

Drought killing area crops

Crops can't be saved: farmers

Even if rain falls in the next few days within the region, it's probably too late to save the crops, say area farmers.

"The corn and soy beans (crops) have really started to feel the effects of the drought," said Charlie Tilt, president of the Halton Federation of Agriculture. "The rain is crucial at this time because pollination is taking place now."

Without a hearty, slow rain, soon crops will leave much to be desired, agreed Harry Brander, regional director of the Ontario

Federation of Agriculture.

"We'd need a couple inches of rain at least — but slow rain. In a thunderstorm it just comes down so fast that it runs off and doesn't really do all that much," he said, adding that isolated storms two weeks ago did little, if anything, to help area farmers.

Earlier in the season, farmers were optimistic about their crops. The rain-filled spring allowed farmers to get an early start to the season, Mr. Brander said.

"They were looking good, but after the May 24 long weekend (the weather) kind of did a 180 as far as rain. The crops were really looking good and taking off, but now with this drought the crops are deteriorating very fast every day."

The wheat crops have been holding up fairly well in the drought, agree the two farmers. Hay crops have also shown some promise, but their worries lay with the corn and soy beans.

"It's likely too late for the corn and soy beans but it's too early to tell," said Mr. Tilt. "The pastures are gone. Lots of the fields in the area are showing the effects of little rain."


Corn stalk can grow between six and 10 feet tall but with the lack of rain the corn is standing less than four feet, said Mr. Tilt, who owns a 113 acre corn and soy bean farm in Moffat. "We're still hoping to get something (good crop size). The dry weather has been prevalent across Ontario."

Heart attack killed worker at steel plant

An autopsy has revealed that a worker who fell off a truck at Russel Metals on Holgate Crescent last Friday died from a heart attack.


Mississauga's David Nadell, 53, was pronounced dead at Milton District Hospital shortly after the fall at the steel products manufacturing plant.

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