



**SAND PLAINS**  
*Community Development Fund*

**PROJECT # 9-P002**

**PROJECT NAME:** Rubber Research

**Business/Organization:** University of Guelph

**County:** Supports all 5. Located at Simcoe Research Station in Norfolk County.

**Priority Categories Addressed:** Agribusiness

**Non-Repayable Contribution Amount:** \$119,722

**Board-Approval Date:** November 24, 2010

**Project Summary:** The University of Guelph conducted a one-year pilot experiment at the Simcoe Research Station to determine the potential to grow Russian Dandelion (TKS), the plant that produces rubber, in the Sand Plains Region. The project aims to improve the plant traits so that growers can meet the increase in demands for natural rubber in the next ten years. The researchers will learn about this crop during experiments, which has many uses, including natural rubber for tire production, latex and inulin, a food additive with health benefits that can also be fermented into ethanol. This project is the first step towards developing an alternative crop – Russian Dandelion – for use in the production of rubber.

**Regional Economic Impacts & Benefits:** If successful, the economic impacts would be across the region.

WEB: PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT