

OBPC Biomass Forum & AGM

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

I Stone Road W, Guelph, Ontario

OBPC Feature Speaker

"The Cents in Ontario Biomass - Budding Opportunities in an Emerging Biomass Market"

Nick Betts is the Applied Research Coordinator with Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association. He works with government, university, and farmers to facilitate innovative and emerging agricultural research across the province. Nick has a B.Sc.(Ecology) from University of Guelph and is completing a M.Sc.(Biogeography) at WLU, in Waterloo, while holding an A.Ag. designation from the Ontario Institute of Agrology and Environmental Professional in Training designation from CECAB. He lives in Elmira with his wife, daughter, and dog. For the past three years, Nick has worked through various government funds, universities, and organizations, like the Ontario Biomass Producers Cooperative, to facilitate research of the agronomics and economics associated with developing the agricultural biomass value-chain in Ontario.



OBPC Panel Moderators

"The Challenge of Connecting the Biomass Sectors"

Dr. Ian McDonald has been the Applied Research Coordinator for the Field Crops Unit of the Ag Development Branch of OMAFRA since 2000. He is based at the University of Guelph main campus in the Plant Ag Dept. where he works with academic, farm organizations such as OSCIA, OMAFRA, GFO, IFAO, OFA members/staff and others to validate research successes within the scope of farm based adoption. Previously he spent 15 years working on pesticide research for two multi-national companies.

He has been working closely within and beyond OMAFRA and UofG on the potential opportunities of the emerging bioeconomy and is most interested in the profitable and sustainable supply of new and existing agricultural feedstock's to emerging industries in the bioeconomy.



Dr. Jim Todd joined OMAFRA as a crop transition specialist in 2005. Jim began his career with a BSc from the University of Waterloo, followed by a Ph.D. from the old horticulture department at the University of Guelph. After graduation, he began a series of post-doctoral positions which ultimately led to a position at Monsanto in St. Louis. While there, he worked on projects ranging from large scale gene expression analysis to looking for ways to increase the protein content of corn seed. As OMAFRA's transition crop specialist, Jim works on identifying crops with potential to serve as agricultural feedstocks for Ontario's developing bioeconomy.

