

THE BUZZ



News about the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs – University of Guelph Partnership

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IN THE NEWS

Enviropig clears federal regulatory hurdle. The University of Guelph has successfully satisfied the requirements of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act allowing the Enviropig to be produced using approved containment procedures. Environment Canada made the announcement Feb. 20 in the Canada Gazette. The Enviropig was the first transgenic animal created to solve an environmental problem — phosphorus pollution in surface and groundwater. Applications to other federal agencies to assess the safety of Enviropigs for human food and animal feed are currently under review both in the U.S. and Canada and there is no set date when or if these reviews will conclude. Read more about this story [here](#).

Animal Health Lab studies wildlife disease. A Fleming College researcher and the University of Guelph Animal Health Lab's Animal Health Strategic Investment (AHSI) have partnered to study the amount and types of leptospirosis in Ontario's wildlife population. Prof. Karen Shearer, a veterinarian, teaches animal pathology in the Fish and Wildlife program at Fleming. Under her supervision, a third-year student will coordinate with wildlife groups in Ontario to obtain samples from wildlife, prepare instructional material and seminars and organize data. The samples will then be shipped to the University of Guelph Animal Health Lab for analysis. Read more about this project [here](#).

RESEARCH STATIONS

Key research resource. Ponsonby Livestock Research Station is a key resource in facilitating research projects with its capacity to house up to 300 disease-free sheep, born and raised at this station, and isolated in modern, secure and self-sufficient facilities. University of Guelph Prof. Niel Karrow is supervising research conducted by students Laura Cain and Rebecca Fisher. Cain is focusing on assessing immune function and levels of secreted cortisol, the most biologically significant stress hormone in sheep and humans, in sheep selectively bred for three generations. This research may aid in discovering new treatments for stress-susceptible human ailments such as dermatitis and

psoriasis. Also, it could result in producing healthier, more stress-tolerant livestock. Fisher is investigating immune response differences of lambs born to mothers fed either a fish meal-supplemented diet or soybean meal-supplemented diet. As diet [may](#) influence livestock's susceptibility to inflammatory diseases in adulthood, diet supplementation to protect the offspring is paramount.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Funding helps research commercialization. OMAFRA has funded a five-year program, through the UofG's Business Development Office, to provide proof-of-principle funds to OMAFRA-supported research projects that have a high probability of commercialization. To date, three projects have been supported, including methods to control boar taint in pigs, *in vitro* trials of an anti-inflammatory mint, and research into a newly discovered tomato trait potentially useful to processors. The funds are meant to provide targeted funding that may not be readily obtainable from granting agencies. Projects likely to benefit from these funds will be identified by the BDO through its disclosure and IP review process.

STAFF AND STUDENT NEWS

SPARK*AIR on Rogers. A new partnership will increase SPARK*AIR reach, as well as exposure for the OMAFRA-U of G Agreement. Every two weeks, Rogers TV in Guelph will air a new SPARK*AIR video on the show [First Local](#), showcasing the vast amount of cutting edge research taking place in Guelphites' own backyard. Stories will be chosen on the basis of their applicability to a broad audience (i.e. consumers).

Partnership expertise has international audience. Prof. Steve Leeson spoke at an industry luncheon as part of the [International Poultry Scientific Forum](#) held in January 2010, in Atlanta Georgia. Leeson spoke about "Historical Perspectives in Poultry Feed Management." Dr. Scott Carter from Novus International, the company who hosted the luncheon, says they wanted a historical perspective on feed management to help the industry to move forward. "We're at a really critical junction right now as we're going to need to produce twice as much food in 2050 as we do today," Scott said. Leeson has contributed to the Partnership as a researcher, past Poultry coordinator and is now the HQP coordinator. Read more about this event [here](#).

UofG researcher honoured by OPPI. The Ontario Professional Planners Institute has honoured Prof. Wayne Caldwell by establishing a scholarship in his name. The scholarship has been formed to recognize a student member who is making an important contribution in the field of planning for food through planning research and/or community engagement. Caldwell, who's had several projects funded through the partnership, served as Research Program Director for the then-named Sustainable Rural Communities research program and was involved in the agreement renegotiation process. He was chosen for this tribute because of his commitment to excellence, dedication to students and his extensive volunteer commitment to the profession. Read more about this scholarship [here](#).

Two new KTT staff. Two individuals have joined the UofG, Office of Research, Agri-Food and Partnerships staff to spearhead the delivery of the new KTT program funded under the OMAFRA-U of G Partnership. Bronwynne Wilton is the new Knowledge Mobilization (KM)

Program Manager – Industry Outreach, and Evelyn Allen is the KM Program Manager – Science Policy Interface. Wilton completed her PhD at the UofG in the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development (SEDRD) focusing on farmland preservation and the Ontario equine industry. Allen, P. Eng., brings seven years of experience working in the field of environmental engineering to her new role.

COMING EVENTS

Workshop on bioplastic developments. Bioplastics and Green Composites 2010 is a workshop taking place at the Delta Hotel in Guelph, Ontario, Canada, March 31 - April 1, 2010. This workshop, led by UofG Prof. Amar Mohanty, will examine some of the most recent discoveries in bio-based materials, chemicals and fuels, and present case studies from industry leaders including Mazda, Ford, DSM, DuPont, C G Tower and The Woodbridge Group. Academic and industry experts will present their latest findings and developments in this evolving industry. For more details, check [here](#).

News@Noon. The next News@Noon lunchtime seminar takes place April 7, 2010 in OVC Lifetime Learning Centre room 1714. Prof. Ernesto Guzman will talk about “What happened to the honey bee?” For more information, contact Liz Snyder (519-826-3376, lsnyder@uoguelph.ca) or Robyn Meerveld (519-826-4191, robyn.meerveld@ontario.ca).

About The Buzz

The Buzz is the electronic community news vehicle for the OMAFRA-U of G Partnership.

Editor: Liz Snyder, OMAFRA-U of G programs, 519-826-3376, lsnyder@uoguelph.ca. To contribute, contact Liz or contributing editors Robyn Meerveld, (519-826-4191, robyn.meerveld@ontario.ca) or Owen Roberts (519-826-5207, owen@uoguelph.ca).

Contributors to this issue: Laura Cain, Wayne Caldwell, Natalie Carter, Steve De Brabandere, Rebecca Fisher, Lori Bona Hunt, Niel Karrow, Grant Maxie, Robyn Meerveld, Hayley Millard, Rich Moccia, Carol Moore, Remo Pallottini, Owen Roberts, Liz Snyder and Mary Visser Kerr.

Find out more about the OMAFRA-U of G Partnership at:
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