



JANUARY 2018

MuckerNews

Monthly Articles & Updates For HMGA Members

HMGA AGM

Everyone is invited to attend the Holland Marsh Growers Association AGM. We encourage you to come out and hear what the association has been working on this year. As well, we would like to have your input and feedback for the upcoming year.

Bond Head Community Centre

January 24, 2018

7 pm – 9 pm

FOREIGN WORKERS

We have been assisting many farmers with the foreign workers program. If you are experiencing any issues, please feel free to contact Jody for assistance.

Some have been experiencing difficulties receiving their workers from Mexico. This is due to a new electronic process being implemented by the Canadian Embassy in Mexico, the Ministry of Labour in Mexico experienced delays in sending some SAWP work visa applications to the Canadian Embassy. Some SAWP employers missed receiving Mexican workers this week as a result. F.A.R.M.S. and Canag Travel are working with the Ministry of Labour and the Canadian Embassy to expedite the work visa applications. Canag Travel will call employers to rebook flights for workers when the Ministry of Labour in Mexico advises that workers are ready to travel. Unfortunately, a time frame for worker arrivals is not available at this time.

SUCCESSION PLANNING AND TAX CONSIDERATIONS FOR FARM BUSINESSES IN YORK REGION

Presented by York Small Business with York Region Agricultural Advisory Liaison Group

Do you have questions about succession planning and the implications for farm tax planning? It can be overwhelming to know where to start. And this session will give an overview of the planning process, what to consider and the tax implications.

Farm success planning is a process that should be started sooner than later.

Join us for an afternoon meeting with two guest speakers and resources to help you start the planning process.

Learn:

- Step-by-step approach to farm succession planning and farm family communication
- Tax strategies and implications
- Ownership transfer options
- Financing options
- Legal considerations (e.g. will, power of attorney, etc.)

Thursday, January 18, 2018 - 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. - FREE

East Gwillimbury Sports Complex, Room: Canada Hall

1914B Mt Albert Rd, Sharon, ON L0G 1V0

Registration is required as space is limited. www.yorksmallbusiness.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS

OFVGA - February 20, 2018

OFVC - February 21-22, 2018



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If you are an HMGA member and want to receive these updates by email? Send a message to HMGAEXEC@gmail.com to be added to the list.



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LAKE SIMCOE REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

If you farm in the Holland Marsh, you know that the muck soils are a precious resource. We can work with you to help you protect your soil and water resources on the farm.

Cover Crops

\$25 per acre for seed, up to \$2,000

Cover crops can boost your profits and prevent soil erosion. You will notice improved soil health within the first year of planting! Cover crops improve soil health by improving infiltration of excess surface water, relieving compaction of overtilled soil and adding organic matter to encourage beneficial soil microbial life. This improved soil health will increase your crop yields, with the added benefit of reduced soil erosion in the winter months.

Tile Outlet Control Structures

50% of project costs up to \$2,000

Water control structures in tile drainage can help manage water in tile-drained fields to protect water quality and reduce your irrigation costs. Controlled tile drainage involves the installation of simple flow control systems at tile drain outlets to better manage water flow from fields.

Tile outlet control structures can reduce the loss of water and nutrients from crop fields, providing increased resilience during drought events. During dry conditions, control structures can lead to a 25% yield increase compared to conventional tile drainage.

Wash Water Treatment Systems

50% of project costs up to \$5,000 for de-dirting or \$10,000 for water re-use

How effectively are you removing excess soils, nitrogen, phosphates and more from your vegetables? Have you considered closing your water-use loop? Improve your wash water management by incorporating the newest technologies to ensure your farm remains cutting edge and profitable.

Funding for pilot projects is limited so act today.

Apply for our new pilot categories before March 31, 2018.

Are you losing land to the Holland River? Consider planting a buffer to reclaim your land and prevent future erosion.

We can cover 50 - 90% of planting costs.

How can you get started?

The process is simple. Identify a project that will improve your productivity and protect your land. Contact our Stewardship experts to book a free, confidential site visit to review your project and begin the application process or visit their website for more information:

<http://www.lsrca.on.ca/Pages/Holland-Marsh.aspx>

FOOD SAFETY COURSES

Many have been asking when food safety and HACCP course will be offered. NSF has courses in the month of February in Guelph. Clinic below for more info:

Understanding the CanadaGAP Program
February 12-13 | [More info](#)

Food Safety & HACCP for Fresh Produce
February 13-14 | [More info](#)

Regulatory Update: Proposed Safe Food for Canadians Regulations (webinar)
February 21 | [More info](#)



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