 percent organic matter content. Does this alone imply high fertility? What about soil type and drainage impacts? What about compaction? How much N will be mineralized? All of these factors can have a strong impact on how fertile a given field is in a given year.

Like soil testing, soil health recognizes the importance of "the law of the minimum," or the idea that crop yield is constrained by the most limiting nutrient or factor present. If nutrient availability is high but soil compaction is limiting root growth, the high nutrient status is irrelevant from the crop's perspective until compaction is relieved. No amount of any other factor will compensate for the compaction.

Soil health-based approaches also embrace a more

"adaptive" approach to management, whereby in-season practices can be modified based on new information. As an example, if moderate to severe soil compaction is found in a field, a farmer might then decide to reduce economic risk by choosing to seed it down to hay instead that season.

Identifying compacted fields and areas also determines where other practices might be needed to help alleviate compaction (e.g., deep tillage, improved drainage, crop rotation). Soil health also attempts to better account for soil biology and its impact on N availability. Recall that most soil N resides in organic matter.

The conversion of organic N to plant-available forms (nitrate-N and ammonium-N) over the season is governed by bacterial activity, which is highly dependent on soil temperature and moisture (e.g., weather). Many land-grant university agronomic recommendations use "book values" for assigning N credits (e.g., amount of N released by soils, manure and previous crops over the growing season) to simplify N recommendations. While this approach is justifiable, it misses important dynamic processes, namely, weather-related N transformations.

The Cornell Soil Health program has developed a process-based simulation model that attempts to predict sidedress N needs for corn (Adapt-N).

Adapt-N is based on many years of controlled field research and modeling studies. It models corn growth/yield, N, N uptake, mineralization, denitrification, volatilization and N leaching losses using site-specific weather, soil and management information. While more fieldwork is needed to further validate and calibrate the model, it is a good example of a soil health-based approach for making N recommendations (See more about this tool at this Cornell University).

The USDA-NRCS and many land-grant universities have active soil health research programs. Soil health will likely continue to grow in scope and application because it can help lower risk. Reducing crop production risk is a must as farmers are expected to produce greater and more efficient crop yields on every acre. In the future, using more complex models for crop nutrition that incorporate soil health may indeed become the norm, not unlike the way nutrition models are used in dairy ration formulation.

Soil health assessment can be thought of as another tool to help farmers manage and reduce crop production risk. As greater amounts of soil health information becomes available in the future, producers will need a practical way to utilize the information and develop an understanding of how it fits in with more traditional fertility guidelines.

Young, E. (2014, May 14). Soil health - What the Soil Test Doesn't Tell You! Retrieved September 15, 2016, from <http://www.progressiveforage.com>

# Our Environmental Hoofprint is Shrinking, but our Research is Growing

By Beef Cattle Research Council

Early this year, the BCRC Blog highlighted a study titled “Greenhouse gas emissions of Canadian beef production in 1981 as compared with 2011” that documented results of an ongoing Beef Science Cluster project. This paper documented how Canada’s beef industry was able to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas generated in producing one kilogram of Canadian beef dropped by 15 per cent between 1981 and 2011.

This reduction was largely the result of ongoing improvements in production and feed efficiencies, crop yields and management strategies. These, in turn, can be very directly traced back to research and innovation.

This story quickly became the subject of over 50 agricultural and popular press interviews and articles in Canada in the first few weeks following its release. The research team also presented these results at over a dozen producer meetings in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario.

We’ve recently learned that this research is also having a large impact on the international scientific community. This research paper has been downloaded and read more often than any other paper in the Animal Production Science journal over the past 12 months. This means that researchers from around the world are aware of the progress Canada’s beef industry has made in reducing our environmental footprint.

Credible, independently reviewed and internationally-recognized work like this means that Canada’s voice will be increasingly respected when Canadian scientists take active roles in international forums like the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Livestock Environmental Assessment Partnership. This

is essential to avoid and defuse feeding misleading headlines like “Why Beef is the New SUV”. It means that the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef’s Sustainability Assessment will not be erroneously viewed as an industry greenwash. It means that Canada’s beef industry has expertise we can rely on as we are increasingly asked to identify how Canada’s beef industry can make further improvements and provide industry positions and perspectives on greenhouse gas policy development on both provincial and national levels.

This Beef Science Cluster research project is being led by Dr. Tim McAllister of AAFC Lethbridge, Drs. Kim Ominski and Getahun Legesse of the University of Manitoba. Those who are attending the 2016 Canadian Beef Industry Conference this week in Calgary will have the opportunity to hear from two of these researchers. On Wednesday afternoon, Dr. McAllister will speak about the need to connect positively within our industry, and with consumers, the public, government and partner industries to counteract the “eat something other than beef” movement. On Thursday afternoon, Dr. Ominski will be speaking about threats and opportunities for the beef industry related to climate change. Dr. Legesse will remain in Winnipeg to continue the team’s work on estimating the water footprint of Canada’s beef industry the next phase of the Environmental Footprint project.

B. (2016, August 07). Our Environmental Hoofprint is Shrinking, but our Research is Growing. Retrieved September 16, 2016, from <http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/our-environmental-hoofprint-is-shrinking-but-our-reach-is-growing/>



## Attention BEEF and SHEEP Producers!!

The Beef Farmers of Ontario, the Ontario Sheep marketing Agency, Mapleseed, and the Ontario Forage Council, invite you to nominate a deserving producer for the **Mapleseed Pasture Award**. This is an excellent opportunity to recognize individual producers who are doing an outstanding job of pasture management. The Mapleseed Pasture Awards are also a way of encouraging producers to implement pasture management strategies that maximize production per acre.

For each category, Mapleseed contributes a cash award of \$500 to the winner, \$250 to cover their accommodation to attend the BFO/OSMA AGM. The winner of each category will also be invited to share a presentation about their operation at their respective commodity AGM.

Additional to these prizes and recognition, each winner will receive a 25kg bag of their choice of a Mapleseed Forage Mix.

Sheep Application Deadline: **October 1, 2016**

Beef Application Deadline: **November 30, 2016**

For questions, please contact:

Ray Robertson [ray@ontarioforagecouncil.com](mailto:ray@ontarioforagecouncil.com)

Lawrence Levesque [llevesque@pickseed.com](mailto:llevesque@pickseed.com)

Visit [www.ontarioforagecouncil.com](http://www.ontarioforagecouncil.com) for information and applications!

# Ontario Hay Listings Website



The Ontario Hay Listing Service was created by the Ontario Forage Council to provide livestock producers with information on forage availability. Our mission is to provide an easy and effective process of bringing hay producers and buyers together. The Hay Listing is a self service tool that

enables buyers and sellers of hay (and straw), in Canada and the U.S. to announce and search available or needed hay lots, and to review the hay listing summaries.

This service is offered **free** of charge. You do not need to register with the system for searches, but are required to register to enter buyer or seller postings. Buyer and seller postings can be searched by a number of parameters including forage type, geographic region, province or state. Please contact the individual producers if you are interested in purchasing hay. Registration provides you with a user ID that allows the buyer or seller to easily revise the postings. To add your name to this list and add postings, please register on the website. Postings will stay on this site for 60 days. Ontario Forage Council may delete or correct any listing deemed to be inappropriate.

As OFC recognizes that not all producers have access to Internet services, we will post your ad on your behalf. Please have your ad details ready when calling. 1-800-892-8663



## Net Wrapping Offers a Trio of Key Benefits

There are three solid reasons to use net wrap to secure bales vs. using plastic or sisal twine.

1. Net wrapping is faster than twine wrapping, which leads to greater productivity.
2. Harvest losses from hay dropping out of the baler are lower when using net wrap because of the shorter time needed for wrapping.
3. Net-wrapped bales stored outside on a well-drained area shed more water and have less spoilage than bales secured with twine.



**The Ontario Forage Council thanks the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs for their continued support!**

### Disclaimer Statement

The information contained herein is provided as a public service with the understanding that Ontario Forage Council makes no warranties, either expressed or implied, concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of the information.

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**Dairy Farmers of Ontario**  
**Dupont Pioneer**  
**Ontario Sheep Marketing**

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