

Our Vision

Building a consumer focused, farmer-owned agri-business with innovative people committed to excellence in a global marketplace.

Our Mission

To be a progressive, diversified agri-co-operative providing the benefits of ownership.

Our Motto

Proud to be farmer-owned.

12/05

Holiday Greetings
from Hensall District Co-operative

During this holiday season, we would like to extend our sincere thanks for your valued business and wish you continued prosperity in the New Year.

A NOTE ON BEAN VARIETIES

by Walt Vermunt, CCA-ON

Beans are beans . . . unless you're talking about yield and quality! We all know how important quality is in a competitive market. AC Cruiser and GTS544 are two white bean varieties that are performing well for our producers. Both have good upright plant architecture and are well suited for direct harvest.

AC Cruiser is the product of Soon Park's Harrow Research Station and has proven to be a very adaptable variety performing well in all locations across the province. AC Cruiser is a mid-season variety with good disease tolerance and should be considered if you're looking for a replacement for OAC Thunder. This old standby has worked well for mid-season producers over the past decade however, recent concerns of anthracnose and blight suggest we look for a less susceptible variety. AC Cruiser is a good choice.

GTS544 comes from the Gentec Seeds program that gave us the Vista and Scepter varieties. GTS544, a full-season variety, is getting great reviews from growers. Excellent plant growth, good yields, ease of harvest and end-user interest are all factors that contribute to producer acceptance.

HDC's food producers are planting edible beans on their best fields to maximize returns. With strong interest in edible beans evident for the 2006 growing season, you would be wise to have seed orders in place early. Contact your HDC Field Marketer to discuss the best options for your fields.

**IS IT TIME TO CHANGE OUR
CROP ROTATION CYCLE?**

by Rick Vandewalle, CCA-ON

As much as everyone hates change, change can be good! Weather was a big change in 2005 and surprisingly, average yields in the province were exceptional. Lately, it appears that economics largely dictates which crops are profitable, regardless of current crop rotations. So, is it time to change our crop rotation cycle? Let's look at some of the benefits:

SOIL HEALTH: Crop rotations have a large impact on the overall quality of the soil. In Ontario, we rotate crops like corn, beans, winter wheat and alfalfa on a regular basis. This adds to organic matter and helps reduce the effects of compaction. Corn and alfalfa in particular, improve natural drainage and increase pore spacing around the soil particles. Their fibrous roots penetrate deep into the soil and capture moist, residual nitrogen and other essential nutrients. A crop of grain corn provides as much leaf tissue, cob and stalk above ground as there is root structure below the surface. That provides an incredible amount of organic matter to the soil.

BREAK-UP OF DISEASE CYCLE: It has long been proven that three to five year crop rotations have significantly less disease than mono-culture crops. The main question asked by food producers is "How much yield will I lose by planting soybeans after soybeans or dry beans after dry beans?" The question I ask in return is, "Do you really want to take that risk?"

WEED RESISTANCE: With shorter rotation, herbicide rotation options become minimal. We are seeing more weed resistance to many of the commonly used herbicides in the province. Having more crops in the rotation slows down that rate of resistance. With fewer herbicides on the market today, we need to be aware and prepare to minimize weed resistance.

MANURE MANAGEMENT AND TIMING: With nutrient management plans, crop rotation provides options for applying manure at a time when the crop will utilize it. Limiting crop rotations can force food producers to delay planting, increase compaction, reduce yields and cause personal stress.

Continued over

CROP ROTATION *continued*

NEW MARKETING OPPORTUNITY: By limiting your crop rotations, you can also limit access to new markets. We are competing in a global economy. Ontario food producers are quality driven, so our products *can* return higher premiums than those from other countries. Don't limit your marketing opportunities. Look for ways to add value to crops that you are currently growing!

Grower Rebate Programs

Many of you are aware of the numerous manufacturer rebate programs that exist in the marketplace. In most cases HDC is able to submit data electronically to a third party that administers grower programs. If you have any questions about whether or not your information has been submitted please feel free to contact your local HDC Field Marketer.

One such program is the BASF Power Acre program. Growers can earn savings by bundling BASF corn and bean purchases and maximizing bonus offers. Contact your HDC Field Marketer today so they can help you to create a BASF Grower Business Plan for 2006.

Pesticide Grower Numbers

There have been some minor changes to the requirements retailers must observe as vendors of pesticides. Currently we maintain your Pesticide Grower Number electronically on our Thede Warde system. This number is printed on each of your pesticide invoices. New requirements ask that HDC retain a copy of the actual Grower Pesticide Card at our retail locations.

Please fax a copy of your Grower Pesticide Card to 519-262-3412 or bring into one of our locations. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

Grower Pesticide Safety Course

February 2, 2006 • 8:45 am • Forest Fair Grounds
Please contact Bob Wellington 519-330-1009 to register.

March 2, 2006 • Fort Rose Maple Company
Please call Ray (294-6252) or Merv (495-2740) to register.

Other dates and locations to follow.

IP Soybean Seed Discounts

5% EARLY ORDER/EARLY SIGN-UP DISCOUNT – Growers that commit to seed and sign an HDC IP soybean contract prior to December 31, 2005 will earn a 5% discount off the price of their soybean seed.

5% EARLY PAY DISCOUNT – Growers that pay for their soybean seed prior to January 14, 2006 will earn a 5% discount on their soybean seed.

HDC's goal is to contract top yielding IP varieties that our value-added growers want to grow and our end-users desire. Testimonials and trial results are available upon your request.

VOLUME DISCOUNT – Discount to be applied to HDC account June 30, 2006.

Units planted (22.7 kg)	Volume Discount
0-199	0
200-399	\$0.50/unit
400+	\$1.00/unit

NOTES:

- Seed varieties included are HDC Maitland, Arva, ADV Cadet, HDC 1600T, OAC Kent and X790.
- NK seed volumes will follow NK's soybean seed schedules

Thank you for your past and future support of our food-grade contracts.

DECEMBER FERTILIZER PRE-PAY PROGRAM

December cash fertilizer prices have now been established for anyone wishing to prepay their fertilizer requirements for next spring. Generally, the prices will all be higher than you would have paid one year ago. Higher natural gas costs have forced manufacturers to adjust prices accordingly and inventories have been tightened. Tightened supplies, firm demand and higher production costs resulted in higher N prices.

Phosphate and potash pricing has remained strong due to tight supplies and increased pressure from export markets and logistics.

Prices will be held over until the new year (January 14). Please contact your local HDC Field Marketer to discuss your fertility requirements for 2006.



Hensall
262-3002
1-800-265-5190

Seaforth
522-1000

Londesboro
523-4470

Exeter
235-1150

Ailsa Craig
293-3272

Parkhill
294-6252

Forest
786-5424

1-800-265-9000

PAPER CONTAINS 50% RECYCLED FIBRE & 10% POST-CONSUMER WASTE



HDC IP Soybean Programs for 2006

HDC is pleased to introduce our 2006 IP Soybean Program. Food-grade soybeans provide an excellent opportunity for growers to earn premiums on contract production with HDC.

HDC has built a #1 Identity Preserved Program by contracting food production with our members and providing consistent top-quality production for our end-users. Here are the available contracts:

NK S03-W4

Maturity	2650 CHU
Hilum Colour	Imperfect Yellow
Seed Size	Medium (approx. 2350 seeds/pound)
Plant Type	Slender
Plant Height	Medium-tall

STRENGTHS

- High yielding variety
- Consistent even in tough years
- #1 choice in the 2600 - 2700 CHU growing areas

VARIETY POSITION

- Adapted to all soil types and tillage systems
- Performs best in 7-21 inch row widths
- Above average protein

HDC Maitland

New for 2006! (Natto variety)

Maturity	2700 CHU
Hilum Colour	Yellow
Seed Size	Small (approx. 5500 seeds/pound)
Plant Type	Slender
Plant Height	Medium

STRENGTHS

- Lanceolate leaf structure
- Natto variety for increased premium market
- Yield 80-85% of check varieties

VARIETY POSITION

- Strong export demand
- Best suited in 7-14 inch rows

NK S08-80

Maturity	2750 CHU
Hilum Colour	Yellow
Seed Size	Medium (approx. 2500 seeds/pound)
Plant Type	Intermediate
Plant Height	Medium-tall

STRENGTHS

- Outstanding combination of agronomics and performance
- Consistent variety
- Excellent white mould tolerance

VARIETY POSITION

- Adapted to all row widths, tillage systems and soil types
- Excellent choice if mould has been a problem

NK S14-P6

Maturity	2850 CHU
Hilum Colour	Yellow
Seed Size	Large (approx. 2050 seeds/pound)
Plant Type	Slender
Plant Height	Medium

STRENGTHS

- Very good agronomic package
- Excellent yield potential and standability

VARIETY POSITION

- Highest performance in 7-14 inch rows
- Avoid no-till on heavy clay
- Adapted to all soil types

Advantage Arva

Maturity	2875 CHU
Hilum Colour	Yellow
Seed Size	Medium (approx. 2400 seeds/pound)
Plant Type	Slender
Plant Height	Medium

STRENGTHS

- Consistent variety
- Above average yield potential on fertile soil

VARIETY POSITION

- Best suited on loam – sandy loam soils
- Avoid no-till on heavy clay
- Best planted in 7-15 inch rows

Advantage ADV Cadet

New for 2006!

Maturity	2900 CHU
Hilum Colour	Yellow
Seed Size	Large (approx. 1750 seeds/pound)
Plant Type	Bush
Plant Height	Medium-tall

STRENGTHS

- Excellent combination of both yield and protein

VARIETY POSITION

- Large seeded / High protein
- Yield 90-95% of check varieties

HDC 1600T

Maturity	2950 CHU
Hilum Colour	Yellow

Seed Size	Large (approx. 2000 seeds/pound)
Plant Type	Intermediate
Plant Height	Medium

STRENGTHS

- Great emergence
- Best suited for 7-21 inch rows
- Excellent phytophthora tolerance

VARIETY POSITION

- Large seeded / High protein
- Adapted to all soil types and tillage systems
- High pod set

SeCan OAC Kent

Maturity	3050 CHU
Hilum Colour	Yellow
Seed Size	Medium (approx. 2250 seeds/pound)
Plant Type	Medium-bush
Plant Height	Medium

STRENGTHS

- Great emergence
- Excellent combination of yield and end-user demand
- Very high yields in both wet and dry years

VARIETY POSITION

- Well suited for no-till planting
- Adapted to all tillage systems, row widths, and soil types

HDC X790

Maturity	3075 CHU
Hilum Colour	Yellow
Seed Size	Large (approx. 1650 seeds/pound)
Plant Type	Bush
Plant Height	Medium

STRENGTHS

- Large seeded/High protein variety
- Has shown better tolerance to white mould than other Vinton types
- Good phytophthora tolerance

VARIETY POSITION

- Best suited for 3000 CHU+ growing areas
- Yield 85-90% of check varieties
- Strong export demand

DON'T DELAY – ALL CONTRACTS ARE LIMITED. Please call your local HDC Field Marketer today.