

# ECOLOGICAL FARMERS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Dear members and friends,

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

This year, Board and Staff worked together to rewrite our Vision (above) and Mission statements - a process that had us examine our identity and dreams for the organization. In the end we distilled a simple Mission: *EFAO supports farmers to build resilient ecological farms and grow a strong knowledge-sharing community.*

Our Farmer Led Research Program (FLRP) continues to grow: now in its third year, 38 members have received funding to conduct 51 trials, the results of which are highlighted at the annual Farmer-led Research Symposium. We love how farmer-led research taps into farmers' inherent curiosity and innovative spirit to support the development of new knowledge and farming practices in ecological agriculture - and we'd love to see all EFAO members get involved!

Other 2018 highlights include running our largest conference yet in Blue Mountains; organizing our first fundraising dinner - a real success that was generously instigated and hosted by The New Farm; and seeing our new Online Forum take off.

In the office, we welcomed both Ali and Katie back from their maternity leaves, while Naomi left for a year with her first baby, returning to the office just in time to help pull together our 2018 conference. Allison did an incredible job steering the organizational ship as Acting ED and we are delighted that she has stayed on as Director of Development. We were also happy to have member Thorsten Arnold join the team as Fundraising and Strategic Initiatives Coordinator. Martina remained on staff as Administrative Manager, as did Sarah as Director of Research and Heather as the Eastern Ontario Research Coordinator.

Financially, our position has been fairly strong as we've been able to secure sufficient grants and continue to receive an annual endowment from the Robert and Moira Sansom Ideas Foundation. Grants currently funding the FLRP will end next year and we are seeking funding to continue this program indefinitely. Over the coming year we will further develop our fundraising strategy to help provide the organization with vital unrestricted funds and the matching dollars needed for pursuing grants.

In 2019 we plan to revitalize our Advisory Service and regional member events, undertake a communications overhaul, increase soil health programming, and take our annual conference back to Eastern Ontario.

As we head into EFAO's 40th year, we're proud of how we've grown as an organization and community, grateful to be part of this vital movement, and excited for what the future holds.

Angie Koch, Board President and Ali English, Executive Director

## PROVINCIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Angie Koch, President\*  
 Éric Blondin, Vice President  
 Karen Maitland, Treasurer\*  
 Jessica Gale, Secretary  
 Denis Heraud  
 Mike MacGillivray  
 Brent Preston  
 Jennifer Seilern  
 \*Outgoing Directors

## 2018 STAFF

Ali English, Executive Director  
 Allison Muckle, Acting Executive Director/Director of Development  
 Fiona Campbell, Editor in Chief  
 Heather Coffey, Eastern Ontario Research Coordinator  
 Katie Baikie, Training and Resources Program Manager  
 Martina Schaefer, Administrative Manager  
 Naomi Krucker, Membership Services Coordinator  
 Sarah Hargreaves, Director of Research  
 Thorsten Arnold, Strategic Initiatives and Fundraising Coordinator

## 4TH ANNUAL ECOLOGICAL FARMERS OF ONTARIO CONFERENCE

Nov 29 - Dec 1, 2017, Blue Mountains, ON

EFAO's annual conference brought together 318 people to participate in 30 workshops, keynote presentations, farm tours, community meetings, and much more, centered on the theme of **Rebuilding Rural Economies from the Ground Up**.



*"We are just starting out. It was a wonderful experience to be with folks who were so encouraging and supportive. How amazing to discover such a large community of people with shared values. We delighted in the experience, learned much, made great connections with new friends and mentors...and can hardly wait until next year's conference!!"*



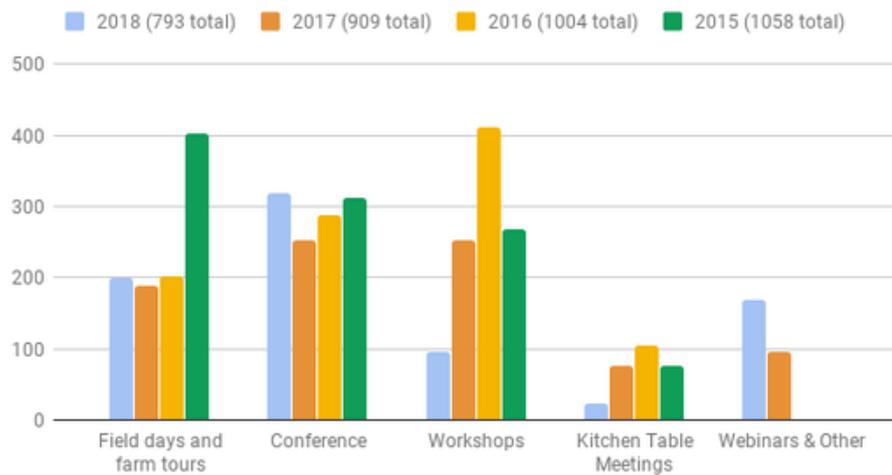
## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**804** people attended **34** events:  
**5** workshops  
**16** field days and farm tours  
**3** kitchen table meetings (KTMs)  
**4** webinars  
**1** Free School  
**1** conference  
**14** Advisory Service Arrangements

EFAO's new **Online Forum** engaged **320** individuals in **216** farming discussions, for a total of **1400** posts!

**18** members wrote articles for EFAO's bi-monthly **Ecological Farming in Ontario** newsletter

### Event Attendance by Type of Event

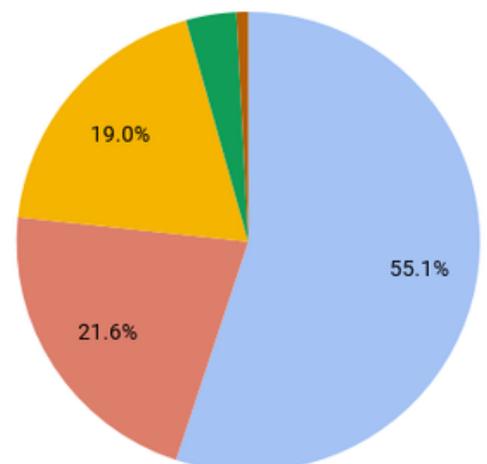


## 485 MEMBERS ACROSS ONTARIO

**429** Family/Farm  
**33** Associate/Newsletter subscription  
**8** Sustaining  
**15** Business/Non-Profit

### 2018 Regional Distribution of Membership

West (267 members)  
 Central (105 members)  
 East (92 members)  
 North (17 members)  
 Other (4 members)



## FARMER-LED RESEARCH

This year, **20** members received funding to conduct research for their farms. Their results and innovations are summarized in Research Reports that are posted at [efao.ca/research-library](http://efao.ca/research-library).

Thank you to the Farmer-led Research **Advisory Panel** that selects and provides feedback on farmer-led research projects based on EFAO member priorities.

### Panel members are:

Jason Hayes, Rebecca Ivanoff, Angie Koch, Ken Laing, Dr. Ralph Martin, Annie Richard, Darrell Roes and Steven Wolfgram.



*"EFAO's Farmer-led Research Program is an excellent example of a program that encourages farmers to take engagement to the next level. By removing barriers to research and collaboration, we can be more systematic and innovative."*  
- Val Steinmann, Farmer-researcher

## 2018 Research Trials

- Peggy Baillie, Lettuce seed production in N. Ontario
- Eric Barnhorst, Green mulches for garlic
- Duane Falk, Breeding an early, winter hardy pea
- Jessica Gale with Sas Long, Janis Harris, Jen Feddema and Joanne Feddes, Sweet Pea variety trial
- Joseph Imre and Jazmin Bansagi, Disease control for black walnut
- Angie Koch, Assessing a spader for improved soil health
- Pat Kozowyk, Ivan Chan and Arthur Churchyard, Comfrey as a companion for Saskatoon and currants
- Ken Laing, No-till spring cereals
- Tony McQuail, Ultra high density grazing in Ontario
- Felicia Nicol, Fusarium control in garlic
- Brent Preston and Gillian Flies, Low-till salad greens
- Annie Richard, Greta Kryger, Rebecca Ivanoff and Kathy Rothermel, Southern Ontario Pepper Breeding Project
- Val Steinmann, Biochar in apple orchards

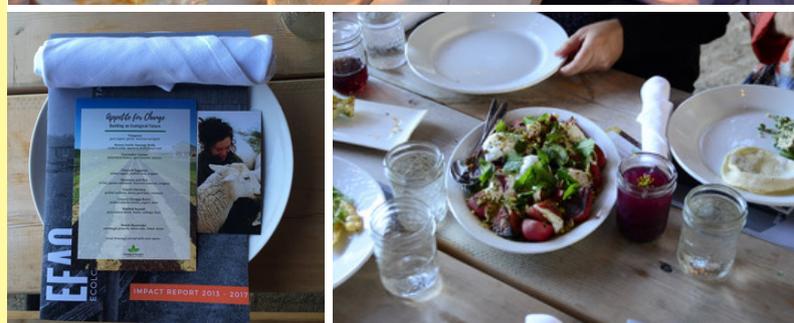


## FUNDRAISING DINNER

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make EFAO's first **Fundraising Dinner** a big success! **50** people gathered on August 23rd at **The New Farm** for a spectacular dinner and all around magical evening.

Thank you to Brent and Gillian for hosting this event and to Carl Heinrich and the team from Richmond Station and Station Events for the delicious meal.

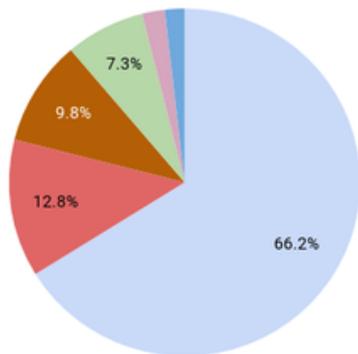
Thank you to the farmers at Meeting Place Organic Farm and Fertile Ground Farm for growing and raising so much of the delicious food served.



# 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

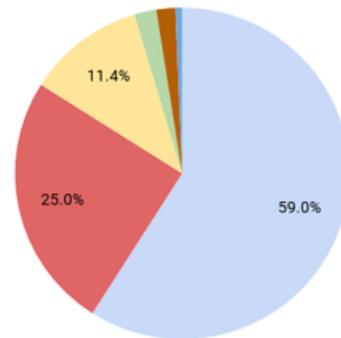
## Revenue (\$ 335,620)

- Grants (\$222,018)
- Conference (\$42,996)
- Membership (\$32,966)
- Goods and Services (\$24,556)
- Gifts (\$6,997)
- Sponsorship (\$6,087)



## Expenses (\$ 331,550)

- Salaries (\$195,679)
- Programs and Services (\$82,809)
- Operating (\$37,780)
- Travel and Hospitality (\$7,060)
- Communications and promotion (\$6,105)
- Special Fund Disbursement (\$2,117)



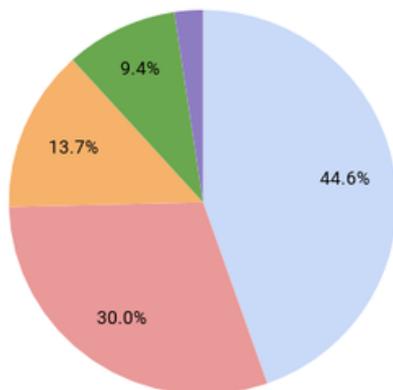
**2018 Net Revenue: \$4,070**  
**General Operating Fund Balance: \$54,859**

Thank you to our funding partners for making it possible for EFAO to continue to serve members and offer farmer-led training and research opportunities in ecological agriculture.



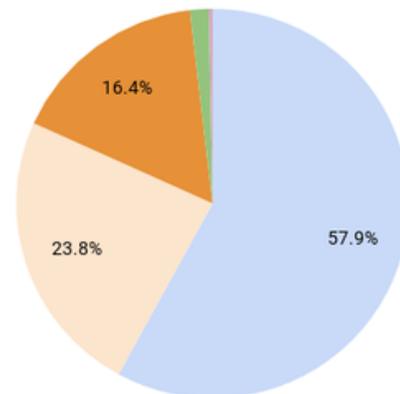
## Membership Revenue Spending (\$32,966)

- Newsletter (\$14,710)
- Training & Resources (\$9,884)
- Conference (\$4,507)
- Board (\$3,087)
- Operations (\$778)



## Grant Revenue Spending (\$222,018)

- Operations (\$66,883)
- Conference (\$27,494)
- Training & Resources (\$18,914)
- Board (\$1,781)
- Newsletter (\$349)



## THANK YOU!

### EFAO Sustaining Members:

Ann Slater - Manorun Organic Farm  
 Linda & Philip English - Orchard Hill Farm  
 The New Farm

### Friends of EFAO (\$1,000+):

Rochelle Rubinstein - Richmond Station

**Member donors, silent auction contributors and conference bursary donors.**

The **Robert and Moira Sansom Ideas Foundation**, a fund within **London Community Foundation**, for their generous annual support.



## ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

We are grateful to have worked in close partnership with numerous organizations and individuals across the province, including:

**The National Farmers Union, the Organic Council of Ontario, Local Food and Farm Co-ops, the Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security, USC Canada, Seeds of Diversity, Arrell Food Institute, and the Ontario Soil Network.**



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