

# MEDIA RELEASE



## Ridgetown Campus Welcomes Support to Further the Science on Corn Fusarium

**April 2, 2007 – Ridgetown:** Furthering the science on corn fusarium disease and subsequent mycotoxin levels that affected Ontario's 2006 corn crop is an important objective for the Ontario seed trade, Ontario corn producers and the University of Guelph's Ridgetown campus.

To help ensure continued high quality Ontario corn production, the Canadian Seed Trade Association (CSTA) has recently agreed to the release of corn samples from the 2006 Ontario Corn Performance Trials (OCPT) for utilization in a fusarium research project at Ridgetown. "CSTA recognizes that the 2006 fusarium situation, caused by extreme weather conditions, could provide opportunities to learn more about fusarium," states Bill Leask, Executive Vice-President, CSTA.

CSTA's agreement to release corn samples is important to Ridgetown's fusarium research objectives including: determining the relationship between visible mould and toxin levels; investigating why some fields are more contaminated than others; and the potential development of a mycotoxin predictive tool.

"Ridgetown Campus has a world-renowned system for fusarium forecasting with disease scientists located in the heartland of Ontario's corn and seed corn production areas," notes Tim Welbanks, Production Information Manager, Canada, Pioneer Hi-Bred.

Dr. David Hooker and Dr. Art Schaafsma, two of Ridgetown's leading fusarium researchers have been studying the disease for almost two decades, and look forward to contributing to the development of a reliable vehicle for testing that will benefit all stakeholders in Ontario's corn industry.

The majority of the Ridgetown research work with the OCPT samples will be completed by January 2008.

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