

## General Manager's Message



"showers" for March 28th – 31st, last spring frost, May 5th. We'll have to wait and see!

Spring product is arriving daily in our stores and garden centers. Spring bulbs, seeds and indoor gardening supplies are now in stock. We are installing new LED lighting in all locations, both to save energy, and to improve lighting in our stores and work areas. You will begin to see Ace branded materials and hardware items as we embrace Ace Farm and Garden branding in our stores. Ace will bring a greater depth to our hardware offering including an on-line catalogue with ordering capabilities. Stay tuned for more details.

Spring seed and fertilizer deliveries are in full swing. We will be contacting growers this month to take advantage of early take discounts and/or extended terms for crop input deliveries. Be sure and contact your branch or field man with any outstanding seed orders as supply on the more popular varieties continues to tighten up. North Wellington Co-op will be accepting empty seed bags and totes, as well as triple rinsed chemical containers for proper disposal and recycling. We can provide plastic bags to hold your folded seed bags and chemical jugs for return to

Winter had some staying power in February, with lots of 15+ degree temperature swings. Groundhogs predicted another 6 weeks of winter, so now we look forward to the "lions and lambs" of March. The Farmers Almanac is calling for "rainy periods and mild", March 1st – 10th and

Harriston. This continues to be a great opportunity for us to show how hard our industry is working to protect the environment.

Our Energy Division has been very busy and we thank you for giving us three days notice for non-automatic deliveries. There has been some interest in maximum price contracts for fuel again this year. In a nutshell, a grower can pay a 3-cent premium to cap his fuel price at current price plus 4 cents. The price will however fall with the market. This program can act like an insurance policy against run away pricing. If you have interest in this type of program, contact Kelsey, Allan or Mike in the Harriston office for further details. Now is also a good time of year to take a look at farm storage tanks. Contact your driver, branch or the Harriston Office, for pump or hose repairs, tank painting, or to order your diesel with Deselex Gold.... "absolutely the best fuel to power and protect your diesel engines"! Remember all of our farm fuels can be financed on FS Credit! Improved cash-flow, competitive rates, locally administered, FS Credit is a great program for your crop financing requirements.

Have a happy St. Patrick's Day, a happy Easter, welcome back daylight savings time (the 11th) and spring's first day is on the 20th! We'll get on with spring yet!

Regards....

Kelly Boyle  
 General Manager

## Item of the Month

**Stokes Fire Starters**

4290500

**8<sup>99</sup>**



Sale price in effect until March 31, 2018 or while stock lasts. First come, first served. No rainchecks.

**Rocher Hollow Squirrel OR Kinder Egg Easter**

44425004/44425005

**6<sup>77</sup>**



## Easter Weekend

In observance of Easter, North Wellington Co-operative offices, bulk deliveries, gas bars and stores will be closed Friday, March 30, 2018.

All operations will return to normal business hours Saturday, March 31, 2018.

Have a safe and happy long weekend!



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## Canada Blooms Bus Trip

Once again, North Wellington Co-op Garden Centres are hosting a Bus Trip to Canada Blooms in Toronto.

### Thursday, March 15, 2018

Bus picks up in Hanover at 8:00 am at the Giant Tiger Parking Lot  
Bus picks up in Harriston at 8:30 am at North Wellington Co-op

Cost of the trip is \$59.99 including HST

Ticket entitles you to one show ticket and a seat on a deluxe coach to and from the show.

For more information, or to reserve your spot, contact Jennifer Magwood in Hanover at 519-364-4777 or [jmagwood@northwellington.ca](mailto:jmagwood@northwellington.ca) or your local branch garden centre.

## Member Loans

### MEMBER LOANS INTEREST RATES

For new investments & renewal of member loans at North Wellington Co-operative Services Inc.

TERM	\$100-\$4900	\$5000+
1 year	3.95%	4.45%
3 year	5.20%	5.70%
5 year	5.70%	6.20%

Rates subject to change based on Royal Bank prime rate.

## Chick Days

Chick Days are here!

North Wellington Co-op sources quality day old chicks, started layer breeds, started turkeys and ready to lays from Frey's Hatchery.

Delivery Days are as follows:

March 27, April 10 and 24, May 8 and 22, June 5 and 19, July 3, August 7, September 18 and October 2.

We suggest that you order your birds at least 4 weeks in advance and that you have meat birds booked in for processing before ordering.

To order, contact your local branch.



## New Store Hours

North Wellington Co-op is updating our store hours effective Monday, February 5, 2018! New hours are as follows:

**All Branches:** Monday to Friday: 8 am to 5:30 pm

**Mount Forest, Durham & Harriston:** Saturday: 8 am to 5:00 pm  
Sundays: Closed

**Hanover:** Saturday: 8 am to 5:30 pm & Sunday: 10 am to 4 pm

## Credit Notes

**REMINDER:** Please allow **at least** 3 business days for your payment to reach us. For online, telephone and ATM bank payments, the payment credit will show on your NWC account on the day that it is credited to our bank account, not the day you initiated it. Payments mailed by cheque will be credited on the day NWC receives it in the mail, not the date on the cheque or the postage meter. Remember, our due date is the **20th** of the month following.

### Pre-Authorized Payment of Your Account Balance

North Wellington Co-op will be awarding a **\$20 Tim Horton's Gift Card** to each customer who signs up between Feb 1, 2018 and April 30, 2018 to have their NWC account paid automatically through their bank account!!!

Just ask any NWC employee by phone or in person for the Pre-Authorization form. You will receive a \$20 Tim Horton's Gift Card right after your first payment is withdrawn (ineligible if 1st transaction returned NSF).

The Pre-Authorization Form is also available online at [www.northwellington.ca](http://www.northwellington.ca) under credit forms.

## Gallagher Fencing Day

North Wellington Co-op, Hanover Branch is hosting a Gallagher Fencing Day, Saturday, March 24, 2018. Bruce Abbey from Gallagher will be available at the branch with demos and to answer questions from 12pm to 4pm. 10% off all Gallagher products throughout the day.

For more information, please call the Hanover branch at 519-364-4777 or e-mail [hanover@northwellington.ca](mailto:hanover@northwellington.ca)



## Curling Bonspiel Winners!

Another successful bonspiel was held on February 17, 2018 at the Harriston Curling Club. Ron Ross, John Simpson, Barry Holliday & John Eckhardt were the overall winners.

Congratulations!

## Health & Safety On Your Farm

### Methods of identifying hazards

Identifying hazards is recognizing all the little things that can group together and cause big things to go wrong. Seeing the potential hazard before something bad happens will help to keep your family and employees safe. Depending on the severity, the hazardous situation may need to be fixed immediately or an expert called in or put off until a later time.

### Employee concerns and comments

By law, "it is the duty of every employee to report hazards to their supervisor". (OHSA section 28.) If someone sees a broken light, a frayed electrical cord, a flat tire, a guard missing from a machine, a pool of liquid on the ground, a gravel driveway sliding away, or anything else that looks different, out of place or like it could lead to something bad, they need to report the situation to their supervisor. The concern should be recorded so it doesn't get forgotten.

### Monthly inspections

Inspections are often checklists that include the key hazards or equipment for the whole farm. You should walk around your farm and ensure the emergency response equipment, the mandatory safety items, and the recognized hazard controls are in order. If not, the hazard has been identified and can be fixed. Emergency response equipment needs to be checked every month to ensure it is ready for use. The mandatory safety items can include your bulletin board and all the information on it, and posted emergency procedures. The hazard controls listed are checked off if they are complete or in good repair,

### Equipment manuals

Manuals from new equipment should be read and stored in a safe place. If there are any hazards with using the equipment they will be listed along with their controls. If they suggest checking the oil every month then it should be added to your monthly inspection. They often suggest if PPE is needed and that can become part of your monthly checklist and part of your safe operating procedure (SOP).

### Incident reports

Learning from mistakes is reactive but should prevent a future accident. Reviewing report details and investigating incidents that have occurred should help you identify hazards you may have missed or didn't expect and enable you to correct them. SDSs for chemicals and products – You should read the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for any new chemical or product you use on the farm and make note of the emergency response and hazard controls they provide. All the SDS for things you used should be stored in a binder accessible to all employees.

### External auditors, testing

Experts that come to your farm to do testing (air, water) or audits (nutrient management) may tell you about hazards you have and controls you should implement.

## Voice from the Field

### Frost Seeding for Pasture Renovation

Do you have a pasture that is getting run down? Do you want to thicken up a productive grass field? Then you should consider frost seeding! This is the best way to thicken-up your stands, without having to rip-up the field and start again. We often get questions about when to do a broadcast frost seeding, and far too often people want to do it in May. This is usually too late, as we need some repetitive frosts to get the seeds into the ground. Depending on what your goal is for your hay field or paddock, it will determine as to what grass or clover species/mix will work best for you. If you are considering frost seeding, talk to your NWC Crop Specialist or branch manager.

### Spring is around the corner - Are You Ready?

With spring just around the corner, are you ready for it? Do you know what your crop fertility programs are? Have you lined up all of your seed? Do you have your neonic seed paperwork filled out? What are your herbicide and fungicide programs for your crops? Have you thought about which cover crop you will be using on your farm this year? If you answered 'NO' to any of these questions, talk to your NWC Crop Specialist to discuss which strategy or option works best for your farm.

### Cover Cropping - Red Clover a great option!

With spring around the corner, we have our first opportunity to sow a cover crop, red clover. This can be done in either your winter cereal or spring cereal crop. If you are broadcasting into your winter wheat stand or sowing with your spring cereal, aim for a 5 to 7 pounds per acre. Double cut and single cut clover are both good options, but keep in mind, double can get taller than single. When broadcasting, best to overlap to ensure good seed coverage over the field. According to OMAFRA numbers, a good red clover stand can provide the next year's corn crop up to 50 lbs of nitrogen. Additionally, there are several benefits to adding a cover crop in the rotation which include, building organic matter, improving soil tilth, sequestering crop nutrients, breaking up compaction layers, and many more. If you have any further questions about red clover or any other cover crop, contact your NWC Crop Specialist.

### Get a Head-Start on Weed Control - DuPont HeadStart Program

DuPont is once again offering their HeadStart early book herbicide program. By ordering your DuPont Herbicide early, you can save \$3.50 per acre on soybean products and \$1.00 per acre on corn products. The herbicides included in the program are Classic, Canopy Pro, Freestyle, Guardian Max, Guardian Plus, Engarde and Destra. If you are interested in taking advantage of these savings, contact your NWC Crop Specialist to which product works best for your farm. Order deadline is March 31, 2018 and note there is a 40 acre minimum purchase.

## Garden Corner

by Paula LaRocque, Mount Forest Garden Centre

### Bring On Spring

Spring cannot be more welcomed this year, after the up and down weather we've been having recently. I have had many customers tell me that their fruit trees have been the best survival tool for the bunnies and deer. This is why it is so important to wrap your tree trunks early enough and high enough to protect them from the four legged midnight diners. North Wellington Co-op always has tree wraps on hand for the protection of all your trees, along with various sprays & powders that will keep away domestic and wild animals. Quite often the only damage will be a bit of girdling to the tree bark and it will not kill your tree. We have a PRUNING SEALER that has natural bees wax and can be spread on the open wounds of your tree, keeping all the fungi and bugs from entering the interior wood and creating more problems. Make sure to apply it in early spring before the bugs make their appearance.

It's that time again where all our seed potatoes, bulk seed and onion sets will be, or already have arrived, along with all the beautiful bulbs and small fruit bushes to get you started. Remember, we will be having our STRAWBERRY PLANT ORDERS again. Come in or call us to check the availability and the ordering dates.

### Get the Kids Growing

The knowledge of growing your own food is a big factor in today's society. Getting the kids growing gives them the opportunity to get outside, knowledge of vegetables, the difference in taste of garden quality to store quality, and the cost of seed compared to cost per pound at the grocery store. So give them a corner of their very own and let them GROW. We have a great variety of easy to grow seeds for them along with kids' garden tools and gloves.

It is that time of year for flowers and shrubs to start arriving at your North Wellington Garden Centres. We are here to help with all your growing needs, so if we do not have what you need please let us know and we will try to get it for you or give you suggestions on alternatives.

**HAPPY SPRING!**

## From the Feed Pen

### Are you feeding and realizing the Benefits of Masterfeeds Blueprint Beef Cow Mineral?

Masterfeeds Blueprint mineral has been developed with three formulas: Winter, Summer, and Breeder.

Blueprint mineral has been tested through the Alltech nutrigenomics center to optimize the mineral balance for cattle at their various production stages. Blueprint mineral has many benefits for cow/calf operators, among them is the Total Replacement Technology. Through this inclusion, 100% of the micro minerals are chelated for maximum uptake by the animal being fed. Cattle in Western Canada, where the blueprint Program has been fed for two years, have shown improvements in conception rate and some health benefits. This coupled with the advancements in Fetal Programming of beef calves can really show some advantages for next years' calf crop. The Summer and Breeder mineral are available with our Garlic extract Fly Control. For more information contact your local branch.

## Sheep Day

North Wellington Co-op is hosting our annual Sheep Day on Saturday, March 10th, 2018 from 9 am to 3:30pm at the Mount Forest and District Sports Complex, 850 Princess St, Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L3.

We have a great lineup of speakers throughout the day. For a full schedule, go to our website [www.northwellington.ca](http://www.northwellington.ca).

To register or for more information, please contact our Mount Forest Branch at 519-323-1271 or [mountforest@northwellington.ca](mailto:mountforest@northwellington.ca)



## Save the Date!

Mark Tuesday, March 27, 2018 on your calendar for a Smartlic Information Meeting. Smartlic reps will be on hand to introduce the Insect Growth Regulator (IGR) program.

The meeting will be held at the Mount Forest & District Sports Complex. For more information or to RSVP, contact the Mount Forest Branch at 519-323-1271 or [mountforest@northwellington.ca](mailto:mountforest@northwellington.ca).

## Harriston

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