MCCC 2019 - Ontario

Anne Verhallen
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
The times they are a changing
Leaving a legacy. Let’s talk soil.

“If we won the lottery, we’d stay right here and keep investing in the farm and in the soil. For us, it’s about passing the farm on to the next generation and giving them a great start.”

Sara & Chris Wyck
Beaumont Farms
Mitchell, Ontario

Farming: Cash crops
Soil health strategy: no-till corn, beans and wheat, cover crops after wheat.
Soil story: One of the biggest goals on the farm is to bring up the organic matter levels so we can reduce fertilizer inputs.
When the farm first went into cash crops ten years ago, my parents started into no-till and we've since added cover crops as well to keep the soil healthy.
Last word: We try to grow a diversity of crops to make our soil healthy as well as keep the farm healthy.

Join the conversation.
Sign up at ontariosoil.net
#LetsTalkSoil

Great production starts here. Let’s talk soil.

“Everything starts in the soil. Whether it’s in your dairy barn or your cash crops, everything comes from the land to begin with. So, if you look after the land, you look after your bottom line.”

Thomas Farrell
RCSG Farmer
Kincardine, Ontario

Farming: Dairy, cash crops
Soil health strategy: Cover crops after wheat, composting manure, no-till
Soil story: We started cover crops after wheat six years ago to take up nutrients from liquid manure. It worked so well we're starting cover crops after corn as well. Better soil is growing better feed, healthier cows and increased milk production.
Last word: It doesn’t cost a lot to change the system, it costs a lot more to fall behind.
Twitter: @ThomasFarrell23

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Weathering hard times. Let’s talk soil.

“A decent goal, as a farmer, is to be able to withstand an economic downturn. Soil health and economic sustainability have a parallel line here. With poor soil, you’ll always be at the mercy of the weather and markets. With strip-till and cover crops, we’re cutting back our nitrogen, fuel, labour and equipment costs — and our yields are increasing. We can weather the markets...

Rick Kootstra
Kootstra Farms
Clinton, Ontario

Farming: Poultry, cash crops
Soil health strategy: We strip-till corn and white beans, no-till wheat and soybeans, use manure and grow cover crops.
Last word: Find a system that works for you. Increasing soil health and reducing input costs is in your farm’s best interest.
Twitter: @RickKootstra

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRT #</th>
<th>HERBICIDE TREATMENT</th>
<th>WSSA GROUP</th>
<th>Sweet corn</th>
<th>Seed corn</th>
<th>Field corn</th>
<th>Crop Tolerance</th>
<th>Tolerant Hybrids</th>
<th>Grassy Weeds (Annual)</th>
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Annual Ryegrass

Corn – Preplant

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<th>Treatment</th>
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<td>Roundup + Assure</td>
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<td>Roundup + Poast</td>
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Group 1 Herbicide

From Mike Cowbrough, Weed Management Specialist – Field Crops
The Agronomic Attributes of Cover Crops Incorporated in Cropping Systems in Western Ontario.

Matt Stewart
Co-Advisors: Dr. Dave Hooker and Dr. Bill Deen
Others: Manish Raizada, Godfrey Chu, Tejendra Chapagain, Ramesh Earpina

Split Plot Nested Design

Whole plot: Crop Rotation (2)
Corn-Soybean
Corn-Soybean-Wheat

Split: tillage systems (2)
Conventional
Minimum

Nest: Cover crop treatments (8)
Within Corn-Soybean rotation (2)
Within Corn-Soybean-Wheat rotation (6)
+ 2 different N treatment (0, 56kg/ha)