



CSA Newsletter

Canadian Society of Agronomy

January 2009



President's Message

Plans are progressing well for the 2009 conference. "Sciences for Sustainability: Soils, Agronomy, and Atmosphere" is a theme that applies the resources of three scientific societies to sustainable agricultural production. As you will see in the call for papers further into this newsletter, a stimulating set of topics and speakers has been confirmed for the joint plenary session.

Our Society is also organizing a mini-symposium on plant genetics and physiology, with two speakers confirmed so far. Dr. Mike Humphries, from Aberystwyth University in Cerdigion, Wales, has agreed to speak on the benefits to the environment from plant genetic improvement, and Dr. Jonathan Lynch, from Penn State University, on plant genetic improvement strategies to enhance nutrient use efficiency.

So we hope to see you here in Guelph, 5-7 August.

Another conference that you might be able to take in on the same trip is the Great Lakes Phosphorus Forum. Set to be held 28-31 July in Windsor, Ontario, this forum will feature discussions on the agronomic implications of measures to mitigate the impact of nutrient losses on water quality. Further information is provided inside this newsletter.

I recently attended the annual conference of the Ontario Certified Crop Advisers (CCAs), which took place in Cambridge, Ontario on the 14th and 15th of January 2009. Drawing about 240 people, the conference provided practical information on management of insects, diseases, soil health, profitability, erosion, weeds, pesticides, fertigation and source water quality. It was a great meeting with plenty of up-to-date practical agronomy information. But one thing did disturb me. Not one of the 15 speakers was a member of the Canadian Society of Agronomy. And in the audience, I counted at most three CSA members, including myself.

We might ask ourselves, "Why have the practitioners and scientists of agronomy become so far disconnected?" or "Why aren't more Crop Advisers members of our Society?" We are not alone in wrestling with this problem. I currently represent the CCAs on the board of the American Society of Agronomy, and they too have noted the need for improvement in connecting scientists and practitioners. They recently established a Task Force on Professional Agronomy, on which I serve as well.

I believe we all need to be looking for ideas and opportunities to be engaged with practitioners like the CCAs. Agronomy is an applied science, so we are in trouble if our science isn't applied! Here are some ways in which each of us (including me) can foster better engagement:

1. Visit their websites and learn more about the programs.
 - International - <https://www.certifiedcropadviser.org/>
 - Ontario - <http://ccaontario.com/>
 - Prairie Provinces - <http://www.prairiecca.ca/>

2. Get in touch with the CCA leadership and let them know what you could contribute to their conference programs.
3. Write articles for their newsletters and newsmagazines. Specifically, they like to see 2000-word educational articles with test questions included, so that they count for an hour of continuing educational credit. For examples, see <https://www.certifiedcropadviser.org/certified/education/self-study/>

Getting involved with practitioners can enhance the relevance of your research. Efforts you expend to connect to CCAs will come back to benefit your own research program.

Again, hope to see you this summer in Guelph. I'm looking forward to another great year for agronomy in Canada.

Tom Bruulsema,

News from the West

A big and important chapter of the western Canada prairie agronomy was closed as 2008 drew to an end. The Westco Agronomy Department, especially under the leadership of John Harapiak and the able contribution from Norm Flore, played a key role in developing agronomic practices that many of us today are taking for granted. The agronomic fertilizer placement research conducted by Westco laid the foundation for the "Right Product, Right Rate, Right Timing and the Right Location" concept that is now championed by the Canadian fertilizer industry. Westco placed a very high priority on the extension of research information and agronomic knowledge and, in addition to conducting extensive in house-research, it also administered a significant research grant program with the objective to further the understanding of the scientific factors that were involved in maximizing the benefits of the various fertilizer application options. Here is a sample of how Westco contributed to agronomic knowledge and practices in western Canada:

- It was a major contributor in establishing trials to improve soil test calibrations in Alberta.
- It conducted initial research demonstrating the benefits of band versus broadcast applications of urea.
- It developed openers that could spread seed and fertilizer over varying range of seedrow bandwidths for trials that led to establishing guidelines for the maximum safe rate of seedrow applied urea.
- It conducted research demonstrating that on soils with a long history of fertilizer P application, dual N-P application without 'starter' was feasible and practical.
- It first advanced the concept that anhydrous ammonia could be effectively applied at the time of seeding and developed an 'Ammonia Detection Kit'.

It played a key role in the successful establishment of a prairie based CCA program, recently acknowledged by the recognition of John Harapiak with Prairie CCA Pioneer Award on December 10 at the Manitoba Agronomists Conference.

And the list goes on!

On a personal note, I look forward working with my new employer, Viterra Inc.

Best wishes for 2009.

Rigas Karamanos,
Western Director



**Sciences for Sustainability: Soils, Agronomy, and Atmosphere
5-7 August 2009
University of Guelph**

CALL FOR PAPERS

**Joint annual meetings of
Canadian Society of Soil Science,
Canadian Society of Agronomy, and
Canadian Society of Agricultural and Forest Meteorology**

Opening Plenary Program Speakers

The role of agrometeorology in improving crop management
Dr. Rob Gordon, Dean, Ontario Agricultural College

Sustainable plant production systems for the world of 2050
Dr. Dan Pennock, Professor, University of Saskatchewan

Farming systems for greenhouse gas mitigation
Dr. Claudia Wagner-Riddle, Professor, University of Guelph

Genetic enhancement in cereals and its relation to sustainability and world economy
**Dr. Ron DePauw, Head, Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre,
Agriculture and Agrifood Canada**

Leaders of the above three scientific societies welcome scientific contributions to the theme, in the form of oral and poster presentations. Abstract submissions can be made at www.guelph09.ca. Please review and carefully follow the guidelines provided at the site.

Important dates:

- 15 February**– abstract submission open
- 1 March** – registration open
- 24 April** – abstract submission deadline
- 5 June** – deadline for registration with early-bird fee
- 15 July** – close of on-line registration (on-site available)

Why is phosphorus in the Great Lakes back on the radar?

How are agricultural sources of phosphorus loading to the Great Lakes changing?

What are the important sources, pathways and fate of P from agriculture?

What are the options & trade-offs for mitigating agriculture's contribution of non-point P?

**If you can contribute to answering these questions, mark the
Great Lakes Phosphorus Forum
on your calendar!**

When: Tuesday July 28 to Friday July 31, 2009

Where: Hilton and St. Clair Centre, Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Organization to Minimize Phosphorus Losses from Agriculture (SERA 17). Check the web site www.sera17.ext.vt.edu for updates on the program and registration in spring 2009.

Supported by:



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Lake Erie Millennium Network
Binational Research for the Millennium

**Funding for this event is provided by the Canada Ontario Agreement
Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.**

How a century of ammonia synthesis changed the world

On 13 October 1908, Fritz Haber filed his patent on the “synthesis of ammonia from its elements” for which he was later awarded the 1918 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. A hundred years on we live in a world transformed by and highly dependent upon Haber–Bosch nitrogen.

From: nature geoscience | VOL 1 | OCTOBER 2008 | www.nature.com/naturegeoscience

To view, go to: <http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/v1/n10/full/ngeo325.html>



Organic Cereals Research Symposium

**February 22-23, 2009
Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta**

The Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC) is pleased to host a symposium about organic cereals research from February 22-23 at the Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta. This conference will highlight current research in the areas of organic cereals breeding and agronomy with a focus on identifying future research directions and priorities. This project is funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's 'Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food' (ACAAF) program and the Canadian Wheat Board.

Conference Schedule

Sunday February 22, 4:30-6:00 pm

Registration

Sunday February 22, 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Organic Dinner and Keynote Presentations

Monday February 23, 8:30 am - Noon & 1:30-5:00 pm
Conference Presentations

Monday February 23, Noon-1:30 pm
Lunch and Keynote Presentation by Stephen Jones

Monday February 23, 7:00 – 8:00 pm
Special Discussion Session: Future Directions in
Organic Cereals Research

Registration

Please download a registration form available on our website at <http://www.oacc.info/Symposia/cereals.asp>. Please note: A block of hotel rooms has been reserved for this conference at the Banff Centre. The registration deadline for booking a hotel room is January 5, 2009. Further details can be found on the website.

Please direct any further inquiries about this event to Kristen Lowitt, OACC Symposia Research Coordinator at klowitt@nsac.ca or 902-896-3481.

Featuring a Keynote Lunch with Stephen Jones

Mon Feb 23, Noon
Jones's wheat breeding program at Washington State University (WSU) has been recognized internationally. He is also the new director of WSU's Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center at Mount Vernon.



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada



CSA Awards 2008

Peter Sikkema

Peter Sikkema has been selected as a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Agronomy.

Dr. Sikkema received his Bachelors of Science in Agriculture in 1981 and M. Sc. in Crop Science 1983 from the University of Guelph, and his Ph.D. in Crop Science in 2003 from the University of Western Ontario. Dr. Sikkema worked for several years in product development for Union Carbide and May & Baker before taking a research scientist position at Ridgetown College with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Plant Agriculture Department of the University of Guelph, stationed at the Ridgetown campus.

Dr. Sikkema has an active research program that develops improved methods of weed control in corn, soybeans, dry beans and wheat. Much of his research effort is focused on improving the efficacy of herbicide application, by evaluating effects of factors such as herbicide timing, time of day of application, water volumes, spray pressure and nozzle selection on herbicide performance. Another focus has been on control of problem weeds in corn, soybeans and wheat. Combining an integrated management strategy with the registration of effective pesticides through the minor use program of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency, Dr. Sikkema has helped in the development of control practices for hard to control weeds such as field horsetail, proso millet and a range of Group II-resistant weeds.

Dr. Sikkema is also a hard-working and effective communicator. Peter is an enthusiastic university teacher, and his popularity is evidenced in the excellent evaluation that he receives from his students. However, his technology transfer efforts extend far beyond the classroom. He is recognized provincially, nationally and internationally for his practical and broad expertise in field crop weed management. Peter utilizes farm magazines, farm journals and public meetings to ensure that his research findings find their way into on-farm practice. He is frequently asked to make presentations on various aspects of weed management in field crops in Ontario, often participating in more than 30 extension meetings per year. He gets countless questions from across Canada and the US on weed management in field crops via e-mail and telephone. He has a talent for clearly and precisely conveying his message to growers in a way that they understand and appreciate.

For his major contributions to research, education and extension in weed science, we are pleased to recognize Dr. Peter Sikkema as a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Agronomy.

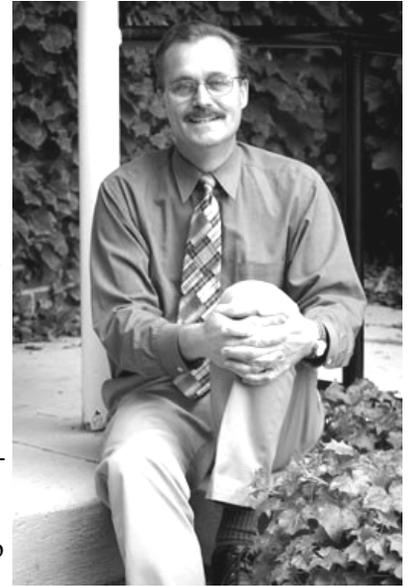
Christian Willenborg

The Canadian Society of Agronomy is pleased to award Christian Willenborg with the Pest Management Research Graduate Student Award.

This Award of \$500 is made available annually to qualified graduate students enrolled at Canadian universities with research programs relevant to pest management. The award is accompanied by a Travel Grant of up to \$1,000 provided by Monsanto Canada Inc. to allow the successful applicant to attend the CSA annual conference and make an oral presentation based on her/his research project. The award winner is selected by the CSA Pest Management Award Committee on the basis of performance in relevant subject areas (50%) and the novelty and feasibility of the research proposal vis-à-vis pest management.

Christian Willenborg received his Bachelors of Science degree in Agronomy in 2002 from the University of Saskatchewan. He completed a Masters degree in agronomy and weed science at the same institution in 2004. He expects to complete a PhD in Weed Science at the University of Manitoba by the end of this year, with Dr. Rene van Acker as advisor, on the topic of *Intraspecific Flowering Synchrony and Gene Flow in Bread Wheat*.

Dr. Van Acker writes, "Chris is an excellent researcher who can move from basic to applied science. He is as comfortable discussing agronomy and farming as he is discussing scientific theory. Chris is a well-trained scientist. He operates according to the scientific method, outlining his hypotheses and working through the literature to establish a solid scientific basis for his approach and methods. He also has a good sense of logistics and is able to plan work schedules and experiments so that everything he wants to get done gets done properly. Chris has been successful in publishing 5 peer-reviewed articles since starting with me and he has presented at 3 international and 2 national conferences. His work is well done and well received by peers."



John Clarke

The Canadian Society of Agronomy is pleased to award John Clarke the Distinguished Agronomist Award.

Dr. Clark received his Bachelors of Science (Honours) degree in Agronomy in 1971 and his M. Sc degree in Agronomy and Crop Physiology in 1973 from the University of British Columbia, and his Ph. D. in Crop Physiology in 1977 from the University of Saskatchewan. He worked as a Research Scientist for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Swift Current from 1977 to the present.

John developed an internationally-recognized research program to evaluate traits contributing to improved wheat yields under drought and to include them in new wheat cultivars. For the past 18 years, John has led a multi-disciplinary group in Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada working on durum wheat cultivars. The cultivars developed and released by this group occupied 77% of the Canadian durum area in 2007. The recent strong gluten cultivar Commander was deemed the best quality line ever assessed by the world's largest pasta manufacturer, Barilla, headquartered in Italy. The cultivars produced by John's team have improved productive, end-use quality and food safety of Canadian durum wheat. With Canadian durum wheat accounting for between 50 and 60% of the world trade in durum wheat, and having a value of approximately \$1 billion in 2007, the cultivars developed by Dr. Clarke have made a major contribution to the global durum wheat industry.



In addition to cultivar release, Dr. Clarke has also been active in scientific publication, authoring or co-authoring over 180 publications in the areas of agronomy, crop physiology, genetics, molecular genetics and plant breeding. He has made a significant contribution to research extension, including numerous invited presentations for crop clubs, the provincial government, the seed industry, and the Canadian Wheat Board. He has been a key contributor to the Canadian International Grains Institute's "International Durum Programs" held annually for the past 12 years and has made presentations to many international groups, both to visitors in Canada and on trade missions to customers in Germany, Japan and Italy. He has also been involved in graduate student training as an adjunct professor at University of Saskatchewan, serving on graduate student committees. He has also hosted a number of international graduate students and post-doctoral fellows and was actively involved in the CIDA Hebei Dryland project in China as the Canadian resource for wheat breeding and physiology.

Dr. Clarke has played a key leadership role in the Canadian wheat industry for the past three decades. His innovations in the development of high quality, high yielding durum wheat cultivars and his work to transfer information to producers, students, the grain industry and international customers has been of great benefit to Canadian agriculture. The Canadian Society of Agronomy is pleased to recognize Dr. Clarke's many achievements by presenting him with the CSA Distinguished Agronomist Award.

Tapani Kunelius

The Canadian Society of Agronomy is pleased to award Tapani Kunelius with a 2008 Distinguished Agronomist Award.

Dr. Kunelius received his Bachelors of Science degree in Agronomy in 1966 from the University of Helsinki in Finland and his Ph. D. in Crop Production in 1970 from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. He worked as a Research Scientist for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Charlottetown from 1970 to 2005.

Tapani Kunelius has provided an exceptional level of leadership in Canadian agriculture through his expertise in the area of forage management, particularly in the Atlantic region. The focus of his energetic career is the sustainable base of agriculture in Atlantic Canada. Dr. Kunelius has conducted research on various aspects of forage production and related crop production. His research has produced important results in all aspects of forage production, including harvest management, reduced tillage renovation of pastures, fertility management, and seed production, which have led to reduced soil erosion, and improved profitability and environmental impact of ruminants. In recent years, his research has shown the value of modern cultivars of timothy and of bluegrass in pasture production. Tapani has published and presented research prolifically, both nationally and internationally.



Dr. Tapani has been active in technology transfer as well as in research, both as a speaker and in the production of extension publications. He has been instrumental in promoting the use of annual forages to lengthen the pasture season and the renovation of older pastures to improve their production. He encouraged the use of forages in rotations to build soil and prevent erosion, and for provision of more nutritious, less costly hay, silage and pasture for the ruminant livestock sector. The use of timothy varieties and of red clover timothy mixtures in pastures were two of the significant outcomes of his research and the basis of numerous talks in the region. He also promoted the inclusion of seed production of ryegrass as part of a rotation with intensive row crop cultivation. His understanding of the importance of forages to the economic and environmental sustainability of the region's agricultural industries made him a popular and invaluable speaker.

Tapani has had a major impact on forage crop production in Atlantic Canada for several decades and continues to work to provide information to forage producers. He is well known not only in Atlantic Canada but throughout Canada and outside the country. The Canadian Society of Agronomy is pleased to recognize Dr. Kunelius' many achievements by presenting him with the CSA Distinguished Agronomist Award.

What Agronomy Means?

A thought piece by Saikat Basu, student member of CSA.

Agronomy is a truly integrative and multidisciplinary subject incorporating broad areas of plant breeding, crop improvement, agricultural statistics, economics and meteorology, economic botany, crop genetics, crop physiology and nutrition, plant pathology and soil sciences. Broadly speaking, agronomy is an interactive discipline integrating biological, agricultural and physical sciences (Fig. 1). Agronomists are professionals trained in agronomy with farming or non-farming experiences. Most agronomists normally hold professional certifications from nationally or internationally accredited agricultural institutes or societies.

Ever since the dawn of human civilization, agronomy has been intermittently associated with human progress and ingenuity. Agronomy in very simple words represents the efficient and scientific management of crop plants for providing us with seven important biological products: food, feed, fodder, forage, fibers, fertilizer and fuel (Fig. 2). Food security is one of the most serious challenges threatening a major part of our globe. Agronomy is the most important solution for that by providing plant products for catering to primary (as food crops) and secondary (as feed, fodder and forage crops for dairy, cattle, hog, poultry and related animal product industries) human consumption needs. In addition, plant fibers, fertilizer crops (mostly legumes) and fuel crops are important contributions of agronomy for a healthy human society and a sustainable environment. Whether you do organic farming or backyard vegetable or kitchen gardening, it is agronomy that says the last word. With the advent of more sophisticated technologies and mechanization in agricultural practices, agronomy has been shaping and spear-heading human progress and development. Without the advancement and success of current agronomic practices, the world would have been a virtual barren desert with food crises and inevitable human disaster such as famines still prevalent in the under developed part of the globe.

The greatest future challenge for agronomists will be to strike a delicate balance between the challenge to feed an ever increasing hungry world and to facilitate better environmental health by production of biofuel. I am quite optimistic that they would certainly come up with an efficient solution. It is quite unfortunate to mention that agronomy is often neglected over its due credits by many of us; however, there is no doubt that it is one of the most important human innovation way ahead of even the latest success in biomedical or space sciences or nanotechnology, because of its direct and positive impacts on the global human society.

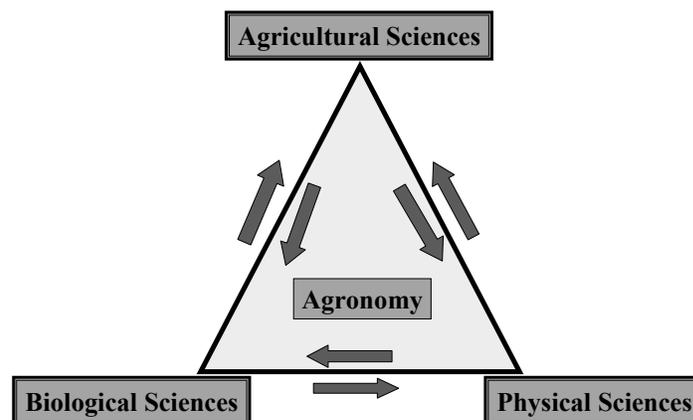


Fig.1. Inter-relationships among the three major disciplines constituting agronomy

What Agronomy Means? Cont'd

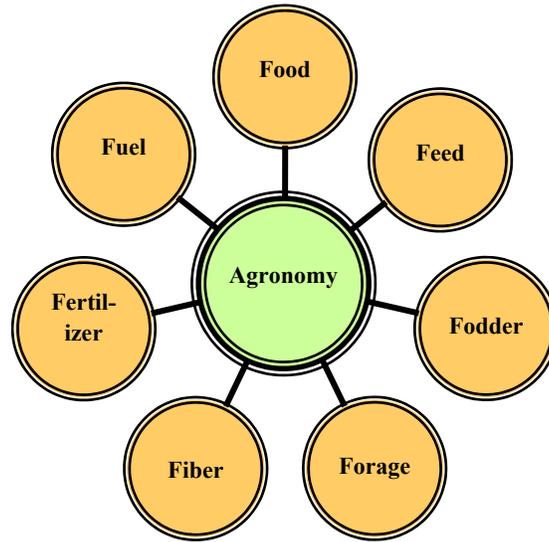


Fig. 2. The seven major products of agronomy and their interdependence to human society and progress

Saikat Kumar Basu

PhD candidate, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, AB & CSA student member; email:saikat.basu@uleth.ca

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Making Agronomy Real

*The CSA executive were musing about how we could positively influence student and public thoughts about agronomy. Shabtai Bittman recalled a course at McGill where students were required to grow something, and the plant yield they achieved affected their marks. Something like the organic chemistry lab courses I took – yield mattered – big time. This idea of students growing things in the real world as a course requirement does not seem to happen often, but the recently opened **Guelph Centre for Urban Organic Farming** does this. The following is a description of this new project. Have you any ideas of how to promote agronomy? Steve S.*

*The **Guelph Centre for Urban Organic Farming** (GCUOF) opened on a 1 ha site at the Arboretum on 4 September 2008 - the first day of term.*



Ann Clark at the opening of the GCUOF

The GCUOF is designed to benefit several target groups. Initial beneficiaries will be students of all ages on campus, who will have the opportunity to learn life skills in both year-around organic production practices and water and energy conservation. Consumers of the produce from the GCUOF, whether offered by student chefs under the tutelage of Chef Simon Day or at the Child Care and Learning Centre (CCLC) or at the Bullring Café or elsewhere, will also directly benefit from the GCUOF. Children at the CCLC have their own section from which to learn about where their food comes from. Once we have got the logistics worked out for teaching our own students and serving our on-campus buyers, then the same learning opportunities will be provided to the broader community, likely in concert with the City of Guelph.

Opportunities to learn will range from informal volunteering, to labs in existing courses taught at the site, to short courses and workshops, as well as a proposed year-long certificate in urban organic market gardening. Paid apprenticeships are envisioned to allow students to work on site through the summer, mastering the whole process from winter production and starting transplants in a state-of-the-art four season greenhouse, to marketing produce, and maintaining accounts. The food produced from the permaculture and arable plots at the GCUOF will not be for sale off-campus or to individuals, as we do not want to compete unfairly with real farmers. Our real 'produce' is not so much food as the farmers who will produce the food in the future.

The intent is to learn how to become more food self-sufficient, to depend less on purchased - often imported - foodstuffs, and to improve both food safety and food security. We intend to reduce not just food travel miles, but all of the resource costs that accompany industrialized, globalized food movement, including processing, packaging, and transportation. The agri-food system reportedly consumes 19% of our national global energy budget, of which just 7 of the 19% is spent up to the farm gate. An equal amount - 7% - is expended just in processing and packaging, with the final 5% from the retail shelf onwards. Individuals can reduce both energy costs and GHG emissions by growing food in their own yard or community garden, and by purchasing from local urban organic growers. Local buying will also affect the disbursement of money, specifically, retaining more of it here by sending less of it to all the intervening steps between growing in California or B.C. and buying in Guelph. Supporting known local farmers, processors, bakers, and chefs - people you know - in preference to wholly unknown operators in a distant land also enhances the sense of community and interdependence.

On a broader scale, learning to produce food and manage your land with less water and energy will benefit society - and the environment - as a whole. Particularly in Guelph, where water scarcity is an almost annual reality, people who master gardening with less City water will help to safeguard our precious water supply. Even in a small way, such people will be an example to their neighbors and their children in preparing for a more resource-limited future and lifestyle.

Is it plausible to expect busy people to take up, or return to, gardening to displace some of their food purchases? People change their habits, lifestyle, and practices in response to drivers, such as the trade off between time spent driving in to Toronto to work and the time left for backyard gardening. Or between spending money on prepared convenience food vs. allocating the time to cook it yourself. It is really a matter of personal priorities and values. Whether urban farming will become more popular will depend on the priority that people put food that is locally produced and processed by people that they personally know and trust. People who are comfortable with the status quo will not feel any reason to change. People who are not comfortable with 'things the way they are' are motivated to search out alternatives.

One factor which is driving a shift to more local and even backyard production is food safety concerns, fueled by *E. coli* outbreaks here on campus, as well as the recent recalls of *Listeria*-contaminated meat and *Salmonella*-contaminated tomatoes and/or peppers. Lax safety

standards in major international trading partners raise understandable concerns.

The fundamental problem is bigness. The largest meat recall in history was in the US this past February - 143 million pounds of meat. Through mergers and consolidation, a very large fraction of Canadian meat comes from a very few physical facilities: Maple Leaf Foods and Schneiders (which is wholly owned by Smithfield Foods, largest pork producer and processor in the world) account for most of the pork. Beef comes predominantly through just three very large plants - of which the two largest are in Alberta - Cargill Foods of High River and Lakeside Packers of Brooks (controlled by Tyson Foods, the largest meat processor in the world) - and one is in Guelph, Ontario - Better Beef (owned by Cargill). Whether it is meat or spinach or any other foodstuff, processing millions of meals worth of product a day through any facility increases vulnerability to food safety problems. One mistake impacts millions. The more often this happens, the more people question the safety of their food and look to more local sources.

A related factor is the frailty of globalized movement of food. Globalization is premised on cheap energy to move food great distances while still remaining economically competitive with local producers. The rising price of energy will - arguably - constrict the economic travel distance of perishable foodstuffs in particular, but of food in general, shifting the cost ratio of imported v. locally produced food. In other words, whereas it was and is hard for local producers to compete with cheap produce coming from California or Mexico, shortened economic travel distances of food will advantage local producers. Globalized food systems will increasingly be seen as an aberration, refocusing attention on local and in-season eating.

We, like many academic institutions, are starting to realize that we need to change our ways. We are making a start. But making change happen requires personal acknowledgment of the many ways that the agri-food system impacts us and the environment. Michael Pollan's latest book In Defense of Food, and the DVD King Corn offer a frank analysis of the cascading impacts of how we farm and what we eat. Change can happen. Change is happening. The key question is whether it is happening fast enough to make a difference.

The GCUOF reflects the combined efforts of the 18 member planning committee, drawn from 6 academic departments over two colleges as well as the Arboretum and CCLC, together with NGO support from the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario, the Canadian Organic Growers, and FarmStart. For more information, contact E. Ann Clark (eaclark@uoguelph.ca).

Ann Clark

Call for Awards Nominations

Our annual meeting is approaching rapidly, bringing with it the opportunity to recognise deserving colleagues for their achievements. We have several awards that are presented through the Canadian Society of Agronomy. These include awards for Young Agronomist, Distinguished Agronomist, and Fellow of the Canadian Society of Agronomy. The guidelines for these awards as well as a list of past recipients can be found on the CSA website at <http://www.agronomycanada.com/awards.html>.

You all know someone who has made an exceptional contribution to agronomy. The CSA awards are the opportunity for that contribution to be recognised by the agronomic community. But, that recognition cannot take place unless the person is nominated. The nomination procedure is not complicated and is described thoroughly on the website. Please take the time to prepare and submit a nomination before **May 15, 2009**.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact: Yousef Papadopoulos for the nomination procedures (Papadopoulosy@agr.gc.ca; Tel: 902-896-2452) or Steve Sheppard (sheppards@ecomatters.com; Tel: 204-753-2747)

Call for Nominations for Executive 2009

Four positions on the Canadian Society of Agronomy executive are opening in 2009.

Candidates are needed for the **President Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, Eastern Director** and **Western Director** positions.

Holding office in the CSA provides a unique opportunity to work with your colleagues across the country, to have an impact on the society and contribute to the advancement of agronomy in Canada. Executives are required to participate in the executive meetings (teleconference calls), attend and participate in the CSA annual meeting, chair and/or serve on CSA committees as needed, and help to promote CSA within their organizations and regions.

If you are interested in becoming a director for CSA or you know a colleague who you feel will be a good candidate and is interested in being nominated please contact Yousef Papadopoulos for the nomination procedures (Papadopoulosy@agr.gc.ca; Tel: 902-896-2452).

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