

## CWSF 2007 - Truro, Nova Scotia



### Ben Underwood

#### Cultivating Cultivators

**Division:** Engineering & Computing Sciences / None

**Category:** Junior

**Region:** Avon Maitland-Huron Perth

**City:** Wingham, ON

**School:** Turnberry P.S.

**Abstract:** This project studied the effects of manure on earthworm populations in a no-till method of farming. Four types of manure were tested; cattle, sheep, hog, and chicken. Two control plots were used to test populations without manure, and using conventional tillage. Cattle manure produced the highest population of earthworms while the control plots revealed significantly lower populations. All the manure plots showed increased earthworm populations.

#### Biography

Ben Underwood is 12 years old and a grade 7 student at Turnberry Central Public School. He lives on a farm just outside Wingham, Ontario with his parents, two older brothers, and one younger sister. Ben has been a member of many school sports teams including soccer, basketball, and volleyball. In his spare time he plays hockey and lacrosse; and enjoys helping his Dad work on the farm. Ben attends a gifted student program that inspires him to use his imagination and work to his potential. Cultivating Cultivators is Ben's first science fair project and it won 'Best in Fair' at the Avon Maitland regional science fair this spring. Ben was inspired by his older brother Matthew who has attended CWSF three different times and hopes to follow in his brothers footsteps. Ben's future plans include attending high school, university, or perhaps a police academy. He has aspirations of becoming a doctor, or a police officer and would like to be able to incorporate farming into his future as well.

#### Awards

#### Value

The University of Western Ontario Scholarship Gold Medallist - \$2000 Entrance Scholarship Sponsor: University of Western Ontario	\$2 000
Gold Medal - Earth & Environmental Sciences - Junior Sponsor: Petro-Canada	\$1 500
EnCana Platinum Award - Best Junior Project Sponsor: Encana Corporation	\$5 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8 500</b>