



Speaker List

October 28, 2008

Andy Hammermeister

Dr. Andy Hammermeister is the Manager of the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada and is an Assistant Professor of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro. Andy grew up on a mixed beef and grain farm in southeast Saskatchewan. He has a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan, and a Master's degree in Land Reclamation, and a PhD in Applied Ecology from the University of Alberta. Andy has worked with the OACC since 2002, conducting research on crop rotations, soil amendments, pesticide risk reduction in soybean, variety trials of soybean, wheat, lupin and flax, oilseed pumpkin production, and wireworm control. As manager of OACC, Andy currently is working toward establishing research priorities across Canada, and linking the needs of producers with researchers and funding agencies.

Gunta Vitins

Gunta has over 25 years experience in the agri-food industry in the areas of production, marketing, trade, business and industry development, and governmental affairs. She has spearheaded several innovative agri-food initiatives in the public and private sectors throughout Canada, focusing on the organic industry for the past 18 years. In 1998, Gunta joined Pro Organics, Canada's largest distributor of organic produce, where she continues to implement innovative marketing program as Vice-President of Marketing. Gunta also holds the dual role of Director of Public Relations for SunOpta Inc, Pro Organics' parent company which has extensive global operations involved in sourcing, processing, packaging and distributing organic and natural foods.

Rupert Jannasch

Rupert Jannasch is an experienced agronomist with research experience in conventional and organic crop and livestock production. He is the Organic Transition Specialist with the Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network (ACORN), providing assistance to new entrants to organic farming and individuals wishing to make the transition from conventional farming to certified organic production. He is also the owner/operator of Avonmouth Farm in Hants County, Nova Scotia, producing certified organic blueberries, raspberries, tomatoes and mixed vegetables.

Loïc Dewavrin

Longpres Farm, Quebec

Since 1993, Loïc Dewavrin has been operating a second generation farm in Les Cedres, Quebec with his two brothers. The enterprise was founded in 1977 and is now over 1500 acres of certified organic crops. Longpres is among Quebec's leading organic farms, growing a variety of organic grain crops, including wheat, soybeans, barley, corn and sunflowers. They successfully integrate cover crops into their grain rotations and have developed a lot of their own equipment for managing residues and weeds. They also press oil from their seed crops.



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Wolfgang Pfenning, Pfenning's Organic Farm

Wolfgang was born and raised on his parents' organic farm in Germany. In 1981, he moved with his family to Canada to continue the tradition of organic farming. Wolfgang has studied a diverse range of topics including farming, composting, soil science, welding, metal fabrication and machining, electronics, automotive, refrigeration, meteorology, aviation, sales and managing people. With these skills, Wolfgang had the opportunity to help build Pfenning's Organic Vegetables. Pfenning's now employs 50 people and farms 450 acres including 220 acres of vegetables. Pfenning's also packages vegetables for retail and markets vegetables for 35 other farms. To gain a market share of Canadian grown produce, Pfenning's communicates with growers to produce high quality vegetables in demand in the marketplace. Pfenning's runs a distribution business to sell directly to stores and supermarkets. Wolfgang had a major role in establishing the packing lines, marketing strategy, and grower relationships.

Janine Gibson

Janine Gibson, the provincial representative of the organic sector in MB on the Organic Federation of Canada, provides organic industry guidance to the new Canadian Organic Office of the CFIA. Ms Gibson continues to serve as the Chair person of the Organic Food Council of MB -COG and as the past president of Canadian Organic Growers (COG) in their work supporting the development of organic agriculture.

An active inspector inspecting Crop, Livestock and Processing Operations for 12 certifiers over the last 15 years, Janine studied Human Ecology at the U of MB and Psychology at the U of WPG. She is an accredited member of the Independent Organic Inspectors Association, delivering trainings on the organic inspection process internationally and represents IOIA on the Organic Standards Committee of the Canadian General Standards Board.

December 2, 2008

Ralph Martin

Ralph Martin grew up on a farm in Southern Ontario and completed 2 degrees at Carleton University and a PhD at McGill University. He has been on faculty at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College since 1990, where he conducted research in forage agronomy and sustainable agriculture. In 2001, he founded and has since been the director of the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada, to strengthen the science and practice of organic agriculture in Canada.

Derek Lynch

Derek Lynch PhD., M.Sc. PAg., is Assistant Professor and Canada Research Chair in Organic Agriculture at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, in Truro, Nova Scotia. He is a professional agronomist with over 20 years experience in cropping systems and agricultural resource management, and has been a member of the Canadian Society of Agronomy for the past fifteen years. He is currently chair of the Expert Committee on organic agriculture. Derek completed his BSc in Agronomy, followed by an MSc on soybean physiology, at McGill University. From 1993 to 1998,





Derek co-managed a consulting partnership providing research and advisory services to the agricultural sector in Atlantic Canada in soil fertility, waste management and the design of resource-efficient cropping systems. His PhD (through Univ. of Guelph), focused on soil fertility and organic matter dynamics under perennial forages. Derek's teaching and research experience and interests include; Organic crop production, nutrient cycling and soil organic matter management in agro-ecosystems, soil microbiology, and productivity of grassland/forage systems. Derek is currently an Eastern Director for the Canadian Society of Agronomy.

Frederic Theriault

Frédéric Thériault completed a masters degree in Plant Sciences and Organic Horticulture at McGill University in Québec. In 2006-2007, he taught courses at the MacDonal campus of McGill University including 'Principles of Plant Science' and 'Ecological Agriculture Systems'. In 2005, he started a diversified organic market garden with four other people that he had met during his university years. Since then the farm, La Ferme Coopérative Tourne-Sol, a workers coop, has grown to become a 200 member community supported agriculture (CSA) farm. The farm also sells at two farmers markets during the spring, summer and fall.

Harvie Snow

Harvie Snow operates Snow Farms, a certified organic horticulture farm in British Columbia.

Martin Entz

Martin Entz is a professor of agriculture at the University of Manitoba specializing in cropping systems research. He works on sustainable agricultural systems with fellow researchers, students, technicians, farmers, and interested citizens.

Guy Gauthier

Guy Gauthier has been the owner of and partner with three brothers and his parents in Les Fermes Belvache since 1983 and Ferme La Belle Laitière inc. since 1992. Les Fermes Belvache produces organically grown crops of wheat, soybeans, corn and hay on 570 hectares of land and sells certified crops to producers, millers and dealers. The enterprise also does custom work with its machinery, such as grading, seeding, baling, combining and snow clearance, and sells organic fertilizer in the area. The company has nine employees. The Ferme La Belle Laitière inc. operation consists of a purebred dairy herd and 150 hectares under crops. The enterprise has five employees. Gauthier has been the President of the Syndicat des producteurs de grains biologiques du Québec (Quebec organic grain producers union) since 2005 and is one of the founding union executives.

Anne Macey

Anne Macey currently chairs the Livestock Working Group of the CGSB technical committee on organic agriculture and is a member of the ECOA Animal Welfare Task Force. She has been involved with the publication of two COG books on organic livestock production - as the editor of the "Organic Livestock Handbook" and a contributing writer of "Living with Worms in Organic Sheep Production". Anne has been active in the organic sector for 25 years. She is a past president



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of COG (Canadian Organic Growers), and is now the Director of COABC's Accreditation Board and a member of the Accreditation Committee for the International Organic Accreditation Service. She also occasionally works as an organic inspector and is responsible for COG's organic statistics project.

Ted Soudant

Ted Soudant has over 30 years of experience in marketing and distribution in the food industry. His current position is President of Field Gate Organics Inc. and FGO Organic Processing Ltd. and Chair of the Organic Council of Ontario (which covers all sectors of the organic industry). Field Gate Organics Inc. was formed on May 3, 2003 by 12 certified organic beef producers and now represents 32 certified organic farmers producing organic beef, pork, lamb, chicken and turkey. There are 20 other certified organic farmers who produce for Field Gate Organics Inc. Field Gate markets and distributes to its two retail stores, retail chains, butcher shops, restaurants and other wholesale outlets. As of September 2006, Field Gate Organics Inc. acquired a new kill and processing plant allowing them full control of the organic product they market ensuring the stability and quality they require for the organic industry. It is Field Gate Organics Inc.'s plan to have this organic plant federal by early 2008.



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