

***AND IN THE END, IT'S NOT THE
YEARS IN YOUR LIFE THAT COUNT.
IT'S THE LIFE IN YOUR YEARS.***

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Winter

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Happy New Year !!!

On behalf of the board on New Brunswick Soil & Crop Improvement Association I would like to wish you all health, happiness and prosperity in 2007.

As we head into a new year I am sure that we all have many challenges and opportunities facing us. Now is a good time to take stock of where we are and where we want to go. The NBSCIA board will be taking one day to look at what our priorities should be for the next year. If you have any ideas or suggestions please speak to your local board member or give the provincial office a call.

Farm of the Year

We are pleased to introduce the 2006 Farm of the Year Candidates – Peter Kaye from Canobie representing the Northeast Soil & Crop, Philmon, George & Sheila Lawrence from Burtt's Corner representing the Central Soil & Crop, Paul & Jim Walker from Wards Creek representing the Kings County Soil & Crop, Murray Bunnett from Steeves Settlement representing Moncton Soil & Crop and Oakley Richards from Point de Bute representing the Chignecto Soil & Crop. Good luck to all the contestants. Come to the Farm of the Year banquet on March 2nd at the Chateau Bathurst and see the slide show of the contestants' farms.

NBSCIA Annual Meeting and Technical Workshop

Come and join us for the 29th annual meeting of the New Brunswick Soil & Crop Improvement Association. See the slide presentation of the farm of the Year candidates, network with friends, make new contacts, hear the presentations on renewable energy and tour the booth displays. The theme of the meeting will be

renewable energy. There will be talks on biodiesel, ethanol, high ash pellet burners, land rights, water issues and many others. The meeting will be held at the Chateau Bathurst on March 1 – 3, 2007. To register contact the provincial office at 454-1736 or nbscia@nbnet.nb.ca. Look for future mailings. We hope to see you there. It is the soil & crop event of the year. Don't miss it!



Walkerville Farms Ltd. – Kings County Soil & Crop Farm of the Year

Walkerville Farms Ltd. is owned by Jim and Paul Walker and families. It is located just outside of Sussex, in Ward's Creek, NB. It is a purebred Holstein dairy operation.

They have 450 head, and milk 190 cows. In May 2004 they constructed a new freestall barn and parlour. The parlour is a double 12 herringbone rapid exit. The Walkers implemented several energy saving features into their new facility including the recycling of plate cooler water.

They farm approximately 1000 acres of owned and leased land. The major crops grown are alfalfa, grain, and corn for silage and earlage.

Walkerville updated their EFP in 2006 and are in the process of completing several environmental improvements. They also completed a major drainage project in 2006.

Kings Co. Soil and Crop is proud to present Walkerville Farms Ltd as their candidate for Farm of the Year.



New liquid manure composting process to be on line in 2006

Abbotsford, B.C. Oct. 6, 2005: B.C. lower mainland farmers all too familiar with the challenge of producing livestock in a region dominated by urban sprawl and heavy rainfall will be interested in a new liquid manure composting system expected to be in operation early in 2006.

The \$100,000 farm-scale facility being built on an area hog operation, will have capacity to convert about 500,000 gallons of liquid manure into an odorless, dry, nutrient-rich soil amendment that can be used by home gardeners and commercial farming operations.

"It is a technical challenge," admits Dr. John Paul, a former Agriculture Canada research scientist, who developed the system as one of the newer projects undertaken by his company Transform

Compost Systems Ltd.

While the company he launched seven years ago is familiar with designing more conventional composting systems, this is their first system using liquid hog manure.

"We had to design a system that was environmentally sound, non-intrusive in a densely populated region, and could function in an area that receives up to 48 inches of rainfall over a six-month period each year," he explained.

Design and construction of the farm-scale composting system, which is now underway, follows a year of evaluating a smaller pilot system on a 300-sow farrow-to-finish Abbotsford-area farm. That producer had been spreading manure on nearby farmland, but had to find alternate means of managing manure when part of that land was no longer available.

Paul developed the system known as bio drying,

which actually intensifies and accelerates the conventional dry composting process.

The liquid manure composting project was initiated with the assistance of the soil sector of the federal Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program for Canadian Agriculture (GHGMP). The program is administered by the Soil Conservation Council of Canada.

For more details on the bio drying project and how the system works see a feature article now available on the GHGMP website at: www.soilcc.ca.

Paul's bio drying composting process eliminates much of the methane gas associated with manure storage, filters out ammonia which contributes to odor, and will make it easier to better manage soil nutrient requirements reducing the risk of surplus nitrogen being leached from the soil, or lost to the atmosphere as nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse gas.

The environmentally sound and economical liquid manure composting system provides another manure management option to hog, dairy and poultry producers and in some parts of the country, beef operations using liquid manure systems. But, it is particularly good news for producers also

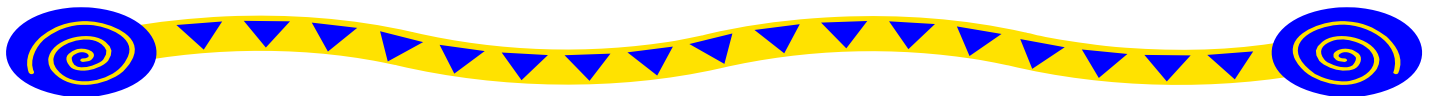
dealing with urban pressures and the challenge of managing manure on a limited land base.

The system developed by Transform involves mixing liquid hog manure and dry horse manure in a 20-foot wide x 250-foot long, watertight, concrete channel or pit. Due to high fall and winter rainfall, the channel will be covered with a double polygreenhouse shelter.

The blended manure naturally begins to heat as part of the composting process. Specialized equipment is used to turn the manure on a regular basis. The heat causes the liquid portion to evaporate and after only a matter of weeks, a dry, odorless, nutrient-rich solid material is left.

The dry material will be bagged and sold as a value-added product to local garden centres, or used for high value commercial crops as well as lawns and sports fields.

"We haven't answered all the questions yet," says Paul. "But we have a process that appears to provide another nutrient management option. It is clean and odorless, and perhaps most importantly, resolves the issue of trying to land-apply large manure volumes."



Taking Care of (Small and Local) Business By Wayne Roberts

At the invitation of Green Enterprise Toronto, the local branch of Business Alliance For a Local Living Economy (BALLE), Michael Shuman, the Washington-based economist and consultant toured Toronto and Hamilton in late June, just prior to the release of his latest book, *The Small-Mart Revolution: How Local Businesses Are Beating the Local Competition*.

Shuman says, all the indices foretell nothing less than the end of Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart is an easy target for punsters, and is fast becoming a figure of

speech for the taking ways of everyday low ethics among multinationals that stick it to main street business folks. As hometown businesses learn they have nothing to lose but their chain stores and start fighting back, Shuman says we will witness "an epochal struggle between two dramatically different visions of capitalism, the outcome of which will define many interesting and important years of history to come."

Shuman, consultant to a number of towns on the economic comeback trail and a founding member of BALLE, calls the conflicting visions Tina and Lisa. Tina is short for the global corporations who maintain There Is No Alternative to the impersonal and placeless way they do business. Lisa stands for Local Ownership and Import Substitution, business

folks who stick with the people and places in their 'hood.

Lisa offers a local anesthetic to a lot of unnecessary pain and turmoil in a turbulent world.

In an age when cheap conventional petroleum is burning fast, the ups and downs – almost all ups – of fuel prices will level the playing field for businesses with local connections and less distance to travel. In an era when water is scarce, water-intensive ag exports no longer seem wise or cheap. At a time when overcrowding of animals and people create a wildfire zone for the spread of contagious disease, it becomes madness to permit disease-ridden imports into areas where there is no resistance to, or predators of, the forces of contagion – think avian flu, and the tens of billions of dollars being spent to keep the global market for dollar-a-pound chicken industry on life support. When power lines can be snipped by trees or terrorists falling out of the sky, sentencing entire regions to black-out, centralized and faraway sources of electricity make no sense. When planners and politicians take these issues seriously, and start looking closer to home for basic necessities such as food, water and energy, the case for what Shuman calls “Jurassic Economic Development” falls apart. “Dependence holds a community hostage to mistakes, misdeeds and misfortunes totally outside its control,” he says.

It's more than the scare factor that requires change. When all economies are taken into account, precautions also make for sound business decisions. Lisa companies already account for the great majority of jobs in a modern post-industrial economy. Think of the butchers, bakers, candlestick makers, cleaning ladies, handymen, renovators, landscapers, main street retailers, home businesses, childcare workers, nannies, bookkeepers, volunteers, housekeepers, mom and pop grocers who do the heavy lifting of day-to-day life and tax-paying. Think even more of the indirect jobs created by the multiplier effect of these local companies – the post-harvest handlers used by the local farmer, the cluster of innovative chefs and processors who develop value-added products from local offerings, the clothing store that's kept open serving new customers with cash in their hands. The multiplier effect is the secret

weapon of small and local business, since it creates about three times the employment – and indirectly, additional sharers of the tax burden for improved health, social and educational services – of distant firms that take local dollars and export the multiplier effect elsewhere. Against that background, the “penny wise, pound foolish” tactic of saving a few pennies or dollars by buying from, or putting public subsidies into, distant corporation becomes local self-abuse.

Making the decision to give a few breaks to local businesses will be hard for government planners, policy analysts and program managers who routinely dole out favors and roll out programs for the line-up of Tina businesses, who favor this one form of government intervention. U.S. pork barrel amounts to about \$110 billion a year in government giveaways that lure distant corporations to please stay around, Shuman calculates. By my guesstimate, a proportionate amount of subsidies go out the door in Canada, albeit usually disguised as invisible hand-ups rather than visible hand-outs.




It's a little-known fact that Canadian governments subsidize distant corporations, to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars a year, at the garbage dump – thanks to rules that give no reward to local dairies and juicers who sell product in thick recyclable bottles and thereby avoid garbage costs but impose no penalty on dairies and juicers that sell in one-way tetrapak and plastic containers that are recycled by taxpayers at great expense; or rules that charge the same fee for fresh bread from a local bakery sold in a recyclable paper bag and never-say-die bread kept from losing its rubbery bounce by a landfill-destined plastic bag; or rules that give no reward to manufacturers who design parts so they're easily repaired and recycled to create local jobs, and no penalties that can't be fixed or recycled and have to be tossed in the garbage at public expense.

U.S. and Canadian federal and regional governments both put an invisibility cloak around subsidies that prop up giant and nomadic corporations by forcing taxpayers to foot the bill for highways that carry all those long-distant goods. The U.S. feds spend 30 times more on highways than on infrastructure grants to cities, Shuman shows. The ratio in Canada – where even

one cent of the tax on a liter of gas can't be given to support public transit, let alone the local producers put out of business by artificially cheap imports, is just too much – is on par. An equally invisibilized subsidy to the Nomads comes in the form of weak federal and regional laws protecting worker rights and minimum wages, the purchasing power of which has been allowed to slip in both countries by as much as 40 per cent since the 1960s. Looking at their own modest incomes, small local businesses might mistakenly resist minimum wage protection for their staff, because they don't see that decent wages are key to their competitive advantage against the big guys. "The living wage is to Wal-Mart what kryptonite was to Superman," Shuman argues, since the Nomads can't function without reserves of cheap, deskilled and casual labor.

It's Shuman's hope – and this is what makes his book a political manifesto – that the conflict between two ways of doing business will lead to the tilling of common ground between independent businesses, now largely represented by ultra-conservative corporate lobbies, and the common folk, together with progressives, tree-huggers and cultural creatives who never felt entirely at home in the conventional left. Nursing along dialogue in this new political space -- which honors community, not just equity, and which values entrepreneurship and informal community barn raisings, not just expensive government programs – is as important to Shuman's project, and as revealing of his personal history, as the battle between different modes of business.

He has also written *Going Local: Creating Self-Reliant Communities in a Global Age*.

 <p>Canadian Model Forest Network</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Valuation of Ecological Goods and Services from Atlantic Woodlots and Farms Workshop Feb. 22, 2007 Amherst, Nova Scotia</p>	
<p>In Costa Rica oxygen, water quality and biodiversity are valued in the same way as coffee, oil and real estate. It's called payment for ecological goods and services and has been part of the country's financial framework since 1995.</p>	<p>Where: Wandlyn Inn Time: 10 am - 4 pm Cost: \$20 Pre-registration required</p>	<p>Topics: Valuation methods The Costa Rican Experience Existing Regional Programs</p>
<p>For more information and to pre-register, contact Fundy Model Forest at 1-800-546-4838 (Maritimes only) or 506 – 432 – 7575 admin@fundymodelforest.net</p>		
 <p>Natural Resources Canada</p>	<p>Ressources naturelles Canada</p>	

CFIA Workshops

Seed Program Modernization & Fertilizer Program Modernization

CFIA is hosting a series of one-day regional public workshops on Seed Program Modernization and Fertilizer Program Modernization.

The objectives of the seed workshop are to improve understanding of the current Seed Program and to actively engage stakeholders in the Seed Program review. In addition, the workshop will provide an opportunity for CFIA to present and receive feedback on the *Proposal to Facilitate the Modernization of the Seed Regulatory Framework*¹[1].

The Seed Program Modernization Initiative builds on recent government- and industry-led consultations. These consultations have identified a number of issues facing the Program and the sector. In response to these issues, CFIA has developed a preliminary draft of a Strategic Action Plan designed to modernize the Seed Program.

Each regional workshop will consist of a series of presentations and discussions to profile the Seed Program, outline the Proposal, and present the current draft of a Strategic Action Plan for Seed Program Modernization. Stakeholders will then have the opportunity to discuss, comment, and provide input on the plan. This information and advice will contribute to the further development of a Strategic Action Plan for the Seed Program that will be presented at a national workshop planned for March in Ottawa.

The objectives of the fertilizer workshop are to improve understanding of the current Fertilizer Program and to actively engage stakeholders in the Fertilizer Program review and re-design process.

This initiative builds on recent consultations, including work completed in collaboration with the Canadian Fertilizer Products Forum (CFPF). Work conducted with the CFPF, combined with results from a preliminary internal review has identifies a number of issues facing the Program and the sector. In response to these issues, CFIA has developed a long-term (3 to 5 year) Strategic Action Plan designed to modernize the Fertilizer Program.

Each regional workshop will consist of a series of presentations and discussions to profile the Fertilizer Program as a whole, outline the Fertilizer Modernization Initiative, and present the current Strategic Action Plan. Stakeholders will then have the opportunity to discuss, comment, and provide input on the plan. Discussion will focus on validation of the issues and strategies proposed, identification of new issues or strategies that have not been captured, and providing recommendations for priority action over the coming year and beyond. This input and advice will contribute to the on-going refinement of the Strategic Action Plan for the Fertilizer Program, leading to a national workshop planned for March in Ottawa.

If you are interested in participating in a either workshop, please contact Charlene Mader by telephone at 1-866-475-2565, by fax at (613) 228-4552 or by e-mail via modernisation@inspection.gc.ca by Jan 31. The fertilizer workshop will be held in Moncton on February 13th and the seed workshop is in Moncton on February 14th.

Coming Events

Coming Events		
January		
23-24	Ontario Processing Vegetable Industry Conference	London, Ontario
25 - 26	Agricultural Alliance Annual Meeting	Crown Plaza, Fredericton
25-28	Guelph Organic Conference http://www.guelphorganicconf.ca	University of Guelph
27	Chignecto Soil & Crop Banquet 6:00 pm	Sackville Legion
29	Moncton Soil & Crop AGM 7:00 pm	Moncton Ag Office Boardroom
30	Northeast Soil & Crop AGM 10-2:30	Bathurst Ag Office
30	EFP follow-up workshop 8 – 3:30	Woodstock
31-Feb 2	Managing Excellence in Agriculture Conference http://farmcentre.com/english/conference/2007/index.php	Kelowna, BC
February		
2	Central Soil & Crop AGM	Room 103 Research Station
6	EFP Workshop 10 – 4	Moncton
6-8	Canadian International Farm Equipment Show http://www.torontofarmshow.com	Toronto
7	EFP Workshop 10 – 4	Sussex
7-8	Mid-South Regional InfoAg Conference www.infoag.org	Mississippi State University
8	EFP Follow-up workshop 10 – 4	Richibucto
13	Kings County Soil & Crop AGM 7:45 pm	Sussex Ag Office
13	EFP Follow-up Workshop 10-4	Moncton
13	CFIA Fertilizer Regulation Review	Moncton
14	CFIA Seed Regulation	Moncton
14	EFP Follow-up Workshop 10 – 4	Sussex
15	EFP Follow-up Workshop 10 – 4	Bouctouche
20-21	Innovative Farmers of Ontario Conference	London, Ontario
20	EFP Follow-up Workshop 10 – 4	St. George
21	EFP Follow-up Workshop 10 – 4	Fredericton
22	Valuation of Ecological Goods & Services from Atlantic Woodlots & Farms	Amherst, NS
23	APF Next Generation Consultations	Moncton
March		
1 - 3	NBSCIA AGM	ChateauBathurst
8 - 10	Farm Mechanization Show	Moncton Coliseum
April		
2	Chignecto Soil & Crop Annual Business Meeting 7:30 pm	Port Elgin Race Track

Please send submissions to Susannah. NBSCIA 16 Gilks Road, Maugerville, NB E3A 8N4, phone: 454-1736, fax: 472-4718, email:nbscia@nbnet.nb.ca. Deadline for the next edition will be December 1, 2005.