

Canada's Outdoor Farmshow 2013

This year's theme "*Expanding Cropping Systems*" allowed OMAF staff from the field crop and horticultural crop units, in partnership with OSCIA field staff to provide visitors a hands-on look at unique perspectives in agriculture - most not featured in other areas of the farm show.

"The place where farmers meet", Canada's Outdoor Farm Show offers 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.

Highlights of the OMAF / OSCIA site included: a soil health focus of cover crops inter-seeded with several planting dates into corn and soybeans, slurry-seeded cover crops with manure, and a soil pit along a woodlot to demonstrate impact of zero disturbance. Other plot displays included genetics to improve disease resistance in edible beans, biomass and new crops for industrial use and a woodlot management / tree crop options display.

Inside the tent displays, publications, and posters provided information about OSCIA membership opportunities, provincial growing season weather data, crop heat unit data, management strategies to control insect pests, and hands-on finding a specific farm using the new Agricultural Information Maps (Ag maps), and information on current programs and cost share opportunities.

Close to 40,000 visitors from across the province had the opportunity to talk to staff. Guided plot tours were given to the groups of students school agricultural programs coordinated by the Ontario Agri-food Education program (OAFE). Lunch hour presentations each day gave Certified Crop Advisors (CCA's) the opportunity to earn a few education credits.

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



A soil pit reveals a Guelph loam soil profile and the impact of tree crops on improving soil structure.



Crop specialists share the features of alternate crops, such as native grasses for bioenergy, with visitors.



Slurry seeding cover crops with manure



New white bean varieties demonstrate the importance of improved genetics for disease resistance



Displays and activities in the tent, give producers instant access to OMAFRA and OSCIA staff.



A cover crop garden shows options based on planting date for inter-seeding into corn or soybeans