

EFAO

ECOLOGICAL FARMERS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

IMPACT REPORT 2013 - 2018



"I reflect with gratitude, on the incredible contributions made by our EFAO mentors to the broader global community at a particularly precarious moment in human history. [They] are not just nurturing better farmers - they are modeling collaboration in a world that is more familiar with competitive advantage, and they are equipping us with the real skills needed to rebuild resilient communities. May we all feel inspired to find our place within this big work!"

VAL STEINMANN, EFAO MEMBER

ECOLOGICAL FARMERS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

The Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario (EFAO) has been committed to ecological and organic farming since 1979. Established to promote the advancement and understanding of ecological agricultural methods, EFAO is run by farmers, for farmers. We focus on farmer-to-farmer training and support to help each other make a better living growing real food while improving our soils, crops, livestock and the environment.

EFAO's mission is to support farmers to build resilient ecological farms and grow a strong knowledge-sharing community.

Our work in supporting ecological agriculture in Ontario depends on your support.

500

Members across
Ontario

5,694

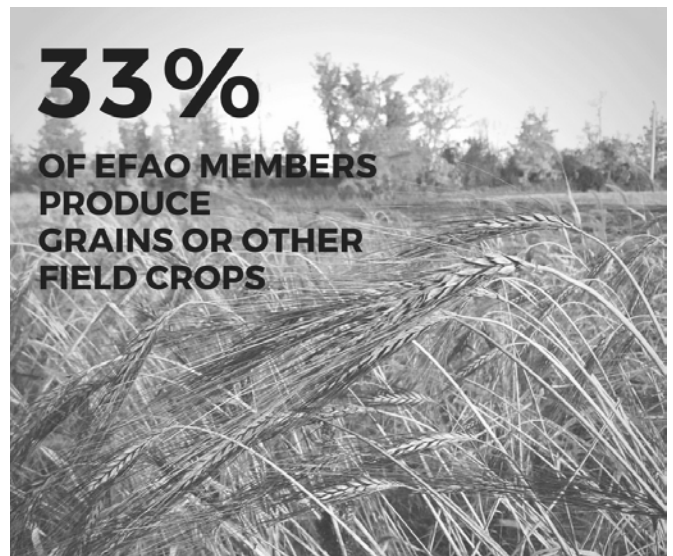
Farmer-to-farmer
knowledge
exchanges in the past
6 years

OUR 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 fosters healthy, vibrant communities.

MEMBERSHIP

EFAO has over 500 members across Ontario:



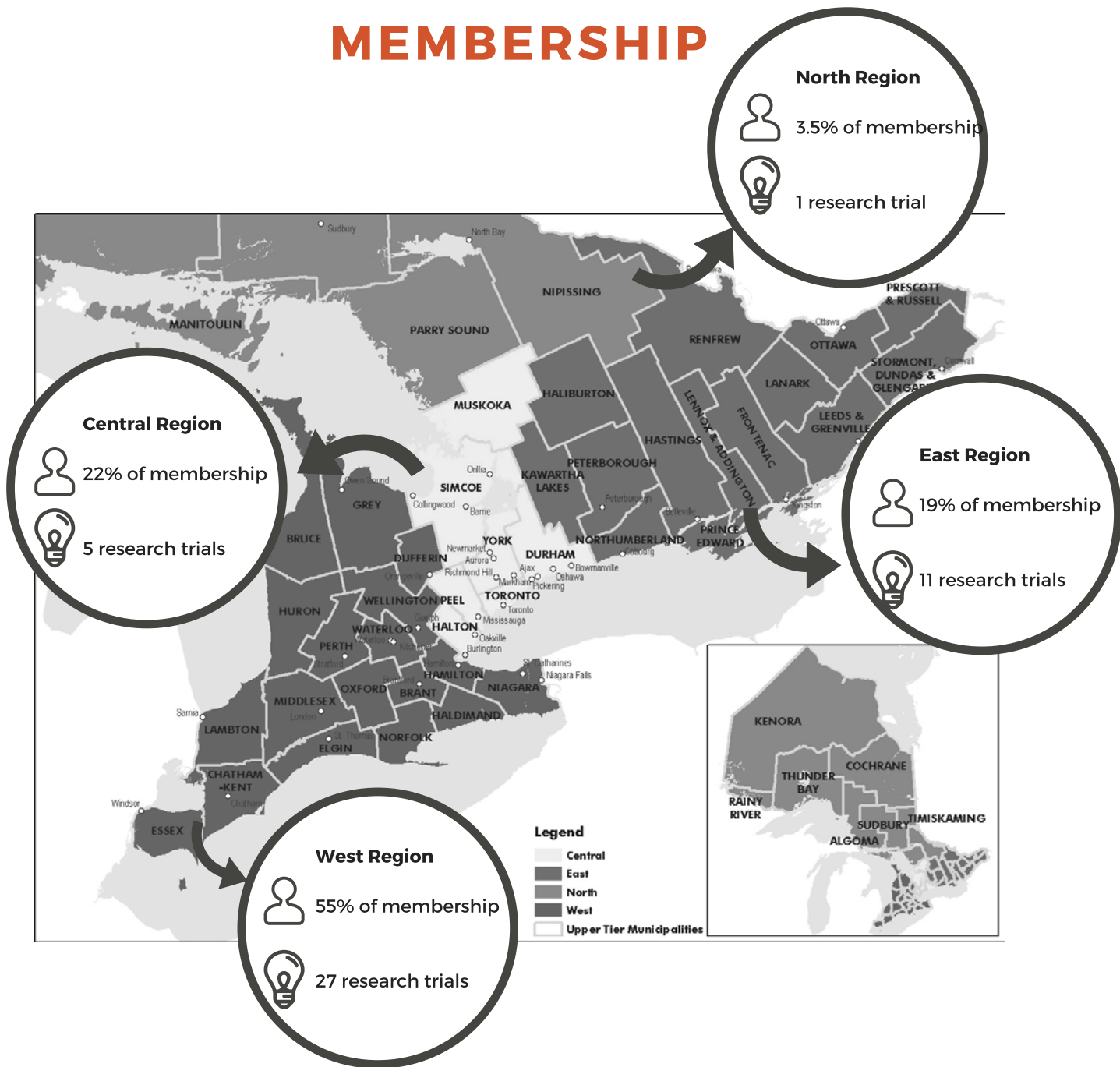
EFAO members have highly diversified farm operations, with half of all fruit & vegetable producers also selling animal products, and half of those farms producing field crops as well.



“The EFAO provides practical, relevant information to its members each and every day, in a way that no other organization does. The EFAO also provides community, a reminder that we are not alone, that our struggles on the farm are part of a large and important movement, one that has the power to make substantial, positive change. I don’t think there’s any other organization in Ontario that is doing as much to support sustainable farming.”

BRENT PRESTON, BOARD MEMBER

MEMBERSHIP



In addition to Northeast, West, Central and East Regional Committees, EFAO members have contributed their time to numerous topical committees, including the New & Young Farmers Advisory Committee, Energy Committee, Genetic Engineering Issues Committee, Refugee Support Committee, and the Soil Health and Conservation Working Group.

TRAINING AND MENTORSHIP

Over the past 6 years, EFAO has facilitated just under 5700 farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchanges:

**105
FARM
TOURS**

with 1543 participants

**55
FARMER-TO-
FARMER**

Advisory Consultations

**52
KITCHEN TABLE
MEETINGS**

with 528 participants

93 WORKSHOPS

with 2111 participants

5 CONFERENCES

with 1352 participants

49% were new or aspiring farmers!

"EFAO is supporting the next generation of farmers in Ontario."

89% would recommend the event they attended to another farmer.

70% plan to make changes to improve their farm's profitability because of the event attended.





“I’ve noticed the benefit is that I’m observing the crops in a more systemic and a better way and a closer way. So I feel like that translates to better data and making better choices out in the field.”

ANNIE RICHARD, FARMER-RESEARCHER

FARMER-LED RESEARCH

Now in its fourth year, EFAO's Farmer-Led Research Program taps into farmers' inherent curiosity and innovative spirit to support the development of new knowledge and farming practices in ecological agriculture.

**51 FARMER
RESEARCHERS**

**44 RESEARCH
TRIALS**

TRIAL TOPICS:

Alternative livestock feed

Cover crops

Disease & pest control

Livestock breed selection

Pasture regeneration

Pollinator services

Seed production & breeding

Soil health

Weed control





"We're so proud to be members of the EFAO. [We leapt] into full time farming with confidence because we learned so many skills through EFAO. We strongly believe in farmers collectively working to grow the sector"

ERIC & PEGGY, EFAO MEMBERS

DONATIONS

EFAO relies on people like you to help us support and grow ecological agriculture across Ontario.



We are able to raise \$3 dollars in grants for every \$1 dollar we receive in donations.

Thank you to our generous funders:



Possibility grows here.



Robert and Moira Sansom
Ideas Foundation
a fund within
London Community Foundation





5422 Hwy 6 North
Guelph, ON N1H 6J2
Phone: 519-822-8606
Toll free: 1-877-822-8606
info@efao.ca - www.efao.ca