



E9-2011 - Harvest Innovation Showcased at Ontario Forage Expo 2011

CROP ADVANCES

Field Crop Reports

Volume 8 — February 2, 2012

Field Crops Team, Agriculture Development Branch
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
In partnership with
Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
And other Agricultural Organizations and Businesses

<http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/cropadvances.htm>



Harvest Innovation Showcased at Ontario Forage Expo 2011

The 2011 Ontario Forage Expo provided an opportunity for forage producers and agribusiness to view demonstrations of the latest innovations in forage harvest equipment, as well as high performance forage genetics and research of new bio-fuel forage crops.

This annual event was held Wednesday, July 13 at the Elora Research Station, with almost 400 attending throughout the day. The Expo was sponsored and organized by the Ontario Forage Council, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, Wellington County Soil & Crop Improvement Association and the University of Guelph.

Demonstrations were done throughout the day by equipment manufacturers and dealers showcasing the latest in forage harvesting equipment. This equipment included various mowers, conditioners, rakes, tedders, windrow inverters, mergers, harvesters, dump wagons, tire inflation controllers, GPS monitors, large round balers, large square balers, small square bale bundlers, bale wrappers and bale grapplers. This provided an excellent opportunity for farmers to view the latest technology available to harvest forage quickly with minimum losses and maximum quality.

Dr Steve Bowley, University of Guelph, discussed some of the research underway in improved forage variety breeding, as well as the utility of the Ontario forage variety performance trials. Dr Bill Deen introduced the ongoing research into the commercialization of high yielding forage crops for the production of bio-fuels. High yielding forage crops include switchgrass, big bluestem, willow, and miscanthus.



Contacts:

Joel Bagg, OMAFRA, joel.bagg@ontario.ca

Ian McDonald, OMAFRA, ian.mcdonald@ontario.ca