



Plan on joining fellow farmers and exhibitors after the conference for a complimentary mix & mingle reception.

PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Agri-food & Agritourism: Becky Breedon
Dairy: Eric Wright
Organics: Chris Litster
Sheep: John Hemsted
Backyard Farming: Bruce & Morgan Gillies
Crops: Dave Spring & Dave Graham
Program Support: Suzanne Ainley

CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE

Chairman: Paul Maurice
Secretary: Connie Brown
Treasurer: Mary Lynn Vander Wielen & Deborah Clyne

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Georgian College - 1 Georgian Drive, Barrie, ON



2020 CENTRAL ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE
 February 28, 2020

"For Farmers By Farmers - Improving your farm business since 1979"

The Sadlon Centre for Health & Wellness
 1 Georgian Drive, Barrie, Ontario

at **Georgian**
www.CentralOntarioAgConference.ca

SOIL & CROPS, SHEEP, DAIRY, ORGANIC FARMING & BACKYARD FARMING PROGRAMS

Follow @AgOntario
 COAC #COAC2020

Register online at CentralOntarioAgConference.ca or at the door for the same low price

Regular - \$35 **Students - \$20**
 Includes hot, sit-down lunch & parking.

Agritourism Workshop - \$35
 Includes workshop, lunch, parking and option to attend afternoon sessions.

For information contact Paul Maurice at 705-427-3126 or monpiero@bell.net

Major Financial Sponsors

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 Please visit and thank them during this year's conference.

Sponsors



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| 41 st Annual Central Ontario Agricultural Conference - Friday February 28, 2020 | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| For speaker information, bios and full concurrent session descriptions visit www.CentralOntarioAgConference.ca | | | | | |
| TIME OF EVENT | LEGEND | CROPS | ORGANIC FARMING | SHEEP | BACKYARD FARMING |
| | AUDITORIUM | ROOM 1 | ROOM 2 | ROOM 3 | ROOM 4 |
| 9:00 - 10:00AM ~ Registration & Exhibitor Trade Show Open | | | | | Agritourism Workshop - Kim Clarke 9am to Noon |
| 10:00 TO 10:50 | | Soils - Ruth Knight 1 | Large Flock & Pasturing - Michael Swidersky 2 | Farm Transition - Jeff Davis 3 | |
| 11:00 TO 12:15 | New Directions in Agriculture - Michael Thiele | | | | |
| Lunch Break ~ 12:00 - 1:30PM ~ Please visit our exhibitors! | | | | | |
| 1:30 TO 2:20 | Crop Farming Forecast - Steve Kell 4 | Organic Egg Laying - Gerald Poechman 5 | AgMaps - Jen Birchmore 6 | Raven Predation - Jullian Craig 7 | Social Media - Kirsty Stevenson 8 |
| 2:30 TO 3:20 | | Financial Planning - John Molenhuis 9 | Rebuilding Fertility - Michael Thiele 10 | Careers - Brian DeJong & Alex Heroux 11 | |
| 3:30pm Onwards ~ Exhibitors & Conference Participants Reception | | | | | |

Key Presentations

New Directions in Agriculture – Sense Making in the 21st Century

Keynote Address, Michael Thiele

Michael Thiele was born and raised on a mixed farm at Dauphin, Manitoba. He continued his agricultural education with a degree in plant science from the University of Manitoba. Over the past 30+ years, he has worked in conservation and agriculture with a focus on resource management – soil, water and wildlife habitat. Michael and Gabe Brown have co-presented at numerous Canadian conferences and both are involved with the Soil Health Academy (<https://soilhealthacademy.org/manitoba>). Michael also works closely with producers to regenerate soils, increase profitability and grow good food. He lives in Shoal Lake, Manitoba with his wife Joanne.

Keynote Speaker Sponsored by OSCIA



Introduction to Agri-Tourism Workshop

This three-hour customized workshop led by Kim Clarke, Tourism Experience Development Specialist (RT07), will introduce you to experience development and how it can benefit your farm business and local communities. Learn about the progression of economic value, the steps in experience development, and how others are using experiences to add value to their businesses. You’ll also start to shape your own idea. If you are looking to make the shift into agritourism or are wondering how to enhance products or experiences you already offer at your farm this is a workshop opportunity not to be missed. NOTE Workshop starts at 9AM.

Pre-registering online strongly recommended as space is limited to 24.

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| 1 | Ruth Knight, P.Ag. CCA-ON Organic Consultant Inc. Explore the Health of the Soil on Your Farm Ruth will cover key parameters, assessment tools & methods you can use on your farm to make sound management decisions based on the health of your farm’s soil. | |
| 2 | Michael Swidersky, Grey Dufferin Community Pasture My Experience as a Large Flock Operator & With Community Pasturing Based on his own experience as a member of the Large Flock Operators, Mike will present on his operation and the use of pasture. He’ll also provide an overview of the Grey Dufferin Community Pasture and its grass management. | |
| 3 | Jeff Davis, FCC Ag Transition Specialist Taking control of your farm’s transition Drawing on his long career of providing farm transition advice to family businesses, Jeff will give practical advice, tips and guidance to get your farm business on the right path. | |
| | Speaker Sponsored by  | |
| 4 | Steve Kell Annual Crop Farming Forecast Steve will once again provide his predictions for this year’s feed and grain markets and what the future has in store. | |
| 5 | Gerald Poechman, Poechman Family Farm, Walkerton, ON Organic Egg Laying Presentation will focus on modern egg laying production utilizing sprouts as part of the feeding program. There will also be attention drawn to the potential of small scale organic producers selling into larger organic pool. | |
| 6 | Jen Birchmore, Senior Geographical Information Specialist, OMAFRA AgMaps OMAFRA’s Agricultural Information Atlas is an interactive online application that allows you to create custom maps and find agricultural information for Ontario right down to your own | |
| | farm. It combines agricultural data on soils and drainage, as well as data layers from other Government of Ontario ministries. | |
| 7 | Jillian Craig, Small Ruminant Specialist, OMAFRA Raven Predation Project If you are experiencing raven predation hear results from a province-wide survey and about next steps of conducting on-farm trials. | |
| 8 | Kirsty Stevenson, KIRSTO Social Media & Your Farm Attend this session to learn about how and why social media is important to promoting your farm & agri-food business. Also get helpful hints in generating content and consumer interest. | |
| | Speaker Sponsored by  | |
| 9 | John Molenhuis, Business Analysis & Cost of Production Specialist, OMAFRA Financial Planning for the Ontario Sheep Industry | |
| 10 | Michael Thiele, Michael Thiele Consulting & Soil Health Academy Rebuilding Fertility in Degraded Soils Michael will talk about the activities that have brought about the degradation of our soils but then elaborate on measures we can take to reverse this process with a focus on soil life and Regenerative Agriculture. | |
| 11 | Brian DeJong & Alex Heroux, Youngfield Farms Ltd., Nestleton, ON Making Great Careers in Crop Farming! This multigenerational farm team will provide insights from their own experience in agriculture practices, value added diversification, and family dynamics that are driving success in their family farm business. | |
| Dairy program available on the website | | |
| CEU credits for CCAs will be offered | | |