

Ontario Forage Expo 2015 - Showcases Harvest Technologies

The summer of 2015 saw the expansion of the Ontario Forage Focus into Eastern Ontario. Events occurred at the Ontowa Farm in Waterloo Region near Elmira on July 7th and July 9th at the Westergreen Farm in Dundas County near Brinston Ontario.

The 2015 Ontario Forage Expo gave farmers and agribusiness an opportunity to see demonstrations of the latest innovations in forage harvest technologies and to harvest forage quickly with minimum losses and maximum quality. Despite the wet weather, over 350 farmers and agribusiness attended the event.

The Expo was sponsored and organized by the Ontario Forage Council, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, and the Waterloo and Dundas County Soil & Crop Improvement Associations. OMAFRA and the Forage Council worked with the equipment industry to ensure the latest technology was present and demonstrated at the event. The demonstrations were important to help farmers make critical decisions on expensive investments to enhance their farm operations in capacity, minimizing harvest losses, product quality and profitability.

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, reconditioners, 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. The continuous increase in equipment size, capacity and technology enhances a farmer's ability to achieve quality forage production under a wide range of conditions by increasing speed of operations, and handling forages in ways that enhance product quality. This becomes extremely important when variable weather is a critical factor in forage production.



While wet weather threatened on both days, Waterloo almost wrapped up before the skies open with a deluge and in Dundas, though the hay was wet, the day was able to finish without showers.

In 2016 the events are planned for Huron county in the west and returning to Dundas county for the east. The organizers wish to thank the Local Soil and Crop Improvement Associations and equipment dealers for all the support shown to the Forage Expo and its many attendees in both locations.