



Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

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June 27, 2022

The Honourable Robert Black
Senator - Ontario
Chair, Canadian Senators Group
Chair, Agriculture and Forestry Committee

SENATE OF CANADA
Room 343 East Block Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A4
t: 613-943-3416
SenCanada.ca

Hello Senator Black,

Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) was very pleased to learn the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry would be undertaking a new study on soil health. We recognize it is an extremely important and ambitious endeavor.

Founded in 1939, OSCIA is a unique not-for-profit grassroots farm organization. Over 50 county and district associations encompassed by 11 designated regions make up OSCIA's network of members. Our diverse membership of about 4,000 has a significant presence in all agricultural areas of the province and across all major sectors. The OSCIA mandate is to facilitate responsible economic management of soil, water, air, and crops through development and communication of innovative farming practices. We are farmers actively seeking, testing, and adopting optimal farm production and stewardship practices. The organization focuses squarely on producer education and has been delivering stewardship programming to Ontario producers for 35 years. Our top research priority is soil health.

Among our many other accomplishments in program delivery, we are pleased to have been selected by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to deliver the On Farm Climate Action Fund program in Ontario. Information on the opportunities available to Ontario farm businesses will be revealed in July, with the first intake opening in August.

Your letter of April 20, 2022 indicated you were looking for tour opportunities to learn more about soil health initiatives and the farmers who have developed systems uniquely designed for their operations and soil types.

We are pleased to suggest two farms in eastern Ontario that are willing to host the Agriculture and Forestry Committee.

1. Kaiser Lake Farms (Eric and Max Kaiser) eric.kaiser@kos.net, 613-561-2791
 - Located in Lennox & Addington County near Nappanee on the shores of the Bay of Quinte
 - Pullet operation with 1,150 workable acres in a corn-soybean-winter wheat- cover crop rotation
 - Silty-clay soils systematically tile drained

- Committed to entirely no-till since 2001
- Chicken manure, no-till, structural erosion control and crop rotation are key components of building soil health and resilience
- Eric was named OSCIA Soil Champion in 2017 and has also been active in Ontario Soil Network and Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario. Max was OSCIA President in 2011.

2. Cedar Lodge Farms (Warren Schneckenburger) wschneckenburger@ontariosoilcrop.org
613-330-9787

- Located in Dundas County near Morrisburg
- 2022 President of OSCIA
- Third generation cash crop farm producing corn, soybeans, winter wheat, and edible beans
- Over the past ten years Warren has implemented many strategies for soil conservation, including improving crop rotation, implementing strip tillage and no-till practices, applying controlled traffic farming and planting cover crops
- Primary focus is on soil health and compaction mitigation
- Named Innovative Farmer of the Year in 2019 by the Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario

If these farms interest the Standing Senate Committee for a tour, we urge you to contact the two individuals directly. Their availability to speak with you will depend on timing. Eric suggests the last two weeks of August through the first two weeks of September would be best for Kaiser Lake Farms.

Both farm operations provide outstanding opportunities to learn about soil health practices and how they have evolved over the years to fulfill environmental, profitability and social goals. We encourage you to take advantage.

Sincerely,



Andrew Graham,
Executive Director

Copy: Kimberly Roper, Office of the Honourable Rob Black
OSCIA Executive Committee