



# ONTARIO SOYBEAN GROWERS

Phone: 519-767-1744

Fax: 519-767-2466

Email: [cansoy@soybean.on.ca](mailto:cansoy@soybean.on.ca)

## Soybean Report

May 2004

### OSG JOINS GUELPH'S AGRICULTURAL HUB

While producers get set to plant a fresh crop, the Ontario Soybean Growers is busy setting down new roots in Guelph.

Last week marked the inauguration of the OSG's new office in Guelph's Research Park. Guelph – a growing agricultural hub in Canada – is home to numerous agricultural organizations including Syngenta Crop Protection Canada Inc., Ontario Agri-Business Association and AdFarm as well as Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

OSG Chair Bill Allison says it's time OSG joined Guelph's growing agricultural infrastructure.

"The increased opportunities to interact with government and work closely with other organizations will serve our growers well in the dynamic years to come," says Allison.

OSG is also working closely with the Ontario Corn Producers' Association (OCPA) and the Ontario Wheat Producers Marketing Board (OWPMB) towards a shared office facility. "It makes sense," says OWPMB Chair Bruce Webster. "We all serve the same producers who grow corn, wheat and soybeans."

The organizations have often worked together on producer issues such as Market Revenue Insurance, Crop Insurance, APF and the CAIS program, and sharing real estate will allow them to work closer and continue to represent corn, wheat and soybean producers on these common grounds.

"We've heard from our grass roots and we're all dedicated to bringing Ontario's Grains and Oilseeds organizations closer together," says Allison.

### OSG's new address and contact information:

Ontario Soybean Growers  
Suite 205, Second Floor  
Research Park Centre  
150 Research Lane  
Guelph Ontario  
N1G 4T2

Phone: (519) 767-1744  
Fax: (519) 767-2466  
E-mail: [cansoy@soybean.on.ca](mailto:cansoy@soybean.on.ca)  
Web: [www.soybean.on.ca](http://www.soybean.on.ca)

### GEARING UP FOR A NEW PLANTING SEASON

As soybean growers get their planters ready to seed a new crop, there are a few things to consider to ensure a high quality – and high value – product.

#### Seed size

Growers need to pay special attention to seeding rates this year. Most soybean seed is high quality with excellent germination. But seed grown in dry areas that experienced dry conditions and high aphid numbers is small – in extreme cases, comprising as many as 3,900 seeds per pound, or 195,000 seeds per bag. Planting by seeds per acre rather than pounds per acre can help reduce seeding costs and prevent crowding and diseases such as white mold.

#### Planting Depth

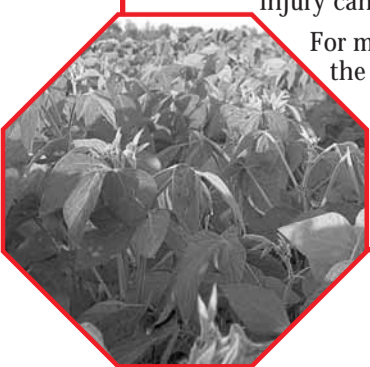
In Ontario, soybeans are often planted too deep while corn is sometimes not planted deep enough. Soybeans should generally be planted 1.25 to 1.5 inches deep – no deeper than two inches. Only in dry conditions should you set the planter deeper, but in Ontario, low moisture in May is rare.

#### When to plant

Optimal soil moisture and temperature are essential for planting. In Southern Ontario, yield loss due to non-optimal planting conditions is much greater than loss due to delayed planting. Soil temperature must be above 10 degrees Celsius for at least eight to 24 hours after planting. If the initial water taken up by the seed is too cold a chilling injury can result, lowering germination and vigor.

For more information and recommended seeding rates visit the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food website at

[http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/crops/field/news/croptalk/2004/ct\\_0304a2.htm](http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/crops/field/news/croptalk/2004/ct_0304a2.htm)



### STUDENT INNOVATION SPARKS PROJECT SOY ACTIVITY

New soy-based innovations captured judges imaginations and some healthy prize money – at the eighth annual University of Guelph Project SOY (Soybean Opportunities for Youth) competition last month.

It was a soy-based maple liqueur developed by third-year food science student Valerie Choy that won judges' votes and top prize this year. Ontario Soybean Growers director John van Turnhout was one of the five judges with the difficult task of awarding \$2,500, \$1,000 and \$500 prizes to the top three of 16 soy creations including SOYDA Crackers, biodegradable fishing lures and soy-based bath bombs.

"It's a great opportunity to challenge students to think outside the box," says van Turnhout. "It channels their enthusiasm and creativity into potential added value for the soybean industry."

Project SOY began in 1996 to help maintain momentum in Ontario's growing soybean industry. First Line Seeds teamed up with the University of Guelph to launch the competition, which aimed to harness students' creative power into devising new ways to use and promote soybeans.

The Ontario Soybean Growers saw the potential added value and awareness Project SOY brought to the industry and were pleased to join the sponsorship team. Other sponsors include Maple Leaf Foods, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Van Turnhout says with the increasing awareness of the health and environmental benefits of soy, the creative, consumer-friendly product ideas presented each year by Project SOY participants are just what the industry needs to bring added value soybeans to market.



University of Guelph student Valerie Choy was awarded the \$2,500 first prize at the eighth annual Project SOY competition in Guelph last month. OSG director John van Turnhout was one of five industry representatives judging students' soybean creations.

PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHWALBE

### ADDED VALUE LIES IN EDIBLE OIL PRODUCTS

Adding value to Canadian soybeans has long been a focus of the Ontario Soybean Growers in export market development. The whole marketing chain – from the farmer to the consumer – has benefited from the initiative. The industry is now hoping for changes to Ontario's Edible Oil Products Act that could boost domestic processing and add domestic value to the crop.

The act, which is due to be reconsidered in June, makes it illegal to manufacture or sell products that combine non-dairy oil or fat with a dairy product. These products, such as butter-margarine blends and milk fortified with flax oil for an omega-3 boost, are available and in high demand in other provinces and worldwide for their nutritional, health and economic advantages, and they could provide a large market segment for soybean and other vegetable oils.

Ontario Soybean Growers' Industry and Government Relations Manager Fred Brandenburg says allowing these oil-supplemented dairy products in Ontario would greatly increase demand for soybean oil, and prompt more domestic soybean processing.

This means more domestically-produced soybean co-products such as soy meal for animal feed, and reduced dependence on external processing, which is currently where most value is added. Brandenburg says Canada's \$350-million annual import expenditure on soy meal could be greatly reduced by increasing domestic processing, and the edible oils market may be the key to doing that.