

Environmental Sustainability in Agriculture KTT Event: Nov 24th, 2014



Research to action: healthy soil and water

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1	Bill Deen, University of Guelph	Dr. Bill Deen is an Associate Professor in the Department of Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph. The objective of his research program is to develop field crop agroecosystems that are productive and sustainable. He has taught courses on grain crop production, introductory plant agriculture, cropping systems and agroecology.
2	Dr. John Lauzon, University of Guelph	John Lauzon has been a professor at, University of Guelph since 2000. Current research interests focus mainly on the evaluation of manure management strategies to decrease transport of nutrients and bacteria to the environment and improve the agronomic availability of the nutrients. Other research has focused on various aspects of soil fertility management including; the evaluation of the spatial/temporal variability of soil nutrients and plant response; agronomic evaluation of fertilizer management strategies.
3	Dr. Merrin Macrae, University of Waterloo	Merrin Macrae is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management at the University of Waterloo. Her research interests center around the effects of weather and tile drainage on nutrient losses from agricultural fields. She is also interested in characterizing the success of best management practices in minimizing nutrient losses from agricultural fields. Her research is field science, and is largely focused in Southern Ontario, and is done both at the edge of the field and at the watershed and subwatershed scales.
4	Adam Hayes, OMAFRA	Adam Hayes is the OMAFRA Soil Management Specialist for Field Crops working out of Ridgetown. His Areas of Focus include <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Soil management for field crops• Climate change and greenhouse gas issues• Best management practices to maintain or improve soil quality He is also the Co-Chair of Southwest Agricultural Conference which attracts over 1100 farmers and agri-business participants each January to Ridgetown.
5	Craig Merkley, UTVCA	Craig Merkley is part of the Conservation Services Unit team at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. He is involved in coordinating local research and demonstration projects related to rural water quality and land stewardship. Recently Craig worked helped deliver the North Kettle watershed Evaluation Project in partnership with Soil Resource Group, University of Guelph and OMAFRA. One

		component of the project was to assess the historical integrity of long term structural BMP's
6	Chris VanEsbroeck, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority	Chris has a Bachelor of Environmental Studies Degree from the University of Waterloo and a Post-Graduate Certificate in Ecosystem Restoration from Niagara College. He is currently working on a master's thesis at the University of Waterloo looking at field-scale phosphorus losses from agricultural land in Ontario. He is a partner in his family's cash crop operation in Huron County, and is on the board of directors of the Huron County Soil and Crop Improvement Association. Chris is currently working for the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority as a Soil and Water Specialist.
7	Anne Verhallen, OMAFRA	Anne Verhallen is the Soil Management Specialist for Horticulture located in Ridgeway Anne's Areas of Focus include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field demonstration trials in cover crops, soil quality and irrigation scheduling • She provides technical support in the area of wind erosion control, compaction, irrigation scheduling and other soil management issues related to the production of horticultural crops • And she is developing a Cover Crop Best Management Practices book
8	Tracey McPherson, ABCA	Tracey is the GIS/ IT Coordinator with the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority where she started in 2003. She is a GIS Professional (GISP) registered with the GIS Certification Institute. Tracey has a diverse educational background which has helped her in her career at the Conservation Authority. She holds a 3 year Forestry Technology Diploma from Fleming College, a diploma in Urban and Regional Planning from Fanshawe College, a Certificate in Environmental Management Systems from Lakehead University, and Certificate in Information Systems from Durham College and is Network + certified. Before joining the Ausable Tracey worked for the City of London, MHBC Planners, and for tree nurseries/greenhouses in various capacities including field supervisor and propagation manager.
9	Anne Loeffler, GRCA	Born and raised in Waterloo Region, Anne Loeffler attended the University of Guelph, where she earned Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Animal and Poultry Science) and Master of Science (Agroforestry) degrees. She is a member of the Ontario Institute of Agrologists. Since 1990, Anne has worked with several conservation authorities throughout southwestern Ontario in the delivery of agricultural water quality programs. As a Conservation Specialist with the Grand River Conservation Authority, she works with local farmers to promote the adoption of water quality improvement projects.
10	Mari Veliz, ABCA	Mari Veliz is the Healthy Watersheds Coordinator at the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA), a 2400 km ² along the south-east shore of Lake Huron. Ms. Veliz has worked at the ABCA since 2000 and coordinated the water quality and bio-monitoring program since 2002.

		<p>The Healthy Watersheds Coordinator also works with communities and agencies to undertake and implement watershed projects and plans. Currently, the ABCA is working with provincial and federal partners to evaluate agricultural best management practices. Ms. Veliz has a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo and a Masters of Science from the University of Alberta.</p>
11	<p>Jacqui Empson Laporte, OMAFRA</p>	<p>Jacqui Empson Laporte is an Environmental Specialist with OMAFRA, working out of Clinton, ON. She is a graduate of Fleming College and Athabasca University, and is currently pursuing graduate studies in Legislative Drafting. As a member of the Ministry’s Performance Measurement initiative, her efforts to engage farmers through social media and big picture one-on-one discussions have led to a keen interest in redesigning environmental programs to address socio-economic priorities.</p>