

**CROPS DAY  
TOPIC DESCRIPTIONS**

**Nick Betts, *Growing Innovation with Agricultural Biomass*, Outreach Coordinator, OSCIA and Urs Eggimann, President, Eggimann Consulting Inc.:**

While researching the “Global Warming” phenomenon, I came across the environmental benefit of growing switchgrass, in particular the sequestration capability of tall grasses.

The presentation illustrates the experience gained with planting of switchgrass on marginal farmland (which had not been worked actively for 2 decades!). In particular the presentation contains practical details about the establishment and maintenance of switchgrass, including planting methods, weed control, fertilizing as well as harvesting techniques. Specific challenges and opportunities of producing purpose grown biomass in our Grey County environment are highlighted. Touching market opportunities of biomass are also part of this presentation.

**Maurizio (Moe) Agostino, *2012 Grain Outlook: Is \$7.00 Corn the New Normal?*:**

Supply and Demand fundamentals, technical analysis, battle for 2012 acres, macro economic factors, crude oil, currencies, basis, conclusions, 2012 marketing strategies and 2012 market prices and targets.

**Panel: for: *Let’s Add Some Colour to Your Production*: Andy Dales, Panel Facilitator; Brian Wiley, Fairmount Farms Ltd.; Harry Biermans, Biermans’ Farms Ltd.; and Brian Hall, Edible Bean & Canola Specialist, OMAFRA.**

Two producers will highlight why they have chosen to grow canola. They will look at the merits of this crop and what key elements make it a crop that all should consider.

**Chris St Clair, *Canada’s Weather, “The Climate That Shapes A Nation”*:**

Chris will be talking about our Canadian weather, why we are unique in the world and some of the records we hold for weather. As well he will have a look at climate change and what it will hold for our future weather patterns and weather forecasts.

**George & Agnes Dickenson, Farm Safety Testimonial: *Grain Bin Safety—Grain Extraction Tool*:**

Grain Extraction tool was developed and built by our 4-H Club to be used as a tool if someone was trapped in a grain bin.

**Peter Johnson, *Bin Bustin’ Barley*:**

The latest thoughts and research on how to blow the doors off of barley (and other) cereal yields. 2011 trial results (SMART trials, starter, sulphur and more). Ideas brought home from a visit to the UK and France.