

ONTARIO MAPLE MAINLINE



Maple Dateline

Mainline Deadlines

Spring - Feb. 15, 2024

Summer - May 15, 2024

Fall - August 15, 2023

Winter - Nov. 15, 2023

Board Meetings - 2023

Feb. 23rd May 15th

July 19th Oct. 3rd

Dec. 12th

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P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

La Relève - 'raising up of the next generation'

Randal Goodfellow, President

In preparation for the Eastern AGM / Info Day at the end of November, and recognizing that a significant part of the membership of the Local is francophone, I used a French word for the title of my presentation.

As a number of you may know I am an Anglophone who was born and raised in Quebec. It was not uncommon for French words and concepts to slip into 'Quebec English'. I have many examples of this, but in the case of this president's message, we will look at La Relève, which was frequently discussed in the agricultural sector while I was in my teens and twenties.

La Relève in the agricultural context refers to the responsibility of the current generation to proactively "raise up the next generation" into the agricultural sector and into leadership positions in the sector. With this in mind let's look at some recent events and activities.

On behalf of OMSPA I recently attended the Ontario Federation of Agriculture Convention on November 20th - 22nd.

The OFA recently updated their Strategic Plan, based upon consultations with their membership, and high importance was placed on:

- Attracting younger highly qualified people to the sector;
- Professional development and the skills training of existing farmers.

Doesn't this sound familiar to what OMSPA members have been saying?



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One of the sessions at the OFA Convention featured a panel of young, emerging leaders who were County Federation Presidents and Directors on the OFA provincial board; to a person they identified the need for Leadership and Governance Training early in their leadership journey. They also said never say to them that "something can not be done because it was tried and had not succeeded in the past", but to rather listen to them for ideas based upon their current experience and how it could now be done.

What OMSPA has begun to do about Skills Training and Leadership and Governance Development:

1. We have formed and mandated a Training Coordination Committee. Dave Branson, who chaired the recent Summer Tour, will be the chair of this Committee. It will connect with members to understand their training needs and match these needs to training resources, and then work with Locals to host training events. We are now meeting with training course suppliers such as Centre ACER to understand what they have to offer.

2. We announced at the OMSPA AGM in July a Bursary Fund to financially support emerging leaders to obtain Leadership and Governance Training from programs such as, but not limited to, the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program. OMSPA treasurer, Bill Vandenberg, is actively exploring how this could work. We already have a sizeable first donation to this fund.

My Discussions with the Minister of OMAFRA at the OFA Conference

1. The Minister was on top of the status of the Maple Production Improvement Initiative (MPII), immediately recognizing that the program was quickly over subscribed. She suggested a 'What's Next' meeting after Christmas to discuss the next steps in working with us to further develop the sector.

2. Items on the agenda for the 'What's Next' meeting: renewal or increase of the MPII, initiatives to attract younger people to the maple sector, support for training programs, and financial support for OMSPA's core operating budget.

Best of the Season to all. I look forward to seeing you in January and February at your AGMs / Info Days.

Randal

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

OMAFRA has reported there was a huge response to the Maple Production Improvement Initiative. I'm not surprised given that the first webinar held by the OSCIA almost had enough attendees to use up all of the budget. This bodes well for future funding programs. It shows OMAFRA that our members are engaged and ready to work on improvements to the maple sector in Ontario.

If you do any shipping for Christmas, make sure you join freightcom.com using our discount. The shipping rates they are giving us are excellent. They are lower than Canada Post and they pickup the package at your place. Look for details on page 6 in this newsletter.

Ray Bonenberg submitted an interesting article based on OMSPA's submission to the Black Ash Recovery Strategy. This tree is now on the endangered species list which could lead to draconian restrictions on

activities near these trees. Ray's submission argues for responsible ways to protect the trees without affecting maple producers seriously. Read Ray's article on page 4.

Member Paul Renaud has been very active on the climate change side of maple and other agricultural production. So much so, that he was asked to make a presentation about it to the Canadian Senate. His article, based on that presentation, starts on page 8. After reading it, I finally understand carbon and greenhouse gas emissions in agriculture.

There have been some requests in recent years for a maple crop insurance program. The OFA has agreed to help examine the possibilities by working with OMSPA and Agricorp. Policy analyst Austin Brown will be sticking handling the work.

Have a great Holiday Season!

John Williams

(Note: OMSPA office closed Dec. 22 to Jan 2)

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BLACK ASH RECOVERY STRATEGY

By Ray Bonenberg, member of Government & Industry Relations Committee

The Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra*) is one of the many ash species under threat in Ontario by the arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). It is listed as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act 2007(ESA). Black Ash can populate many of our members' sugar bushes and OMSPA has provided feedback to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) both in a zoom call with select staff and via the Environmental Registry(ERO #019-7378).



While the estimated population of Black Ash trees in Ontario is 83 million trees, the main area of infestation is in the

Southern Ontario woodlot belt. Much of the Black Ash range is currently not affected by EAB, however the government wants to develop a recovery strategy that would mitigate the eventual destruction of Black Ash over the next 100 years.

OMSPA's feedback (Oct 31, 2023) to the MECP focused on a number of areas. At times, the eventual demise of an endangered species calls for radical approaches to protecting what is remaining regardless of the potential impacts to landowners. Our feedback analyzed the potential risks and outcomes of a more prescriptive approach. We discussed that most pipeline infrastructure is in the low elevations of the sugar bush...where one puts the mainline usually. Disallowing any cutting

of problematic trees which can potentially fall on the mainline can be an issue for sugar makers. MECP staff gained an insight into some unique perspectives from where our members sit. We shared what is problematic and what is acceptable with the proposed recovery strategy. A complete copy of the strategy is on the MECP website, and our response can be shared by John Williams, our Executive Director.



Continued on Page7

Images taken from ontario.ca/page/black-ash

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2023 - IN THE WOODS

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BLACK ASH RECOVERY STRATEGY, continued

What would be problematic with the recovery strategy as posted:

- A prescriptive approach that disallows the maple producer from protecting the pipeline from potential “deadfalls.”
- Totally prescribing a “no cut” provision in the regulations.
- Mandating the maple producer to engage a registered professional forester as outlined in the background documentation as the only means of managing Black Ash on their property.
- Any penalty suggested if the maple producer does not comply.
- Any negative government assertions that landowners are not cooperating or engaging etc. to deal with the plight of the Black Ash decline.

What would be acceptable:

- A training and awareness program partnered with OMSPA and the government to educate members on the issue and potential solutions.
- Re-evaluating the definition of qualified “tree

health” experts from the suggested professionals to landowners that are in their forest the most and can determine what a healthy tree looks like.

- Consideration of partnered funding through the Stewardship program to encourage engagement in attaining a MFTIP plan with subsequent management factors for Black Ash. This could be piggy backed on other designated ESA species as well.

- Giving maple producers and landowners discretion in dealing with Black Ash species on their property to protect their infrastructure coupled with an incentive program to protect Black Ash

OMSPA is just one agency/commodity group to comment and some of our input may be relevant to the larger strategy...or not. However, we are keeping track and will ensure we follow up with MECP on potential outcomes.

Ray Bonenberg

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&
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THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES IN AGRICULTURE

By Paul Renaud, member of Government & Industry Relations Committee

A climate friendly maple syrup producer ensures, on an annual basis, that all emissions from producing maple syrup are offset by the sequestration from just the annual growth in their sugarbush.

If you ever need to visualize what a metric tonne of carbon looks like, just look at a single maple tree. If it is large enough to be tapped (12” diameter), it has sequestered over 1 Tonne of CO2 to reach that size.

Currently, over 60,000 taps in Ontario are now provably climate friendly and if we can get every maple tap in Canada to be climate friendly, we will collectively offset all the emissions of a city the size of Winnipeg or Quebec City.

So, clearly trees matter and they are the most effective way to store carbon that we know of. This is true, not just in maple sugarbushes, but also in all types of agriculture.

Why is it that everyone talks about emissions in agriculture, but no one talks about sequestration? There is no mention of sequestration by trees on farms in the National GHG Inventory Report (NIR) prepared annually by Environment and Climate Change Canada, and not a single mention in any document available from Agriculture and Food Canada.

It is an established fact that trees improve soil quality by replenishing nitrogen & carbon in the soil. They act as nitrogen pumps, soaking up excess fertilizer and redistributing it on top of the soil via their leaves and needles where this tree litter decomposes to fertilize the soil. A 30-year study at the University of Guelph demonstrated that Class 5 farmland could be improved to Class 3 simply via the presence of nearby trees.

But are there enough trees on farms to help mitigate climate change?

Unfortunately, there is no official source for answering this question. How is it possible that Agriculture Canada has never calculated the net carbon footprint of farms?

When we look at the National GHG Inventory Report, all we see is an estimate of gross emissions in Canadian agriculture. Nowhere, in the 640-page full report, is there any mention of the sequestration of trees on farms. It is only halfway through the 61-page annex on forestry methodology, that Environment Canada confesses that, due to the low-resolution satellite imaging that is used, they assume that the emissions from those trees that get harvested while clearing cropland or for firewood, offset any sequestration value for trees on farms.

Canada's Changes in Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU)

Table 6-7 Carbon Stocks in the HWP Pool and Emissions Resulting from Their Use and Disposal

Source Subcategories / Commodities	Land Category	1990	2005	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Carbon Stocks (kt C)*									
Inputs		46 000	56 000	45 000	45 000	45 000	45 000	41 000	40 000
Conventional Harvest ^a	Forest Land	40 000	51 000	40 000	40 000	40 000	40 000	36 000	36 000
Forest Conversion ^a	Cropland	1 200	410	550	550	590	580	510	550
	Wetlands	1.8	6.4	17	38	18	0.2	NO	NO
	Settlements	620	770	840	850	810	730	810	720
Residential Firewood ^a	Forest Land	4 200	3 100	3 900	3 700	3 700	3 500	3 200	2 900
	Cropland	230	130	110	160	210	190	150	140
	Settlements	82	83	84	84	84	84	84	84
Exports		19 000	31 000	22 000	23 000	23 000	21 000	20 000	20 000

Province	Average Farm Land Use (Acres)						Province-Wide Total Perennial Acreage				
	Cropland	Pasture	Fallow	Perennial	Remainder	% Perennial	Perennial Acres	Grassland	Woody Perennials	Treed	
Alberta	775	304	157	356	184	20%	11,796,139	4,529,333	6,546,302	719,503	
British Columbia	116	123	21	197	101	35%	2,498,158			2,498,158	
Manitoba	945	251	96	275	141	16%	3,067,949	1,178,092	1,702,711	187,145	
New Brunswick	219	53	8	147	76	29%	224,604			224,604	
Newfoundland	77	48	5	76	39	32%	19,108			19,108	
Nova Scotia	116	42	5	132	68	36%	296,401			296,401	
Ontario	126	42	17	42	21	17%	1,519,122			1,519,122	
Prince Edward Island	351	52	10	84	44	16%	75,362			75,362	
Quebec	225	50	13	83	43	20%	1,926,716			1,926,716	
Saskatchewan	1353	508	268	399	206	15%	9,468,522	3,635,913	5,255,030	577,580	
						24%	30,891,082	9,343,338	13,504,044	8,043,700	
							Hectares	12,501,188	3,781,118	5,064,897	3,258,173

This perpetuates the myth that trees on farms don't matter, and that Canadian Agriculture is not sustainable. This article deconstructs those myths.

Myth 1: Loss of Trees due to Agriculture is a Major Factor Driving Climate Change in Canada

According to the IPCC, this is a true statement globally – but both the UN Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) and International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) identify that this is not true in all regions of the world, such as North America.

A quick look at the facts for Canada shows that nearly 90% of deforestation is due to harvesting trees for lumber (44x more than occurs in Agriculture). In fact, change in land use in Canadian agriculture has not contributed to making climate change worse in over 20 years. (See chart on p. 8)

Myth 2: There are not enough Trees on Farms in Canada to Matter

Statistics Canada surveys of land use in agriculture do not identify treed acreage, they break out crop, pasture, and fallow acreage but lump trees into the “Other” category along with buildings and ponds. Working with the OWA, I modeled the carbon footprint of a 200-acre farm near Stratford in south central Ontario, an area widely believed to have few trees on farms. This farm produces eggs from 12,000

chickens, hosts 2 dozen pasture-fed beef cattle, and produces over 300 Tonnes of crops / year.

Using Google Maps, we determined that 35% of it was treed. Not surprisingly the trees are found in the areas of the farm that cannot be used for crop, pasture, or barns – in the ditches, ravines, steep slopes, and riparian areas. When I calculated the net carbon footprint of all farm emissions less amounts sequestered annually by trees --- the farm was basically operating on a carbon neutral basis.

So, we picked a more challenging case study – a 200 head dairy farm near Perth in eastern Ontario. This 1300-acre farm produces all the food (1400 Tonnes of crops) eaten by their 675 Kg cows who generates over 5,000 Tonnes of manure annually. In this case 39% of this larger farm was treed, and all its emissions were more than offset by the annual sequestration of trees on that farm.

In fact, if that farmer were paid fair value for his sequestration services, say on the same \$65 / tonne basis used for the carbon emissions tax, that farm would net over \$100 K per year after deducting all their emissions.

Since two case studies is not enough to draw conclusions about all farms in Canada, I calculated the perennial biomass on farms across Canada (above, shown in green). In the east and in BC perennial biomass is mostly trees, and in the western prairies it is mostly woody shrubs and grasses. Since the case studies were in Ontario, the prairie estimate was calibrated by examining a 1,000-hectare multi-farm area near Weyburn

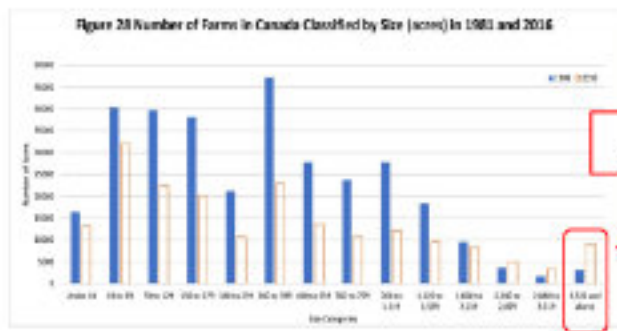
THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES IN AGRICULTURE, continued

in Southern Saskatchewan (where perennials comprised 17% of farm acreage since prairie farmers can't farm in ditches and ravines either).

Myth 3: Carbon Credits are Helpful in Agriculture

So why isn't this dairy farmer selling sequestration services via carbon credits? The reality is that (a) carbon credits are priced below the fair price for carbon, (b) come with overheads that eat 1/3 their value, (c) are not even reachable for the 95% of farms who are less than 3,000 acres, and (d) pay out only over a period of 10 years or more.

Not surprisingly, according to the World Bank (2023), less than 2% of all carbon credits issued worldwide are in agriculture, and McKinsey (2022) found that less than 5% of USA farms had ever participated in a carbon credit project.



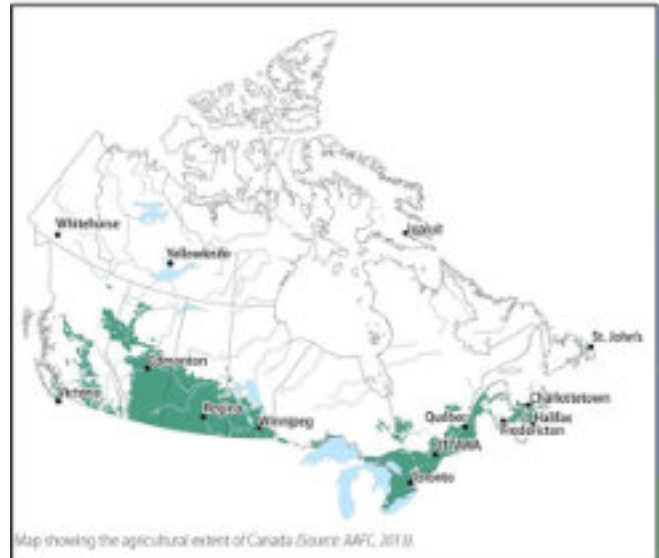
Source: Statistics Canada CANSIM Tables 004-0003 and Table 004-0001.

Myth 4: Trees are Unreliable for Storing Carbon

It is commonly believed that trees release all their stored carbon when they die. This is only true in forest fires – and there are virtually no forest fires on farms in Canada according to the entire history recorded in the Canadian National Wildfire Database (2023).

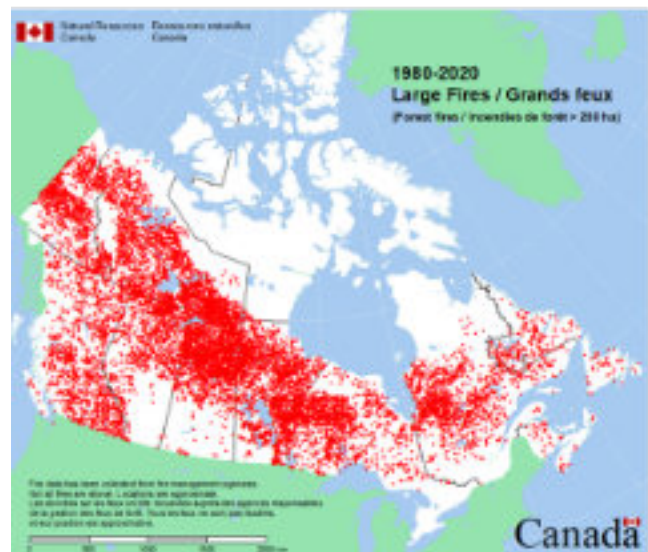
Trees, while alive, sequester carbon both in their biomass over their lifetime and via their annual contribution to stored carbon into the soil.

Farm Tree Locations Based on Farm Locations



The carbon in below ground biomass (approx. 25% of total biomass) in the roots is not substantially released to the atmosphere when the tree dies and decomposes. It stays in the soil. Above ground biomass decomposes and releases some CO₂ to the atmosphere, but the majority is contributed to soil, often covered by other parts of the tree, mosses, and litter from other trees that impede emissions as the tree decomposes.

Forest Fire locations 1980 – 2020 From Canadian National Fire Database



THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES IN AGRICULTURE, continued

Trees are in fact significant contributors to soil quality over their entire lifecycle since that is where most of their biomass ends up.

Myth 5: Enteric Emissions are Bad for the Environment

Enteric emissions are produced by ruminant livestock (95% from cows in Canada) that emit methane as they digest their food. Agricultural methane is substantial, ranking 2nd to Oil & Gas emissions of methane, and manure comprise 58% of all agricultural emissions.

But what about sequestration?

Cows are not nuclear reactors; they do not manufacture carbon from sub-atomic particles. The carbon in methane can only come from the carbon in the food that they eat. In turn, the carbon in their food comes from the carbon sequestered from the atmosphere via photosynthesis.

Chemically, it is impossible for this carbon volume to exceed the amount sequestered annually. In fact, all pathways for carbon used by the cow (respiration, cow body weight, manure, digestion, milk, etc.), must

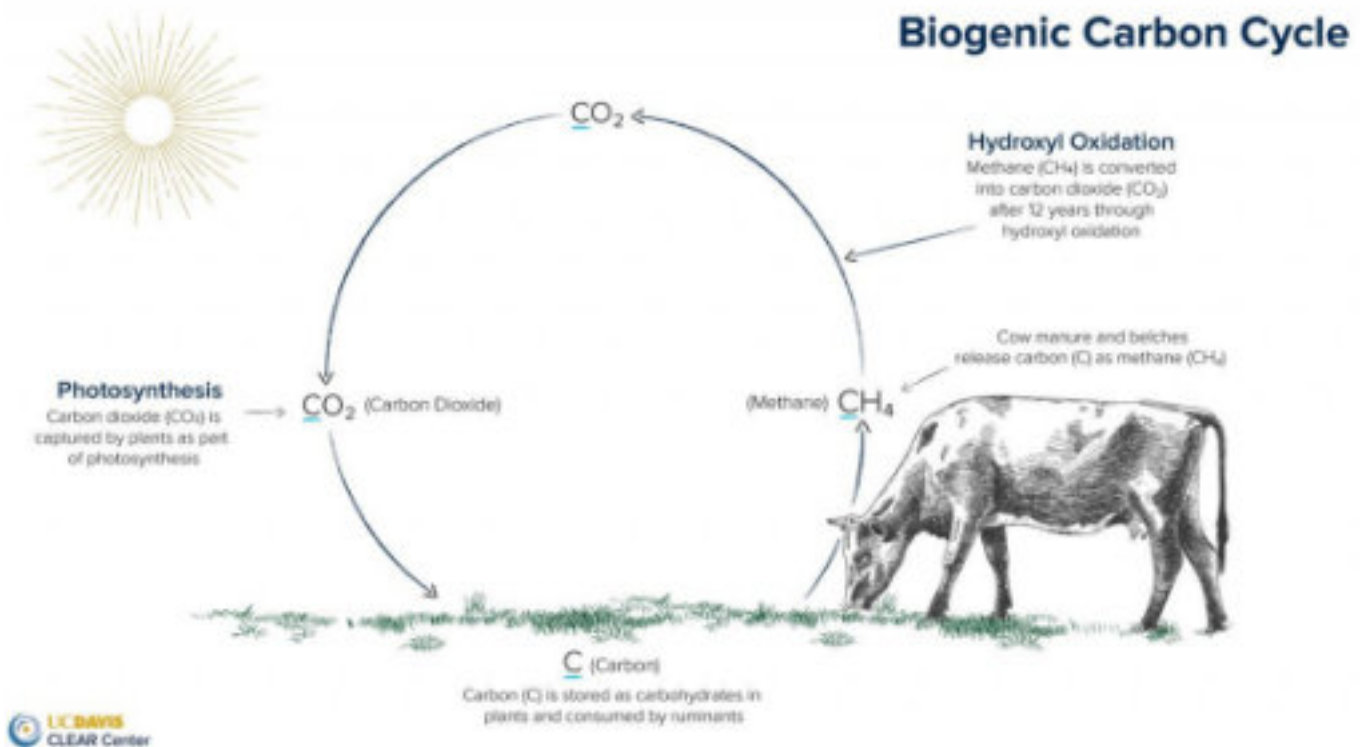
fit into the carbon budget established by the food that they eat.

Using data provided by the dairy farm case study that grew all its own food, I calculated the total amount of carbon sequestered in their food and the amount of carbon that appeared in all pathways.

It turns out that the cows on this dairy farm participate in a biogenic cycle of net carbon sequestration because more carbon is in the end sequestered than released by them over the total cycle of crops grown, crop residue after harvest, and all uses for carbon by the cows. This analysis also accounts for the fact that methane emissions (caused by both enteric and manure) have a 25x higher impact on climate change, than CO₂ emissions.

Biogenic cycles are carbon neutral because they cycle existing carbon without introducing new carbon into the atmosphere (unlike the burning of fossil fuels).

Unlike CO₂ which stays in the atmosphere for centuries, atmospheric methane also breaks down into CO₂ over time (half of it every 8 – 10 years). Since the CO₂ from agricultural methane decomposition is



THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES IN AGRICULTURE, continued

absorbed by crops, as long as these methane emissions are not rising, annual emissions are offset by annual sequestration – i.e., climate neutral.

Canadian agricultural methane emissions due to either manure management or enteric emissions have not increased over the past 15 years. So while any opportunity to reduce methane emissions is helpful for combatting climate change, this is more of an opportunity than a problem.

Myth 6: Canadian Agriculture is not Sustainable.

According to the National GHG Inventory Report produced annually by Environment Canada, agriculture contributes 10% of Canada's emissions.

While this creates the impression that Canadian agriculture is not sustainable, these are gross emissions not offset by the sequestration services provided by perennial vegetation on farms, and do not factor in the climate neutral biogenic cycle for livestock emissions.

Since there is no official estimate of the

actual carbon footprint of Canadian agriculture, I took a stab at it by taking the gross emissions and deducting the inflated livestock emissions, sequestration by trees in eastern Canada and by woody perennials and grasses in western Canada.

Overall, the net carbon footprint of Canadian agriculture was negative – sequestering 24 MT of CO₂e per year. Using the social cost of carbon in the carbon tax as the fair price for carbon, Canadian Agriculture should be paid \$3.2 Billion per year for its sequestration services.

So why isn't carbon a cash crop in Canada? All we need to do is redirect carbon tax revenue collected from emitters to incent farmers who sequester carbon. This will incent both significantly higher sequestration as well as emissions reduction by farms.

Canadian agriculture is sustainable. It is only fair to pay farms, maple syrup producers, and private woodlots for their excess sequestration at the same rate that we are taxing them on their emissions.

Restating National Inventory Emissions to Determine Carbon Footprint Net Emissions

	MT CO ₂ e/yr
	69.0 Emitted per National Inventory Rpt (NIR Table A10-3)
-	23.7 Enteric emissions offset by CO ₂ in crops grown to feed livestock
-	7.8 Manure Management emissions offset by crops grown to feed livestock
-	2.7 Crop Residue Decomposition emissions offset by crops grown
-	0.2 Manure applied to Pasture, Range & Paddock offset by crops grown
-	9.6 Sequestered by Cropland Remaining Cropland (Table 6-1)
	0.0012 Net Emissions on Grassland remaining Grassland (Table 6-1)
	25.00 Actual Net Emissions by Cdn Agriculture + Fishing + Forestry

Restated Emissions from Farms

Estimate of Missed Sequestration by Farms

-	13.6 Sequestered annually by Farm Trees
-	23.7 Net sequestration by crops fed to livestock in excess of enteric emissions
-	0.4 Sequestered in Sask. Shelterbelts [2016 Amichev et al]
-	10.0 Sequestered annually by woody perennials on farms
-	1.0 Sequestered annually by perennial permanent grasses
-	0.25 Contribution to Soil Organic Carbon in Orchards
-	48.89 Estimated Existing Sequestration Services

Net Carbon Footprint of Canadian Agriculture - 23.89 MT CO₂e/yr net emissions

\$	65	Price of carbon established by the Federal Carbon Tax
\$	3.2	B Value of existing sequestration in Canadian Agriculture

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MARKETING, BRANDING & PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

Between September 30 and October 8, fifteen OMSPA members participated in the third annual Fall in Love with Maple event. This agritourism event was conceived in 2021 to help the maple industry recover from the pandemic's impact and encourage visits during the shoulder season. With the help of Dragonfly Communications, marketing activities such as media releases, online event listings, and paid social media marketing were provided to promote the event. The locals also played a significant role in advertising within their region.

Feedback from members revealed varying experiences in terms of visitor numbers and sales. Just like Maple Weekend, attendance was heavily influenced by the weather. While some participants experienced temperatures of over 20°C on the first weekend, others faced cold weather and snow during the second weekend.

According to feedback, turnout was lower than previous years, and there was variation among participants in terms of visitor and sales numbers. This could be due to increased competition for fall events and the current state of the economy.

A huge thank you to the Events Working Group for all their efforts in organizing this event. They are: Brian Bainborough (Algoma), Ray Bonenberg (Ottawa Valley District), Clancy Lavender (Haliburton-Kawartha), Michelle O'Sullivan (Simcoe & District), Amy Shaidle (Southwestern Ontario), Steve Smith (Grey Bruce and District), Kevin Snyder (Waterloo-Wellington), Andy Straughan (Algonquin District), Leann Thompson (Lanark and District), Marc Youmans (Quinte and District), Anne Zoeller (Eastern), John Williams (OMSPA Executive Director), and Frank Heerkens (OMSPA, Past President), and Amy Hogue (Dragonfly Communications). We acknowledge Peter & Anne Lorriman (Simcoe & District) Tom Stehr (Algonquin District) and Bill Vandenberg (Southwestern Ontario) who left the group this year.

Leann Thompson, Chair of Marketing, Branding & Promotions

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Thank you for your support of our newsletters and website!

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR RESULTS

Celebrating OMSPA Members' Success at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

We're thrilled to announce that over 60 percent of this year's Royal Agricultural Winter Fair's maple and maple products competition entrants were OMSPA members. We'd like to extend a special thanks to the Royal Maple Committee for their tireless efforts in organizing and judging the competition.

OMSPA provided financial assistance by sponsoring two awards. On November 8th, Brian Bainborough represented us at the award ceremony and presented the C.P. Corbett (to Bella Hill Maple) and Premier Exhibitor (to Hubberts Maple Products) trophies. We would like to congratulate all

the winners!

The winners of the major awards were:

- Neil Brown's Farm - the David Eaton World Championship Cup (Best in Show) for their first place Dark syrup.
- Sand Hills Maple took home the Dominion & Grimm Reserve Grand Champion Trophy for their Golden syrup
- Bella Hill Maple won the Corbett Trophy for the highest points across the maple product categories.
- Hubberts Maple Products won the Premier Exhibitor Trophy for highest points across all syrup & product categories. Congratulations to all the winners.

Visit www.royalfair.org for full results.

Golden

1. Sand Hills Maple Products, Wellesley, ON
2. McRae Family Maple Syrup, Whitney, ON
3. Leggett Family Maple Products, Crosby, ON
4. Staples Maple Syrup, Cavan, ON
5. Fleetwood Hills Farm, Janetville, ON
6. Bella Hill Maple Syrup, Powassan, ON
7. Hogan's Homestead, Sault Ste. Marie, ON
8. Hubberts Maple Products, Sundridge, ON
9. Craig Mann, Bracebridge, ON
10. Wendel's Maple, East Concord, NY

Amber

1. Two Wet Dogs Inc., Loring, ON
2. Maple Drive Farm, Douro/Dummer, ON
3. Snyder Acres, Breslau, ON
4. Wendel's Maple, East Concord, NY
5. Elden Farm, Ramara, ON
6. Fort Rose Maple Co., Alisa Craig, ON
7. Stacey Family Farm, Ste Clotilde, QC
8. Sucrierie Seguin Sugarbush, Lavigne, ON
9. Staples Maple Syrup, Cavan, ON
10. Breedon's Maple Syrup, Alliston, ON

Dark

1. Neil Brown's Farm, Gooderham, ON
2. Craig Mann, Bracebridge, ON

3. Snyder Acres, Breslau, ON
4. Two Wet Dogs Inc., Loring, ON
5. McRae Family Maple Syrup, Whitney, ON
6. Hubberts Maple Products, Sundridge, ON
7. Winding Road Maple Products, Elmira, ON
8. Hogan's Homestead, Sault Ste. Marie, ON
9. Stacey Family Farm, Ste Clotilde, QC
10. Sand Hills Maple Products, Wellesley, ON

Very Dark

1. Winding Road Maple Products, Elmira, ON
2. Hogan's Homestead, Sault Ste. Marie, ON
3. Wendel's Maple, East Concord, NY
4. Sand Hills Maple Products, Wellesley, ON
5. Snyder Acres, Breslau, ON
6. Sudzy's Purely Maple, Attica, NY
7. McRae Family Maple Syrup, Whitney, ON
8. Hubberts Maple Products, Sundridge, ON
9. Breedon's Maple Syrup, Alliston, ON
10. Backwoods Maple Syrup, Coldwater, ON

Novice/Hobby - Amber

1. SAP Aurora, Aurora, ON
2. Aurora Maple Syrup Program, Aurora, ON
3. Tap That Maple Syrup, Nestleton, ON
4. Edward Shipman, Seguin, ON

This is a new class for 2023. Entrants must have 200 taps or less in their operation

Hard Maple Sugar

1. Staples Maple Syrup, Cavan, ON
2. Breedon's Maple Syrup, Alliston, ON
3. Bella Hill Maple Syrup, Powassan, ON
4. Sudzy's Purely Maple, Attica, NY
5. Hogan's Homestead, Sault Ste. Marie, ON
6. Wendel's Maple, East Concord, NY
7. Sucrierie Seguin Sugarbush, Lavigne, ON
8. Hubberts Maple Products, Sundridge, ON

Soft Maple Sugar Candy

1. Staples Maple Syrup, Cavan, ON
2. Leggett Family Maple Products, Crosby, ON
3. Hubberts Maple Products, Sundridge, ON
4. Sucrierie Seguin Sugarbush, Lavigne, ON
5. Wendel's Maple, East Concord, NY
6. Hogan's Homestead, Sault Ste. Marie, ON
7. Winding Road Maple Prod. Elmira, ON
8. Sudzy's Purely Maple, Attica, NY
9. Bella Hill Maple Syrup, Powassan, ON
10. Alabaster Acres, Caledon Village, ON

Maple Butter (Cream)

1. Bella Hill Maple Syrup, Powassan, ON
2. Sucrierie Seguin Sugarbush, Lavigne, ON
3. Flying Fields Maple, Oro-Medonte, ON
4. Hogan's Homestead, Sault Ste. Marie, ON
5. Fleetwood Hills Farm, Janetville, ON

6. Clapperton's Maple Syrup, Loring, ON
7. Schmidt's Family Syrup, Wellesley, ON
8. Hubberts Maple Products, Sundridge, ON
9. Crinklaw Maple Products, London, ON
10. Leggett Family Maple Products, Crosby, ON

Stirred Maple Sugar

1. Flying Fields Maple, Oro-Medonte, ON
2. Leggett Family Maple Products, Crosby, ON
3. Clapperton's Maple Syrup, Loring, ON
4. Schmidt's Family Syrup, Wellesley, ON
5. Bella Hill Maple Syrup, Powassan, ON
6. Winding Road Maple Prod. Elmira, ON
7. Hubberts Maple Products, Sundridge, ON
8. Sucrierie Seguin Sugarbush, Lavigne, ON
9. Breedon's Maple Syrup, Alliston, ON
10. Craig Mann, Bracebridge, ON

Maple Jelly

1. Breedon's Maple Syrup, Alliston, ON
2. Sucrierie Seguin Sugarbush, Lavigne, ON
3. Craig Mann, Bracebridge, ON
4. Bella Hill Maple Syrup, Powassan, ON
5. Flying Fields Maple, Oro-Medonte, ON
6. Hogan's Homestead, Sault Ste. Marie, ON
7. Hubberts Maple Products, Sundridge, ON
8. Sudzy's Purely Maple, Attica, NY
9. Tamarack Farms, Warkworth, ON
10. Wendel's Maple, East Concord, NY

Youth Maple Syrup

Golden

1. Elden Farm, Ramara, ON¹
2. Willow Oussoren, Jerseyville, ON
3. McRae Family Maple Syrup, Whitney, ON
4. Staples Maple Syrup, Cavan, ON

Amber

1. Bruce Baldwin, Consecon, ON
2. Patricia Mann, Huntsville, ON
3. Staples Maple Syrup, Cavan, ON
4. Barmont Maple, Bancroft, ON
5. Windlee Farms, Tiny, ON
6. McRae Family Maple Syrup, Whitney, ON

Dark

1. Staples Maple Syrup, Cavan, ON
2. Elden Farm, Ramara, ON
3. McRae Family Maple Syrup, Whitney, ON

Very Dark

1. McRae Family Maple Syrup, Whitney, ON*
2. Elden Farm, Ramara, ON

*Champion Youth Maple Syrup

¹Champion Youth Maple Syrup Reserve



Quality Syrup Starts With Quality Equipment

Get ready to tap into the sweetest success with our top-of-the-line maple syrup production equipment. As a family-owned business and large maple producers ourselves, we know that maple syrup isn't just a hobby, it's a way of life. That's why we've designed our equipment to be rugged, reliable, and efficient, just like your grandpa's '67 two toned timeless Chevy truck. Whether you're a small-time operation or a big-time syrup empire, we've got the gear to take your maple game to the next level. So don't let subpar equipment hold you back. Secure your new equipment now to ensure timely delivery and taste the difference!



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NORTH AMER. MAPLE SYRUP COUNCIL UPDATE

Massachusetts hosted a successful International Conference in historic Sturbridge at the end of October. Over 300 attendees enjoyed summer-like weather. This year, the conference format changed slightly with NAMSC conducting its business meeting at the beginning of the conference, before the tours and presentations. This was well received and it is likely this format will continue. The tours were held the first day followed that evening with the Taste of Massachusetts get together, which was excellent. Day 2 provided many technical speakers and day 3 featured practical workshops. The banquet was held in the evening of day 2, along with awards and presentations. The Hall of Fame inductees announced were Stu Peterson (Minnesota) and Yves Bois (Quebec). Both inductees were well deserving. Our own Bill Robinson was given a lifetime membership in NAMSC and although Bill was unable to attend due to illness I was able to present this honour to his daughter and family who were at the conference.

Great news from an Ontario perspective as the Buddy Sap Project was funded by the council in the amount of \$25,000 US or about \$40,000 cdn. This will allow Carleton to complete this season's research. Since

Ontario made the commitment to take an active role in NAMSC it has funded \$35,000 US in projects in Ontario.

NAMSC decided to join as a member of Centre Acer becoming the first organization outside of Quebec to be allowed membership; this will be a positive relationship for both parties going forward. The PPAQ attended the conference and have requested to hold the conference in 2027.

The International Grading school was held right after the conference with 21 participants for the 2 day school. There were participants from all over the maple regions and 2 from Ontario that attended. This school is partially funded by NASMC and will be offered at every conference including Ontario in 2026. Consider adding your name to the list of participants in Algoma.

Planning has begun for hosting in 2026 in Sault St. Marie and the Quatro Hotel has been chosen as the host site.

Brian Bainborough NAMSC President, OMPSA Rep.

Editor's note: Brian was elected as the President of NAMSC at the beginning of the conference. He is the second OMSPA member to hold this office after Ron Shaw '81-82.

ARTC RESEARCH PROJECTS UPDATE

The buddy sap project at Carleton University was awarded a USD 25,000 research grant by the North American Maple Syrup Council (NAMSC) at the NAMSC 2023 Annual Meeting in Massachusetts. This support is great news for our project as we continue towards our objective of deploying a set of test strips for the 2023 season field trial.

The Eastern local is hosting the Carleton research team this month at their information day meeting where the research team will demonstrate the strips and get

practical feedback from producers.

Bob Gray delivered a set of 5 damaged tubing samples that were carefully collected and stored this past season to Trent University's wildlife forensic DNA lab. These samples are being analyzed as a proof of concept to our collection method and their analysis for our damaged tubing project. If successful we will put together a targeted collection plan for the 2024 season. Phil Thomas, chair of Applied Research & Technology Committee.

**Elmira Produce Auction Cooperative
Maple Syrup Sale October 19, 2023**

The auction in October showed a significant jump in volume over the July sale. Producers brought good quantities of syrup to the auction across all grades. Although Amber was the biggest seller a large amount of Dark in barrels moved too. The organizers noted that much of the syrup was of a good quality and the prices reflected this. The average price per pound of \$3.04/lb. was up \$0.08 over the sale in July. The next sale will be on January 18th.

Here are the statistics:

Drums:

	Total Weight	Average
Golden	1,786 lb.	\$3.13/lb.
Amber	7,174 lb.	\$3.09/lb.

Dark	5,303 lb.	\$2.86/lb.
Very Dark	1,043 lb.	\$3.10/lb.
Overall drum price		\$3.02/lb.

Pails:

Golden	494 lb.	\$3.24/lb.
Amber	1,082 lb.	\$3.20/lb.
Dark	490 lb.	\$2.99/lb.
Very Dark	266 lb.	\$3.00/lb.
Overall pail price		\$3.14/lb.

Total sale average of \$3.04/lb.
35 drums and 38 pails were sold.

The next sale is scheduled for Jan. 18th, 2024, followed by April 18th, 2024.

WHOLESALE MAPLE SYRUP AUCTION

January 18th, 2024 (Sale starts at 1:00pm)
7400 Reidwoods Drive, Elmira ON

Maple auctions also on April 18, July 18, Oct. 17 2024

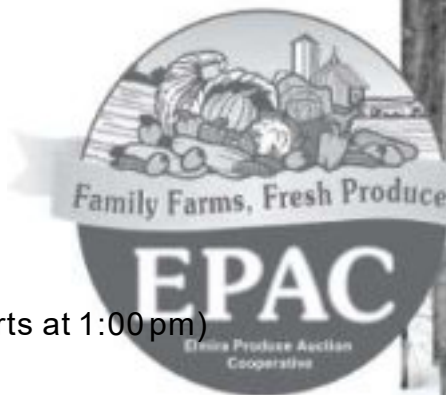
Product will be received, starting at 8:00 am on sale day.

Please try to be on site by 10:30, to let us book you in.

All Ontario syrup produced in accordance with Ontario syrup production guidelines accepted. **Please provide a sample bottle** and the brix of each lot. SS drums preferred but pails accepted. Containers need to be food grade. Galvanized is discouraged.

For information call: 519-669-3884

Lunch booth on site.



Maple weekend

April 6 & 7, 2024



Don't Miss Out on Maple Weekend 2024 - Register Today!

To learn more about this exciting event, get in touch with your local representative. Make sure to check out the OMSPA Festivals section of the Members area on the website for useful resources.

weekend de l'érable



OMSPA Calendar

Date	Event	Date	Event
Jan. 10th	Southwestern Info. Day	Jan. 25th	Quinte & District Info. Day
Jan. 11th	Waterloo-Wellington Info. Day	Jan. 26th	Haliburton-Kawartha Info. Day
Jan. 13th	Grey-Bruce Info. Day - combined	Jan. 27th	Lanark & District Info. Day
Jan. 13th	Simcoe & District Info. Day - combined	Feb. 6th	OMSPA Board Meeting - Zoom
Jan. 16th	Algonquin & District Info. Day	TBA	Ottawa Valley Info. Day
Jan. 20th	Algoma Info. Day	TBA	Provincial First Tapping

THE ONTARIO MAPLE MAINLINE is a quarterly publication of the **ONTARIO MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION**. For information or to place an ad, contact OMSPA:

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