



ANNUAL REPORT



About EFAO

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 cultivates resilient, diverse, equitable communities.

Mission

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

Contents

- 1 2021: A Year in Review
- 2 A Growing Membership
- 8 Supporting Community —
Online and In Person
- 12 Sharing in a Culture of
Curiosity
- 14 Living Lab – Ontario
Encourages New
Collaborations and
Innovations
- 15 Growing a Seed Community
- 16 New Acres of Small Grains
- 17 Advocating for Climate-
Friendly Policy
- 18 2021 Financial Report
- 19 Outreach
- 20 Funding Partners
- 21 Get Involved
- 23 Thank You

Appendix: [Member Survey Report](#)



2021: A Year in Review

This past year has continued to be a challenging and uncertain time, as we've navigated a second year of the pandemic. Despite the uncertainty we've all faced, it has been inspiring to see the creative and innovative ways that EFAO members have adapted these past few years.

As an organization, we have explored and refined ways of connecting online. We have seen fantastic engagement in our online education offerings – from informal meet-ups and virtual field days, to technical webinars and business planning courses. Our last two conferences have both been entirely virtual, with a record number of participants attending the 2021 conference.

The past two years have also made us even more appreciative of opportunities to gather in person. The four field days held in the summer were undoubtedly a highlight for many members and staff, as we walked the fields together and enjoyed each others' presence.

It is exciting to see the increase in EFAO's membership over the past year, with 245 new members joining the organization! This speaks to the value of EFAO's programs and activities, and the engagement and commitment of this community. We distributed a comprehensive member survey last spring, which provided the staff and board with a lot of good information and ideas for the upcoming years. We're very grateful to all those who provided feedback, and are excited to share some of the results with you in this report!

After five years of experience with Farmer-Led Research, EFAO has become a valuable partner in the 3 year Living Lab – Ontario project, where we are collaborating with farmers, federal scientists, and a wide range of farm organizations. We've been thrilled to support members Ken Laing and Brett Israel in advancing their no-till growing systems and sharing their knowledge and learning with others in the farming community.

Over the past year, the EFAO board and staff have been working to bring an equity and anti-racism lens to all of our programs and activities. We want to better listen to and support equity-deserving members and farmers, and nurture a resilient ecological farming community that draws on a diversity of strengths, skills and passions. So many wonderful new relationships and ideas have come out of this work. You will find some of the associated impacts and activities woven into the various sections of this report.

This year brought some major successes for Farmers for Climate Solutions, starting with the 2021 federal budget,


which included a significant investment to support farmers to reduce emissions by improving nitrogen management, increasing adoption of cover cropping, and normalizing rotational grazing. EFAO continues to solidify its role within the coalition with Board President Brent Preston taking on the role of Interim Director, and Executive Director Ali English's appointment to the Governing Body. EFAO staff members Laura Northey and Angel Beyde and member Brenda Hsueh were also appointed to FCS working groups.


2021 saw many changes and exciting additions to the staff team! We were joined by an incredible group of new staff members this year, who bring new skills, perspectives and creativity to the team. A big welcome to Cassie Wever, Events and Resources Manager; Angel Beyde, Equity and Organizational Change Manager; Dillon Muldoon, Research and Soil Health Coordinator, and Jackie Clark, Small Grains Program Manager. The staff team now spans much of Ontario – from London and Guelph to Thunder Bay and Kingston. Longtime Education Director Katie Baikie moved on to a new role in the spring, and we are extremely grateful for all her work in growing EFAO's annual conference and her deeply valued engagement with the membership over the past 7 years.

As we look to the year ahead, we are excited to be welcoming new board members, growing our on-farm research collaborations, investigating a reverse-auction approach for the Small Grains Program, distributing start-up grants to new farmers in northern Ontario, establishing seed demonstration sites, and working with partner organizations across the country to push for transformative policy change and climate action. We are particularly energized to host a wide range of field days this summer so that we can visit each other's farms once again.

We are looking forward to seeing you at events in person and online over the coming year, and bringing you the best of both worlds!

In anticipation,

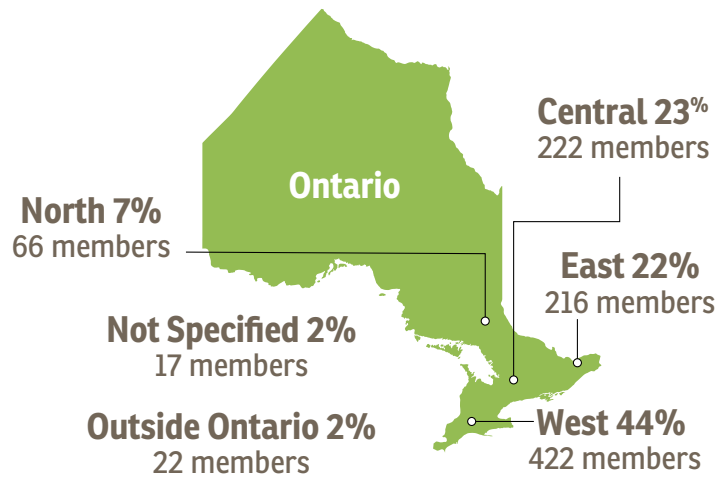

Brent Preston,
Board President


Ali English,
Executive Director

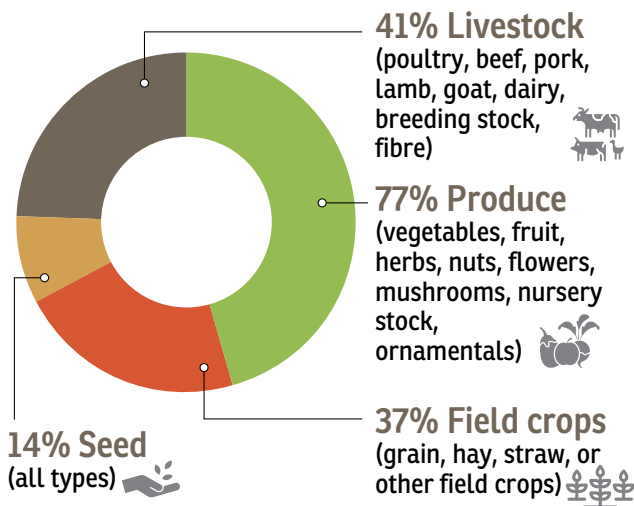
A Growing Membership

EFAO has welcomed 245 new members since 2020!

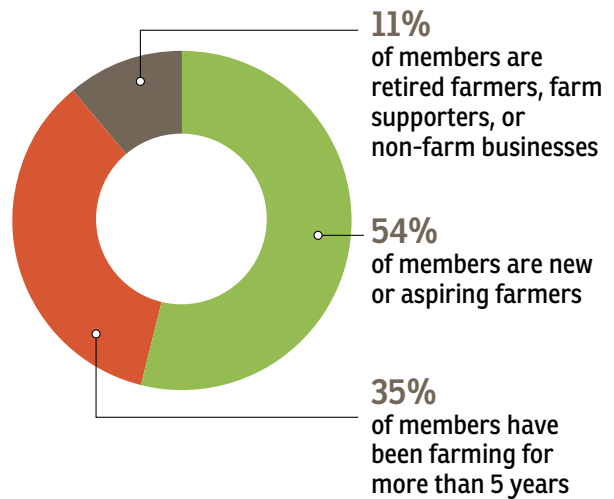
965	Members Across Ontario + 34%
628	Full Members + 7%
9	Lifetime Members + 66%
287	Student/New Farmer Members + 54%
41	Trial Members (34 BIPOC trial memberships)



Products Grown by Members



Member Experience



2021 Member Survey

In April 2021 EFAO launched its first comprehensive member survey in years. We wanted to better understand the diversity of our membership, and find out how our programs and resources are meeting the needs of member farmers.

We were very pleased that 40% of the membership took the time to share information about themselves, their farms, and their use of EFAO programs and resources – thank you!

Check out the [2021 Member Survey Report](#) to see the results.

In 2021 EFAO had 965 members across Ontario and beyond! Who's in your neck of the woods?

Note: Members who chose not to have their name included in the Annual Report have been omitted.

Central Region

Alex Aldridge, Blooming Vintage, Zephyr

Peter Allemang, Polka Dot Hen Produce, South Bruce Peninsula

Derek Barber, Toronto

Angel Beyde, Good Fortune Farmstead, Toronto

Karlo Bobinac, Oakville

Artemida Bodounova, Toronto

Brian Borrow, Borrow Family Farm, Coldwater

Laura V Boyle, High Spirits Farm, Pontypool

Heidi Brautigam, Stems Flower Farm, Cookstown

Anne Brossard, Mono

Ben Caesar, Fiddlehead Nursery, Kimberley

Patti Charbonneau, Newtonville

Amy Oi Ning Cheng, Richmond Hill

Saroja Coelho, Scarborough

Rob Cox, Coxlyn Farms Ltd, Uxbridge

Ryan Cullen, City of Greens, Bowmanville

Glenn Cunnington, Utterson

Lyndsey D'Anna, Washago

Arwa De Groot, Mapleton's Organic, Palmerston

Makyla Deleo, Where the Wildlings Are Farms (The Wildlings), Toronto

Deena DelZotto, 5th LINE Farm, Toronto

Sarah Andree Dolamore, Mount Wolfe Farm, Caledon

Brenda Dolling, Whole Village, Caledon

Janette Drost, Four Boys Flower Farm, Elora

Michael Elliott, Toronto

Ivan Emke, Stouffville

Carly Escott, Castleton

ClearWater Farms, Clear Water Farm, Newmarket

Nico Fattore, King City

Leslie Fell, Fells Meadows Farms Ltd, Castleton

Carole Ferrari, Toronto

Jessye Finch, Future Spell Farm, Mono

Aliyah Fraser, Lucky Bug Farm, Kitchener

Fran Freeman, sticky bees urban honey, Toronto

John Gainor, Fairhaven Farm, Flesherton

Andrea Gibson, Fred's Bread, North York

Jeffrey Gold, Maple Hill Farm, Alton

Marc Goldgrub, Green Economy Law Professional Corporation, Toronto

Lori Goldlust, Toronto

Owen Goltz, Riverdale Farm and Forest Inc., Inglewood

Antonio Gomes, Cavaleiro Farm, Schomberg

Andrew Graham, Graham's Farm Market, Minden

Timothy Griffin, Mississauga

Liz Miyoko Guerrier, Toronto

Christine Halbot, Canadian Organic Seed Company, Kawartha Lakes

Kiki Hastings, Sage and Straw Farm, Etobicoke

Laura Headley, Earth to Table Farm, Ancaster

Nicki Hettinga, Ariss

Cindy Hillard, Ants Marching Farm, Coldwater

Karen Akua Hinds, Toronto

Drew Hogg, Kindred Folk, Stouffville

Lisa Holland, Teeswater

Amna Husain, Silver Seed Farm, Toronto

Marie Injeyan, Sunderland

Jane Jackson, Valleybrook, Caledon

Kayla Jackson, Alton

John Johnson, Cricket Creek Farm, Mono

Sarah Judd, Meadow Lynn Market Garden, Simcoe

Anthony Karigan, Athena Cultivation Inc., London

Madeleine Kassinger, Hamilton

Tom Keckes, Moondance Organic Gardens, Angus

Sylvia Keesmaat, Russet House Farm, Cameron

Craig Kelman

Teresa Kiu, Burlington

Karin Kliewer, Field and Forest Farm, Chatsworth

Dave Kranenburg, Kendal Hills Farm, Orono

Jennifer Kuenzl, Mississauga

Winse Lam, Garden Ardent, Markham

Norm Lamothe, Woodleigh Farms Ltd, Cavan

Susan Langdon, Toronto

Carl Leslie, Flemo Farm, Toronto

Brent Lockridge, Sustainable Nutrition, Toronto

Martha Lowry, Presland Orchards, Coldwater

Jonathan Bruce Macri, Barrie



Michael John Madden, Thor Farms, Thornton

Madeline Marmor, Toronto

Claire McGee, Buds Garden Services, Toronto

Chelsea McKendry, Greenwood Farms On The Ridge, Ashburn

Coreen McNally, Wishing Well Farm, Duntroon

Andrew Emerson Meehan, Sungold Organics, London

Max Meighen, Avling, Toronto

Remy Meyer, Heart in Hand Farm, Toronto

Jocelyn P Molyneux, Wastenot Farms Inc., Toronto

Lori Moore, Whitby

Danielle Neto, King City

Melodie Ng, Common Table Farm, Toronto

Rebecca Nicandro, Dragon Acres Farm, Brechin

Elaine O'Sullivan, Grand River Gardens, Grand Valley

Veronique Ong-Seng, Toronto

Paul Oomen, Oomen Farms Inc, Strathroy

Dean Orr, Mill Valley Farm, King City

Maria Padoin, The Blueberry Place, Midland

Nick Paulino, Windecker Rd., Caledonia

Eric Payseur, L'Ange-Gardien

Annette Pearl Peltier-Flamand, Wee Haw Farms, Wikwemikong

Erica Pena, Toronto

Kresho Petrovich, Petrovich Farm, Pickering

Jessica Pfisterer, The Pfisterer Farm, Kenilworth

Jack Piatkowski, Mississauga

Bernard Piche, Toronto

Darrin Pickett, Back Forty Farm, Uxbridge

Pierce Pimiskern, The Easy Farm, Collingwood

Ben Postance, Hillgreen Farm, Trent Hills

Judith Prince, Ubuntu Farming Collective, Toronto

Steve Quan, Four Seasons Farm, Schomberg

Courtney Rantz, Trillium Stables, Stouffville

Caroline Recollet, Wharnclyffe, Thessalon

Angelina Reesor, County Left Farm, Claremont

Aleisha Richards, Dakota Concepts Ltd, Schomberg

Kevin Riley, Toronto

Roger Rivest, Nature Lane Farms, Staples

Mukesh Sainani, Mississauga

Reinier Scheele, Bloomingdale

Matt Setzkorn, Forever Berries, Rockwood

Sally Shearman, Sharon Creek Farm, East Gwillimbury

Rav Singh, Shade of Miti, Mississauga

Sean Smith, Crooked Farmz, Toronto

Esmeralda Smith Romero, olive+elliot, Toronto

Kelly Sotola, Haldibrook Farms, Fisherville

Abby Stec, Riverstone Retreat, Collingwood

Danette Steele, Toronto

Erika Streicher, Aroma Acres, Elmira

Cheyenne Sundance, Sundance Harvest, Toronto

Elva Tammemagi, Rhizome Farms, St. Catharines

Tarun Tandon, Markham

Arlene Throness, Ryerson Urban Farm, Toronto

Darryl Tims, Montgomeryshire Orchards, Leaskdale

Kristyn Tinney, Folklore on Fuller, Penetanguishene

Garrett Tribble, WaterFarmers Urban Agriculture Inc., Oakville

Andy Van Niekerk, Conforza Farms, Stayner

Aileen Verdun, Puslinch
 Mandeep Virk, Windsor
 Hayley Visentin, Blue Arbor, Kitchener
 Dave & Gillian Wannop, Honey Hill Farm & Apiary, Markham
 Gordon Wells, Wells Farm, St Thomas
 Jim Whitestone, Woodridge Farm, Toronto
 Theo Wiederkehr, Springhill Farm, Mildmay
 Gail Winters, GoodLot Farm & Farmstead Brewing Co., Caledon
 Glen Young, Cold Springs Organics, Pickering
 Zandra Zalucky, Cultivating Opportunities, Sutton West
 Nicholas Zhifkou, Richmond Hill
 Dasong Zou, Pleasantland Farm, Toronto
 Mike & Ingrid Aird, Aird Family Farm, Baltimore
 Kosi Agamah, The Black Pearl Farm, Mississauga
 Kenny Dawkins, Toronto
 Alexandra M Powell, ClearWater Farm, Toronto
 Justin Ainslie, Bent Horn Farmstead, Sauble Beach
 Cat Doncaster, Toronto
 Cara McArthur, Toronto
 Cesar Aguilar, Toronto
 Em Dial, Toronto
 Carole Helene Ferrari, The Bus Kitchen, Toronto
 Alan Kobayashi, Toronto
 Katie Mathieu, Toronto
 Kyle David Swales, Sunny Nature Farm, Midland
 Shini Ko, Toronto
 Megan Mcfatridge, Acton
 Dipak Patel, Toronto
 Greg Simms, The Kitchen Garden Farm, Washago

Arlene Judith Hazzan Green, The Backyard Urban Farm Company, Toronto
 Jacob Kearey-Moreland, Bass Lake Farms, Orillia

“[EFAO] really has opened my eyes to some of the less talked about issues in agriculture, such as why no till is good, and racial equality issues. Growing up on a medium sized conventional cash crop farm only submits you to certain lenses.”

East Region

Juan Acosta, Long Sault
 Colleen Acres, Maple Meadow Farms, Osgoode
 Christina & Robbie & Ethan Anderman, Morninglory Farm, Killaloe
 Linda Armstrong, Headwaters Community Farm and Education Centre, Cobourg
 Caroline Auger, Harvest Fairy, North Lancaster
 Edith Baragar, Le Jardin des Violoneux, Saint Bernard De Michaudville
 Eric Barnhorst, Eva Mae Farm, Brighton
 Joshua Max Blank, Peterborough
 John Bonaparte, Strong Roots Community Garden, Bombay
 Matthew Brearley, Castlegarth Farms, Arnprior
 Patrick Brunet, Dream Small Farm, Alexandria
 Marshall Buchanan, Ottawa Valley Farm to Fork, Douglas

Judith Burfoot, Farm 77, Picton
 Anton Burzminski, Kingston
 Paul Campbell, Maple Ridge Farm, Bailieboro
 Adrienne Chalaturnyk, Charlie's Acres, Enterprise
 Siva Chan, Fairypatch Flower Farm, Stouffville
 Elicia Chinnick, Three Forks Farm, Bobcaygeon
 Heather & Steph Coffey & Laing, Fiddlehead Farm, Demorestville
 Bryan Collins
 Jenny Anne Cook, Knuckle Down Farm, Frankford
 Jessica Lynne Crook, Odessa
 David J Crowley, Crowley Farms, Norwood
 Andrew Davies, No.9 Gardens, Elgin
 Sophia DeBruin, E, Wolfe Island
 Jennifer Doelman, Bonnechere Haven, Douglas
 Dianne & Tim Dowling, Doublejay Farms, Gananoque
 Emily Dowling, Root Radical CSA, Gananoque
 Jesvyl Dsilva, Eyra, Bailieboro
 Janet Duncan, Dunbrae Farms, Almonte
 Sylviane Dutrisac, Ferme Butte & Bine Farm, Williamstown
 Anita Eisenloeffel, Southern Winds, Campbellcroft
 Marwa Elsharkawy, Hiraeth Farm, Breslau
 Linda Kathleen English, Ottawa
 Pedro Escudero, Wolfe Island
 BeetBox Farm, BeetBox Co-operative Farm, Nepean
 Leah Fawcett, Plot of Earth, Winchester
 Ying Fong, Talun Eco-Products Inc, Ottawa
 Annie Richard, Kathy Rothermel Frank Misek, Kitchen Table

Seed House, Wolfe Island
 Robert Garthson, Valley Pines Organics, Grafton
 Diane Gordon, Golden Creek Horticulture, Brockville
 Caroline Granger, The Grange, Hillier
 Paul Grogan, Queen's University, Kingston
 Jim Gronau, Jeffery Farm, Milford
 Brian Groot-Lipman, Groot-Lipman Farms Ltd., Russell
 Kumari Gurusamy, Nellai Farms, Ottawa
 Aminah Haghighi, Raining Gold Family Growers, Hillier
 Melanie Harrington, Dahlia May Flower Farm, Trenton
 Elizabeth Hatton, Lakefield
 Mark Hecnar
 Dale Ronald Heins, Bramble Hill Farm, Ottawa
 Catriona M Henderson, Harrowsmith
 Michael Hook, Arcadia Permaculture, Quinte West
 Scott Hortop, Almonte
 Andre Houle, Ferme Houle Farm, Curran
 Pamela Howson, Ottawa
 Courtney Hunt, Somerville Flower Farm, Kawartha Lakes
 Joseph Imre, Seven Fields Farm & Orchard, Napanee
 Harris Ivans, Grounded Business Solutions, Kingston
 Mike Janssens, Janssens Orchards, Odessa

Shelby Jotoff, Ottawa
 Genevieve Kendall-Hayes, Haywood Farm, Reaboro
 Camille Yu-San Koon, Ottawa
 Manish Kushwaha, Gaia Organics, Kanata
 Dindembolo-Zaya Kuyena, Ottawa
 Angelina Singson & Kyle Morris, Sweet William Farms, Ottawa
 Nicole Laframboise, Fox Forest Farm, Renfrew
 Garry Lean, Bailieboro
 Pat Learmonth, Beavermeadow Farm, Keene
 Tyler Lester, Bloomfield
 Tessa Lewis, Merkaba Acres, Bobcaygeon
 Sarah Loten, Drover's Way Farm, Perth
 Tim Lyon, Main Street Market Urban Farm, Kingston
 Neil Macmillan, Meristem Communications, Cornwall
 Chloe Maracle, Kenhte:ke Seed Sanctuary and Learning Center, Tyendinaga
 Grant Martin, Cedar Hill Christmas Tree Farm, Pakenham
 Jeanne Maurer, Mullcreek Farm, Springbrook
 Alex McArdle, Ottawa
 Nick McCabe, Portland
 Dennis McCarrell, McCarrell Organic Grassfed Beef, Stirling
 Dan McClure, McClure Eats, Bath

Peggy McDonald, Good Food Garden, Vankleek Hill
 Keenan McVey, Blue Goose, Fonthill
 Ryan Monkman, FieldBird Cider, Bloomfield
 Hilary Moore, Maplelane Farm, Lanark
 Rick Munroe, Lone Pine Farm, Gananoque
 Astrid Muschalla, oasis institute for healthy living inc, Wolfe Island
 Hans Ning, Paper Kite, Picton
 Joshua Noiseux, Evermeadow Farm, Cobourg
 Anita O'Brien, Sand Bay Sheep, Lansdowne
 Michael Oeggerli, Heidifarms, Bainsville
 Abena Offeh-Gyimah, Toronto
 Nikki Oke, Rooted Oak Farm, North Augusta
 Krysta Petrie, North Gower
 Alex Pinfold, The MicroRanch, Spencerville
 Jenny Pries, Perch & Pasture Heritage Farm, Roslin
 Amanda Rice, Spring Bloom Orchard, Millbrook
 Erin Richan, Highland Gem Farm, Lanark
 Paul Rivett-Carnac, St Francis Herb Farm, Combermere
 Isabelle Rode, Vintage Soil Farm, Kemptville
 Colin Samuels, jambican studio gardens, Ottawa
 Laura Sawtell, TL Carp Organics, Carp





Elaine Schuetz, Wild Yarrows, Lanark

Jessica Seguin, La Farm, Carlsbad Springs

Sam Sheehan, Stitch and Steel Homestead, Lindsay

Jonathan Smith, Paperboat Farms, Newington

Paul Smith, Bolton Creek Farm, Ottawa

Gord Speksnijder, Port Hope

Justine Spits, Stalice Farm, Rigaud

Greg Stainton, Harmony, Brockville

Cheryl Stanley, Wildwood Homestead, Combermere

Gerry Stephenson, Tully's Way Farm, Perth

John Stoodley

Mohan Subramaniyam, Nemo Farms, Pickering

Josh Suppan, Fat Chance Farmstead, Harrowsmith

Bryan J Swackhamer, Seguin

Marcus Taylor, Kingston

Jessica Tong, Wild Path Farm, Omeme

Kimiko Uchikura, Merkaba Acres, Bobcaygeon

Viktor Vangelov, Mississauga

Michele Vindum, Plainfield Heritage Farm, Plainfield

Rob Wallbridge, Gatineau

Brian Wilson, Back Shed Inc, Embrun

Christopher Wooding, Ironwood Organics, Athens

David Young, Emily Farm, Bobcaygeon

Daren Crawford, Otter Energy (Solar), Picton

Zihang Liu, East Gwillimbury

Dorothy Hector, Kingston

Grace Laing, Kingston

Ronald Raddatz, Eganville

Mary Roufail, Nepean

Peter Sibbald, MedicineHorse Farm, Keene

Ben Bennett, Ben Bennett Communications, Perth

Vanessa Hall, Lakefield

Derick Greenly, Warkworth

Catherine Victoria Reilly, black river forest garden, Milford

Tiffany Smiley, Foresters Falls

North Region

Peggy Baillie, Three Forks Farms, Gordon

Jamie Beal, Stratton

Chase Beaudoin, Northern Wildflowers, Lively

Carolle Beaulieu-Pitre, Flying Geese Farm, Wawa

Charles Belanger, Bison du Nord, Earleton

Ryan Belanger, Family Roots Farm, Chelmsford

Jeff Burke, Brule Creek Farms, Kakabeka Falls

Sarah Cockerton, Stalwart Farm, Nolalu

David G Dockendorff, Silver Rapids Farm, Powassan

Amber Dyck, Gore Bay

Debbie Farr, Massey

Ross Farrell, Sault Ste. Marie

Jenny Fortier, Northern Wildflowers, Lively

Danny Gallant-Mitchell, Sault Ste Marie

Renée Germain, Ferme Ojalamm, Warren

Marcel Godts, Mardeb Farms Ltd, Parkhill

Tara Hamilton, La BelleVie Farm, St Charles

Tom Holinshead, SpringfieldFarm est.1869, Huntsville

David Kains, isleaway, Mindemoya

Jordan Lees, Roots to Harvest, Thunder Bay

Kelly Maki, KAM Angus, Kakabeka Falls

Gwen Marsonet, Borderlands Farm, Neebing

Lisa McDonald, Old McDonalds Family Farm, Lavigne

Evalisa McIlfaterick, Root Cellar Gardens, Neebing

Lynn Moreau, Green Legacy Farm, North Bay

Ron Patton, Sunrise Heirloom Vegetables, Kearney

Jennifer Pimentel, Stone House Farm|Tiny Barn Farm, South River

Becky Porlier, The Colour Farm, Callander

Christine Reid, Northstock Heritage Farm, Val Therese

Lori Skitt, McKenzie Island

Celeste Smith, Ga Gitigemi Gamik, Kagawong

Sabrina Mizanni, Nayah Somersall, Cobalt

Donna Soutar Bilan, Soutars' Highland Farm, North Bay

Isabelle Spence-Legault, Field Good Farms / Ferme j'me champs bien, Cache Bay

Julia Sutton, Santosha Farm, Burk's Falls

Paula Tough, Valleyview Farm, Katrine

Teri Treftlin, North Winds Farm, Kakabeka Falls

Katrina and Ed Violette, Adagio Farms, Powassan

Andrea Walsh, Walsh Forest Farms, Warren

Keith Waters, Fairhaven Farm, Englehart

S Yeghian, Creation Farms, Queensville

Dianne Kretschmar, Grenville Farms, Severn Bridge

Meghan Johnny, Pass Lake

Brendan Grant, Sleepy G Farm, Pass Lake

Garth Wunsch, Lively

"I've only recently joined, however being a member gives me a feeling of connection and a hope that there will be support and insight available when needed as I grow in farming."

West Region

Michael Stangl, Stangl's Enviro Lawn Care, St. Catharines

Fern Grevers, Kitchener

Juliet Oraziotti, Linc Farm, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Aramide Taiwo, Kitchener

Mike Burnett, Wayward Farm, Waterloo

Madie Murdock, Wellandport

Tara Ohri, Tara Grows, Hamilton

Laura Van Den Hurk, Naked Acres Farmstead, Beamsville

David Alexander, Everdale, Hillsburgh

Lynn Archbold, Guelph

Gabrielle Arkett, TBD, Stratford

Etienne Avouampo, AVOFARM, Cambridge

Katie Baikie, Guelph

Andrea Black, Hamilton

Dani Black, Markdale

Lorraine Blackwell, Terra Verde Homestead, Conn

Romina Nicole Bortoluzzi, Our Fields, Aylmer

Deborah Boyd, Home, Health and Harvest, Dundas

Grant Bradley-Low, Stonegrove Farm, Georgian Bluffs

Meghan Brandenburg, Milky Way Farm, Woodstock

David Brosseau, Comber

Christian Burdan, Red Cat Farm, Goderich

John and Susan Burdett, Dutton Mountain Farm, Dutton

Deborah Caira, The Ecobubble, Blyth

Rob Campbell, Better Together Farms, Chatsworth

Brad Card, Cranberry Hill Galloways, Tavistock

Michael Carlton, Riverside Oasis Farm, Wellandport

Ivan Chan, Eden in Season, Meaford

rare Charitable Research Reserve, Cambridge

Christine Clarke, Ignatius Farm, Guelph

Michael Clifford, Ravenna

Ben Constable, Fresh Ayr Farm, Ayr

Carol Cowan, Cowan Anderson Montrose Farm, Drumbo

Janet Cox, Stone Meadow Farm, Maryhill

Margaret (Marney) Cuff, Buffalo Sunrise Farm, RR#3 Hanover

Steve D'Alimonte, Piccolo Farm Organics, Guelph

Eric Ouellette, Guelph

Tim Danard, Kemble

Chris Dancey, Dancey Family Farm, Aylmer

Narcise Datura, Antler River Seeds, Food Not Lawns, London

Jackie Davies, Port Burwell

Fernando De Sousa, Peabody Farms, Desboro

Kim Delaney, Hawthorn Farm Organic Seeds, Palmerston

Rachel Denison, Kitchener

Penney Cole Devan, Fair Fields, Neustadt

Denise Dickieson, Dickieson Farm, Elmira

Alex Dixon, Guelph

LeeAnne Downey, Stonewell Farm, Erin

Andréa Dubé, Guelph

Lydia Dyck, Durham

Aarathi Edward-Paiva, Guelph

Rebecca Ellis, Permaculture for the People, London

Jon Elphick, Elphick Poultry Farm, Guelph

Norm Eygenraam, Multi Shelter Solutions, Palmerston

Duane Falk, Mimosa Breeding and Research, Hillsburgh

John & Carol Fennema, Fenwood Farm, Ancaster

Simon & Talia Fletcher, Fletchitz Forest Farm, West Grey

Dan Fogal, Durham

Matthew Forbes, Saturday Seed Co., Guelph

Sarah Foshay, Elgin Acres Farm, St. Thomas

Deirdre Fraser, The Restaurant at Pearl Morissette, Jordan Station

Gladys Freer, Baden

Jacqueline Fulham, Harriston

Jessica Gale, Sweet Gale Gardens, Hamilton

Doris Galea, Rockwood

Simon Galton, The Nest, Dundas

Mark Gerber, Oakridge Acres, Ayr

Jason Gharibo, London

John Gibner, Gibner Farms, Port Elgin

Bryan Gilvesy, yuranch, Tillsonburg

Alex Glazirin, Mulberry Moon Farm, Strathroy

Len Graat, Urban Acres Homestead, St Thomas

Ian Graham, Old 99 Farm, Dundas

James Casey, Wholesome Harvest, Rodney

Ryan Robert Green, Greenbrook Farms Ltd, Embro

Nicholas Greenacre, Shamba Letu Farm, Paris

Jennica Grimshaw, Guelph

Bruce Grimwood, Bruce Grimwood Farms, Welland

Ayella Grossman, Oracle, Orton

Angela Guyitt, The Knotted Willow Farm and Nursery, Muirkirk

Bruce Hahn, Monkton

Caitlin Hall, reroot farm, Harriston

Kristine Hammel, Persephone Market Garden, Allenford

Pam Hasson, Elora

Zoe Hayes, Hamilton

Ian Peter Hendry, Hendry Farms, Troy

Denis Heraud, Urban Roots London, London

Anastasia Heuvelmans, Little Nutty Farm, Chatham

Curtis Heyink, Heyink Poultry Farms, Hensall

Paul Hildebrand, Guelph

Adam Hincks, Wellington Produce Packaging, Mount Forest

Doug Hodgson, Uphill Farm, Acton

Brenda Hsueh, Black Sheep Farm, Chesley

Colin Isaacs, Fisherville Raptor Preserve, Fisherville

George Ivanoff, Guelph

Rebecca Frances Ivanoff, SeedWorks Plant Breeding Club, Guelph

Anne Janssen, Creek'nTree Farm, Perth

Daren B. Johnson, Soil Regeneration Services, Hanover

Vallerate Bwari Joseph, AJ's Family Farm, Guelph

Cherice Kamutzki, Root Haven Farm, Jordan Station

Meng Karbach, Food 4 Life Market Garden, Welland

Deborah Kelliher, Aylmer

Mike Keunen, Leaping Calf Farm, Cambridge

Marshall King, Ontario Organic Farmers Co-operative, Mississauga

Lara Kirk, Hamilton

Nathan David Klassen, Nith Valley Organics, Plattsville

Johann and Maggie Kleinsasser, Whole Circle Farm, Simcoe

Ruth Knight, Organic Consultant Inc, Teeswater

Angie Koch, Fertile Ground, St. Agatha

Adam Kramer, The Working Centre Market Garden, Kitchener

Britta Kroupa, Nith River Ranch, Plattsville

Eva Kruzlics, Kitchener

Ken Laing, Orchard Hill Farm, St.Thomas



Shane Lambert, Black Dog Forest Farm, Elora

Julie Anne Lamberts, By the Bluffs, Georgian Bluffs

Sarah Larsen, Three Ridges Ecological Farm, Aylmer

Hayden Law, Hamilton

Heather Lekx, Ignatius Farm, Guelph

Kyra Lightburn, Guelph

Jeffrey Linton, Linton Pasture Pork, Walton

Marci Lipman, Mono

Celeste Lopreiato, Holland Centre

Melisa Luymes, Moorefield

Mahes M, Guelph

Jeremy MacDonald, New Leaf Market Garden, St. Clements

Amy Macfarlane, City Mouse, Eden Mills

Rob Mackay, Mackay Farms and Stables, Elora

Neala MacLeod Farley, Owen Sound

Karen Maitland, Backyard Farmer, Guelph

Brad L Martin, Echo Valley Ranch, Moorefield

Sarah Martinez, Guelph

Andrea Matrosovs, Blue Mountain Baskets, Clarksburg

Heather Maughan, Mildmay

Alyssa Mayo, New Hamburg

JoAnn McCall, Cirrus Hill Farm, Meaford

Heather McCarvell, London

Hannah McCormack, Four Pines, Harriston

Doug McEachern, Wellandport

Wendy McGowan, Wychwood Farm, Komoka

Mary Mcguire, Heroncrest, Grand Bend

Tamara Ruth McMullen, Firmly Rooted, Belgrave

Doug McRuer, Donbar Farms, Ayr

Rosemary Mesley, Rose View Farm, Clarksburg

Courtney Miller, Creamery Hill Farms, Owen Sound

Denise Miller, Revitalizing Our Sustenance Project, Ohsweken

Elisabeth Miltenburg, Bruce Botanical Food Gardens, Lucknow

Phil Moddle, Arrowwood Farm, Melbourne

Justin Morris, Edward Farms, Stoney Creek

John Thomas Donald Moylan, 5 Chicks and a Farmer, Grey

Heather Newman, D&H Newman, Kincardine

Katherine Ngui, Aster Lane, Neustadt

Shannon Nguyen, BTE Permaculture, Guelph

Vesna Nikolic, whole village farm, Alton

Tyler Ogilvie, London

Katie Olechowski, Eckhoridge Farm, Puslinch

Vanessa Ong, Littlefoot Community Projects, Kitchener

Marta Orłowska, Kitchener

Jennifer Osborn, ALL Sorts Acres, Ayton

Ron Oswald, Cambridge

Shelly Paulocik, Perceptive Pruner, Lakeside

Ginny Pearce, Dundas

Jessica Pelchat, Wild Child Regeneration, Durham

Tanith Perry-Mills, Guelph

Sharon Pfeifer, Fenwick

Gerald & Marlene Poechman, Poechman Family Farms, Walkerton

Annabel Por, Twig & Brindille Flower Farm, Markdale

Claire Poulton, Little Fields Farm, Bright

Brandi Powell, Cambridge

Felix Pozojevic, St. Catharines

Chad Quinlan, Quinlan farms, Essex

Rene Quinquito, Ripley

Thomas Radcliffe, Hoppy Fields Farm, Fergus

Melinda Ramsay, Lickety Spit Fibre Farm, Binbrook

Rob Read, Willow Creek Farm, Dutton

Alex Ritchie, Simple Riches, Neustadt

Meg Roberts, Cambridge

Jessica Robertson, Wild Craft Permaculture, London

Darrell Roes, Sprouting Inc., Baden

Haley Rogers, Green Heart Farms, Kingsville

Shane Rozeveld, Aslan Organics, Camlachie

Steve Tindale, Rutherford, Meaford

John and Linda Sanderson, Kitchener

Kristen Sandvall, Port Rowan

Ann-Marie Saunders, Saunders Family Farm & Vineyard Inc., Beamsville

Tracey Saunders, White Rocks Farm, Fergus

Martina Schaefer, Spiral Farm, Guelph

Josh Scheerer, Farmstead Fresh, Hillsburgh

Marc Schiller, Ashriverfarms, St Joachim

Emily Schoenberger, Lucknow

Theresa Schumilas, Garden Party Flower Farm, St Agatha

Jennifer Seilern, Seilern Farm, Kincardine

Ryan Shantz, CloverCroft Farm, Paris

Caroline Sharp, greenUNITED Vegetable and Duck Farm, Hamilton

Nitin Suresh Shende, Guelph

Shafayath Siddique, KW Urban Farmer, Cambridge

Tara Sieg, Potter's Burrow Farm, Thamesford

Ann Slater, Ann Slater Organic Vegetables, Lakeside

Stewart Slater, Eshcol Farm, Lakeside

Christine Sloboda, Waterloo

Haley Smith, Nourished Roots Market Garden, Caledon

Heidi Smith, Whitefield Farm, Annan

Lori Smith, Happy Cedar Homestead, Parkhill

Mike Smith, Guelph

Mike Smith, Guelph Centre for Urban Organic Agriculture, Guelph

Ross Snider, Old River Farm, Glencoe

Sheila Somerville, Botany Heirloom, Kent Bridge

Shelley Spruit, Against the Grain Farms of Winchester, Mountain

Amy St. John, London

Amy Stein Stein, Riverbank Farm, Durham

Val Steinmann, Heartwood Farm & Cidery, Acton

Mark Stephens, Highland Supply, Dundalk

Leslie Stevens, Dresden

Felicia Syer Nicol, Sycamore Farm, Courtright

Shane Tarry, St. Thomas

Kelly Tate, Simcoe

Abbey Taylor, Belmont

Ryan Thiessen, Thiessen Tillage Equipment, St. Catharines

Heather Thoma, LoonSong Farm, Baltimore

Maureen Thuss, Spoked Wheel Farms, Mount Brydges

Angela Tiessen, Upper Grand Veterinary Services, Guelph

Rashel M Tremblay, Tilbury

Tom Trick, Trick's Creek Farm, Clinton

Tim A Tripp, Neudorff North America, Guelph

Richard Tunstall, Hearts Content Organic Farm, Brantford

Rob Turenne, Mulmur

Cory Van Groningen, VG Meats/Hillview Farm, Cayuga

Reinhard Van Loocke, FamilyVanLoocke, Bright

Bernie VanDenBelt, Longwoods Lea, London

Lorraine Vandermyden, Guelph

Carl & Andrea VanRooyen, Greener Pastures Eco Farm, Woodstock

Sandra Vos, Brantford

Melissa J Watkins, Elora

Jenny Ann Weickert, Our Farm - KW Habilitation, Waterloo

Melissa M Wettlaufer, Windy Hill Haven, Fullarton

Sandra White, The little big ranch, Fenwick

Gary Wilson, Grand Bend

Carrie Woolley, Woolleys' Lamb/Schuyler Farms Ltd., Simcoe

Alex Yazdani, London

Snowden Zeng, Niagara Falls

Rachel Cope, Hamilton

Hansie Dan, Cambridge

Mariah Preis, Kitchener

Anterra Vsetula-Sheffield, Guelph

Sophie Foster, Embro

Sean Kosak, Green Pea Farms Canada Inc., Stoney Creek

Sarah Prevette, Wildwood Farm, Glen William

Tharren Watson, Hornyak Innovations Inc., Otterville

Fawn Ballinger, Welland

Celine Bellevue, Agriculture Solutions, Inc., Sebringville

Terry Boys, Poly culture farm, Tillsonburg

Elizabeth Bryan, Mulmur

Jeffrey A. Carter, freelance journalist, Dresden

Aleta Klassen, Plattsville

Nicole Jongeling, Mount Hope

Ronaldo Lec, Chesley

Candis Loomans, Fullarton

Andy Macdonald, Clifford, ON

Abel Page, Rockwood

Katherine L Scott, Heartwood Farm & Cidery, Brantford

Atullya Singh, Windsor

Janna Van Blyderveen, Courtland

Julia or Jacob Wever, Naturally Rooted Jewels Homestead, Langton

"[EFAO] brings together likeminded people that are a great spectrum of hardcore organic over to the thoughtful and responsible farmers. Also brings old timers and young eager people together. The EFAO makes and builds relationships with great people."

Outside Ontario

Karlee Gerrand, Sunny Slope Farm, Winnipeg

Meredith Potter, Duncan

Sabal Rana, EXIM AGRITECH, New Delhi

Simone McIsaac, Rootdown Farm, Pemberton

Tiffany Traverse, Fourth Sister Farm, Progress

Michaela Cruz, Healing Hands Farm, Digby

Jessica Miedema, Little Flora Gem, Enderby

Region not specified

Donald Cole

Janette Haase

Matthew John

Adriana Rouw

Olga Shibanova



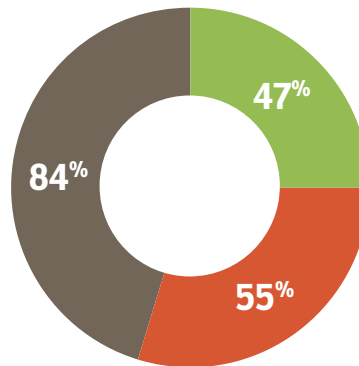
Supporting Community — Online and In Person

After more than a year of online-only content due to the COVID-19 pandemic, EFAO offered **four in-person field days** during the summer and fall of 2021, focused on organic apple production, no-till vegetables, no-till field crops, and Ecological Outcome Verification. As part of the Ignatius New Farmer Training Program, EFAO offered two additional hybrid in-person/online field days focused on orchard care and beekeeping.

While EFAO hopes to offer more opportunities to connect in person in 2022, the organization also recognizes that there are many benefits to online and hybrid programming, such as greater financial and geographic accessibility. Since March of 2020, EFAO has seen a 70% increase in event registrations, almost entirely from online events.

In 2022 and beyond, EFAO will focus on learning from the past two years to continue creating high-quality opportunities for farmer-to-farmer knowledge sharing and community building that embrace the strengths and benefits each format has to offer.

EFAO members who would like to see a mix of virtual and in-person programming in the future:



47% prefer either online-only or a mix of online & in-person for field days.

55% prefer either online-only or a mix of online & in-person for the conference.

84% prefer either online-only or a mix of online & in-person for workshops.

Farmer-to-farmer education and relationship building

2113 people attended **113** events. **23** of these events had at least one BIPOC presenter (20%).

Events included 24 webinars, 6 workshops, 12 virtual field days, 4 in-person field days, and 21 online meet-ups including 7 BIPOC Farmer Network meetups.

Ignatius Farm New Farmer Training Program

55 of EFAO's 2021 events were hosted in partnership with **Ignatius Farm** and Everdale as part of the 2021 Ignatius Farm New Farmer Training Program.

2021 marked the second year of the program, which consisted of four terms that ran from April to November and not only provided new and aspiring farmers with critical information to start their farms, but also the opportunity to meet other new and experienced farmers and become a part of the ecological agricultural community in Ontario.

239 people participated in the program, and more than 10% of participants were Black, Indigenous, or people of colour.



Ignatius Jesuit Centre
A Place of Peace

Online Farm Planning Course

In 2021, EFAO launched the Online Farm Planning Course in partnership with [Everdale](#). This ten week, comprehensive course walked participants through the steps to write a detailed farm plan for their farm businesses. Each week featured an online webinar and group networking meeting; as well as worksheets, templates, resource links and farm case studies.

70 people participated in the 2021 Online Farm Planning Course and based on evaluation survey results approximately 12% of participants were BIPOC. 80% of participants said the Online Farm Planning Course helped them write a farm plan, and 84% had increased confidence to start up (or continue to run) a viable farm business.

“[The Online Farm Planning Course gave] me the tools to think about farming not only as a lifestyle, but as a business that requires business planning and smarts. You can’t just do what you like and hope the money works out – it takes planning!”

BIPOC Farmer Network

EFAO’s [BIPOC Farmer Network](#) was formed out of a BIPOC Meet-up and Consultation that took place at the 2020 EFAO Conference. To date, over 100 Black, Indigenous and people of colour have joined the network. The group is a mix of new, experienced and aspiring farmers. The network has included the development of an email group and online map over the course of seven meet-ups, approximately every two months. The BIPOC Farmer Network has enabled valuable representation in farmer-to-farmer knowledge sharing, especially around culturally diverse crops, seed swaps, support and community building.

“You all are so inspiring. I’m so happy to be holding space with you and learning and sharing.”

EFAO's Online Forum

260 users engaged in 361 discussions

28 members wrote articles for EFAO’s quarterly publication *Ecological Farming in Ontario*



Two Virtual Conferences


With a switch to a January-December fiscal year, the EFAO AGM is no longer being held in conjunction with the conference. Therefore, this annual report includes an update on both the 2020 and 2021 EFAO conferences.

7th Annual Ecological Farmers of Ontario Conference

Rooted & Reaching

Nov 30 – Dec 5, 2020, online

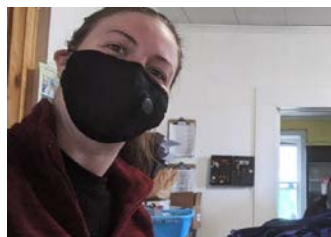

- 24 sessions + 3 virtual farm tours + 6 community meetings + EFAO AGM + Research Symposium
- 65 speakers
- 379 participants
- The BIPOC Farmer Consultation had 47 RSVPs
 - Input from this consultation shaped EFAO's Anti-Racism & Equity Action Plan, the 2021 conference and all EFAO programming
- Highlights: virtual concert, daily social hours, virtual trade show, silent auction, Carrot Cache Innovation Prize



2020 VIRTUAL EFAO CONFERENCE
November 30 to December 5, 2020 | conference.efao.ca

Rooted & Reaching **EFAO**
ECOLOGICAL FARMERS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

Sponsor & Exhibitor Information



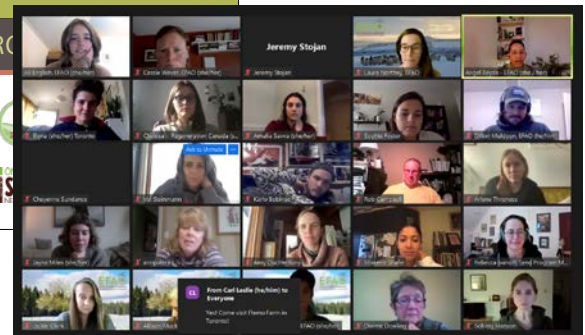
“EFAO provides a space for continuous learning. The tours, videos and newsletter are the first place I look for info. The Farmer Led Research is also much appreciated. I have very little free time and the fact that EFAO puts so much info in one place allows me to continue to update my skills and improve my farming.”

8th Annual Ecological Farmers of Ontario Conference

Cultivating Common Ground

Nov 29 - Dec 2, 2021, online

- The following changes were made in light of feedback after the first virtual conference:
 - Reduced length to 4 days
 - Offered concurrent daytime sessions, evening plenary sessions, and a large afternoon break to accommodate participant needs and staff capacity
 - Integrated sponsors into a social platform, rather than offering a separate virtual tradeshow
 - Offered more panels, lightning talks, and other formats that create opportunities for increased online interaction and engagement
 - Offered supported registration to anyone facing systemic barriers to participation
- 25 sessions + 4 plenary sessions + 2 BIPOC Farmer Meet-ups + Research Symposium
- 77 speakers, 18 of whom were BIPOC (23%)
- 463 total participants making this the **best-attended EFAO conference to date**
- Highlights: EFAO Trivia Night, daily social hours on the Wonder platform, silent auction, Carrot Cache Innovation Prize



“The wealth of knowledge available through EFAO’s programs, conference, and other farmers. The community is incredibly generous with their knowledge and time, and we have learned so much through the webinars, conference and community forum. The sense of solidarity and community with other farmers also keeps us optimistic during difficult times.”

“I always turn to EFAO for no-nonsense, solid business examples of farmers doing awesome things. If someone isn’t running a viable business using techniques, it won’t help my business be more viable. Seeing people out there doing inspiring things AND making it work business wise is the best source of confidence I can ever get for farming ecologically!”

Sharing in a Culture of Curiosity



In 2021, 33 farmers participated in 29 on-farm research trials. These included multiple no- or reduced-tillage vegetable trials, variety trials for field crops, three multi-farm variety trials, and more.

Farmer-Led Research Projects Started or Completed in 2021



Disease and Pest Management

Using biochar as an amendment for engineered green roof soil blend

Ines Lacarne, Michelle Dang, and Sharene Shafie, The X Urban Farm

Does intercropping with onions improve overall yield for cauliflower?

Kristine Hammel, Persephone Market Garden

Microclimates for summer lettuce

Luke Sheldrick & Dana Moores, Terramor Farm



Seed Production, Varietal Selection and Breeding

Organic field corn variety screening trial

Michael Oeggerli, Heidi Farms Inc.

Oat variety trial in eastern Ontario

Norm Lamothe, Woodleigh Farms Ltd.

Quinoa variety screening trial

Dean Orr, Mill Valley Farm

Summer green head lettuce variety trial

Angie Koch, Fertile Ground Farm; Ann Slater, Ann Slater Organics; Hilary Moore, Maplelane Farm; Martina Schaefer, Spiral Farm; Roger Thiessen & Romina Bortoluzzi, Our Fields Farm; Roger Rivest, Nature Lane Farms; Sarah Judd, Meadow Lynn Market Garden

Spinach variety trial for northwestern Ontario seed production

Evalisa McIlffaterick, Root Cellar Gardens; Janna van Blyderveen & Jordan Lees, Roots to Harvest

Isolation distance for cut flower seed production

Kim Delaney, Hawthorn Farm Organic Seeds

Grain amaranth variety trial, year 2

Kristine Hammel, Persephone Market Garden; Phil Mount, Flat Earth Farm; Rob Read, Willow Creek Permaculture Farm; Ronaldo Eleazar Lec Ajcot and Myriam Legault, Ecology and Solidarity Council (ECOSOL); Tarrah Young, Green Being Farm; Janna Van Blyderveen, Norfolk Gardens

Argonaut squash dehybridization project, with results in future years

Rob Read, Willow Creek Permaculture Farm



Soil Health

No-till broccoli with landscape fabric in northern Ontario

Ryan Spence and Isabelle Spence-Legault, Field Good Farms/Ferme j'me champ bien

No-till sunflowers in northern Ontario

Becky Porlier, The Colour Farm

Shallow vs deep tillage in permanent beds for onions

Jeff Boesch, Cedar Down Farm

Regenerating degraded soil, continuation from 2020 with results in 2022

Eric Barnhorst, Eva Mae Farm

Efficacy of co-composting with mineral amendments, with results in 2023

Rob Campbell, Better Together Farms



Weed Control

Effect of spacing on basket willow (*Salix spp.*) crop production, with results in 2023

Andrea Matrosovs, Wild Willow Farm & Studio

EFAO
ECOLOGICAL FARMERS
ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

FARMER-LED RESEARCH

RESEARCH REPORT 2021
Shallow vs deep tillage in permanent beds for onions

IN A NUTSHELL
To test whether permanent beds can grow onions well with only shallow tillage (1.5 inches) as compared to deep and shallow tillage:
• Jeff found no difference in onion yield (weight) between the tillage treatments.
• Seeing no adverse effects from using only shallow tillage gives Jeff confidence to try more extensive tillage for bed preparation in the future.
• Various variety outperformed Norstar by an average of 20% more by weight.

MOTIVATION
Systems for growing no-till vegetables often use a broadcast to loosen up the soil after winter and before planting. For this reason, Jeff has been wary of only doing really shallow-till bed prep tillage with no deeper tillage to loosen and warm the soil after the snowpack in spring. In 2021, however, conditions in Jeff's permanent beds were right to compare shallow and deep tillage — there was little-to-no winter annual or perennial weed pressure and radish tap roots of the cover crop grew well (Photo 1).

METHODS
Jeff has 8 permanent beds that he used to grow yellow storage onions in 2021. To prepare the beds, Jeff seeded the beds to tillage radish in August 2020.
To test the difference between shallow + deep tillage and shallow tillage only, Jeff used the following randomized design (Figure 1).

Each bed was 200 ft long and 5 ft wide on the center of wheel paths. Jeff grew onions in clumps of 2 or 3 plants every 12 inches in 18 row beds with 1.5 inches between rows, meaning he had approximately 1200 onion plants per bed.

When he prepared the beds in the spring (Photo 2), he identified the beds by marking the ends of the bed with flags.

At harvest, Jeff picked sections of 25" each from which to weigh harvested onions for data collection (Photos 3-5).

Photo 1. Tillage radish in permanent beds after winter.

Photo 2. Bed prep in the shallow and deep-till beds.

Photo 3. Harvesting permanent beds after winter.

Photo 4. Harvesting permanent beds after winter.

Photo 5. Harvesting permanent beds after winter.

Top benefits gained as a result of conducting farmer-led research:

- Increased capacity to innovate
- On-farm decision making
- Community of support

Of her first trial — EFAO's first trial on a rooftop farm — Ines Lacarne says “conducting the study reinforced the importance of having robust record keeping systems in place at the beginning of the season. I already knew how easily some things can slip away when times are busy, but being extra intentional about what data is being collected, why, and how, made a big difference!”

Speaking about the benefits of multi-farm variety trials, Ann Slater explains: “they are a good place for someone to start out, because it’s not just on you. You’ve got a group of people to work with, and if something goes wrong – because things always do go wrong – other farmers are there.”



A farmer performing research in the X University rooftop garden.

Living Lab – Ontario Encourages New Collaborations and Innovations

The Living Laboratories Initiative is an integrated approach to agricultural innovation that brings farmers, scientists, and other partners together to co-develop, test, and monitor new practices and technologies in a real-life context.

Ontario Partners

- Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Essex Region Conservation Authority
- Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario
- Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
- Ontario Soil Network
- Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Research through this initiative focuses on reducing the soil and nutrient runoff from agricultural land into Lake Erie, improving water quality, conserving soil health, and increasing biodiversity on agricultural lands in Ontario.

As part of this project, EFAO has two farm sites focused on **reduced tillage and continuous cover for organic field crop production and organic vegetable production.**

Brett Israel of 3Gen Organics near Wallenstein trialed:

- Double cropped winter barley with no-till soybeans compared to soybeans with traditional tillage and soybeans no-till planted into cereal rye
- Organic field corn planted with alfalfa as the sole source of nitrogen and weed management

Ken Laing of Orchard Hill Farm near St Thomas trialed:

- Organic garlic no-till planted into a mown cover crop of sorghum sudangrass without any tillage for weed control
- Organic potatoes no-till planted into mown cover crop of rye/hairy vetch without any tillage for weed control or hilling
- Winter squash transplanted no-till into rolled rye/hairy vetch, hairy vetch and deep compost mulch without any tillage for weed control

Led by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA), Living Lab – Ontario project collaborators include farmers, agricultural and conservation organizations, and scientists from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada.



Growing a Seed Community

Supporting the growing and development of seed varieties that are adapted to our changing climate has never been more important. From sharing seed stories at the EFAO conference, to webinar meet-ups, community grow outs and many multi-farm trials, seeds brought us together this year to do this crucial work.

EFEO continues to be the Ontario host organization for the **The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security (BFICSS)**. This national initiative supports farmers to participate in on-farm research such as variety trialing and plant breeding, and facilitates farmer-to-farmer knowledge sharing opportunities.

In addition to the many plant breeding and variety trials that were supported through EFAO's Farmer-Led Research Program (listed on page 12):

- 22 farms participated in the Canadian Organic Vegetable Crop Improvement (CANOVI) variety trials in Ontario, on radicchio, rutabaga, and African eggplant.
- Over 100 participants attended each seed workshop at EFAO's annual conference, including the conference keynote by Kristyn Leach!
- Seed Meetups were attended by 15 to 25 EFAO members monthly.
- 435 participants attended six national webinars that were hosted by the BFICSS team on a variety of seed topics.



EFAO was thrilled to welcome Kristyn Leach of Namu Farm in central California as the keynote speaker at the 2021 EFAO Conference. Kristyn's talk on her deeply personal relationship with perilla, a crop native to Korea, was educational and inspirational.

- A listserv was created for contract seed growers and Canadian ecological seed companies to connect, in order to increase the quantity and quality of ecological seed offered regionally!
- Inspiring and important seed stories continued to be featured as part of a second season of the [SeedHeads Podcast](#).
- 56 growers in Ontario participated in the Community Seed Grow Outs program in collaboration with Seeds of Diversity Canada. Participants grew beans and tomatoes for the Seed Library (our local gene bank!) and also participated in a community ground cherry breeding project.

"I don't think I'd be farming if it were not for the knowledge I've gained through EFAO and Bauta programming."

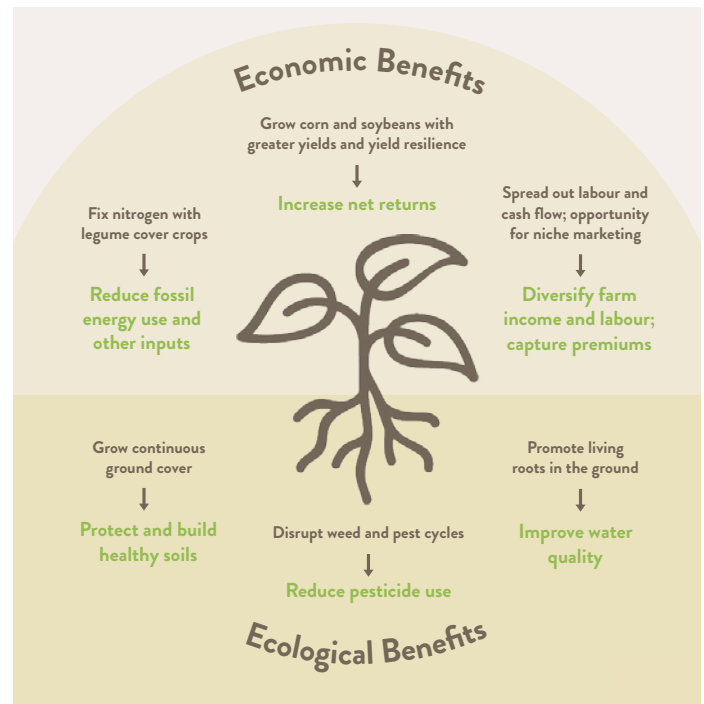


New Acres of Small Grains

Small Grains Program

EFAO launched a pilot Small Grains Program to help farmers diversify their rotation by growing a small grain followed by a legume cover crop or cover crop mix. In 2021, eight farmers received \$40/acre to grow a total of 605 acres of winter wheat, oats, cereal rye, and spring barley followed by a legume cover crop.

Why small grains? Scientific research and farmer observations show that adding small grains such as wheat, spelt, oats, barley, rye or triticale to a rotation has agronomic, ecological and economic benefits.



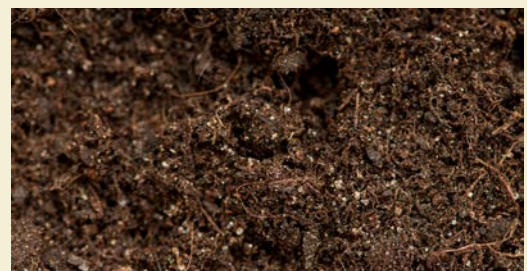
Small Grains Network

In addition to the payment program, EFAO started its Small Grains Network. Open to all, the network supports beginner to advanced small grain growers across Ontario, with free monthly meet-ups, e-newsletters, and community-building around growing small grains.

<p>195 Small Grains Network Participants</p> <p>7 monthly meet-ups in 2021</p> <p>1 Summer Small Grains Conference</p>	<p>SMALL GRAINS, BIG GAINS.</p>
---	--

Evaluating Soil Health

As part of the Small Grains Program, six growers conducted soil health benchmarking. EFAO provided them with an individualized benchmark report for organic matter, active carbon, and other indicators to help evaluate the benefits of the addition of small grains to their rotation.



Advocating for Climate-Friendly Policy

Highlights from 2021

The majority of EFAO's policy and advocacy work to date has been through Farmers for Climate Solutions (FCS). In 2019, EFAO became a founding member of the FCS coalition, which now brings together 24 organizations from across Canada to advocate for stronger climate policy at both federal and provincial levels.

FEB. 23: FCS releases its federal budget recommendations, which call for a \$300 million investment to reduce agricultural emissions by 10 megatonnes. The recommendations suggest six clear programming priorities to support farmers to reduce GHGs and build resilience.

MAR. 18: Federal government announces \$185 million over the next 10 years for the [Agricultural Climate Solutions \(ACS\) program](#), which aims to establish a network of farmers and researchers to develop and share management practices that best store carbon and mitigate climate change. Farmers for Climate Solutions commends this investment and restates its call for further dedicated funding for on-farm climate adaptation and mitigation programs.

APR. 19: Budget 2021 is released, and includes a \$200 million investment over two years to support farmers to reduce emissions by improving nitrogen management, increasing adoption of cover cropping, and normalizing rotational grazing. In addition, the government allocates \$60 million over two years to protect trees and wetlands on farms, and \$10 million to power farms with clean energy. These investments are a direct reflection of the FCS budget recommendations.

SEPT. 13: EFAO's President, Brent Preston, takes over as interim director of Farmers for Climate Solutions while Karen Ross is on parental leave.

OCT. 6: FCS releases its Equity Framework, which is intended to foster greater inclusion of a diversity of people in agriculture by considering how policy can better include and support equity-deserving groups

NOV. 1: FCS releases a campaign to promote its four preliminary priorities for the next Agricultural Policy Framework, a five-year funding partnership between the federal and provincial governments.

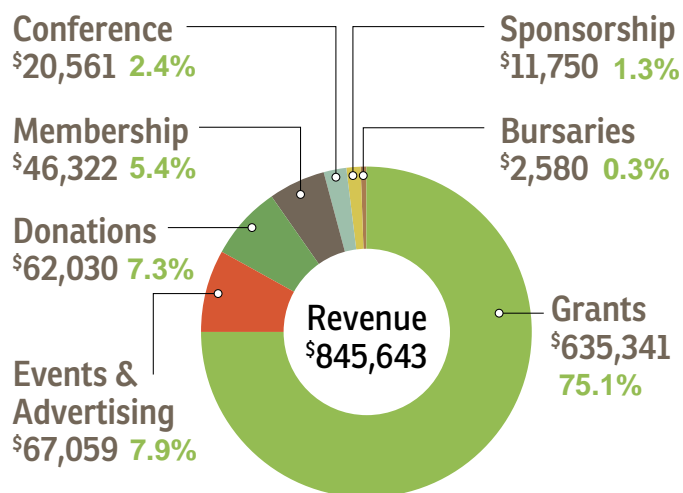
NOV. 17: [The Guelph Statement](#), a summary of the federal, provincial and territorial agriculture ministers' shared vision, priorities and principles for the next agricultural policy framework, is released. "Tackling climate change and environmental protection to support GHG emission reductions and the long-term vitality of the sector while positioning producers and processors to seize economic opportunities from evolving consumer demands" is listed as the top priority.



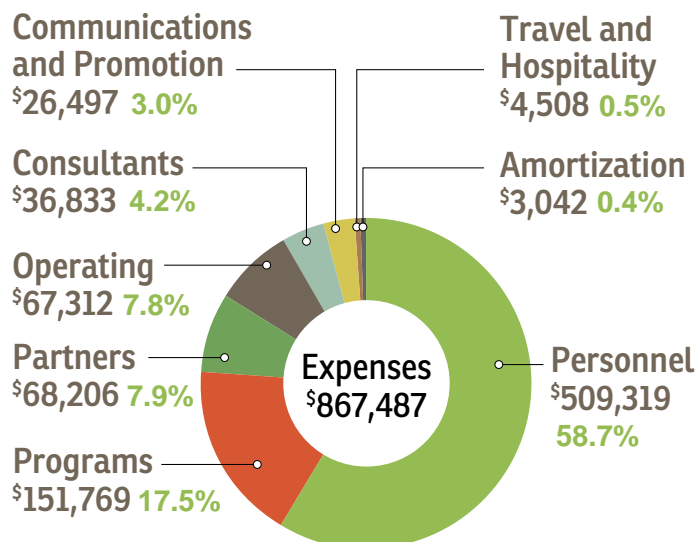
**FARMERS
FOR CLIMATE
SOLUTIONS**

2021 Financial Report

Revenue:



Expenses:



Total Revenue:	\$845,643
Total Expenses:	\$867,487
Net Revenue (Loss):	(\$21,844)*

Net Assets = \$156,836
 (\$124,436 Unrestricted Net Assets + \$32,400 Internally Restricted for 2022)

In 2021 EFAO's Unrestricted Net Assets increased by \$18,156 which is in line with our financial goal of contributing \$10-\$20k to our Unrestricted Net Assets each year. Unrestricted Net Assets allow EFAO to cash flow grants that work by reimbursement and provide a safety net for potential future shortfalls.

**Note: This loss was planned and expected and is offset by \$40k in funding that was internally restricted in 2020.*

Payments to Farmers in 2021 = \$144,507

- \$93,828 for farmer-led research fees and expenses
- \$26,479 for speaker fees
- \$24,200 for small grains + cover crop payments



Outreach



Digital Reach



2,942
E-Newsletter
Subscribers
+13%



3,225
Instagram
Followers
+59%



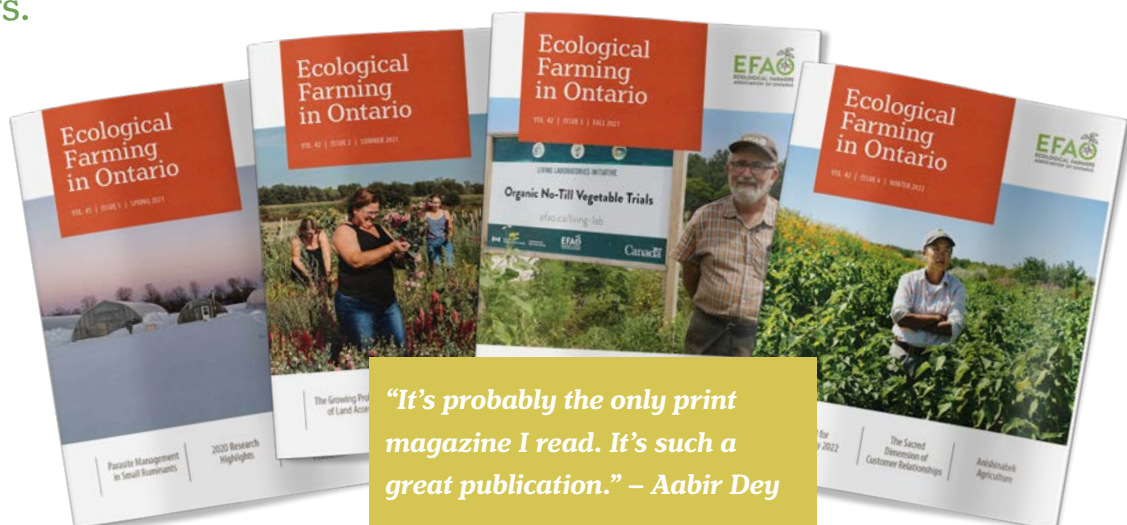
1,818
Twitter
Followers
+15%



4,881
Facebook
Followers
+11%

Ecological Farming in Ontario

In 2021, EFAO mailed over 2,000 copies of our print publication to full members, and shared thousands of digital copies with new and young farmer members.



Funding Partners

Thank you to our funding partners for making it possible for EFAO to offer a variety of innovative farmer-led programs and initiatives in ecological agriculture.

THE ARRELL FAMILY FOUNDATION



Canada



Robert and Moira Sansom
Ideas Foundation

A fund within the



LONDON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Brian and
Joannah Lawson
Family
Foundation



Weston Family
Foundation

Organizational Partnerships

- Canadian Organic Growers
- Everdale
- Farmers for Climate Solutions
- Ignatius Farm (Ignatius Jesuit Centre)
- Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario
- Local Food and Farm Co-ops
- National Farmers Union – Ontario
- Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
- Ontario Soil Network
- Organic Council of Ontario
- Practical Farmers of Iowa
- SeedChange
- The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security
- University of Guelph
- Regeneration Canada
- Rural Agri-Innovation Network
- Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy
- Northern Farm Innovation Alliance
- Seeds of Diversity Canada

Get Involved

Join or Renew Your Membership

Having an EFAO membership is about being a part of something bigger: a diverse community of people with shared values and goals. If your membership has lapsed or membership isn't something you have considered, check our [membership page](#) for more information. You can also choose lifetime membership or automatic membership renewal, so your membership remains current no matter what!



Attend EFAO Events



The pandemic has changed how we think about and carry out events, but EFAO hopes that through a combination of in-person and virtual offerings, we can continue to increase our impact while ensuring that our members can enjoy some of the wonderful events they've come to know and love. [Stay tuned in 2022](#) as we refine our new approach!

Engage With Us Online

Joining an email discussion group or mailing list is one of the simplest ways to stay connected to the EFAO community. You can start by signing up for the [EFAO e-newsletter!](#) Stay tuned for more exciting ways to share information, build relationships with fellow farmers, and learn about topics you're passionate about in the coming months.



Stay Connected With Us!



[instagram.com/efao2/](https://www.instagram.com/efao2/)



[facebook.com/efao2/](https://www.facebook.com/efao2/)



twitter.com/EFAO2/

Donate

\$25

Give an equity-deserving member access to one of EFAO's educational or community events.

\$200

Compensate an event speaker or publication contributor for their valuable time and energy.

\$1,000

Give to EFAO's general operating fund to ensure that we have unallocated funds to support day-to-day operations.

\$5,000

Support a farmer-led research project and help farmers develop on-farm innovations in ecological agriculture.

Become a "Friend of EFAO"

With a donation of \$1,000 or more.

Friends of EFAO receive:

- A one-year subscription to *Ecological Farming in Ontario*, the EFAO member publication
- Invitation to an annual funder event

Ways to Donate:

Online

The easiest way to donate to EFAO is by credit card via [CanadaHelps](#), a secure online system. We accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover, and CanadaHelps will automatically send you a charitable tax receipt.

By Mail

You can [mail a cheque](#) to:

Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario, 5420 Hwy 6 North, Guelph, ON, N1H 6J2

We provide a charitable donation receipt for gifts of \$25 or more.



Thank You

EFAO is, first and foremost, a community, supported by its members both financially and through many other means. To our members who contributed donations to the conference silent auction, filled out membership surveys, shared their knowledge at events, attended events, participated in farmer-led research, and engaged with EFAO in other ways: thank you. You bring value to this community, and you give EFAO's work purpose and direction.



Together, we are building resilient ecological farms and growing a strong knowledge-sharing community.