

Canada's Outdoor Farm Show 2015

This year's theme "*Focus on Soils*" allowed OMAF staff from the field crop and horticultural crop units, in partnership with OSCIA field staff, to provide visitors with some new ideas and a hands-on look at diversity in crop production and diversity for the soil.

"The place where farmers meet", Canada's Outdoor Farm Show offer visitors an opportunity to see and learn about innovative advances in farm equipment, agriculture technology and agriculture sector initiatives. Each year since the farm show started, the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) and OMAFRA Crop Technology staff collaborate to prepare and participate in an interactive demonstration site.

GLASI glasses were a hit with visitors and provided the shades of soil fashion trends for the 2015-2016 growing season. Cover crops, residue management, soil aggregate stability and water infiltration capacity provided the backdrop for OSCIA's introduction to GLASI (Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative) and the farm-health checkup.

Cover crop mixtures and mid-summer inter-crop seeding of various mixtures into corn, soybean and post wheat harvest scenarios initiated debates and some thought-provoking, out of the box ideas from visitors. Residue management displays combined with a rainfall simulator that demonstrated the impact of soil cover, tillage and reduced aggregate stability provided some food for thought as people travelled along the rows of equipment booths.

Industrial and biomass crops were another feature at the site. New oilseed crops such as camelina in a winter wheat rotation and Russian dandelion as a natural rubber source were just a few crops featured. Other crops provided opportunities as feedstock for anaerobic digestion. Field and Hort crop staff answered questions about the agronomics, biogas yield potential and economic considerations for the industrial and biomass crops.

Other plot displays included new varieties of edible beans, and the latest in woodlot management / tree crop options. Inside the tent displays, publications, posters and materials detailing current programs and cost share opportunities were featured. OSCIA membership opportunities, provincial growing season weather data, crop heat unit data, management strategies to control insect pests, and hands-on travel using the Ag Info Atlas (Ag Maps), were also on display.

Over 42,000 visitors from across the province had the opportunity to enjoy breakfast at the site and talk to staff. Both the field plots and the tent display were designed to invite farm show goers over the three days to visit the displays, and to discuss and ask questions of the OSCIA and crop technology specialists.

Event Contact

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Crop Advances: Field Crop Reports



OSCIA staff launch the GLASI program with GLASI glasses



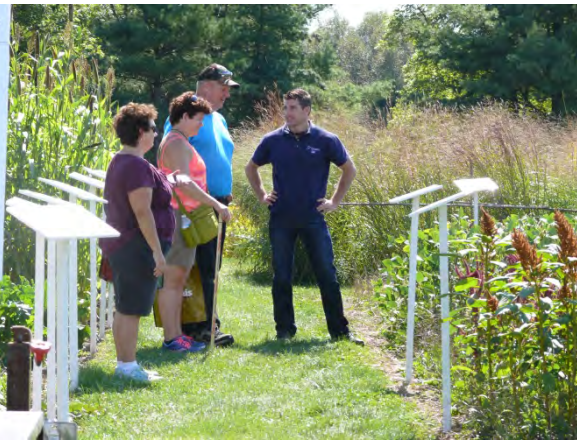
Soil aggregate stability and infiltration is demonstrated for different crop scenarios using rainfall simulator



Cereal Rye inter-seeded June 12 into soybeans



OSCIA staff answer questions about various cost-share programs



Visitors ask questions about Biomass crops and Industrial oilseed alternative crops



Special education sessions for "Agriculture in the Classroom" teachers