

# Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario Annual Report 2016



## DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

2016 has been a year defined by heat and drought - an extremely difficult season for farmers across Ontario. It is a season that highlights the importance of community: of farmers coming together to provide vital support, knowledge sharing and friendship.

For the organization, it has been a year of new member committees, steadily improving existing programs and services like our annual conference and advisory service, putting in place a strategic plan, collaborating with old and new partner organizations to offer high quality farmer-to-farmer training opportunities, and the very exciting launch of a new Farmer-Led Research Program.

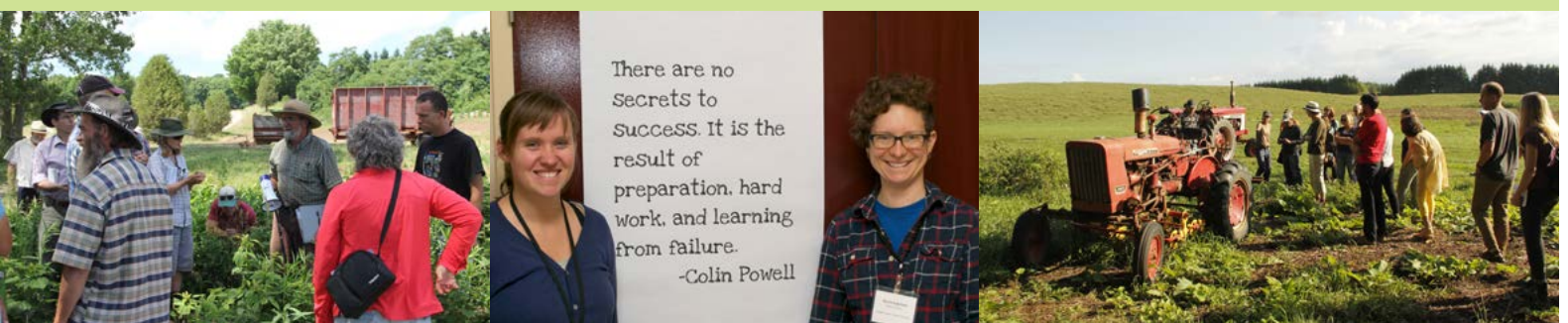
Financially, it has been a stable year as we secured a number of new grants and continued to deliver our programs on a cost recovery basis while keeping them accessible.

EFAO's total membership also remains stable, with just over 500 members across the province, but growing membership in Central, Eastern and Northern Ontario. New member committees include an East Region Committee, a Kingston Region Sub-Committee and a New and Young Farmers Committee. Members have also been actively engaged in building the conference program and helping shape the Farmer-Led Research Program - with 12 members becoming EFAO's first official farmer-researchers! Members have also contributed through newsletter articles and advocacy on key issues like soil health, GMOs, and the Canadian Organic Standards.

Looking ahead to 2017, we will continue to expand programs and services across the province, strengthen regional partnerships, grow our membership, and diversify revenue sources to establish a sustainable funding model that is less grant reliant.

For 37 years, EFAO's strength and spirit has come from its strong community of passionate and dedicated ecological farmer members. Thank you everyone for being such inspiring and innovative leaders in growing a more resilient model of agriculture across our province.

Angie Koch, Board President and Ali English, Executive Director



## PROVINCIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

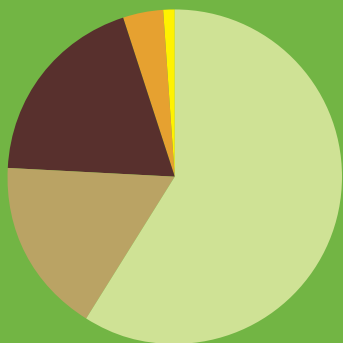
Angie Koch, President  
Paul De Jong, Vice President  
Karen Maitland, Treasurer  
Mike Reid, Secretary  
Allison Muckle  
Jennifer Seilern  
Denis Heraud  
Sylvie Paquette  
Brent Preston  
Murray Hutton - Outgoing

## 508 MEMBERS ACROSS ONTARIO

**448 Family/Farm**  
**27 Associate**  
**11 Sustaining**  
**22 Business**

## REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP DISTRIBUTION

West (59%)  
Central (17%)  
East (19%)  
North (4%)  
Other (1%)



## ATTENDANCE BY EVENT TYPE

Workshops and courses (412)  
Kitchen Table Meetings (104)  
Field Days and Farm Tours (201)  
Conference (287)



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**1004 People Attended 57 events**

**23 workshops**

**20 field days and farm tours**

**14 Kitchen Table Meetings (KTMs)**

- **13 seed saving events** in partnership with the Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security, including a bus tour
- **2 farm co-op events** organized in partnership with the Local Organic Food Co-ops Network
- **4 grazing workshops** organized in partnership with the National Farmers Union
- **5 workshops** before the Guelph Organic Conference
- **3 New and Young Farmer gatherings**
- **2 new farmer workshops** in partnership with FarmStart
- **2 farmer health retreats**
- **1 fruit production workshop** in partnership with Eco Farm Day
- **18 Advisory Service Arrangements**

**35 members hosted events on their farms!**

## SECOND ANNUAL ECOLOGICAL FARMERS OF ONTARIO CONFERENCE

**Dec 3-5, 2015, London**

In partnership with FarmStart, The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security, Everdale and the Local Organic Food Co-ops Network

**287 participants • 33 sessions and 3 tours**

**23 Trade Show Exhibitors**

## POLICY MANUALS

EFAO developed a new Strategic Plan, a Membership Handbook, and several Policy and Procedure Manuals (HR, Board and Financial Management)

## NEW EFAO FARMER-LED RESEARCH PROGRAM

In its inaugural year, the Farmer-led Research Program supported 12 EFAO members to conduct 15 trials as part of 7 research projects on cover crops, soil health testing, organic pesticides, pastured livestock and organic pasture improvement. The program hosted an information session, a workshop and symposium, a field day, a webinar, 3 roundtables, was represented at 2 conferences and produced numerous protocols, reports, articles and blogs ([efao.ca/research-library](http://efao.ca/research-library)).



## ACTIVE COMMITTEES

- The **West Region Committee** met regularly this year and planned 9 KTMs and 4 field days
- The **Northeast Region Committee** organized 2 events
- The **East Region Committee** formed this year after a hiatus and is organizing several events for 2017
- The **Kingston Region Sub-Committee**, previously the Kingston CRAFT group, formed at the London conference and organized 2 field days
- The **New and Young Farmers Committee** organized 3 gatherings

## ISSUES

EFAO members have been involved in raising awareness and circulating information about pressing issues affecting ecological farming across the province.

The **Genetic Engineering (GE) Committee** has played a critical role in keeping EFAO members informed about GMO alfalfa and CBAN's GMO Inquiry Project. Thank you to GE Committee Chair *Ann Slater* for compiling and distributing updated information.

Thank you to *Ken Laing* for helping the EFAO Board draft feedback to OMAFRA's Agricultural Soil Health and Conservation Strategy.

Thank you to *Maureen Bostock* who for the last 8 years, has been representing EFAO on the Technical Committee that oversees the Canadian Organic Standards.

## STAFF

Ali English, Executive Director

Katie Baikie, Membership Services  
Program Manager

Sarah Hargreaves, Farmer-led Research  
Program Manager

Naomi Krucker, Membership  
Services Coordinator

Cherie Bauman, Administrative Manager

Ayla Fenton, Kingston Area  
Regional Coordinator

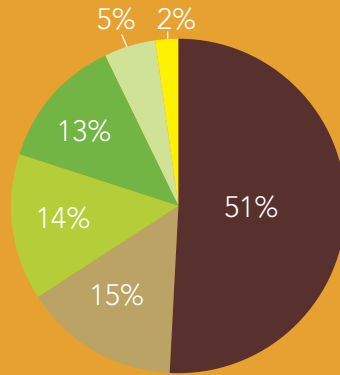
Fiona Campbell, Production Editor

Sebastian Richter & Rachel Kuiper,  
Summer Students

## 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT

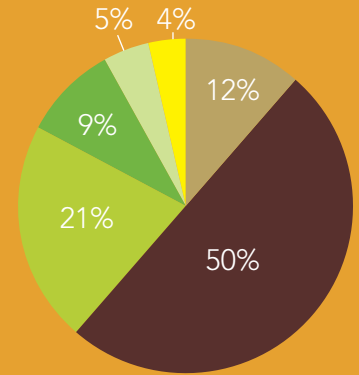
### Revenue \$303,611:

- Grants (\$155,284)
- Programs and Services (\$46,178)
- Conference (\$41,283)
- Membership (\$38,714)
- Sponsorship (\$16,525)
- Gifts (\$5,627)



### Expenses \$297,226:

- Salaries (\$147,491)
- Operating (\$35,112)
- Programs and Services (\$63,342)
- Partners (\$26,781)
- Travel and Hospitality (\$13,645)
- Communications and promotion (\$10,855)



2016 Net Revenue: \$6,385

General Operating Fund Balance: \$26,667

There are many ways that members contribute financially beyond membership fees. This provides invaluable support to the organization as it builds towards a diversified and stable funding model.

Thank you to EFAO Sustaining Members:

- Brent Preston and Gillian Flies
- Gaye Trombley
- Jill Weaver
- Stacey Hubbs
- 7 Anonymous

Thank you to member donors, 2015 Silent Auction contributors and 2016 conference bursary donors who have contributed a total of \$4,500.

## FUNDING PARTNERS

Thank you to our funding partners for making it possible for EFAO to continue to serve members and to offer practical training opportunities in ecological farming.



## ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

We are grateful to have worked in close partnership with numerous organizations and individuals across the province, particularly the National Farmers Union, the Local Organic Food Co-ops Network and The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security.

### Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario

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**Ecological Farmers**  
ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO