



Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario . 5420 Highway 6 North . Guelph, ON . N1H 6J2 . 519-822-8606 . efao.ca

MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ecological Farmers of Ontario Conference returns to London

LONDON - More than 300 ecological farmers and supporters from across Ontario will gather in London for four unforgettable days of learning, collaboration, celebration and inspiration at the 5th Annual Ecological Farmers of Ontario Conference from December 3rd to 6th. This year's theme - *Regeneration: Seeds, Soil and Community Connections* - is explored through 30+ cutting-edge workshops on horticulture, livestock, field crops, seed saving, soil health, marketing and more. The Conference also features a two-day Trade Show, Research Symposium, local farm tours, a New and Young Farmers Meet & Greet, community meetings and numerous social events.

For the first time, this year's conference will be offered in conjunction with the 4th biennial Eastern Canadian Organic Seed Growers Network (ECOSGN) Conference. In addition to an entire conference stream dedicated to seed production and marketing, keynote speaker Rowen White (Seed Keeper from the Mohawk community of Akwesasne and Director and Founder of Sierra Seeds) will talk about Indigenous seed systems and how they have contributed to the seed diversity we have today. There will also be a special opportunity for participants to taste-test regionally-adapted vegetable varieties bred and trialed by Ontario farmers.

Also new at this year's conference are the full day Intensive Workshops taking place on Tuesday December 4th, with sessions by Dave Brandt (no-till field crop farmer and cover crop expert from Ohio), Paul and Elizabeth Kaiser (no-till vegetable farmers from Singing Frogs Farm in California), and Greg Judy (pasture-based livestock farmer from Missouri).

"We have so much to learn from these farmers who are running successful farm businesses while implementing very innovative farming practices that are regenerating soils. If you're interested in improving your farm's soil health - whether you're a field cropper, raising livestock or growing vegetables - there's something exciting here for everyone!" says Ali English, EFAO Executive Director.

The 2018 Ecological Farmers of Ontario Conference is presented in partnership with the Eastern Canadian Organic Seed Growers Network, the National Farmers Union Ontario, the Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security, the Local Food and Farm Co-ops network, the Organic Council of Ontario and the Ontario Soil Network. The conference would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors: The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security, George Weston Limited and Loblaw Companies Limited, TSC Stores, Gallagher Fencing, Brussels Agri-Service, and more.

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The Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario (EFAO) is an educational charity that supports farmers to build resilient ecological farms and grow a strong knowledge-sharing community.

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