

THE BUZZ



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

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RESEARCH STUDIES

Pumped up pork. To increase consumer options in the grocery store, a team of researchers, led by Prof. Kees de Lange at the University of Guelph is working towards omega-3 enriched pork. Among omega-3 fatty acids, DHA is the most potent in terms of providing health benefits to the consumer. By feeding flax seed oil to young growing pigs, these researchers have already shown that about 70 per cent of ingested omega-3 fatty acids are retained in each pig. Also, the DHA content in the pig's body was doubled in about two weeks. The researchers also saw a 30-fold increase in eicostrienoic acid (ETE), a substance considered to be a precursor for DHA synthesis. The retention of ETE in the body seems unique in pigs. If ETE provides the same health benefits to the consumer as DHA, the industry has a great opportunity to position pork as another good source of health-providing omega-3 fatty acids.

Climate change – what a pest! Prof. Jonathan Newman, Department of Environmental Biology, and master's student Anna Mika are looking ahead to map out how changes in the environment will influence future pest control methods, by using climate models to better predict how atmospheric conditions could influence future pest problems. Predictions are determined using what's called bioclimatic envelope models, which give an outlook based on climate change projections. These projections are computer model outputs developed for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Under the IPCC, 31 models can be accessed by researchers and used to study how climate change will affect species and ecosystems. Newman believes temperature is not the only factor that will determine the best approaches to pest management. Read more about this research [here](#).

RESEARCH STATIONS

Woodstock: A major player in plant research. Located on the north edge of Woodstock in Oxford County, the Woodstock Research Station covers 395 acres, 140 of which are leased to [Canada's Outdoor Farm Show](#), a tenant and partner of the station since 1997. The remaining acreage includes research plots mainly of soybeans, as well as corn, weed control plots and cereals. Research in soybean breeding, weed research, corn and cereal trials continues to make significant contributions to Ontario agriculture, and have

been crucial to the development of many soybean varieties, including OAC Kent, the 2008 Seed of the Year. Other research includes long-term herbicide-resistant weed control and corn performance trials. The station has unique soil conditions and is an important winter wheat growing area. It also provides a second location and different climate for screening potential wheat varieties developed at other stations like Elora.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Appreciation night welcomes University inventors. On Tuesday, April 21, the Business Development Office (BDO) hosted a reception to honour researchers who had submitted new invention disclosures over the past eight years. The event was a celebration of applied research and innovation, and was attended by Vice-President of Research Kevin Hall and Associate Vice-President (Research Services) Steven Liss. Examples of inventions being celebrated include vaccines, seed varieties, functional foods, workplace safety equipment and nanomaterials. The BDO looks forward to continuing to assist in the transfer of innovative research into marketed solutions.

NEWS

Investing in the future of Ontario produce. Revenues from a successful asparagus variety, Millennium, are being used to invest in the next generation. The variety was launched at the Simcoe Research Station in 2000 by U of G Prof. Dave Wolyn, and funded by the Ontario Asparagus Growers. Currently it generates \$300,000-\$400,000 in revenue per year. The Ontario Asparagus Growers is now taking the revenue generated by the Millennium variety and investing \$325,000 this year in the next generation of asparagus. Jeff Schieck, Interim Director of the Research and Innovation Branch, says this is an example of reinvestment for a sustainable industry in Ontario. "This shows the success of a research project that has developed into a commercial enterprise and then funds future research to keep the industry profitable," he says.

Sustainable Rural Communities Research Program summary available. The Sustainable Rural Communities Research Program (SRC), a research program under the previous OMAFRA-U of G Agreement, supported an important contribution to the dynamic conversation related to rural development, both in Ontario and around the globe. Now you can read about its achievements [online](#). In the 10-year period from 1998–2008 more than 50 research projects were completed under the SRC Program. With a mandate to contribute to the sustainability of rural Ontario, Prof. Wayne Caldwell, director of the SRC program, says it "supported a diverse selection of research projects covering the broad spectrum of rural economy, rural society, and rural environments exemplified by research projects that encompassed an interesting and unique intersection of agricultural, economic, social, and environmental issues in rural research."

Building strong networks for collaboration. The University of Guelph's Bioproducts Discovery and Development Centre (BDDC) recently hosted the Ontario section of the Society of Plastic Engineers (SPE), which includes key personnel from Canadian manufacturing companies involved in new product and technology development. Guests toured the BDDC lab facilities, judged a student poster competition featuring entries from universities across Ontario, and discussed new developments in the plastic industry for a variety of applications, including automotive, construction and packaging. Prof. Amar

Mohanty of the BDDC presented a talk on the bioeconomy and its potential role in recession recovery strategies. Prof. Manju Misra spoke on the importance of nanotechnology in the development of novel materials that will create opportunities for Ontario in green manufacturing.

STAFF AND STUDENT NEWS

Interim Director for RIB announced. Jeff Schieck has been named Interim Director of Research and Innovation Branch while a competition for a permanent Director is held. Schieck is replacing Dr. Gwen Zellen who has moved to a new position as Vice-President - Food Safety, Operations and Environmental Affairs with the Chicken Farmers of Ontario. Zellen was with the Ministry for almost 25 years. As Director of the Research and Innovation Branch she worked on implementation of the new OMAFRA – U of G agreement, completed a review of the commercialization organizations and worked on a new vision for research.

Making connections. Rich Moccia, Associate Vice-President Research (Agri-food and Partnerships) spoke recently to the Royal City Men's Club about the social value of research investment. He highlighted the benefits of investment to society, food production, health and environment etc., noting the importance and success of the OMAFRA-U of G partnership. Club member and U of G Professor Emeritus Ed Herold says the talk was informative and highlighted the return on investment to the provincial economy. "Rich did an excellent job of outlining the many benefits that have risen as a result of the OMAFRA – U of G partnership."

Interim director at Kemptville announced. Beginning May 1, Dr. Renée Bergeron will become Interim Director of Kemptville Campus for a period of one year, while continuing as director at Alfred Campus. Bergeron is replacing Dr. Michael Goss who is retiring as Director at Kemptville. In a letter announcing these changes, Prof. Robert Gordon, Dean of OAC, thanked Goss for his many significant contributions to OAC, and tipped his hat to Bergeron for accepting the interim role. He also stated that he and Bergeron will meet with staff later in April. "Dr. Bergeron and I will arrange meetings at Kemptville, with various staff as appropriate, to discuss immediate arrangements for the fiscal year 2009/10, as well as for longer-term planning," said Gordon.

COMING EVENTS

Two events from the Centre for Public Health and Zoonoses. On May 4, the Centre will celebrate its official launch in the Lifetime Learning Centre, room 1714, from 2:30p.m. - 4:30 p.m. with a reception to follow in the OVC Cafeteria. Along with an overview of the Centre, speakers will also discuss insights and perspectives on the challenges and opportunities in public health. On May 5, 2009 the Centre is hosting a scientific symposium on opportunities in public health research at the human-animal-environment interface. This event takes place at the Delta Guelph Hotel, 8:30a.m. - 4:30p.m. For more information on both events, click [here](#) or e-mail cphaz@uoguelph.ca.

Poultry Industry Council Research Day. This year's research day is titled "What's eating us in what we eat? – fighting food-borne pathogens." Sponsored by OMAFRA and featuring several U of G researchers, this event takes place on May 12, 2009 at the Arboretum, University of Guelph. Registration and lunch start at noon. The speakers address the audience from 1:00p.m. - 4:30 p.m., and are followed by a wine and cheese reception. For more information, or to register, go to the Poultry Industry Council [website](#), or contact Claudia Escandon at 519-837-0284 or cescandon@poultryindustrycouncil.ca.

Learn about the science and business of functional foods. Health professionals, producers, researchers and agribusiness professionals will be speaking at the Food meets Function conference June 17–18, 2009 in London, Ontario. This conference will deliver the latest information on human nutritional science and the healthfulness of functional foods that will be of particular interest for registered dietitians and health professionals. As well, there will be sessions intended for those wanting to learn more about the production, retail and processing aspects of the functional food value chain. For more information or to register, go to www.foodmeetsfunction.ca.

About The Buzz

The Buzz is the electronic community news vehicle for the OMAFRA-University of Guelph partnership.

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Find out more about the OMAFRA-UofG Partnership at:

www.uoguelph.ca/research/omafra/index.shtml
www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/about/uofg/

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