

# ON FARM FORUM 2023

Information Package for Attendees



**WILTON**  
CONSULTING GROUP

# AGENDA

February 9, 2023 via Zoom Videoconference

The Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) looks forward to welcoming you to the 2023 On-Farm Applied Research and Monitoring (ONFARM) Forum! This event will be a unique opportunity to learn about the latest on-farm research findings and gain a stronger understanding of best management practices (BMPs) and their effects on soil health and water quality.

Time	Activity
9:00 am	<b>Welcome &amp; Setting the Stage</b>  Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Bronwynne Wilton, Wilton Consulting Group (WCG)</li><li>• Dr. Angela Straathof, Ontario Soil &amp; Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA)</li><li>• Kelly McAslan, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, &amp; Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)</li></ul>
9:10 am	<b>ONFARM Highlights</b>  Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Angela Straathof, OSCIA</li><li>• Jennifer Doelman, ONFARM Cooperator</li></ul>
9:20 am	<b>ONFARM Soil Health Indicators: Key Findings</b>  Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Don King, The Soil Resource Group (SRG)</li><li>• Margaret Ribey, SRG</li></ul>
9:50 am	<b>ONFARM Soil Health Indicators: Panel Discussion</b>  Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sebastian Belliard, OMAFRA</li><li>• Luke Hannam, ONFARM Cooperator</li><li>• Adam Hayes, SRG</li><li>• Dr. Ann Huber, SRG</li></ul>

Time	Activity
10:15 am	<b>Break</b>
10:25 am	<p><b>ONFARM Water Quality Indicators: Key Findings</b></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tatianna Lozier, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority</li> <li>• Colin Little, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority</li> <li>• Chris Van Esbroeck, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority</li> <li>• Dr. Wanhong Yang, University of Guelph</li> </ul>
10:55 am	<p><b>ONFARM Water Quality Indicators: Panel Discussion</b></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James Cober, OSCIA</li> <li>• Rick Kootstra, ONFARM Cooperator</li> <li>• Tatianna Lozier, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority</li> <li>• Dr. Wanhong Yang, University of Guelph</li> </ul>
11:20 am	<p><b>Agronomic Benefits &amp; Co-Benefits of BMPs: Panel Discussion</b></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larry Dyck, ONFARM Cooperator</li> <li>• Gord Green, ONFARM Cooperator</li> <li>• Colin Little, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority</li> <li>• Dr. Angela Straathof, OSCIA</li> <li>• Dr. Karen Thompson, Trent University</li> </ul>
11:50 am	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBD, ONFARM Cooperator</li> <li>• Andrew Jamieson, OMAFRA</li> </ul>

## ONFARM BACKGROUND

The On-Farm Applied Research and Monitoring (ONFARM) program is a four-year initiative developed by OMAFRA, delivered by OSCIA, that is completing extensive soil health and water quality analysis on 32 farm sites across Southern Ontario. This network of sites and established partnerships will help build a stronger understanding of BMPs and their effects on soil health and water quality on Ontario farmland. The ONFARM program is collecting water and soil quality data to assess various BMPs such as cover cropping and the use of organic amendments. Soil quality data is being collected by the Soil Resource Group, while teams at five conservation authorities are conducting water quality research. ONFARM is also supported by a network of farmer cooperators, who are essential to the success of the program.

## MEET THE SPEAKERS



**Sebastian Belliard, OMAFRA**

### **ONFARM Soil Health Indicators: Panel Discussion**

Sebastian is a Soil Management Specialist with OMAFRA based in Eastern Ontario. His recent work has focused on soil health assessments and the development of tools to guide growers and advisors through evaluating the different elements of soil health.



**James Cober, OSCIA**

### **ONFARM Water Quality Indicators: Panel Discussion**

James Cober is a Programs Analyst with OSCIA. He contributes to the delivery of various cost-share programs with a focus on environmental stewardship in agriculture, and the ONFARM program through data management and reporting. James is a certified NASM (Non-Agricultural Source Materials) Plan Developer and holds an MSc from the University of Waterloo in Geography.



**Jennifer Doelman, ONFARM Cooperator**

### **ONFARM Highlights**

Jennifer Doelman, CCA-ON, is a proud farmer, ONFARM Cooperator, and beekeeper from Renfrew County. She is also a science geek, a canola cheerleader and wannabe soil and water steward. Jenn farms in the Upper Ottawa Valley with her husband, Mike, and their children, AJ and Becky. Farming heavy silty clay in a rain shadow, they learned early in their farming career that good soil health is paramount to their farm's success.



### **Larry Dyck, ONFARM Cooperator**

#### **Agronomic Benefits & Co-Benefits of BMPs: Panel Discussion**

Larry Dyck is a cash crop farmer in Campden, ON and an ONFARM cooperator. Together with his son Ben, Larry operates Campden Grain. Larry's wife Marg and daughter-in-law Kait are also active in the logistics of the operation. The family began experimenting with cover crops and planting green in 2015. Larry's search for knowledge contributed to his decision to participate in the ONFARM program.



### **Gord Green, ONFARM Cooperator**

#### **Agronomic Benefits & Co-Benefits of BMPs: Panel Discussion**

Gord, his wife Laura and their son, Dave, operate Greenholm Farms, a dairy and cash crop operation north of Embro. The family is experimenting with cover crops to improve soil health and provide an alternative feed source. The Greens have two anaerobic digesters. Gord's ONFARM trial compares the use of organic amendments (liquid dairy manure and digestate) with and without a cover crop.



### **Luke Hannam, ONFARM Cooperator**

#### **ONFARM Soil Health Indicators: Panel Discussion**

Luke is a recent graduate from the University of Guelph with a Crop Science Degree. He is also a grain farmer located in the Guelph area. His family farm grows corn, wheat, and soybeans, as well as operating a commercial grain elevator and crop input supply business. They also have a new branch of the business that focuses on precision soil mapping to help manage the farm's soils independently and accurately by soil type.



### **Adam Hayes, SRG**

#### **ONFARM Soil Health Indicators: Panel Discussion**

Adam Hayes retired from OMAFRA as a soil management specialist in 2019. Soon after, he was hired by SRG to help setup the sites and coordinate BMP implementation with the cooperators for the ONFARM project. Adam also assisted with developing soil health training for the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with family.



### **Dr. Ann Huber, SRG**

#### **ONFARM Soil Health Indicators: Panel Discussion**

Dr. Ann Huber is the environmental microbiologist for SRG, with over 30 years of national and international experience in environmental and agricultural research. Her areas of focus include the evaluation and development of BMPs and technologies for sustainable water management in the horticultural sector, soil health and agricultural nutrient and pathogen management practices.



### **Don King, SRG**

#### **ONFARM Soil Health Indicators: Key Findings**

Don King, MSc., CCA-ON, is the President and Senior Agronomist at SRG, which conducts applied research in the agricultural and environmental sectors. The firm has also provided land resource services to public agencies, government, private firms, and landowners for over 20 years. Don has extensive experience conducting on-farm projects to evaluate the environmental impact of agricultural production on soil, water, and air quality to help determine improved farming practices.



### **Andrew Jamieson, OMAFRA**

#### **Closing Remarks**

Andrew Jamieson is currently the Manager of the Innovation, Engineering and Program Delivery (Central/Eastern Ontario) unit in the Environmental Management Branch (EMB) of OMAFRA. Over his 20 years of experience, Andrew has worked as an agricultural engineer for both OMAFRA and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. His engineering experience includes water quality, irrigation, drainage, soil erosion, and nutrient management.



### **Rick Kootstra, ONFARM Cooperator**

#### **ONFARM Water Quality Indicators: Panel Discussion**

Rick Kootstra, along with his brothers Rob and Derek, farm south of Clinton, ON, where they grow corn, soybeans, white beans, winter wheat and cover crops in their rotation. Their land borders the Huronview Demonstration Farm, where Rick volunteers in an applied-research collaboration between the Huron County Soil and Crop Improvement Association and the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. Rick is Vice-President of the Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario.



### **Colin Little, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority**

#### **ONFARM Water Quality Indicators: Key Findings**

#### **Agronomic Benefits & Co-Benefits of BMPs: Panel Discussion**

Colin Little is the Agricultural Program Coordinator for the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. Colin graduated from the University of Waterloo with an Honours Bachelor of Environmental Studies (Co-Op) Degree, specializing in Environment and Business. Colin has extensive experience working with producers to implement agricultural BMPs with the goal of improving soil health and reducing agriculturally sourced nutrient loading in the Lower Thames River watershed.



### **Tatianna Lozier, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority**

#### **ONFARM Water Quality Indicators: Key Findings**

#### **ONFARM Water Quality Indicators: Panel Discussion**

Tatianna Lozier is the Stewardship Services Coordinator at Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, where she works closely with farmers to adopt agricultural BMPs. She has worked in rural water quality research to evaluate BMPs since 2012 and continues to be involved in innovative projects to address water and nutrient management concerns.



### **Kelly McAslan, OMAFRA**

#### **Welcome and Setting the Stage**

Kelly is currently Assistant Deputy Minister of OMAFRA's Food Safety and Environment Division, having started at the ministry in 2010. During her time at the ministry, Kelly has worked in many branches of the Food Safety and Environment Division as well as the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission Secretariat. Kelly earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Guelph and has a Certified Human Resources Professional (CHRP) designation. In her spare time she enjoys cheering on her daughter's soccer matches, being active at the gym or outdoors, travelling, and spending time with family and friends.



### **Margaret Ribey, SRG**

#### **ONFARM Soil Health Indicators: Key Findings**

Margaret Ribey, MSc., CCA-ON, is the Natural Resource Scientist at SRG. Her areas of expertise include soil chemistry and physics, nutrient sourcing and transport, BMPs, soil health, environmental considerations in production agriculture, and nutrient management planning. Margaret coordinates agronomic field sampling, data management and analysis, GIS support, and reporting requirements for SRG projects.



### **Dr. Angela Straathof, OSCIA**

#### **Welcome and Setting the Stage**

#### **ONFARM Highlights**

#### **Agronomic Benefits & Co-Benefits of BMPs: Panel Discussion**

Dr. Angela Straathof is the Program Director at OSCIA. She oversees the delivery of cost-share funding and producer education opportunities, including the ONFARM program, the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, Lake Erie Agriculture Demonstrating Sustainability (LEADS), the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) and Species at Risk. Angela holds a PhD in soil chemistry and biology from the Department of Soil Quality at Wageningen in the Netherlands.



### **Dr. Karen Thompson, Trent University**

#### **Agronomic Benefits & Co-Benefits of BMPs: Panel Discussion**

Dr. Karen Thompson is an Associate Professor at Trent University and the Program Coordinator of the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Program. Karen's research interests include crop-microbe interactions, soil carbon and nitrogen cycling, and soil microbial responses to climate change and agricultural management. She is also the co-chair of the ONFARM Stakeholder Engagement Working Group.



### **Chris Van Esbroeck, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority**

#### **ONFARM Water Quality Indicators: Key Findings**

Chris Van Esbroeck is the Stewardship Coordinator at Maitland Valley Conservation Authority. Chris grew up on a farm in Huron County. Previously, he worked at OMAFRA and OSCIA. He earned his master's degree working with Merrin Macrae at the University of Waterloo.





## Dr. Wanhong Yang, University of Guelph

### ONFARM Water Quality Indicators: Key Findings

### ONFARM Water Quality Indicators: Panel Discussion

Dr. Wanhong Yang is a professor in the Department of Geography, Environment & Geomatics at the University of Guelph. He has expertise in GIS, agricultural and environmental economics, and hydrology. Since 2001, Wanhong has developed a research program on integrated economic-hydrologic-geographic information system (GIS) modelling for examining the cost effectiveness of agricultural conservation programs. Wanhong leads watershed BMP modelling for ONFARM.

This event has been approved for two Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for Certified Crop Advisors (1 Nutrient Management CEU and 1 Soil & Water CEU).

This event is an OSCIA-recognized Knowledge Sharing Event (KSE) for Ontario farmers with On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) projects in the Nitrogen Management or Cover Cropping categories.

*The On-Farm Applied Research and Monitoring (ONFARM) program is a four-year, applied research initiative that began in 2019 which supports soil health and water quality research on farms across Ontario. This program is funded by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year federal-provincial-territorial initiative.*

