



# ONTARIO SOYBEAN GROWERS' UPDATE

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## Soybean Report

August 2008

### THOUGHTS FROM THE OSG CHAIR

**Wow!** How can it already be August, when it seems like we just got finished spring planting? This has surely been a spring and early summer with unusual weather. Violent storms brought too much rain in some areas, and not enough in others.

Despite all that, the crops look pretty good around the countryside; hopefully this is the case on your farm.

It's been busy here at OSG. New staff members are fitting in well, new Directors are taking active roles in the organization and as you'll see by the following, the whole association has been working hard on behalf of our growers. In this OSG Update, you'll find information on the Grower Requested Own Use (GROU) Program that allows farmers to economize by importing U.S. versions of Canadian-registered crop protection products for their own use; Farm Input Price Monitoring done by Ridgetown College; the 2008 Canadian Soybean Harvest Survey, and OSG's 2008 Soybean Yield Challenge.

The OSG Board has been busy dealing not only with the GROU program, but also with research projects, and of course the ongoing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) process. Keep an eye out for more information on the MOU in the next few weeks; things are finally coming together.

Results of OSG's strategic plan, unveiled last winter, are beginning to take shape. We have quite a few projects and proposals on the go that will have a positive impact on maximizing value for the whole Ontario soybean industry. To learn more on this topic, be sure to visit the OSG - Soy 20/20 Innovation booth at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, September 9, 10, 11, 2008. We will be located in the Grow Guelph tent, on the North Mall between 2nd and 3rd Lane, along with the University of Guelph and other agri-food innovation partners.

Now that wheat harvest is over, I encourage you to take a breather and enjoy some time off. If a summer vacation with the family is in the plans, enjoy. We hope to see you in September, at the Outdoor Farm Show or the International Plowing Match.

Stay cool,  
Leo Guilbeault



### PESTICIDE PRICING AND THE GROU (GROWER REQUESTED OWN USE) PROGRAM

By Crosby Devitt, OSG Manager of Research & Innovation

The cost of inputs farmers must purchase to grow Ontario's high quality soybean, corn and wheat crops continue to go up. The University of Guelph at Ridgetown conducts regular surveys of farm input price differences between Ontario and nearby US states. The most recent survey, conducted a month ago, shows the cost of common crop protection products averaged 59% higher in Ontario.

This 59% higher cost of pesticides compared to our neighbours to the south is of real concern to Ontario farmers. As a result, we have been working with the federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to allow freer movement of key crop protection products between Canada and the US, in an effort to increase price discipline and promote competitive pricing.

A year ago, the PMRA launched the Grower Requested Own Use (GROU) program as a replacement for the Own Use Import Program. This new program allows growers to import the US version of Canadian-registered crop protection products for their own use, should they be available in the US at a lower price than in Canada.

There are currently twelve products on the GROU list, (see chart below) and we are urging the PMRA to expand the list for next year's growing season.

We are asking farmers to nominate pesticide products they would like to see become part of the GROU program for next year. A list of products will be submitted by AGCare, on behalf of grower groups, to the PMRA.

It is our position that Ontario farmers should have access to agricultural inputs at competitive prices compared to our neighbours to the south. The Grower Requested Own Use program will help, as long as enough products are available for import. The federal government has promised to work with us to increase price discipline of crop protection products - we need them to live up to this commitment and make more products available for import.

GROU approved product		Canadian Registered Version
Product Name and U.S. EPA Reg. #	GROU Equivalency Certificate #	Product Name
Reglone Desiccant (EPA # 100-1061)	016	Reglone Desiccant (PCP #26396)
Nufarm Weedar 64 Broadleaf Herbicide (EPA # 71368-1)	015	Nufarm 2,4-D Amine 500 Liquid Herbicide (PCP #14725)
Sevin® Brand XLR PLUS (EPA # 264-333)	014	Sevin® Brand XLR PLUS (PCP # 19531)
BRAVO ZN (EPA # 50534-204-100)	013	BRAVO ZN (PCP # 28900)
GF-120 NF NATURALYTE FRUIT FLY BAIT (EPA # 62719-498)	012	GF-120 NF NATURALYTE FRUIT FLY BAIT (PCP # 28336)
AATREX 4L (EPA # 100-497)	011	AATREX® LIQUID 480 (PCP # 18450)
GAVEL 75DF (EPA # 62719-441)	010	GAVEL 75DF FUNGICIDE (PCP # 26842)
TOUCHDOWN HERBICIDE (EPA # 100-1117)	009	TOUCHDOWN IQ LIQUID HERBICIDE (PCP # 27192)
REFLEX HERBICIDE (EPA # 100-993)	008	REFLEX LIQUID HERBICIDE (PCP # 24779)
ROUNDUP WEATHERMAX HERBICIDE (EPA # 524-537)	007	ROUNDUP WEATHERMAX WITH TRANSORB 2 TECHNOLOGY LIQUID HERBICIDE (PCP # 27487)
CLARITY HERBICIDE (EPA # 7969-137)	006	BANVEL II HERBICIDE (PCP # 23957)
BASAGRAN HERBICIDE (EPA # 7969-45)	005	BASAGRAN LIQUID HERBICIDE (PCP # 12221)

Source: PMRA website 08/05/08 [http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/appregis/grou/grou\\_imp-e.html](http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/appregis/grou/grou_imp-e.html)

### 2008 SOYBEAN HARVEST SURVEY

**We need your help to accurately assess the quality of Canada's 2008 soybean crop**

Soybean harvest is just around the corner and we need samples of your soybean crop. The Canadian Soybean Council (CSC) is working in partnership with the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) to coordinate the collection of samples in Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.

The harvest survey is an independent assessment of crop quality. All samples are graded and assessed for oil and protein content. Food grade samples are also tested for sugar and isoflavone content and total carbohydrates.

"We are asking soybean growers in Ontario to partner with us and send in GM and non-GM soybean samples," says Jim Gowland, CSC Chair. "The results of the harvest survey help market Canadian soybeans to our end users around the world."

If you are interested in submitting a sample, please contact Adriana Perron by phone: 519-767-1744 or e-mail: [aperron@soybean.on.ca](mailto:aperron@soybean.on.ca).

Sample collection envelopes will be sent out to growers in mid-September. Submitted samples should be air dried, labeled, identified by variety and end use, and representative of what comes off your field.

### FORTY GROWERS PARTICIPATING IN OSG'S 2008 YIELD CHALLENGE

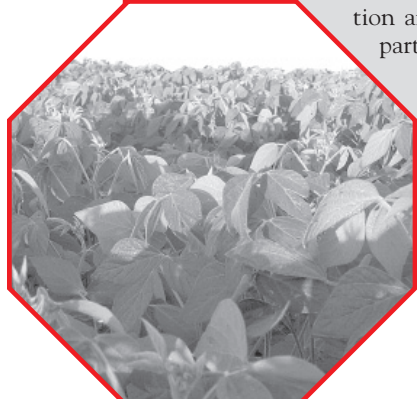


As of the July 31, 2008 deadline, forty growers have entered the 2008 OSG Soybean Yield Challenge. They will soon receive a package outlining next steps in the competition.

Competitors are divided into 3 provincial zones based on maturity groups: Zone 1 - 2700 HU and under; Zone 2 - 2725 to 3000 HU; and Zone 3 - 3025 HU and above.

Participants' soybean field must be a minimum of 10 acres; the harvested plot must be a minimum of 1.5 acres of the same field. Conventional or GM soybean seed is eligible, but all seed must be certified. Participating growers are providing information around production practices, field location and general weather data. They will also provide seed variety, planting and harvest dates, crop rotation, field fertility, fertilizer application and seed treatment data are among the information participants will be providing.

The purpose of this competition is to understand what management practices are being used by Ontario soybean growers who are achieving high yields. The overall goal is to help soybean growers across the province boost their yields through optimum management practices.



Growers wishing to access these products must apply for a GROU program Import Certificate. For details on how to apply to import products, go to: [http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/appregis/grou/grou\\_imp-e.html](http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/appregis/grou/grou_imp-e.html).

Under the GROU program, products with significant price discrepancies between Canada and the US will be considered for inclusion on an annual basis. Those deemed eligible will be chosen by the grower-led GROU Nomination Committee, including representation from the AgCare, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Canadian Horticultural Council, Grain Growers of Canada, and Pulse Canada.

OSG has been working with other farm organizations through AGCare and forwarded 22 products to the nomination committee on behalf of Ontario growers in August 2007. To date, only half of those products (listed above) are eligible for import under this program.

AGCare has met with the PMRA to express concern about some of the GROU program's early challenges. The PMRA has committed to performing a program evaluation, to determine GROU's progress in meeting its objectives. The PMRA has stated that it will re-open the old Own Use Import (OUI) program if pesticide manufacturers are not willing to co-operate with the GROU program.

For more information, contact Lillian Schaer at AGCare (519-837-1326, [lschaer@agcare.org](mailto:lschaer@agcare.org)), or Crosby Devitt at OSG (519-767-1919, [cdevitt@soybean.on.ca](mailto:cdevitt@soybean.on.ca)).

### ONLINE UPDATES ON FARM INPUT PRICING MONITORING

This price monitoring program, coordinated by Ken McEwan at the University of Guelph's Ridgetown Campus, is done throughout the year; reports are available at: [http://www.ridgetownc.on.ca/research/report\\_topic.cfm?subject=FARM%5FINPUT%5FPRICES](http://www.ridgetownc.on.ca/research/report_topic.cfm?subject=FARM%5FINPUT%5FPRICES)