



Native Agri Update

No. 370, April 2018

www.indianag.on.ca

FIRST NATIONS FOOD AND FARMING PHOTO CONTEST

About the Contest

IAPO's First Nations Food and Farming Photo Contest is back for 2018! The goal of the contest is to highlight the success and diversity of First Nations food production and farming in Ontario.



First Nations youth between 10 and 18 years of age are encouraged to submit pictures of First Nations gardening and farming.

Selected photos will be shared on IAPO's website, promotional materials, as well as at public events. Photo contest winners will be awarded cash prizes of up to \$100 in each class with a total of 12 prizes available.

Eligibility



The contest is open to Status First Nations Youth between the ages of 10 and 18 residing in Ontario. Those under the age of majority must have per-

mission from their parent or guardian before entering the contest. All entrants are eligible to win one prize only.

Contest Details

Photos will be accepted until September 15th, 2018.

Personal interpretations of each category are encouraged. Photos can include plants, crops, livestock, people, activities, as well as traditional First Nation farming & crops. Photos can be of a contestant's garden, farm or related activities or those in their community. All photos must be original and be of First Nations gardens, farms, and/or related activities.

Submissions will be judged on quality, originality, relation to the theme, and creativity.

Prizes will awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each category for each class.

Class 1 – ages 10-14

Class 2 – ages 15-18

Each Class includes two categories:

Farming Gardening

◆ **1st Prize - \$100**

◆ **2nd Prize - \$75**

◆ **3rd Prize - \$50**

How to Enter

Submit original photos as jpeg files for either or both categories, Gardening and Farming **on or before September 15, 2018**. No more than two photos per category per contestant will be accepted.

Complete details and rules will be available at www.indianag.on.ca or photo@indianag.on.ca.

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Contributors

Graham Hoogterp —GH
Business Advisor
graham@indianag.on.ca

Jamie Hall —JH
General Manager
jamie@indianag.on.ca

Camden Lawrence—CL
Business Advisor
camden@indianag.on.ca

Mark Leahy—ML
Ag Extension Coordinator
mark@indianag.on.ca

IAPO
Box 100
Stirling, ON K0K 3E0
1-800-363-0329

info@indianag.on.ca

Agribusiness

MANAGING RISKS

source: adapted from: www.agricorp.com

In farming there are many risks that come along with the profession, whether it be with crop production or livestock. There is the weather, diseases, and the list goes on. Today there are many ways that we have learned to manage these risks, either through technology, vaccines or the newest methods of operation. But one program that is offered to help farmers control their operational risks is AgriStability.

AgriStability is a margin-based program which allows producers across Canada to protect their farm operations against large declines in production. A program payment is triggered when a producer's margin falls below 70 per cent of their historical reference margin.

Participating in AgriStability

Each year, producers are required to actively decide if they want to participate in AgriStability. Whether you have participated in AgriStability in the past or are new to the program you must submit your application or notify the administration of enrollment prior to the deadline of **April 30**.

If you miss the deadline, you can still submit the form for up to three months past the deadline. However, your benefit will be reduced by \$500 for each month your application was submitted past the initial deadline.

The AgriStability fee is also due **April 30**, or 30 days from the date of the Enrolment Notice. The fee for the program is different for every operation and is calculated based on 70% of your contributed reference margin being covered.

Late fee payments will be accepted until December 31 of that year but will have a 20% penalty added. You must pay your fee by December 31 or you will be ineligible to participate in AgriStability for the program year. As well, your fee and fee penalty will be considered outstanding and applied to future program years.

If interested in participating in AgriStability or feel that the program would benefit your farm operation you can reach out to Agricorp or IAPO with any questions you may have. IAPO offers services to complete your 2018 AgriStability application if needed.

For more information on Agristability:

www.agricorp.com/en.ca/programs/Agristability
contact@agricorp.com
1-877-275-1380

SEVEN SINS IN BORROWING MONEY FOR YOUR BUSINESS

source: www.bdc.ca/en/articles-tools/pages/default.aspx

Getting a business loan can be the fuel needed to reach the next level of success but you have to prepare yourself to make

sure the loan is right for you and your business.

1. Borrowing too late

You may be tempted to finance your expansion from your cash flow but paying for investments with your own money can put pressure on your growing business. You may find yourself needing to borrow money quickly and doing it from a position of weakness. Make sure to prepare cash flow projections for the coming year then visit your banker to discuss your plans and financing needs so you can line up the funding before you need it.

2. Borrowing too little

You're right to be careful about how much debt you take on. However, low-balling how much a project will cost can leave you in a serious cash crunch. By developing cash flow forecasts, you can borrow enough money to ensure you can cover your project and bring it to completion.

3. Focusing too much on the interest rate

The **interest rate** on your business loan is important, but far from the whole story. Other factors can be just as important. What loan term is the lender offering? What percentage of the cost of your asset is your lender willing to finance? What is the lender's flexibility on repayments? Can you pay seasonally or interest only for periods? What guarantees are being asked in the case of default? Do you have to pledge personal assets?

4. Paying your loan back too fast

Many business owners want to pay back their loans as quickly as possible. It's important to reduce debt but doing so too quickly can cost you. That's because you may leave yourself short of cash, or the extra money used for payments might be better spent on profitable growth projects.

5. Failing to keep your financial house in order

It's all too common for busy entrepreneurs to let record-keeping slide. It's essential to keep good financial records, with messy financial records leaving you in the dark about how your business is performing. Be diligent about keeping financial records and spend the money to hire an accountant.

6. Making a weak pitch to your banker

You can see how much sense your project makes, but you won't get far if you can't persuade your banker to get on board. Prepare your pitch and practice it repeatedly. Focus on explaining your business and how you're going to use the money in clear and compelling terms.

7. Depending on just one lender

Having a relationship with just one financial institution can limit your options, especially if your business hits a bump in the road. Meet with other lenders and consider using different institutions for different types of financing.

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Market Information

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) extended talks create another uncertainty.

BEEF MARKET WATCH

Prices are courtesy of the Beef Farmers of Ontario Weekly Market Information Report for the week ending Thursday April 12, 2018.



Changes here reflect the difference in prices from the week of February 8, 2018 to the week of April 12, 2018. Weekly reports provide prices on a per cwt basis for the week but do not include Friday sale results.

Rail grade and fed cattle have slipped from February, cull cows and bulls show little change in price. Stocker steers and heifers prices have slid considerably. Rail grade steers are off \$5 and fed steers and heifers are down \$6 to \$8.

Cull cows and bulls are little changed being up \$1 and down \$1 respectively.

Stocker steers are off \$19 to \$30 depending on weight category. Stocker heifers are \$11 to \$15 lower depending on weight category. Grass cattle buyers will soon be looking for stockers and this should support prices in the short-term at least.

Cattle and beef prices have moved lower due to a number of uncertainties. Herd expansion in the U.S. has contributed to increased beef supplies. The supply of pork is on the rise at the same time. Tariff action and counter action between the U.S. and China has the industry nervous. The

Category	Price Range \$	Ave Price	Top Price	Change
Rail Steers	243-245			-5
Fed steers	129-148	139	155	-6
Fed heifers	119-145	138	157	-8
Cows	54-73	64	133	+1
Bulls	80-99	90	135	-1
Stocker steers				
700 – 799	150-193	172	198	-19
600 – 699	166-206	188	216	-19
500 – 599	165-212	191	226	-29
Stocker heifers				
700 – 799	134-163	152	174	-11
600 – 699	137-179	162	197	-13
500 – 599	142-190	169	208	-15

All prices are on a hundred pound basis (cwt) *ML*

CROP MARKET

Excerpts from *Monthly Market Trends April May 2018* by Phillip Shaw GFO www.gfo.ca

Corn Argentina has definitely upset the apple cart this past winter with regard to their production problems. Their corn production is down and the Brazil second crop is coming on. US corn export numbers have been explosive lately and this is all due to the uncertainty that has been multiplied throughout the grain complex from Argentina.

With snow still on the ground across much of the northern plains spring wheat is being delayed getting into the ground. This may cause more corn and soybeans to go into the ground. Generally speaking, delayed planting in the US doesn't get a lot of market reaction until after Mother's Day.

Seasonally the corn futures market tends to trend up through early May.

Soybeans Soybeans are a wildcard now. The threat of Chinese tariffs has certainly sent a chill through the soybean market. Despite that, soybean futures prices as of April 13th are higher

than before that announcement from the Chinese. The Argentinian soybean production meltdown has helped cause much uncertainty in this market and the reverberations have added stimulus to the risk premium in soybean markets. Cash arbitrage of grains can be a unique thing. With American soybeans apparently being shipped into Argentina that's proof of that. However, will those soybeans reach Argentinian shores or will they change sides somewhere along the way? That is similar to American grain coming into Ontario. Does it all ultimately end up here? With global demand for soybeans continuing to be insatiable and with the trade rhetoric rising between China and US, we can expect some strange grain flow.

Seasonally, the soybean futures market tends to trend up through early June.

Wheat The wheat market is a tale of three different growing areas in the United States. In the southern Plains, hot and dry weather have impacted the hard red winter crop. In the northern plains it's more about whether the spring wheat (HSW) will get planted, while the Chicago market (SRW) is generally a follower. Of course, there is wheat almost everywhere around the world and lots of it.

In Ontario, there has not been much opportunity to side dress wheat with nitrogen, but that will surely be starting up as weather breaks. Most of Ontario wheat from the southwest is exported either to mills in the United States or overseas. Flat pricing opportunities with our lower Canadian dollar remain a stimulus for Ontario cash wheat prices.

Coming Events

May 10 - Wikwemikong Farmers Meeting, 6 - 8pm,
Contact Camden Lawrence for more info at 1-800-363-0329

Livestock Information

TIPS FOR FEEDING GRAIN TO GOATS

Adapted from an article by Susan Schoenian, Maryland Extension

It is a myth that goats can survive and thrive on newspapers and tin cans! However producers can meet most of their animals' nutrient needs with high quality pasture or hay. As well the timely feeding of grain supplements can increase production without compromising the health of goats. For example in early gestation a dry doe might need about 8% protein depending on body condition while a late gestation doe requires 12% protein. Timely feeding will make best use of available feed dollars. There are a number of feeding practices to follow to reduce acidosis and resulting bloat.

Here are some situations to consider grain feeding goats. These recommendations are applicable to sheep as well.

Flushing

Flushing is feeding extra energy and/or protein to does prior to the breeding season and for the first several weeks of the breeding season. The increased weight gain that the does experience may translate into higher fertility and ovulation rates. Thin does respond best to flushing. They are usually flushed with 0.5 lb. to 1 lb. of grain or supplement per day. Moving females to a lush pasture prior to breeding is effective as well. Heavy legume pastures should not be used because the phytoestrogens contained in legumes may delay breeding.

Late Gestation

Nutrient needs are greater during late gestation (about last 6 weeks) especially if twins or triplets are expected. Poor nutrition during late gestation may result in pregnancy toxemia (ketosis), low birth weights, weak kids, and poor milk production. It is common to feed grain during late pregnancy particularly if a grass hay is being fed.

Lactation

A doe's greatest nutritional needs are during lactation especially for yearling mothers and females nursing triplets. Supplementing lactating females on pasture will usually improve kid gains and improve body condition of females at weaning. It is difficult for a doe to raise a good set of triplets on pasture without supplementation. Providing access to higher quality pasture will provide supplementation.

Creep Feeding

Creep feeding is providing access to grain for nursing kids. It is especially beneficial for herds that have many multiple births. Creep fed kids grow faster. Young kids should be started on creep feed as early as 10 days. A creep ration should be kept fresh and palatable, with about 20% crude protein. Grains which are palatable and easy-to-digest include cracked corn, soybean meal and rolled oats.

Poor Quality Forage

It may be advisable to feed a supplement. Protein is usually the first limiting nutrient in poor quality forage. Increased pro-

tein intake will improve forage utilization. These suggestions are suitable for drought conditions as well.



Recommended Practices Feeding Grain to Goats

- Large amounts of grain at one feeding will promote the growth of lactic acid bacteria, which increases acidity in the rumen and could lead to acidosis and bloat. For goats a large amount of grain would be in excess of one pound per feeding.
- Do not feed large quantities of finely ground grains at one feeding. Fine grinding increases the rate of digestion and increases acidity in the rumen leading to bloat. Feed cracked corn or rolled small grains.
- Feeding hay before grain slows down the digestion rate of grain.
- Feed a minimum amount of forage to maintain a healthy rumen. This should be at least 1.5 percent of the goats' body weight in forage.
- Change rations slowly. The rumen bugs need time to adjust to a new diet, usually a 1 to 2 week period is sufficient. This is especially true if you are changing from a forage-based diet to one which contains more grain to avoid acidosis.
- On pasture feed grain in the middle of the day so that you do not disrupt normal grazing activity. This helps maintain some forage in the stomach.
- Provide enough feeder space for all animals. This helps avoid some animals getting too much with the risk of bloat and others not getting enough resulting in reduced milk production or rate of gain.

Planned use of grain supplements will increase production and make the best use of feed dollars. Make sure you start with good pasture and hay, supplementing with grain as needed.

If you would like more information on feeding goats or hay testing to understand how to make the most of your feeds, contact your IAPO Business Advisor.

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Crop Information

GROWING POTATOES FOR MARKET

Part 2 of 2

Fertilizing Your Potatoes

source: www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/nutrient-management/nutrient-lime-guidelines/potato-fertilization-on-irrigated-soils/#removal
www.omafra.gov.on.ca/CropOp/en/general_agronomics/nutrient_management/fertility_recommendations.html

Optimum potato growth and profitable production depend on many management factors, one of which is ensuring a sufficient supply of nutrients. Potatoes have a shallow root system and a relatively high demand for many nutrients. Therefore, a nutrient management program is essential for maintaining a healthy potato crop, optimizing tuber yield and quality, and minimizing undesirable impacts on the environment. You should begin with soil testing. The soil analysis will help you get an accurate prescription of fertilizer for your crop.

Managing nitrogen is crucial to success with potatoes, too much and you get a lot of top growth at the expense of tubers. Aim for balanced fertility and if you are using commercial fertilizers consider banding some nitrogen up to 6-7 weeks after planting. This not only helps avoid too much growth but it also helps prevent leaching of nitrogen from the soil before the plants have had a opportunity to take it up. A typical program for smaller plantings might include working in 6-24-24 or 8-16-16 preplant, followed by a nitrogen side dress of 34-0-0.

Pests and Pest Control

Damaging pests can work quickly in a potato patch. Scout your crop regularly looking for insects and the damage they cause. It's a lot easier to deal with a pest before it becomes a disaster.



The **Colorado Potato Beetle** is a very common pest. For larger plantings, if you have your Growers Pesticide Course Certification, insecticides are available. If you have a smaller plant or prefer not to use pesticides, destroy any potato bugs you see and check the underside of leaves for their orange egg

masses. Both the adults, which are yellowish with black stripes, and the larvae, which are dark red or orange with black spots, feed on potato foliage. Eggplants, because of their large leaves and vigorous growth, may be used as a trap crop, luring the beetles and withstanding their attack. Pick the trap plants frequently.

An alternative method to control Colorado potato beetle is to plant early or medium-early varieties of potatoes. Presprout or "chit" seed potatoes in trays under light during April and plant in early May. An acceptable crop can be harvested by mid-July, before insects have completely destroyed the foliage, stopping any further growth of the tubers.



Flea beetles are small black or brown insects about 2 mm long. They are very active pests, and early in season, can eat many small, round holes in the leaves of potato, tomato, pepper, eggplant, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, oriental vegetables, brussel sprouts, radish, rutabaga and corn. Plants are usually not killed, but growth is delayed.

Serious damage occurs mostly on young plants.

Late or delayed seeding may help reduce infestation. Cover young plants with polyester row covers, which are white hoop-shaped fabric tents. Flea beetles overwinter in weedy areas. Removing weeds and plant debris from the field and surrounding areas in the fall can help reduce overwintering sites. Some research has indicated that mustard planted near can work as a trap crop for flea beetles.



Wireworms are the larvae of the click beetle. They're a problem when potatoes are planted in recently plowed sod or weeding fields. Fully grown wireworms are 1/2- to 1 1/2-inches long. They're slender, brownish or yellowish white and tunnel into plant roots and tubers, spoiling them. If your soil is heavily infested, rotate your plantings to ensure you're avoiding following sod/weedy areas.

Harvesting Your Potatoes

source: <https://www.almanac.com/plant/potatoes>

- Harvest new potatoes 2 to 3 weeks after the plants stop flowering. For mature potatoes, wait 2 to 3 weeks after the foliage has died.
- Dig potatoes on a dry day. Dig up gently, being careful not to puncture the tubers. Avoid cutting or bruising potato skin. The soil should not be compact, so digging should be easy.
- If the soil is very wet, let the potatoes air-dry as much as possible before putting them in bags or baskets.
- For the biggest and best potatoes, harvest only after the plant's foliage has died back. Cut browning foliage to the ground and wait 10-14 days before harvesting to allow the potatoes to develop a thick enough skin. Don't wait too long, though, or the potatoes may rot.
- Allow freshly dug potatoes to sit in a dry, cool place (45°-60°F) for up to two weeks. This allows their skins to "cure," which will help them keep for longer. New potatoes should not be cured.
- After curing, make sure you brush off any soil clinging to the potatoes, then store them in a cool, dry, dark place. The ideal temperature for storage is 35°-40°F.

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Other News

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

IAPO held this year's Annual General Meeting in Markham. The agenda included the Chairman's Annual Report, review of the 2017 Financial Statements and election of Directors. Following the Annual General Meeting, the Special Directors Meeting was held for the election of officers.

Amanda Ioannou - Peterborough District
Chairman

Margaret Manitowabi - Sudbury District
Vice Chairman

Jay Wright - Brantford District
Secretary Treasurer

Ted Davis Jr - Brantford District

Peggy Sheldon - London District

Curt Cooper - Loan Review Committee

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE MAPLE BUSH?

Sap has been running for a few weeks now in some areas with more southerly parts of the province at or near the end of production. Boiling stops when the operator runs out of fuel, gets tired of long hours boiling sap or eventually when the sap develops a buddy taste. This past week and weekend have been slow.

This maple syrup year appears to be a little longer with extreme shifts in temperature. In some parts of Ontario cold weather has slowed bud development postponing the buddy sap taste that marks the end of the season. Early regions like southwestern Ontario are wrapping up with reports of good yields and high quality syrup. Further east and north cold weather has slowed the sap run this past week and weekend. However operations with vacuum pipeline are experiencing higher sap yields than bucket systems as anticipated.

Surveying some of our First Nation producers indicates, in the north where the season is still early there were good runs at Wasauksing and Nipissing under vacuum systems with the hope the season will continue into May. Production is about 50% of expected for the year in these areas. On Georgina Island and in the Madoc area it has been a good year to date. Many producers are waiting for the weather to warm up this week after the weekend storm in hopes of another good run before the buds come out. Generally it is a productive season to date with hopes for more.

Todd Leuty, OMAFRA Agroforestry Specialist suggests the provincial average for syrup production per tap is about 1.1 litres on a vacuum system with some exceeding that in the early areas. Averages for a bucket system are somewhat less. Production tends to vary across the province and year to year.

Sap to Syrup Conversion

How much sap does it take to make a gallon or a litre of syrup is a common question. The ballpark answer is 40:1. However it depends on the sugar content of sap which may vary from 2 to 4%. Using the rule of 86 which reads: sap amount equals 86/sugar content. Therefore 2% sugar takes $86/2 = 43$ litres of sap for a litre of syrup. Using the same formula 2.5% sugar requires about 35 litres. Sugar content is often closer to 2% than 4% with sugar maples usually higher than Manitoba maple and black, red and silver maple in between. Commercial operations using a reverse osmosis unit are not as concerned.



A sap hydrometer can be used to measure sugar content. *ML*

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

IAPO is pleased to announce Community Economic Development Grants for 2018. Grants may be used to support economic development and grant writing positions within a First Nation community or organization that address needs and priorities and result in long-term benefits including job creation, economic diversification, skills training, and enhanced competitiveness. Grants may be used for agriculture economic development positions or grant writing positions across Ontario. For communities in Central and Eastern Ontario, grants may be used for all types of economic development or grant writing positions. Eligible applicants include First Nation communities/organizations, or other First Nation not-for-profit organizations.

For more information contact: info@indianag.on.ca or 1-800-363-0329.

This funding is made possible through the support of the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation:



The views expressed in this publication are the views of IAPO and do not necessarily reflect those of the Province of Ontario.

JH