

ONTARIO CANOLA GROWERS NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2022

Jonathon Sammons Leads OCGA 2022-23

Earlier this year the OCGA elected Jonathon Sammons as President for 2022-23. Jonathon farmers near Shelburne in District 2 and has been a past Canola Challenge winner. Will Runnalls was elected as Vice President from District 1 and Jeff Curry will once again take on the role of Treasurer. Jonathon will also take on the role of representing Ontario at the Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA). The CCGA represents over 43,000 canola farmers in Canada whom grow on nearly 21 million acres. CCGA is headquartered in Winnipeg with an office in Ottawa as well.

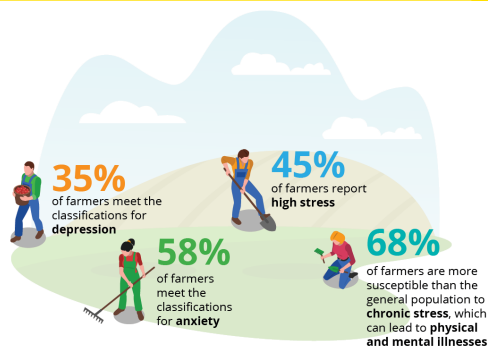


Jonathon Sammons

OCGA Joins Voices of Fertilizer Supply Concerns

With the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, fertilizer supplies and prices have impacted all parts of Ontario agriculture. OCGA joined with other commodity groups raising the awareness of the critical issue with government. The Ontario AgriBusiness Association led the effort in directing the concerns and keeping groups informed of the situation. Although supplies seem to have been offloaded in Ontario, prices continue to climb and access issues are still anticipated. As Ontario moves forward and plans for fall and next year's fertilizer supplies; OCGA will help bring the concerns of the Canola industry forward.

Farming Mental Health Programs- Canadian Mental Health Association



The many constant demands, pressures and time constraints that come with this line of work often make farmers and producers put their work ahead of their well-being. Living in rural areas and social stigma are also among the factors that make receiving treatment and accessing services more difficult. You are NOT alone!

Call: 1-866-267-6255

Also available on:



Website: ontario.cmha.ca/farmersmentalhealth

Managing Nitrogen for Canola

Meghan Moran, Canola & Edible Bean Specialist

At a recent virtual speaker series on canola topics, John Heard, Soil Specialist with Manitoba Ag, joined Ontario growers to answer questions on fertilizing canola. A canola crop needs 3 to 3.5 lbs of nitrogen (N) per bushel of grain produced. In spring canola production in Ontario, granular fertilizer is typically broadcast ahead of planting. The following are some of the questions and answers from the meeting.

In 2021 in Northeastern Ontario, there were heavy (5") rains in July. How much nitrogen is lost in this situation?

Denitrification occurs on warm, saturated soils and is driven by microbial activity. The general number John uses is that for each day in spring when soils are cool (5° C) and saturated you lose about 2 to 4 lbs N/ac. The losses double with every 10° C increase in soil temperature, so later in spring when soils are about 15° C you lose 4 to 8 lbs N/ac per day. During July rains when soils are 25° C and saturated you have doubled the losses per day again, resulting in catastrophic N loss. Some producers noted those who added more nitrogen to canola in Northeastern Ontario after heavy July rains had higher yields than those who did not.

What are the ideal moisture conditions for mitigating N losses when broadcasting fertilizer?

- When urea is not incorporated, up to 25% of the N can be lost to ammonia volatilization within a week if soils are warm and moist – this is the worst-case scenario. Soil moisture allows for urease enzyme activity (converting urea to ammonium/ammonia) while volatilization losses increase with temperature. If rain is not expected within 3-4 days, surface application without a protectant or incorporation is not advisable. Volatilization is a greater risk on sandy loam soils compared to clay loam or clay, but regardless of soil texture at least 4/10 of an inch of rain is needed to dissolve the urea and move it into the soil. If urea is applied to moist soil or 1/10 an inch of rain falls after application the urea melts and volatilization will continue until the soil dries or there is more rain to move it into the soil. As a rule of thumb, if there's enough moisture that soil sticks to tires rather than throwing up dust, use a protectant like Agrotain. Where soils are persistently moist in the spring, it's best to surface apply right before rain. Volatilization of nitrogen can also occur with ammonium sulphate (AMS) or Amidas if it sits on the soil for numerous days. This is especially true on calcareous soils and eroded knolls where

high soil pH increases ammonia loss. There are no protectant products like Agrotain for AMS. John suggested that there may be lower losses with Amidas on acidic soils.

How deep does urea need to be incorporated to mitigate volatilization losses?

- Incorporation of urea is a good way to mitigate volatilization, but shallow incorporation might not do the trick. John suggested that some vertical tillage tools do not incorporate deep enough. Research conducted in Quebec has shown that at 2" (5 cm) deep there can still be a 30% loss. There is a fair bit of scatter in the data (Figure 1) and, of course, with bone dry conditions volatilization will not occur even if fertilizer is sitting on the soil surface. But the trend in this data is clear; a depth of 3" (7.6 cm) is best for mitigating N losses.

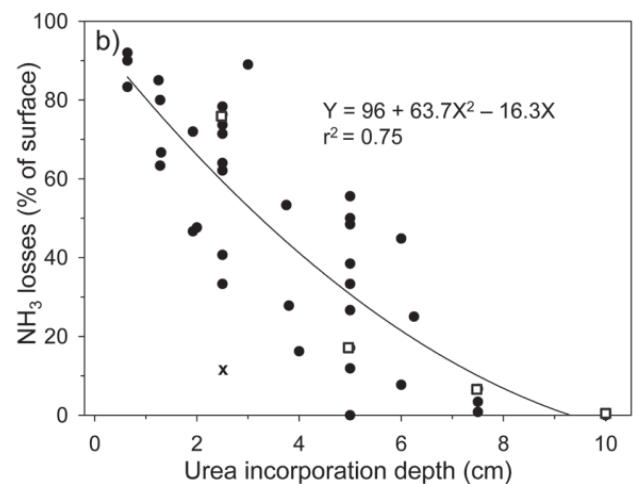


Figure 1. Summary of literature data on ammonia volatilization response to urea incorporation depth expressed as a proportion (%) of losses for surface-application. (Rochette *et al.*)

Thank you to John Heard for sharing his expertise with Ontario canola producers.

Reference

Rochette P, Angers DA, Chantigny MH, Gasser MO, MacDonald JD, Pelster DE, Bertrand N (2013) [Ammonia Volatilization and Nitrogen Retention: How Deep to Incorporate Urea?](#) J. Environ. Qual. 42: 1635-1642.

Canola Organizations Raise Priorities at AAFC Town Hall Discussion on Fertilizer Emissions Reduction

The Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA) and the Canola Council of Canada (CCC) participated in a town hall discussion as an initial step to providing canola sector input into Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) industry consultation for the fertilizer emissions reduction target.

"Now, more than ever, global customers are looking to Canada to support food security needs and to help address climate change," says Jim Everson, CCC President. "Ensuring canola farmers have access to nitrogen fertilizer is a critical part of meeting this global challenge."

Canadian canola growers are leaders in adopting farming practices and technologies that increase productivity while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including conservation tillage, pod shatter tolerant seed varieties, precision ag technologies and 4R nutrient stewardship practices. Growing demand for healthy vegetable oils, as well as the impact of simultaneous challenges affecting people's access to food around the globe, are creating even more demand for Canadian canola.

The town hall event included presentations from AAFC officials about the emissions reduction target and the issues identified in the discussion document, followed by a Q&A session.

"The proposal presented by AAFC has direct impact on farm sustainability and profitability, and it's essential

that farmers are consulted," says Rick White, President & CEO at CCGA. "We've requested that AAFC provide an opportunity for farmers to have direct input into the process through a virtual town hall."

CCGA and CCC noted that Canada's nitrogen emissions reduction effort must:

- Commit unreservedly to supporting growers in meeting global canola demand while working to maintain the long-term economic and environmental sustainability, including reducing nitrogen emissions.
- Focus on emissions reduction and not nitrogen use reduction, recognizing the critical role that efficient use of fertilizer plays in improving canola productivity.
- Recognize that there is no one-size-fits-all solution and deploy a variety of incentives and solutions that support farmers who adopt practices that work for their farms.
- Address the need for reliable data to accurately measure fertilizer emissions and progress.

CCGA and CCC are working with provincial canola associations to respond to AAFC in advance of the June 3, 2022 consultation deadline.

The Ontario Canola Growers has participated with the CCGA in raising priorities on fertilizer emissions



Canola Challenge 2022 — Bring in the Winning Yield!

The 2022 Canola Challenge will again have two separate Winter and Spring Canola Challenges.

Winter Canola Challenge

1st place winner – \$2,000 cash

2nd place winner – \$1,000 cash

How Do You Enter? What are the Rules?

1. Encouraged to submit an “Intent to Participate” by **June 30, 2022**.
2. Work with a supporting agronomist.
3. Minimum 10 acre canola plot.
4. Record yield from 1 acre of your field. Must be recorded by weigh wagon and verified by your supporting agronomist.
5. Submit your cropping and yield information on “Canola Challenge Results” by **Aug 31, 2022**.

Thank You to our Canola Challenges Sponsors...



Spring Canola Challenge

1st place winner – \$2,000 cash

2nd place winner – \$1,000 cash

How Do You Enter? What are the Rules?

1. Encouraged to submit your “Intent to Participate” by **Aug 31, 2022**.
2. Work with a supporting agronomist.
3. Minimum 10 acre canola plot.
4. Record yield from 1 acre of your field. Must be recorded by weigh wagon and verified by your supporting agronomist.
5. Submit your cropping and yield information on “Canola Challenge Results” by **Oct 14, 2022**.