



ONFARM Forum 2021

Information Package for Attendees

WILTON
CONSULTING GROUP

AGENDA

February 10, 2021 via Zoom Videoconference

OSCIA looks forward to welcoming you to the ONFARM Forum! This event will be a unique opportunity to hear about project activities, progress and results. Participants will learn about the successes and challenges faced in the first year of the ONFARM program and hear from farmers and applied researchers about their experiences in on-farm research.

Time	Activity
9:00 AM	Welcome & Introductions Angela Straathof, Program Director, OSCIA and Andrew Jamieson, Manager, Innovation, Engineering and Program Delivery, Eastern Region, OMAFRA
9:10 AM	Keynote: Farmer-led Research Fosters Curiosity & Continuous Improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Stefan Gailans, Research & Field Crops Director, Practical Farmers of Iowa
9:35 AM	Audience Q&A
9:45 AM	Highlights from ONFARM's First Year Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don King, Research Agronomist and Principal, The Soil Resource Group• Mari Veliz, Healthy Watersheds Manager, Ausable-Bayfield Conservation Authority• Linsey van Koppen, MSc Candidate, University of Guelph and Climate Smart Soils Intern, OSCIA
10:15 AM	ONFARM Rapid Research Pitches & Moderated Discussion: "What We're Looking at, Why Does it Matter, & How Well is it Working?" Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dale Cowan, Senior Agronomist, AGRIS Co-operative Ltd. & Wanstead Farmers Co-operative Ltd.• Sarah Hargreaves, Research Director, Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario• Kelsey Hill, Nutrient Stewardship Coordinator, Fertilizer Canada• Lindsay Nash, Quinte Farm Research & Stewardship Collaboration Coordinator, Quinte Soil & Crop Improvement Association
10:50 AM	Break
11:00 AM	On-Farm Research: Triumphs & Tribulations. <i>Panel Discussion</i> Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eric Barnhorst, EFAO farmer-researcher and Farmer, Eva Mae Farm• Aaron Bowman, ONFARM Cooperator and Owner, Bowmanview Farms Ltd.• Laura Van Eerd, Professor, School of Environmental Sciences at University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus
11:35 AM	Audience Q&A
11:50 AM	Closing Remarks Jo-Anne Rzadki, Vice Chair of the ONFARM Stakeholder Engagement Working Group and Business Development & Partnerships Coordinator, Conservation Ontario
12:00 PM	End of Forum

MEET THE SPEAKERS

Keynote: Farmer-led Research Fosters Curiosity & Continuous Improvement



Dr. Stefan Gailans, Practical Farmers of Iowa

Dr. Stefan Gailans is the research and field crops director at Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI). This farmer-led, non-profit organization specializes in equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities. Since 2013, Stefan has led PFI's Cooperators' Program – their vehicle for conducting on-farm research on the issues and concerns deemed most important by their farming members. With his teammates, Stefan strives to empower farmers to generate and share knowledge through timely and relevant farmer-led research.

Highlights from ONFARM's First Year



Donald King, The Soil Resource Group (SRG)

Don King, MSc., CCA-ON is the president, senior agronomist and a principal of SRG, a resource management consulting firm in Guelph that 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.



Mari Veliz, Ausable-Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA)

Mari Veliz is the Healthy Watersheds Manager at Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA). She has worked at ABCA since 2000. Mari has managed water quality, bio-monitoring, agricultural and urban best practice evaluation, and community outreach programs.



Linsey van Koppen, University of Guelph and OSCIA

Linsey van Koppen is a Graduate Student at the University of Guelph studying soil microbial ecology with Dr. Kari Dunfield. Linsey is interning with OSCIA to develop resources to help farmers better understand their soil microbial health. Her research uses emerging microbial techniques to explore the impact of management practices on below-ground drivers of nitrous oxide emissions in soil. Aside from her project, Linsey is part of NSERC Create Climate-Smart Soils, a multi-institutional program that addresses the need for leaders in sustainable agriculture.

ONFARM Rapid Research Pitches & Moderated Discussion



Dale Cowan, AGRIS Co-operative Ltd. & Wanstead Farmers Co-operative Ltd.

Dale Cowan, CCA-ON, 4 R NMS, graduated from the University of Guelph with a Diploma in Ag Business in 1975 and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 1978.

Dale is the Agronomy Strategy Manager and Senior Agronomist for both AGRIS and Wanstead Farmers Cooperatives in Southwestern Ontario. His responsibilities involve training and supporting customer-facing staff in using technology, knowledge transfer in key areas of stewardship and effective product positioning to empower our customers and owners to make optimal decisions concerning their farming practices. Today's farmer is very goal-oriented and strives for efficiency and effective relationships. Our goal is to be the trust advisor for our farmers.



Sarah Hargreaves, Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario (EFAO)

Sarah Hargreaves is the Research Director for EFAO. This membership-based non-profit organization supports farmers to build resilient ecological farms and grow a strong knowledge-sharing community. Five years ago, Sarah helped launch EFAO's Farmer-Led Research Program, through which she and her teammates support the curiosity and innovative spirit of ecological farmers in Ontario. Since 2016, 60 farmers have conducted over 70 practical, on-farm trials in cooperation with EFAO's Farmer-Led Research Program. The program received the inaugural Excellence in Agriculture award in 2019.



Kelsey Hill, Fertilizer Canada

Kelsey Hill is the Nutrient Stewardship Coordinator at Fertilizer Canada. She supports the continued development and implementation of 4R Nutrient Stewardship initiatives and programs across Canada.

In her role, Kelsey supports Fertilizer Canada's Policy and Programs team through the coordination of the 4R Designation and Certification programs. She also provides support on provincial working groups and the Fertilizer Use Survey.

Kelsey grew up on her family's dairy, beef, and cash crop farm in the Ottawa Valley, where her passion for agriculture started. She holds a Bachelor of Agriculture Science with a major in Crop, Horticulture, and Turfgrass Science from the University of Guelph (2019).



Lindsay Nash, Quinte Soil & Crop Improvement Association (QSCIA)

Lindsay Nash is the Quinte Farm Research and Stewardship Collaborative Coordinator. Lindsay grew up on a dairy and cash crop farm in Northumberland County. Lindsay has worked in the agricultural and environmental industries and is passionate about the connections that can be made between both groups. Lindsay is working with Quinte Soil and Crop Improvement Association to establish a Quinte Farm Research and Stewardship Collaborative (QFRSC). This collaborative is made up of farmers, researchers and conservation authorities. QFRSC focuses on soil health, water quality, new technology and research that is Quinte specific!

On-Farm Research: Triumphs & Tribulations



Eric Barnhorst, Eva Mae Farm

Eric Barnhorst grows vegetables at Eva Mae Farm in Northumberland County, near Brighton, Ont. The farm sells non-certified, ecologically grown produce through a variety of channels, including farmers' markets, CSA and to restaurants. Eric's interest in increasing ecosystem and soil health while maintaining a profitable operation led him to participate in several trials in EFAO's Farmer-Led Research program in the past few years.



Aaron Bowman, Bowmanview Farms Ltd.

Aaron Bowman's farm is located outside the GTA. He has a mixed operation of livestock and cash crop with an on-farm store to market the operation's beef. Aaron presently has half of his land in organic production and continues to transition more acres as he becomes comfortable with the management system. Aaron feels on-farm research, either in collaboration with others or independently, is very important to his operation. He has made informed decisions from projects like these in the past. Aaron is an ONFARM Cooperator.



Dr. Laura Van Eerd, University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus

Dr. Laura Van Eerd grew up on a cash crop and finishing hog farm in near Ridgetown, Ont. She earned a triple crown (BSc, MSc and PhD) at the University of Guelph and is still there at Ridgetown Campus as a Professor in the School of Environmental Sciences. With a focus on nitrogen and carbon cycling in agricultural soils, her research program aims to better understand the role of cover crops and crop diversity on crop productivity and soil health.

In addition to awards acknowledging her significant contributions to teaching, research and extension, Laura was recognized as one of six Influential Women of Canadian Agriculture in 2020.

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 federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

