

PRODUCTION





Tuesday, May 6, 2014



NOT SO EASY

The concept of even emergence is easy in theory but hard in



THEIR OWN WAY

Lambton stewardship group moves on aftre loss of funding



STORY TELLERS

Farmer/bloggers make an impact inside and outside 26B agriculture

Guelph-area students discover that a career in agriculture can encompass a wide variety of science and technology options

BY MELANIE EPP Ontario Farmer

ast week, high school students from across southwestern Ontario were invited to discover careers in agriculture and beyond at a careers day hosted by the Ontario Agricultural College.

Nearly 400 high school students from Guelph, Wellington County, Kitchener-Waterloo, Dufferin, Bruce County and the Chatham-Kent area participated in the event.

Last year, the Career Education Council invited Karen Nelson, OAC Liaison Officer, to be a part of a Trillium Foundation-funded, careers in agriculture event in Elora.

"It was a fantastic event, so I asked them if they would do it again this year," she says. CEC agreed, but moved the event to Guelph where OAC could play a larger role.

"We're really pleased that OAC has taken that model and are working with it, expanding it and making it even better and even more interactive, so that it can continue to promote careers to students in this sector," says Lori Arsenault, executive director at there are huge opportunities." CEC.

CEC is a not-for-profit that works to promote careers in agriculture to high school students. They work directly with school boards in Guelph, Wellington and Dufferin to provide career-related activities and events.

"Increasingly, we're trying to focus on not just all careers, but specifically where there are job opportunities,"



Students from a grade 10 careers class from Centennial CVI in Guelph found out first-hand what opportunities exist in agriculture. Pictured from left to right are Lauren Zettle, Megan Tout, Puja Sapkota, Ally Pearson, Rebekah Smyth, Chris Fraresso

she says. "In agriculture in this region,

Students were divided into two groups; while one group met in the Exhibitor Room, the other participated in one of eight interactive hands-on sessions.

Sessions covered a variety of topics, environment systems, economics, greenhouses and soil science.

The Exhibitor Room offered a line-

up of speakers from Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc., who spoke about career opportunities in agriculture. Once the speaker sessions finished up, students were given the opportunity to speak with some of the 25 exhibitors in the room.

In the morning, keynote speaker about." including bioproducts, controlled Rene Van Acker, associate dean, external relations at OAC, talked about opportunities in the industry and why students should consider

pursuing a career in agriculture.

"(The purpose) was to break the notion that people think that agriculture means actually being on a farm," says Nelson. "We're trying to show the research and technology around agriculture that they might not think

A group of grade 10 students from

See FARMING on page 8B











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FARMING

Continued from page 1

a careers class at Centennial Vocational Institute in networking with the busi-Guelph attended the event.

"Before today, I thought agriculture was just about farming and that kind of stuff," says Chris Fraresso, 15. "There's definitely a way wider variety of things than what I had suspected before."

After spending the day on campus, Fraresso says he'll probably consider a career in agriculture, possibly in food science. Fraresso took part in the Passion for Chocolate session, but after a day on campus, wishes he'd attended the for the corn or alfalfa part of

thought agriculture was all about farming, too. "But benefit greatly from an there's a lot more science application. involved in it," she says. She health and controlled enviinteresting.

science. "I really found that fall. there's more of a marketing and business side to agricul- fall, of 2010, then applied no ture," she says. "I thought it further manure in the two was more science and farm- subsequent years. Averaged ing, but there are many differ- over the 2011 and 2012 growent jobs that relate to ing season, soybean grain agriculture."

photography as potential plots compared to those areas of interest, as well as receiving no manure. biotech. "GMOs are really cool," she says.

the agricultural industry since the soybeans." he first did so through a high

school project.

me, it's ag awareness, so prolic," says Sargeant. "It's also nesses that are here, too."

students to do something they

love, now produces video full "Doing this stuff here, for time. His company, Farm Boy Productions, was bought out, moting agriculture to the pub- and is now a division of Glacier Farm Media. The company offers video and media production services all Sargeant, who urges across the country, from PEI to Alberta.

Manure shows soy yield benefits

BY PETER RESCHKE

Ontario Farmer

ost livestock producers Lwill save their manure food science session instead. the rotation. But some north-Ally Pearson, 15, says she ern Ontario research has shown that soybeans can also

Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota, found the sessions on equine research manager at the Thunder Bay Agricultural Research ronment systems particularly Station has demonstrated close to a 10 bushel yield increase in Lauren Zettle, 15, says she soybeans when solid dairy was already interested in food manure was applied in the

He applied 50 t/ha in the yield was 650 kg/ha – 9.56 bu/ Zettle lists videography and acre – greater in the manured

Sahota says he often advises growers that, as long as the Bruce Sargeant of Farm Boy sulphur and boron require-Productions was one of the ments of the forage are met, exhibitors at the event. Sargeant "you don't have to apply has been producing video for manure to alfalfa; save it for

He attributes the yield

increase to soil structure and soil health benefits. Manure increases soil carbon and biological activity, providing food for the microorganisms and thereby keeping soils warmer. Also, the increased water-holding capacity from the added organic matter could help soybean roots better cope with moisture stress.

He stresses that growers need to consider the chemical, physical and biological properties of the soil. "Fertilizers alone can take care of chemical properties but, without soil amendments or organic manures, it can't take care of the physical and biological properties."

Monsanto's new app makes weed ID easier

rowers looking to identi-Ufied unusual weeds in their fields can now turn to the phone and the new Weed ID app from Monsanto.

According to a company press release it hosts a library of more than 48 weeds, each accompanied by high-resolution images and detailed descriptions. It uses characteristics like growth stage, shape and colour to categorize each weed and narrow search results.

The Map It section on the app uses GPS coordinates to map and track weed pressures. It lets farmers save key historical information and identify year-over-year trends in their own fields.

If the weed remains unidentifiable, the app directly links the farmer to a Monsanto agronomist and or tech support.

The Weed ID App is available for download from the App Store and is iOS and Android compatible. The app is available in both English and French. Visit www.weedidapp.ca to try it out for yourself.

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