



ECOLOGICAL FARMERS  
ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

[conference.efao.ca](http://conference.efao.ca)

# Ecological Farmers of Ontario Conference

Climate of Curiosity

December 2 - 5, 2019, Ramada by Wyndham Hotel, Belleville, Ontario



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# WELCOME

## Welcome to the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Ecological Farmers of Ontario Conference!

We are thrilled that you could join us for this year's conference: "Climate of Curiosity". This conference is especially notable as we celebrate EFAO's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary – a milestone that highlights how far our shared curiosities have brought us: from a handful of farmers curious and driven to grow food in a different way, to what is now a full-fledged food and farming movement.

We have reached a tipping point where the urgency of climate change requires bold and immediate action. And it is becoming increasingly clear that ecological and regenerative farming is a critical part of the solution. This year's conference program is designed to help farmers as they strive to mitigate and adapt to the realities of climate change, while also exploring how we can work together to grow this movement and bring about the far-reaching changes that are needed in our food system.

Monday's Farmer-Led Research Symposium will highlight how framing the question "What are you curious about?" as a specific research project can be a powerful process for helping farmers to answer their most challenging on-farm questions – and developing more resilient farms in the face of a changing climate. It's been 4 years since we started EFAO's Farmer-led Research Program, and it strikes me how applicable this question is to the organization and to the work of our farmer members. In fact, there may be no better word than curiosity to characterize ecological farmers' ongoing process of observing a piece of land and testing out new farming techniques and strategies that are specific to a particular place and ecosystem.

Curiosity implies not having all the answers. Keeping an open mind. Thinking outside the box. It acknowledges that we must come together to tackle the big challenges we face, through conversation, shared learning, and experimentation.

This year's conference program is full of examples of curiosity in action, through workshop topics and farmer-to-farmer roundtables that address questions like: How can farmers work together to build the tools they need? Can the landscape teach us how to store and distribute water on the farm to better manage droughts? How can we most effectively increase and measure soil organic carbon? How can we include reconciliatory justice into our everyday actions? What steps do we need to take to grow the ecological farming movement?


















Thank you to everyone for making these conversations possible. When we come together, we can build upon our individual knowledge and questions to create a true climate of curiosity. Here's to acting on what we learn this week and to using our collective curiosity to build an Ontario where thriving ecological farms are the foundation of our food system.

Yours,



Ali English, EFAO Executive Director

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE


























MONDAY DECEMBER 2						
1:30pm - 5:30pm	Farmer-led Research Symposium (Park Ballroom)					
6:30pm	Pizza Social (Park Ballroom)					
TUESDAY DECEMBER 3						
7:30am - 9:30am	Arrival and Registration (Second Floor Foyer)					
8:00am - 9:00am	Breakfast for Overnight Guests (Windows Ballroom)					
9:30am - 4:30pm	<b>Belleville Room</b>	<b>Sagonaska Room</b>	<b>Victoria Room</b>	<b>Trent Room</b>	<b>Moira Room</b>	(Lunch 12:30pm - 1:30pm, Windows Ballroom)
	The Web of Life: How Behaviour Links Soil and Plants with Herbivores and Humans 	Advantages and Techniques of No-till Vegetable Farming  	Introduction to Whole Decision Making  	Advocating for Regenerative Agriculture  	Getting Fiscal: An In-depth Look at Your Farm Financials 	
4:30pm - 6:00pm	Arrival and Registration (Second Floor Foyer)					
6:00pm	EFAO's 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Dinner + Keynote: Lessons from the Back Forty: How Curiosity Built the EFAO and Brought Me Home (Windows Ballroom)					
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4						
6:45am - 7:30am	Yoga (Enterprise Room)					
7:00am - 8:00am	Breakfast for Overnight Guests (Windows Ballroom)					
7:00am - 8:30am	Arrival and Registration (Second Floor Foyer)					
8:30am - 10:00am	<b>Belleville Room</b>	<b>Sagonaska Room</b>	<b>Victoria Room</b>	<b>Trent Room</b>	<b>Moira Room</b>	<b>Enterprise Room</b>
	More Than a Matter of Taste: The Relationship Between Animals and Their Environment 	No-till Vegetable Systems for Small Farms  	Building Compost to Boost Soil Biology 	Intro to Keyline Design 	ALUS: Ecosystem Services for Farmers 	The Colonization of Seed  

Legend	 Horticulture	 Soil	 Seed
	 Field Crops	 Livestock	
	 Community	 Business	

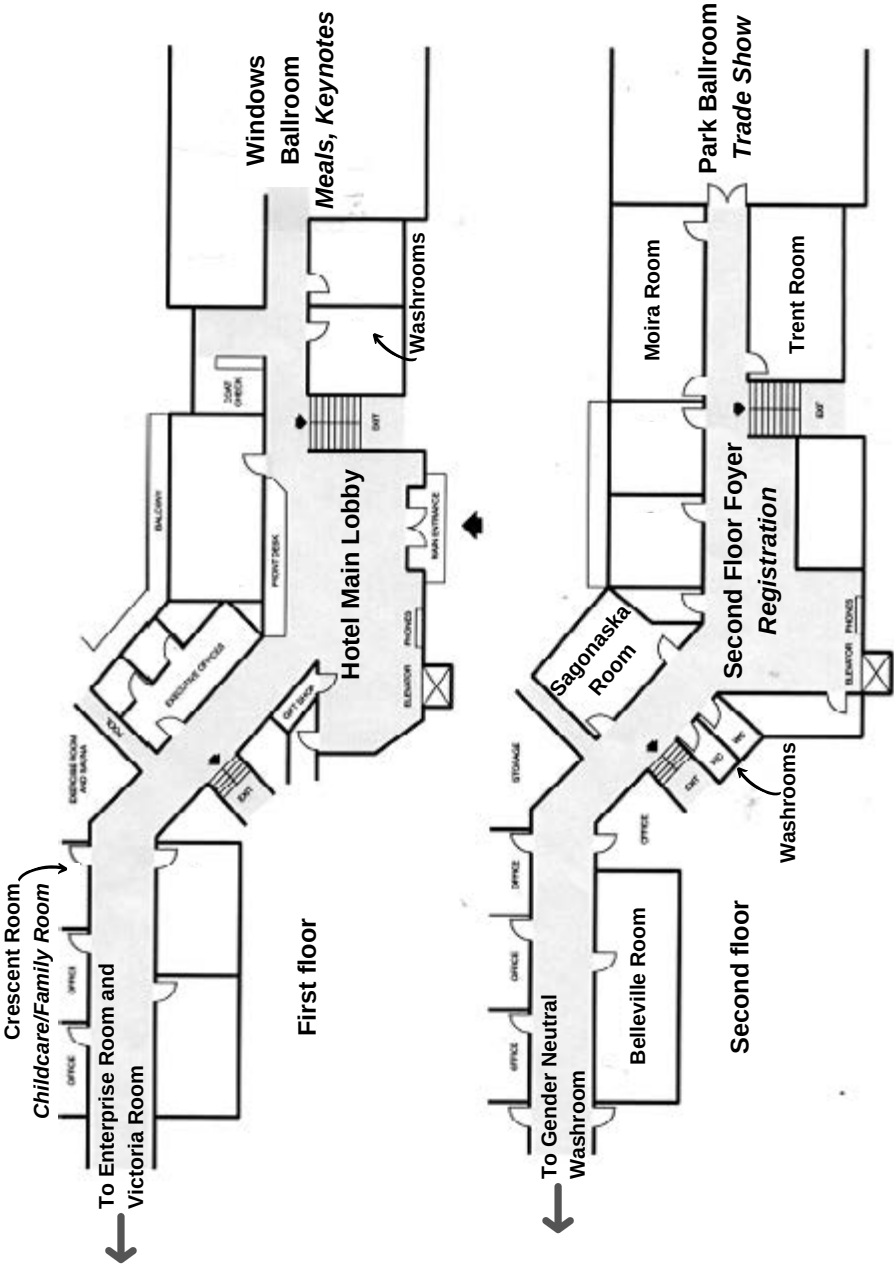
# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

10:00am - 10:30am -	Break and Trade Show (Park Ballroom)					
10:30am - 11:30am	Keynote Session: What Would Soil Do? Taking Guidance From Nature to Grow the Movement (Windows Ballroom)					 
11:30am - 12:30pm	Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario Annual General Meeting (Windows Ballroom)					
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Lunch (Windows Ballroom)					
1:30pm - 3:00pm	<b>Belleville Room</b>	<b>Sagonaska Room</b>	<b>Victoria Room</b>	<b>Trent Room</b>	<b>Moira Room</b>	<b>Enterprise Room</b>
	The Spice of Life: Why Plant Diversity is Valuable for Animal Nutrition, Self-medication, Production, Health and Welfare 	Getting the Most Out of Your Hoop House or Greenhouse 	Unleash Your Crop Plan and Farm Spreadsheets with the Magic of Pivot Tables 	Intro to Farm Scale Permaculture 	Fibre Farming in Ontario 	How Our Collective Curiosity Can Strengthen Our Sense of Equity: Part 1 
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Break and Trade Show (Park Ballroom)					
3:30pm - 5:00pm	Farmer-to-Farmer: Q&A with Soil Health Experts 	Farmer-to-Farmer: No-till Vegetable Farming Q&A and Discussion  	Farmer-to-Farmer: The Next Four Years – and the Next Forty – What's Needed in Growing the Ecological Farming Movement in Ontario? 	Farmer-to-Farmer: Livestock as an Essential Part of Regenerative Agriculture 	Farmer-to-Farmer: Farmer Experiences with Technology Roundtable Conversation 	How Our Collective Curiosity Can Strengthen Our Sense of Equity: Part 2 
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Trade Show Reception and Variety Tasting (Park Ballroom)					
6:30pm	Banquet Dinner and Daisy Award Ceremony (Windows Ballroom)					
THURSDAY DECEMBER 5						
6:45am - 7:30am	Yoga (Enterprise Room)					
7:00am - 8:00am	Breakfast for Overnight Guests (Windows Ballroom)					
7:00am - 8:30am	Arrival and Registration (Second Floor Foyer)					

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY DECEMBER 5 (continued)						
8:30am - 10:00am	<b>Belleville Room</b>  Advanced Soil Health 	<b>Sagonaska Room</b>  Farm Labour Models: Three Approaches to Tackling Labour Needs 	<b>Victoria Room</b>  CAPE Auto-construction as a Model of Community Tool Building 	<b>Trent Room</b>  Cover Crops for Soil Health in Field Crops 	<b>Moirra Room</b>  Organic, Grassfed and Regenerative Meat Labels  	<b>Enterprise Room</b>  Making the Case: A Showcase of Variety Trials and Finding the Fit for Your Farm 
10:00am - 10:30am	Break and Trade Show (Park Ballroom)					
10:30am - 11:30am	Keynote Session: The Role of Land and Community in Creating a Sustainable Local Food System (Windows Ballroom)					
11:30am - 1:30pm	Lunch (Windows Ballroom)					
12:00pm - 1:15pm	Meeting: Community Tool Building in Ontario	Meeting: LiteFarm Demonstration and Feedback	Farmer-led Research Drop-in Information Session	Meeting: Farmer Experiences with Technology	Meeting: Farmer Mental Health and Farm Business Management	Meeting: Resilient Seed Systems: A Vegetable Farmer and Seed Grower Consultation
1:30pm - 3:00pm	Electric Vehicles for the Farm 	Leveraging Social Media to Tell Your Story and Sell Your Products 	Highlights from EFAO's Farmer-led Research Program   	The Economics of Transitioning and Maintaining Organic Field Crop Production  	How to Build Your Farm Co-op 	Grass Roots Movements: Direct Actions for Substantial Social Change 
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Break and Trade Show (Park Ballroom)					
3:30pm - 5:00pm	Soil Carbon: Measuring and Managing the Keystone Element 	Pastured Pork: 10 Years of Growth 	Food and Farming Issues Update 	Moving Beyond Land Acknowledgments 	Ratinenhayen: thos Seed Saving Workshop 	
3:30pm - 5:30pm	Farm Tours: Ontario Water Buffalo Company  , Fiddlehead Farm  , Banbury Grasslands 					

CONFERENCE FLOORPLAN





# FARMER-LED RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

**Monday 1:30-5:30pm**

**Park Ballroom**

In 2019, over 30 EFAO member-farmers conducted research about ecological agriculture for their farms. Before the conference, they shared their findings and proposed new research ideas at the Farmer-Led Research Symposium.

Where to find highlights of EFAO's farmer-led research:

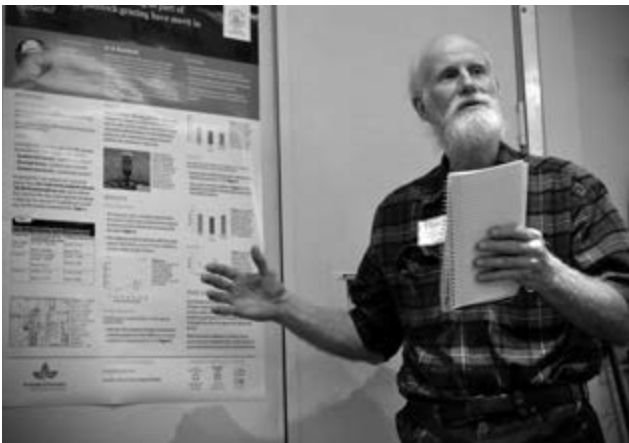
- Farmer-led Research Summary package insert
- Research Posters around the conference
- Research Library at [efao.ca/research-library](http://efao.ca/research-library)



To learn about how to get involved in farmer-led research:

- Ask an EFAO staff member!
- Drop-in to the Farmer-Led Research Information Session on Thursday @ 12:00pm
- Attend Highlights of the Farmer-Led Research Program Session on Thursday @ 1:30pm
- Submit a research idea online at [efao.ca/funding](http://efao.ca/funding), due January 31, 2020
- Peruse Research Protocols and Reports online at [efao.ca/research-library](http://efao.ca/research-library)

EFAO's Farmer-led Research Program is made possible with funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Robert and Moira Sansom Ideas Foundation, a fund within London Community Foundation.





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## KEYNOTE SESSIONS

### Lessons from the Back Forty: How Curiosity Built the EFAO and Brought Me Home

**Tuesday 6:00pm** (Part of EFAO's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration)

**Windows Ballroom**



Weaving together her own personal narrative of growing up on, leaving, and returning to her family's ecological farm with the origins of and growing movement of the EFAO; Katrina McQuail explores how curiosity, hope, and community continue to shape the regenerative agriculture movement.

**Katrina McQuail** owns and operates Meeting Place Organic Farm, with assistance from her partner Ben and support from other family members. They raise certified organic pastured pigs, grass-fed cattle and meat chickens. They farm with Suffolk-Punch draft horses, have a couple milk goats and an old apple orchard from which they make their apple butter. They also have a pet pig named Pickle. They are part of the Southwestern Ontario C.R.A.F.T farm network, committed to experiential and practical education for prospective farmers.

### What Would Soil Do? Taking Guidance from Nature to Grow the Movement

**Wednesday 10:30-11:30am**

**Windows Ballroom**



Michelle Holliday will share stories of her work helping to grow the regenerative agriculture movement, as well as parallel movements in other sectors. In particular, she'll share the small number of "fertile conditions" that all living systems require – and that we as a community must cultivate if we are to grow the ecological farming movement within Ontario.

**Michelle Holliday** is a consultant, facilitator, author and researcher living in Montréal. Her work centers around a view of communities and organizations (including farms!) as dynamic living systems – much like the living soil. Michelle brings people together and helps them discover ways they can feel more alive, connect more meaningfully with each other, and serve life more powerfully and effectively through their collective action. She is the author of the highly acclaimed book, *The Age of Thrivability: Vital Perspectives and Practices for a Better World*.

# KEYNOTE SESSIONS

**The Role of Land and Community in Creating a Sustainable Local Food System**  
**Thursday 10:30-11:30am**  
**Windows Ballroom**



Join Heather Pritchard for a keynote presentation that explores our relationship to land and the necessity of being in community as we work toward the creation of a sustainable local food system. She will share stories and examples of her work with the growing cooperative movement in Canada including an update on the Foodlands Cooperative of BC - a provincial land trust.

**Heather Pritchard** is the leading land and farm co-op developer in Canada. Heather has been directly involved in the incorporation of 3 land/farm co-ops but has mentored many others in British Columbia where the model is successful and thriving. She has experience with various models and styles of land based co-ops, understanding the intricate nuances of how they all work. Her knowledge is so valuable to emerging land/farm based co-ops.



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# INTENSIVE WORKSHOPS

TUESDAY DECEMBER 3

9:30am-4:30pm

## The Web of Life: How Behaviour Links Soil and Plants with Herbivores and Humans

Belleville Room



This workshop will explore how behavior links the health of soil, plants, herbivores, and humans. Resource availability influences the species and behaviors of organisms that live in soil, which affects the varieties, chemical characteristics, and behaviors of plants. Unlike costly infrastructures such as corals and fences, understanding and implementing behavioral principles and processes costs little because they don't depend on fossil-fuels.



**Dr. Fred Provenza** is professor emeritus of Behavioral Ecology in the Department of Wildland Resources at Utah State University where he directed an award-winning research group that pioneered an understanding of how learning influences foraging behavior and how behavior links soils and plants with herbivores and humans.

## Advantages and Techniques of No-till Vegetable Farming

Sagonaska Room



This workshop will begin with a discussion of the motivations for transitioning a farm to no-till, including some of the negatives associated with tillage and the benefits linked with reducing or eliminating tillage. The broad methods for practicing no-till will be presented, guiding participants through the process of selecting and critiquing suitable no-till methods for their farms.



**Andrew Mefferd** is the editor of Growing for Market magazine, and author of The Greenhouse and Hoophouse Grower's Handbook and The Organic No-Till Farming Revolution. He spent seven years in the research department at Johnny's Selected Seeds, traveling internationally consulting with researchers and farmers on the best practices in greenhouse growing. He puts what he learned to use on his own farm in Maine.

# INTENSIVE WORKSHOPS

## Introduction to Whole Decision Making

Victoria Room



"If you don't design your life, somebody else will, for their benefit not yours." Our satisfaction with ourselves, lives and farms isn't based upon rows planted, yields to date, cow calf pairs but our sense of satisfaction by how those actions make us feel. This is the starting point for the process of Whole Decision Making. By the end of the day you'll have begun clarifying what you want to be true about your farm, business or life and how to evaluate decisions for their value in building the life you want.



**Javan Bernakevitch** is the brainchild behind All Points Designs, where he integrates Keyline Design, Holistic Management, Permaculture, the Soil Food Web, Myco-Integration with creating a local profitable enterprise. He understands and emphasizes the importance of biological systems: soil, water-harvesting, landscape rehydration, composting, growing food, greywater and biological waste-water treatment.

## Advocating for Regenerative Agriculture

Trent Room



This workshop is highly interactive and designed to empower farmers to more fully understand and be able to advocate for the concepts and ideas of soil health and regenerative farming. For six years, Kiss the Ground has developed talking points, decks, and media that are specifically designed to reach a wide range of audiences. Now, they are excited to get these tools into the hands of people who are in the field and putting these ideas to work.



Co-founder of Kiss the Ground, **Finian Makepeace** is a renowned presenter, media creator, and thought leader in the field of regenerative agriculture and soil health. As part of the Kiss the Ground media team, he has worked with leading experts, farmers, and businesses to bring the ideas of regenerative agriculture and soil health as hopeful solutions to the world's problems in clear, comprehensible and thought-provoking formats to audiences everywhere

# INTENSIVE WORKSHOPS

## Getting Fiscal: An In-depth Look at Your Farm Financials

Moira Room



A full day intensive to increase your understanding of financial statements, benchmarks, budgeting, and cash flow management. Build a financial health dashboard for your farm and share stories from your own experience. This participatory workshop will provide easy to use tools to help you improve your financial management skills.



*For thirty-five years, **Russ Christianson** has been working with communities, co-operative enterprises, unions, environmental organizations and private businesses to meet their strategic goals. With a business education, he has helped launch over two hundred co-operatives.*



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# WORKSHOPS

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4

8:30-10:00am

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## More than a Matter of Taste: The Relationship Between Animals and Their Environment

Belleville Room



Palatability is not just a matter of taste; rather, it is a relationship between animals and environments. Understanding this relationship has created opportunities for people to consider the costs and benefits of cafeteria mineral supplements; to train livestock to eat (invasive plants) or avoid (poisonous plants, grape vines in vineyards, young trees in forest plantations) particular plants; and to rejuvenate landscapes for the benefit of both wild and domestic animals.

See page 10 for **Fred Provenza's** bio.

## No-till Vegetable Systems for Small Farms

Sagonaska Room



Come learn about the different methods for doing organic no-till: mulch grown in place (i.e. the roller-crimper method) vs. mulch applied to the soil (compost mulch, deep straw mulch, and cardboard mulch), vs. non biodegradable mulches that are used for solarization or occultation. Find out how to decide on the method that's right for your farm and how to implement it.

See page 10 for **Andrew Mefferd's** bio.

## Building Compost to Boost Soil Biology

Victoria Room



The benefits of ecologically complete composts are infinite. Participants will leave this workshop knowing the key principles behind building a compost recipe that suits their respective situations, how to decide which method or combination of methods is logistically best for their farms, as well as practical guidance for tending to their compost piles with confidence.

**Vivian Kaloxilos** founded Docterre in 2015, after studying under Dr. Elaine Ingham of Soil Foodweb Inc. Docterre is a consulting service and laboratory which offers regenerative soil services in Quebec and Canada, providing assistance and support in educational, scientific and practical applications of soil regeneration. In 2017, she was one of the creators of the "Living Soil Symposium" in Montréal.



# WORKSHOPS

## Intro to Keyline Design

### Trent Room



This workshop will introduce Keyline Design and how to: gather information on a landscape, integrate Holistic Decision Making, and see landscapes through a watershed lens that focuses on how to distribute water more evenly over a property and how to prioritize elements and actions on land.

See page 11 for **Javan Bernakevitch's** bio.

## ALUS: Ecosystem Services for Farmers

### Moira Room



Join ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) Eastern Hub Manager, Casey Schelock, to learn more about the ALUS concept, how the organization works on the ground for and with farmers, and hear about a few projects that have taken place on Ontario farms.

*As Eastern Hub Manager, **Casey Schelock** provides support to existing ALUS communities and projects throughout Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes. She also engages with individuals and organizations that are interested in bringing ALUS to their communities.*

## Colonization of Seed

### Enterprise Room



This workshop explores the intersection of seed and colonization through an Indigenous lens. Beginning with the Mohawk Creation Story, we discuss seed in a Rotinonshyón:ni (Six Nations) cultural context prior to contact, before tracing the stories of seed through the historical and contemporary colonial landscape. We use corn as a case study. We conclude by looking at ways that growers can protect seed diversity and honour our collective inheritance of ancestral seeds.

**Erica Gray** is Kanyen'kehá:ke Wolf Clan from Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. She grew up on the land and in the garden on her parents' hobby farm, Shady Oaks, at the edge of Belleville. She still enjoys growing, saving and cooking with traditional and heirloom seeds with her family. Erica has studied non-profit project management and is a community volunteer with Rathinenhayén:thos and the Kenhtè:ke Seed Sanctuary. She is also learning Kanyen'kéha (the Mohawk language).

# WORKSHOPS

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5

1:30-3:00pm

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## **The Spice of Life: Why Plant Diversity is Valuable for Animal Nutrition, Self-medication, Production, Health and Welfare** Belleville Room



Why is plant diversity valuable for animal nutrition, self-medication, production, health, and welfare? How are satiety and variety linked with nutrition and health in ways that reduce costs? Come learn more about how plant diversity enhances nutrition, efficiency of production, and health of herbivores.

See page 10 for **Fred Provenza's** bio.

## **Getting the Most Out of Your Hoop House or Greenhouse** Sagonaska Room



Most small growers are using field-growing techniques in their greenhouses and hoop houses, which do not make the most of their precious protected growing space. Come learn how to get the most out of extending the season. Topics will include spacing, choice of crops, trellising, pruning, temperature, and more.

See page 10 for **Andrew Mefferd's** bio.

## **Unleash Your Crop Plan and Farm Spreadsheets with the Magic of Pivot Tables** Victoria Room



Don't you love what a good spreadsheet can do for your crop plan? Don't you hate copy pasting data from one sheet to another to another? If you answered yes to both these questions, then pivot tables will revolutionize your farm. Join this workshop for the nuts and bolts of Pivot Tables and how to get the most out of your spreadsheets, followed by a walk through of how to set up your spreadsheets and pivot tables for a simple yet thorough crop planning spreadsheet system.

**Dan Brisebois** is a founding member of Tourne-Sol co-operative farm in Les Cèdres, Quebec. Dan is co-author of Crop Planning for Organic Vegetable Growers and is on the Eastern Canadian Organic Seed Growers Network's steering committee. Tourne-Sol produces certified organic seeds and vegetables on 17 acres.

# WORKSHOPS

## Intro to Farm Scale Permaculture

### Trent Room



Permaculture is one tool out of many in the ecological farmer's tool box. During this introduction to integrating permaculture into a farm business we'll explore permaculture's value as a tool, when and where it's useful, farm and land case studies and what we can learn from this approach to improve our productivity, natural abundance and happiness.

See page 11 for **Javan Bernakevitch's** bio.

## Fibre Farming in Ontario

### Moira Room



Come learn about the benefits and pitfalls of being a fibre farmer. Topics will include livestock management, marketing, product development and the different challenges faced by producers.

**Beth Fisher** owns Stone Spindle Farm in Tamworth, Ontario where she raises suri and huacaya alpacas and has a dye garden. In the past she has been a grain farmer and raised Columbia and Polypay sheep and mohair goats. She sells naturally dyed fibre, roving, yarns, duvets, and woven and knit garments.

**Kate Michalska** has been raising Lincoln Longwool sheep, a critically endangered breed, organically for 20 years. Her dye garden supplies much of the material that she uses to colour her yarns. She sells fleece, naturally dyed yarn, roving, sheepskins, woven items and lamb at her St. Isidore Farm in Yarker, Ontario.

## How Our Collective Curiosity Can Strengthen Our Sense of Equity: Part One

### Enterprise Room



This session aims to dig into participants' experiences and dreams of (in)equity. Using the tool of Circle Facilitation, those attending will hopefully build a sense of community understanding of (in)equity. This is a process of growth, of deep, community soil-building. In order to give what we are growing its full potential to come to fruition, we invite those interested in attending to plan to participate in both sessions.

**Heather Thoma** has been co-operating LoonSong Farm since 2003 with her partner Paul. Alongside growing organic mixed vegetables and grains and milling, she has facilitated education and community building through food, farming and the arts in Manitoulin/Sudbury region, and now continues this work while rooting in new communities in Northumberland/Peterborough/Nogojiwanong.

# WORKSHOPS

**Madeline (Maddie) Marmor** is a settler/treaty person of Polish Jewish/Sicilian descent and an aspiring accomplice growing/farming on the stolen land of Turtle Island. Maddie has previously grown/farmed with folks rich in kindness and generosity, and these gifts have helped her to spend more time learning how to create spaces for bridge building for individual, community and systems transformation.

## WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4

3:30-5:00pm

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### Farmer-to-Farmer: Q&A with Soil Health Experts

Belleville Room



Bring your questions, ideas and theories to share in an open session with Dr. Derek Lynch (Professor of Agronomy and Agroecology at Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture), Vivian Kaloxilos (founder of DocTerre, among the first Soil Food Web inc. affiliated labs and consultants in Canada) and Dr. Sarah Hargreaves (EFAO's Research Director and resident soil ecologist).

### Farmer-to-Farmer: No-till Vegetable Farming Q&A and Discussion

Sagonaska Room



Join Andrew Mefferd and EFAO farmers trialling no-till vegetable growing for an interactive discussion. Bring your questions and ideas to share.

### Farmer-to-Farmer: The Next Four Years - and the Next Forty -- What's Needed in Growing the Ecological Farming Movement in Ontario?

Victoria Room



Taking inspiration from insights and stories shared in Michelle Holliday's morning keynote, this roundtable discussion will invite participant perspectives and lively dialogue on what is needed now and over time to grow our movement.

# WORKSHOPS

## **Farmer-to-Farmer: Livestock as an Essential Part of Regenerative Agriculture** **Trent Room**



Cory Van Groningen will begin this session with a brief presentation of the key insights made by Allan Savory as to the essential nature of livestock as part of a regenerative agricultural system. Following this presentation, participants are encouraged to ask questions and share their own ideas on this topic.

## **Farmer-to-Farmer: Farmer Experiences with Technology** **Moirá Room**



Join ecological farmer and food technology expert Theresa Schumilas and PhD student Alesandros Glaros as they discuss emerging digital technologies and the opportunities and challenges they offer small scale farms. This session will also introduce the Open Food Network project – a global network that is developing and saving code and tools that can support sustainable food and farming initiatives.

## **How Our Collective Curiosity Can Strengthen Our Sense of Equity: Part Two** **Enterprise Room**



This session aims to deepen the conversation of (in)equity at the intersection of lived experience and organizational intentions. Landowner/tenant relationships, male farmers - female managers, stolen land or owned land or stewarded land, minorities dismissed/silenced, profiting from systems of oppressions... These are a few dynamics of (in)equity that some participants may experience. Using the tool of Circle Facilitation, this session will build on the work done in the previous session. This is a process of growth and of deep, community soil-building. In order to give what we are growing its full potential to come to fruition, we invite those interested in attending to plan to participate in both sessions.

See page 17 for **Maddie Marmor** and page 16 **Heather Thoma's** bios.

# WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY DECEMBER 5

8:30-10:00am

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## Advanced Soil Health

Belleville Room



Presentation and discussion of the influence of cropping system and intensity, and management practices (rotation, tillage regime, cover crops), on soil health. Exploration of the linkage between soil health and changes in soil microbes and larger bodied organisms (earthworms, spiders, etc.).

**Derek Lynch** is Professor of Agronomy and Agroecology at Dalhousie University. From 2005-2015 he held the position as Canada Research Chair in Organic Agriculture. He has worked with many organic farms across Eastern Canada to tackle both production challenges and assess the environmental footprint of these systems. Current research projects focus on farming system impact on soil carbon, soil health and soil microbial dynamics.

## Farm Labour Models: Three Approaches to Tackling Labour Needs

Sagonaska Room



Farm labour is an ever-evolving question and balancing act as you seek the best model for your farm. Join representatives from three farms as they discuss their farm's labour story; how they came to employ their current model and others they've tried; what this looks like for their farm finances; and their labour retention and satisfaction.

**Chris Krucker** has been growing vegetables and meats organically for over 20 years with his wife and now adult children. The farm has operated as a CSA since its start and has also worked with local chefs over the years.

**Heather Coffey** and **Stephanie Laing** run Fiddlehead Farm in Prince Edward County, a 10 acre market garden that they started in 2012. Begun with wwoofers and interns, they quickly moved to locals on minimum wage, built some full year jobs, and in 2019 employed two locals and two migrant workers.

See page 15 for **Dan Brisebois'** bio.

## WORKSHOPS

### CAPÉ Autoconstruction as a Model of Community Tool Building

Victoria Room



Inspired by the success of a group of tinkerer farmers in France, Quebec's CAPÉ coop has followed suit with a series of collaborative fabrication workshops where farmers build their own tools - things that will make their farms better and more efficient and which aren't available in the marketplace. Come hear this inspiring story of farmers working together to design and build their own tools. Is Ontario's organic farming community ripe for a rebirth of the community forge, 21st century style? Let's hope so!

**Reid Allaway** is passionate about farming and appropriate technologies, ideally combined. A founding member of Tourne-Sol co-operative farm in les Cèdres, Quebec, Reid has been helping to build a successful CSA and organic seed enterprise while training future farmers and building cool stuff whenever time permits. Reid has been involved with the CAPÉ's Autoconstruction group since its inception.

### Cover Crops for Soil Health in Field Crops

Trent Room



This workshop will begin with an overview of cover crop use strategies, including objectives that can be achieved with cover crops and opportunities for including them in field crop rotations. Farmers Eric and Max Kaiser will provide examples of their use and learnings from their experience with cover crops in their field crop production system.

**Sebastian Belliard** is a Soil Management Specialist for field crops with OMAFRA based in the Kemptville office and working primarily in Eastern Ontario. Sebastian left farming to join the Ontario Soil Survey's efforts toward soil classification and soil map renewal. He now works with field crop farmers in Eastern Ontario to test and develop strategies for improving and measuring soil health.

Father and son team **Eric and Max Kaiser** run Kaiser Lake Farms near Napanee, Ontario. On their nearly 1100 acres of cropland, they have focused on environmental stewardship and integrated no-till practices.

### Organic, Grassfed and Regenerative Meat Labelling

Moirá Room



Organic, grassfed, regenerative, antibiotic-free, natural, free range, pasture-raised... In 2019, it seems there are more ways than ever to label meat. Join the Organic Council of Ontario (OCO) as they share the results of their recent study on



## WORKSHOPS

Premium Meat Labels, as well as two experienced livestock farmers who will share their personal experiences and thoughts on this topic.

*Since joining OCO in early 2016, **Carolyn Young** has placed renewed emphasis on serving members' needs and campaigning for an Ontario organic regulation. Prior to joining OCO, Carolyn worked as the Director of Sustain Ontario, the alliance for healthy food and farming.*

***Dora Chan** joined OCO in November 2018, and brings over seven years of experience in project management, communications, and event planning in both the non-profit and private sectors. Dora graduated with a BA in Political Science & History from the University of Toronto.*

*Along with his three brothers and their families, **Cory Van Groningen** owns and operates VG meats. They are committed to regenerative practices at their farm and Cory has recently become an Accredited Professional for Holistic Management from the Savory Institute.*

*Second generation farmer **David Banbury** runs Banbury Grasslands with his family, where they raise 100% grass-fed beef on their Ontario farms.*

### **Making the Case: A Showcase of Variety Trials & Finding the Fit For Your Farm** **Enterprise Room**



Growing varieties well-suited for your farm dramatically increases your viability on every level, from profit to personal joy. Come hear best practices and lessons learned from a market gardener, a seed company, and the Bauta Initiative's trials across the country to help you integrate more effective variety trialing into your operation, on any scale.

*Raised in her father's garden, **Petra Page-Mann's** love of food led her all over the world studying agriculture and seed before returning to the Finger Lakes of New York. In 2012 she co-founded Fruition Seeds to share the seeds, knowledge and inspiration gardeners need to be more successful in short seasons.*

***Angie Koch** has been Farm Manager of Fertile Ground Farm for 12 years, beginning solo with only volunteer support and growing to an operation that employs 6 staff and interns each season. Fertile Ground is an organic vegetable farm with a 250-member CSA, as well as pastured laying hens.*

***Rebecca Ivanoff** is EFAO's Research and Seed Program Coordinator. Her work includes coordinating the The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security across Ontario. She also continues a participatory pepper breeding project with other Ontario farmers and Cornell University plant breeders.*

# WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY DECEMBER 5

1:30-3:00pm

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## Electric Vehicles for the Farm Belleville Room



Electric vehicles for farm use are not coming, they are now! A multitude of options are already within reach and the range of options will grow rapidly in the years to come. Come learn the basics of the technology and discuss some of the ways farmers can start integrating affordable electric vehicles into their farm fleets today and in the coming years.

**Tony Neale** is co-owner and operator of Wheelbarrow Farm (Uxbridge, On), where he grows mixed organic vegetables, fruit and nut crops. Tony's was one of the first farms in North America to welcome a Soletrac Electric tractor onto his farm after helping to assemble it with Soletrac's founder!

See page 20 for **Reid Allaway's** bio. Reid Allaway has been repairing and modifying electric vehicles for use at Tourne-Sol Co-operative farm for several years and has managed some challenging projects like an electric BCS and a cultivating tractor.

## Leveraging Social Media to Tell Your Farm Story and Sell Your Products Sagonaska Room



In this workshop, Petra and Melanie will dig into how social media has become a part of their storytelling and marketing plans, how it has led to business change and growth, and how it continues to influence their business planning. Participants can also expect to hear about their tips and tricks for engaging content.

**Melanie Harrington** is the owner of Dahlia May Flower Farm, a small family farm specializing in growing specialty cut flowers. Dahlia May Flower Farm has been featured in *Better Homes and Gardens*, *The Toronto Star*, *Canadian Florist Magazine* and more.

See page 21 for **Petra Page-Mann's** bio.

## Highlights from EFAO's Farmer-Led Research Program Victoria Room



Learn about EFAO's Farmer-Led Research Program and hear results from a few of this year's trials that investigated the use of tarps and fabric for greens production, whether it pays off to graft tomatoes in high tunnels, and sweet potato selection as part of an ongoing breeding trial.

# WORKSHOPS

**Matt Jones** (Jones Family Greens), **Eric Barnhorst** (Eva Mae Farm) and **Kate Garvie** (Heart Beet Farm) are organic vegetable growers in Ontario. They are also conducting farmer-led research projects in cooperation with EFAO.

## The Economics of Transitioning and Maintaining Organic Field Crop Production

### Trent Room



Participants interested in transitioning to organic production will be presented with various transition plans of crop rotations, costs/acre, and estimated yields and market price. Organic farmers who wish to maintain financial success will be presented with price premium averages and the latest on increasing yields or other strategies to maintain farm profitability.

As an urban farmer, experiential educator and Organic Master Gardener, **Eric Payseur** has been growing food for over 20 years. He is now the Regional Event and Education Manager for the Canadian Organic Growers (COG), based in Ottawa. He previously worked for the organic certification body Ecocert Canada. He is also an EFAO Board member.

**Rob Wallbridge** grew up on his family's dairy and cash crop farm in Eastern Ontario. He joined Thompsons Limited in 2016 as the Organic Specialist. Prior to that, he farmed commercially, worked as an organic inspector, did extension work for the Organic Meadow Co-operative, and consulted on organic agronomic, marketing, and certification projects.

## How to Build Your Farm Co-op

### Moira Room



The session combines presentations on different aspects of farm co-op development, from getting started to governance and financing. Participants will get a chance to think about co-operative solutions to their farm challenges with help from speakers and peers, and will go away with handouts to help them build their co-op.

**Peggy Baillie** works as a consultant for the Local Food and Farm Co-ops, linking over 90 food and farming co-ops to training, peer connections and food system transformation through cooperation. Peggy also operates a mixed organic farm with her partner Eric in Warren, Ontario.

**Mike Degagne** is the co-founder of Black River Co-operative, a land-based workers co-op in Matheson, Ontario. He is also a member of the Local Food and Farming Co-ops Board of Directors.

See page 9 for **Heather Pritchard's** bio.

# WORKSHOPS

## Grass Roots Movement Building: Direct Action for Substantial Social Change Enterprise Room



How can we create more effective grassroots movements around issues like climate justice, farm income, and Indigenous solidarity? This workshop will explore the principles behind successful rural movements, highlight inspiring case studies, and offer time for participants to share questions, experience, and ideas for grassroots movements in Ontario today.

**Aric McBay** is an organizer, a farmer, and author of four books. He farms near Kingston, Ontario, and is Manager of Membership Development and Special Projects for the National Farmers Union – Ontario. His most recent book, *Full Spectrum Resistance*, is a two-volume exploration of how to build more effective social movements.

## THURSDAY DECEMBER 5

3:30pm-5:00pm

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## Soil Carbon: Measuring and Managing the Keystone Element Belleville Room



Sustaining and increasing soil organic carbon (SOC) is key to climate change mitigation and soil health and climate resilience. What are the challenges in achieving and measuring improvements in SOC status? Is there a tradeoff between enhancing total stored SOC and promoting soil health and respiration?

See page 19 for **Derek Lynch's** bio.

## Pastured Pork: 10 Years of Growth Sagonaska Room



Linton Pasture Pork has had 10 years of steady growth. From early beginnings with just 10 sows, the business has grown to include over 75 sows and more than 1000 pigs annually. Come hear how the farm established a viable wholesale market for pastured pork, and learn some of the processes and mechanics of raising pastured pork including planting pastures for different seasons and handling facilities.

**Jeffrey Linton** has been in the pig business all his life, working with his parents on their farrow to finish operation in Huron County, Ontario. He started Linton Pasture Pork, a small farrow to finish family farm in Walton, Ontario that practices humane, sustainable production and is built around providing the best care and comfort for their animals.

# WORKSHOPS

## Food and Farming Issues Update

### Victoria Room



In this panel, organizational leaders will update the audience on their ongoing policy related work, specific plans for 2020, and ways farmers and volunteers can engage. Farmers and workshop participants will also have an opportunity to raise policy issues that they would like to see addressed by organizations. Learn about hot topics for 2020 and how to engage!

**Sarah Bakker** is the General Manager of the National Farmers Union-Ontario and the Chair of the Fair Finance Fund. She is also the co-founder of Field Sparrow Farms, located on 100 acres in Bobcaygeon, ON, where they raise grass-fed beef, pastured pork, and pastured chicken.

**Lucy Sharratt** works in Halifax as the Coordinator of the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network, also known as CBAN. CBAN brings together 16 groups to research, monitor and raise awareness about issues relating to genetic engineering in food and farming.

See page 21 for **Carolyn Young's** bio.

## Moving Beyond Land Acknowledgements

### Trent Room



What does it mean to “acknowledge the land”? This session will guide participants through an 8-step planning tool to creatively challenge us to include reconciliatory justice into our everyday actions. Participants will leave with resources to continue their learning, next steps to integrate justice into their lives, and inspiration from the group, plus a sweet little planning booklet that you can apply to any situation. Everyone welcome, bring a pen/pencil.

**Paul Wartman** is a creative community facilitator and plant nursery grower near Hanover ON, Three Fires Confederacy Territory. Paul has worked with youth, adults, and communities in creative self expression, social justice, and permaculture for 10 years. He is dedicated to creating community action that is people-based, cooperative, and restorative.

# WORKSHOPS

## Ratinenhayen:thos Seed Saving Workshop

Moirá Room



When farmers are able to grow and save even a small portion of their seed needs, it saves money and results in a stronger, more diverse and resilient food system for us all. This practical workshop will look first at corn/maize as a seed crop on-farm and then broaden the discussion to cover growing seeds of your favourite crops, so bring your questions and experiences to benefit the group!

**Cate Henderson** was raised on a small beef farm in Central Ontario but was not encouraged to think of farming for a living. A university degree in Development Studies and a spiritual longing for the land brought her back to a profession “in right relationship”. Horticulture studies at U of Guelph, and certificates in Permaculture, Biodynamics and accreditation in Organic Land Care (SOUL) have all contributed to her profession of almost 20 years as an organic seed grower and educator.

**Kahehtoktha Janice Brant** was born and raised on the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory in south eastern Ontario. Her parents Roger (kenha) and Patricia Brant operated a large-scale farm where they practiced both traditional Mohawk farming and foraging, along with modern agricultural methods. Janice is a teacher, artist, gardener and seed custodian. She has a Bachelor of Arts, Honours in Indigenous Studies from Trent University, a Bachelor of Education from Queen’s University, and holds a Masters of Adult Education from St. Francis Xavier University.

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# FARM TOURS

**Thursday December 5**  
**3:30-5:30pm**

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**Ontario Water Buffalo Company**  
**3346 Stirling Marmora Rd, Stirling, ON**



Ever wondered what it would be like to milk a water buffalo? Come check out the Ontario Water Buffalo Company for a chance to tour their farm, milking parlour, and farm store (cheese, meat, gelato and more will be available for purchase). Participants will arrive just in time for the evening milking, and may even get a chance to help out!

**Banbury Grasslands - 100% Grass-fed Beef**  
**14764 Little Lake Rd, Brighton, ON**



Interested in raising the right type of cattle to produce grass-fed beef? Come see a live demonstration and explanation of Linear Measurements! This method has helped Joe Banbury and his son David select the right phenotype for their grass-based cows and bulls. We will tour the herd, including 15 bred heifers they will be selling later that week, and check out their 20 acre black walnut silvo-pasture.

**Fiddlehead Farm**  
**978 Fish Lake Rd, Demorestville, ON**



Fiddlehead Farm is a 10 acre market garden in Prince Edward County run by Stephanie Laing and Heather Coffey. From the first winter with 18 CSA members to 184 members five years later, it's a perfect compliment to their summer markets and CSA. Balancing the cash and work flow year round, the Winter CSA is a key to the viability of their business. Come for a tour around their vegetable storage areas to see how they've built it up and what they've learned along the way.



# TRADE SHOW

## **Wednesday December 4**

**10:00am - 6:30pm** (Reception in Trade Show 5-6:30pm)

## **Thursday December 5**

**8:00am - 3:30pm**

Take time to visit the Trade Show. These exhibitors are all invested members of Ontario's ecological agricultural community: suppliers of equipment and inputs, consultants and educators, and community and industry organizations.

New this year: there is a very special presentation stage in the Trade Show – come by to see what the exhibitors are showcasing.

### **Exhibitors**

The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security

Canada Organic Growers

Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN)

Chicken Farmers of Ontario

Dubois Agrinovation

E&F Sauder Sales and Service Ltd

Earth Haven Learning

EcoCert Canada

FBC

Fleming College

Frontlink

Growcer

High Mowing Organic Seeds

K.U.L.T. - Kress Cultivation Solutions

Local Food and Farm Co-ops

MultiShelter Solutions

National Capital Commission

National Farmers Union - Ontario

Neudorff North America

Open Food Network Canada

Ontario Soil Network

Organic Council of Ontario

SoilHealth.ca

Thiessen Tillage

Whole Village



# SPECIAL FEATURES

## EFAO's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration & Dinner

Tuesday 6:00pm, Windows Ballroom

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EFAO is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year! Join us as we mark this special occasion with delicious local food and drinks served reception style. We will screen ***EFAO Origins: Walking Each Other's Farms***, a short film celebrating EFAO's beginnings and hear from keynote speaker, Katrina McQuail. The evening will finish with live music from local bluegrass trio The Buds.

Bar open and food service begins 6:00pm, film and keynote 7:00pm, live music 8:00pm.

## EFAO Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 11:30am, Windows Ballroom

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Agenda:

1. Approve Agenda
2. Approve Minutes from 2018 AGM
3. President's Address
4. Presentation of Annual Report
5. Presentation of Audited Financial Statements (Appointment of Auditors for 2020)
6. Adjourn

## Trade Show Reception and Variety Tasting

Wednesday 5:00-6:30pm, Park Ballroom

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Join us for a reception in the Trade Show before the Banquet Dinner. You can visit Trade Show booths, bid on Silent Auction items, and chat with other conference goers, while tasting locally-bred and grown carrots and heritage grains.

The reception is open to all conference participants. There will be a cash bar featuring locally-crafted beer, wine and cider.

## Wednesday Banquet Dinner and Daisy Award Ceremony

Wednesday 6:30pm, Windows Ballroom

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Enjoy an organic Banquet Dinner followed by the Daisy Award Ceremony and an evening of live music by the Husqvarna Allstars with called dances by Teilhard Frost.

This year's **Daisy Award Ceremony** draws inspiration from Stuart McLean and the Vinyl Cafe's Arthur Awards as we look to EFAO members to design the awards and recognitions handed out at this ceremony. Are there people in your life who have offered help, inspiration, friendship, or education who you think should be thanked or acknowledged? Visit us at the registration desk to submit your nomination.

Doors and bar open at 6:30pm, dinner served at 7:00pm, live music at 8:30pm!

## SPECIAL FEATURES

### Silent Auction Second Floor Foyer

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EFAO members, sponsors and other supporters have generously shared their talents, products and specialty items for our Silent Auction. All proceeds will go toward supporting EFAO's educational programs and services. **The Silent Auction will open at 6:00pm on Tuesday evening and close at 10:30am on Thursday.** Winners will be posted at the registration desk by 11:30am on Thursday. Cash, cheque and credit card payments will be accepted.

### Childcare and Family Room Crescent Room

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Run by dedicated volunteers, childcare will be available Tuesday from 9:15am to 4:45pm, and Wednesday and Thursday from 8:15am until 5:15pm (with the exception of lunchtime all days). Please come to the registration desk if you have not already registered for childcare. You will only need to pay for your child's lunches but we will gladly accept donations to EFAO in lieu of payment.

Parents, please be sure to send your children to the childcare room with snacks, diapers and anything else they may need for the duration of their stay.

Families can feel free to access the childcare/family room even if they choose not to use the conference childcare option.



### Carrot Cache \$1,000 Innovation Prize!

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Carrot Cache is offering their annual \$1,000 prize for innovative, low-cost solutions to planting, harvesting and managing food grown on an Ontario urban or rural organic farm. Ideas submitted by conference participants will be displayed by the registration desk starting Tuesday morning and winners will be selected by conference attendees. Don't forget to come and vote for your favourite!

The winner will be posted by 11:30am on Thursday December 5.



## SPECIAL FEATURES

### EFAO Merchandise Second Floor Foyer

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New this year - EFAO merchandise is available for sale. Now we have another way to celebrate being a part of the EFAO community.

- T-Shirts (4 different styles): \$25
- Hats (5 different styles): \$25 to \$35
- Lanesigns: \$20
- Conference Artwork Prints: \$18

Find EFAO merchandise across from the conference registration table. We accept cash, cheque, debit or credit cards.

### Farmers' Corner

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We're hosting a Farmers' Corner to capture on film the stories of what it means to be an ecological farmer and how the EFAO has supported your journey. We'd love to hear from you. Talk to any EFAO staff about how you can share your thoughts or stories.

## COMMITTED TO CRAFTSMANSHIP

The first of its kind in Canada and welcoming over 150 new farmers since its inception in 2016, the CFO Artisanal Chicken Program continues to evolve and grow.

This program enables farmers to raise between 600 and 3,000 chickens on an annual basis.

**Accepting applications now**

Visit [artisanalchicken.ca](http://artisanalchicken.ca) to learn more



# COMMUNITY MEETINGS

**Thursday December 5**

**12:00 - 1:15pm**

## **Community Tool Building in Ontario Belleville Room**

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Inspired by how a group of farmers in Quebec are working together to create solutions and tools for their farms, EFAO farmers will gather to talk about how this can be possible in Ontario as well. This meeting is open to anyone interested in learning more or talking more concretely about how to organize and what projects to tackle this winter.

*Organizer: Jeff Boesch (Cedar Down Farm)*

## **LiteFarm Demonstration and Feedback Sagonaska Room**

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Over the past two years the EFAO and the University of British Columbia have been working together to develop a web application, LiteFarm, which joins scientists and farmers together to advance science, and to help ecologically minded farmers manage the financial and environmental sustainability of their operations. During this Community Meeting, it is with great pleasure (drumroll...!) that EFAO and UBC will officially launch the beta version of LiteFarm with the community of farmers that helped create it. You will be able to try the application, and give feedback on the features and development plans for the year ahead.

*Organizers: Dr. Zia Mehrabi (University of British Columbia) and Heather Coffey (Fiddlehead Farm)*

## **Farmer-Led Research Drop-In Information Session Victoria Room**

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Curious to know more about farmer-led research? Want to learn more about the previous year's research trials? Stop by to chat with EFAO staff about your questions, ideas or project proposal.

*Organizer: Sarah Hargreaves (EFAO Research Director)*

# COMMUNITY MEETINGS

## **Farmer Experiences with Technology**

### **Trent Room**

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This is an interactive 'focus-group' type session in follow up to Wednesday's roundtable session. Open Food Network has been funded by OMAFRA to document opportunities and challenges with digital technologies among small and mid scale farmers in Ontario. Come share what you see as opportunities and your reservations: What tools do you use and like? What tools do you need? What do you see as the future for these tools? What are your concerns about ownership and data? How do we shape digital tools to further ecological goals?

*Organizer: Theresa Schumilas (Garden Party Flower Farm, Open Food Network)*

## **Farmer Mental Health and Farm Business Management**

### **Moir Room**

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Farm Management Canada has sponsored a project to explore the connections between farmer mental health and farm business management. At this session we are hoping to gather your insights into how farm business management and mental health affect each other, and your perspectives on and experiences with mental health support for farmers.

*Organizer: Erin Pratley (Pratley Consulting on behalf of Farm Management Canada)*

## **Resilient Seed Systems: A Vegetable Farmer and Seed Grower Consultation**

### **Enterprise Room**

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As we look to build resilient food systems, more and more farmers are trying to figure how to integrate seed production into their operation, local seed companies are growing, and new networks of seed producers are being created. Come with your lunch to this community meeting to talk about how we, as a farming community, can support each other in learning how to conserve, improve, and create new high quality Canadian seed. We encourage all former, existing, and prospective farmer-researchers who have been involved in the Vegetable Seed Producers Network (VSPN), the Canadian Organic Vegetable Improvement Project (CANOVI), or the Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB) program on oats, wheat and potato, to attend this meeting to discuss the challenges and opportunities of participating in these programs.

*Organizers: Aabir Dey (National Director of the Bauta Initiative) and Rebecca Ivanoff (EFAO's Research and Seed Program Coordinator)*

## ABOUT EFAO



### What We Do

Established in 1979 by farmers for farmers, the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario (EFAO) is a membership organization that focuses on farmer-led education, research and community building. EFAO brings farmers together so they can learn from each other and improve the health of their soils, crops, livestock and the environment, while running profitable farm businesses.

### Vision

We envision an Ontario where thriving ecological farms are the foundation of our food system, and where agriculture protects our resources, increases biodiversity, mitigates climate change, and fosters healthy, vibrant communities.

### Mission

EFAO support farmers to build resilient ecological farms and grow a strong knowledge sharing community.

### Board Members

Brent Preston, President  
Éric Blondin, Vice President  
Mike MacGillivray, Treasurer  
Crista Thor, Secretary  
Brent Klassen  
Katrina McQuail  
Eric Payseur  
Annie Richard  
Jennifer Seilern  
Melissa Watkins  
Ricardo Ramírez

### Staff Members

Ali English, Executive Director ([ali@efao.ca](mailto:ali@efao.ca))  
Katie Baikie, Education Director ([katie@efao.ca](mailto:katie@efao.ca))  
Sarah Hargreaves, Research Director ([sarah@efao.ca](mailto:sarah@efao.ca))  
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Rebecca Ivanoff, Research and Seed Program Coordinator ([rebecca@efao.ca](mailto:rebecca@efao.ca))  
Ami Dehne, Special Events and Newsletter Coordinator ([ami@efao.ca](mailto:ami@efao.ca))  
Naomi Krucker, Training and Resources Coordinator ([naomi@efao.ca](mailto:naomi@efao.ca))  
Fiona Campbell, Editor in Chief ([fiona@efao.ca](mailto:fiona@efao.ca))



# NOTES



CANADIAN ORGANIC GROWERS  
CULTIVONS BIOLOGIQUE CANADA

*Our nature is organic.*

We want to wish the **EFAO** a  
*Happy 40th Anniversary!*

*Thank you for the important work you do and  
for being such an amazing provincial partner.*

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# THANK YOU!

The conference would not have been possible without the hard work and generosity of our Supporting Partners, Sponsors, and Funders (see inside front cover) and the following individuals:

**Program Advisory Committee:** Angie Koch, Annie Richard, Carolyn Young, Pat Learmonth, Jessica Gale, Brent Preston, Thorsten Arnold, Sally Miller, Josh Suppan, Eric Barnhorst, Eric Payseur, David Mazur-Goulet

**Conference Volunteers:** Maddie Marmor, Keshia Krucker, Bethany Klapwyk, Maria Sergio, Zoe Hayes, Stuart Oke, Nikki Oke, Heather Tulloch, Michael Pavan, Erin Richan, TJ Radcliffet

**Photographer:** Antonio Gomes

**Videographer:** Nakita Krucker

**Meet the Conference Artist: Garth Laidlaw**

My name is Garth Laidlaw and I created the artwork for 2019 EFAO Conference on the theme of Climate of Curiosity. I loved this theme from the outset as it's something that, while mentioned a lot this week, cannot be restated enough in order to repeatedly prompt the organizations and people of the whole world to consider changing their lifestyles and businesses to leave lighter footprints than the previous generations. It is important to know and respect our human limits on the earth, as well as subtle ideological behaviours deeply embedded within many generations of taking resources from the planet rather than giving back.



I'm lucky to have been able to work for organizations like the EFAO, who are actively trying to steer our cultural ship on a different course; subtly self-correcting ourselves as we traverse the dialogue of "what will the future of agriculture look like?". On the basis of art alone, I hope this work stands on its own and is very beautiful and engaging to the viewer, regardless of their knowledge or interest in farming. For me, art is a great tool to help pull people toward subjects that they otherwise might not have thought about deeply. If I can achieve this even in a small way, then I'll be quite content! Instagram: [@garthlaidlaw](https://www.instagram.com/garthlaidlaw), [www.garthlaidlaw.com](http://www.garthlaidlaw.com).

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# Ecological Farmers of Ontario Conference

## Climate of Curiosity

December 2 - 5, 2019, Ramada by Wyndham Hotel, Belleville, Ontario

