

May 2017



# MuckerNews

Monthly Articles & Updates For HMGA Members

## FORK LIFT COURSE

Anyone requiring courses please contact Jody. They are being arranged for late June. Courses will be offered in both English and Spanish.

## COVER CROPS

This month the focus is on cover crops. Please take the time to read through and be aware to the programs we have and are working with. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Jody, Charlie or one of the programs.

## LAKE SIMCOE SOIL HEALTH PROGRAM (OSCIA)

The Lake Simcoe Soil Health Improvement Project (LS-SHIP) offers financial support to implement select Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified during the Soil Health Check-Up. Certified Crop Advisors specific to the area assess soil health on your farm and assist you in determining priorities. Having the soil health test done is a requirement prior to applying for funding. Completion of the 3rd or 4th edition of the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is also required.

The funding levels depend on the priority of the Soil Health Challenges that are being addressed. Funding varies from 35 to 50% of the project cost and depending on the type of projects; cash available varies from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

Funding is available for establishment of cover crops, nutrient planning, buffer strips, wind breaks, equipment customization such as de-dirting equipment, tillage and planting equipment and controlled drainage.

The OSCIA provides a brochure explaining the program. Applications are made directly to the OSCIA. More info on the OSCIA website [www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org)

## LAKE SIMCOE REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

The LSRCA also provides assistance to landowners for a variety of projects. Support levels vary according to the project. Incentives for cover crops are set at \$25/acre based on seed cost for a maximum \$2,000. Erosion control projects are covered at 50% up to \$5,000. There is also coverage for controlled drainage structures.

For more information, visit the LSRCA website at [www.lsrca.on.ca](http://www.lsrca.on.ca)

## HMGA PROGRAM

HMGA is able to assist growers with the use of cover crops. Cover crops are important for wind erosion early in the growing season and through the winter period. Growers need to have a viable nutrient use plan. Funding is limited to 50% of the cost, with encouragement of growers to submit applications to OSCIA and or LSRCA. Growers will be required to submit records to show that the cover crop has been purchased. This is a one-time payment applicable to the 2017 season as the objective is to get growers to use cover crops.

Growers need to register by September 1st 2017.

## CONTACTING THE ASSOCIATION

Please note the following for contacting Jody:

Email: [hmgaexec@gmail.com](mailto:hmgaexec@gmail.com)

Phone: 905-251-6786

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm

If you are an HMGA member and want to receive these updates by email ? Send a message to [HMGAEXEC@gmail.com](mailto:HMGAEXEC@gmail.com) to be added to the list.  
Jody Mott 905-251-6786