

Prepared by Brenda Frick,  
Department of Plant Sciences, 51 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A8  
Phone: 306-966-4975; Email: [brenda.frick@usask.ca](mailto:brenda.frick@usask.ca)

I am happy to announce that Jennifer Bromm had a beautiful baby girl on March 5. The family is doing well after their ordeal. They are currently living in Williams Lake, BC.

This last couple of months seems to have been a time of meetings and road trips, of summarizing and reporting.

I was interviewed by CBC TV SK News about the Canadian Organic Standard and by Bob Simpson for the Market Prospects feature of CTV Farmgate (the latter is available at <http://marketprospects.usask.ca/> )

I made a number of presentations:

- ✓ “Organic Agriculture, An Overview” given at the Crop Production Show in Saskatoon for Blaine Recksiedler, the organic specialist at Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food. Blaine who was prevented from attending by a major snow storm.
- ✓ “Organic Standards” given to the AGM of the Saskatchewan Fruit Growers Association
- ✓ “Green manures 203 – Working with the limitations of brown soils” at the ProCert annual meeting in Regina. I also worked with Wally Hamm to help identify speakers, and to bring a number of academic posters to the meeting.
- ✓ “BOMPs”, coauthored with Jennifer Bromm and Sandy Lowndes prepared for the OCIA SK#8 meeting; I also gave an update on prairie events
- ✓ I attended the organic dairy meeting in Leduc, one of 3 such meetings in Alberta. Both AB and MB are moving forward on organic dairy initiatives. At the Leduc meeting there was distinct interest from conventional farmers. The meeting was followed by the GO AGM. I gave a prairie update to the AGM.

I prepared articles for the Western Producer

- ✓ “High School Student Discovers the Benefits of Intercropping”, an article coauthored with Alison Nelson and Alana Kornelson from University of Alberta
- ✓ “Pick Green Manures for Energy Efficient Nitrogen” based in part on Martin Entz’ presentation to ProCert

I made revisions to an article on phosphorus coauthored with Derek Lynch and Ralph Martin.

I wrote an article on forages for the GO newsletter in Alberta.

## News from OACC Prairie Office, April to June, 2006

I met with people to discuss my program:

- ✓ The SAF/OACC steering committee discussed my past activities (I prepared a summary for them of those activities funded by SAF) and future plans. Priorities for the coming year include a Needs Assessment and work on *Organic Farming on the Prairies*.
- ✓ I flew to Guelph to attend the OACC board meeting, and summarize my program. I also met with Ralph Martin and Andy Hammermeister to prepare for Ralph's sabbatical (starting in July) and Andy's new position of acting director of OACC.

I worked with a variety of organic groups:

- ✓ I worked with the SAF team of Don Perrault, Leroy Bader, Patrick Mooleki and Shannon Chant on an organic marketing series "*Telling Your Story*", featuring Monica Ahlstrom, documentary filmmaker and facilitator, and Rosalie Cunningham, consumer trends expert with Alberta Agriculture. I facilitated sessions at Scott, Melfort and Moose Jaw SK
- ✓ OACC hosts a conference call of organic specialists. This quarter we discussed the minor use program for organic inputs and concerns about supply management
- ✓ I attended the Saskatchewan Organic Directorate meeting in Dundurn, SK. We discussed the Learning Needs Assessment done by Lorraine Beaudette
- ✓ I met with EarthRenew, a group in Calgary, with Kevin Friesen from Hempoil Canada, and Jazeem Wahab from the Irrigation Centre and Sukhdev Malhi of AAFC Melfort about possible research projects.
- ✓ I participated in the OCIA RnE board meeting and AGM in Lincoln NE. Meetings were long and intense, but I feel great progress is being made, especially considering our shoe-string budget. We have farmer driven exploratory and demonstration projects, on farm research projects in collaboration with teams of researchers and farmers and partnership in the development of organic research facilities.
  - I prepared a couple posters for the meeting, as well as collaboratively preparing and presenting the annual report to the AGM
  - I gave a presentation on doing on-farm research at our Farmer and Researcher Working Together workshop.
  - We awarded the Outstanding Organic Farmer of 2007 to Marc Loiselle of Vonda SK; awards of merit went to Raymond Loo, PEI and Michael Ostrey, Nebraska. I later attended the OCIA SK#2 meeting to present Marc Loiselle his Farmer of the Year award in person. [I am so proud of our farmers. OCIA has 38 chapters who can nominate candidates, from an international membership that I understand exceeds 2000, yet in the two years we have made this presentation, the award has gone to SK farmers both times! Way to go guys; you're the best!]
  - The OCIA RnE 2007 Scholarship was awarded to Allison Jack of Cornell. Runners up Doug Collins, Washington State University and Emily Vollmer, North Carolina State University
  - I was elected chair of the RnE board for 2007

And of course this took place over a background of responding to email and voice messages, summarizing financial records, providing extension information to callers, and mundane office issues like a new phone system.