



IFAO

25 Years of Innovation

(1986—2011)

Prepared by
Don Lobb

PREFACE

The Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario (IFAO) history has been synonymous with the adoption of no-till and ridge-till and good soil management.

There is however, a second and much bigger story. This is a story of perceptive, innovative and resourceful farmers pulling together to improve their own production practices and the sustainability of Ontario agriculture. Their ability to work with the agricultural support community frequently made difficult challenges surmountable.

These farmers and their supporters have changed the way progressive farmers think about crop production and soil management.

This history, “IFAO—25 Years of Innovation”, is delivered as three distinct phases.

The BACKGROUND — set the stage for Innovative Farmers to organize and share information.

Through the FIRST TEN YEARS, “Innovative Farmers” found ways to co-operate with willing and generous supporters as they evolved from small workshop meetings to incorporation as the “Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario” with conferences and many associated activities.

The FOLLOWING FIFTEEN YEARS brought new challenges. Most government support and research disappeared, as did the old guard of directors and staff.

New resourceful directors found ways to maintain IFAO traditions while delivering the soil care message in a fresh and relevant way.

IFAO has a story to be proud of.

Don Lobb
April 2011

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to those who have supplied information and encouragement. Bob McIntosh has generously reviewed the draft and provided comments. Photos have been supplied by Megan Newcombe, Al Hamill, Gabe Ferguson, Jim House, Carrie James, Lillie Ann Morris and from my personal files. Carrie James has always provided information when needed. Most of the information has come from the personal files of Lillie Ann Morris and myself. Any history is only as complete as the information available. I am particularly indebted to Lillie Ann Morris who has committed weeks of time and endless attention to detail, in providing this 25-Year History. In many capacities, she too has lived IFAO for nearly 20 years.

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BACKGROUND

NO-TILL DEVELOPMENT IN ONTARIO

Two technologies made no-till a viable option: use of the wavy coulters to do in-row tillage and effective herbicides (of the late 70s—early 80s). This no-till planter photo came from a 1973 article written by Dr. Terry Daynard. “no-till” was the 1966 copyrighted trademark for this Allis-Chalmers planter and the origin of the term “no-till”. (Appendix 1) The first wavy coulters appeared on a David Brown sugar beet lifter—late 1940s.



The wavy coulters were adopted to do row tillage on this 1960s Allis Chalmers “no-till” planter.

Jim Murrison of Markham, northeast of Toronto, zero-tilled / no-tilled continuously from the mid-1960s until he retired around 2005. His soil improved so that he did not need row tillage equipment on his planter. Jim attended many Innovative Farmer events to 2011.

There had been some interest in zero-till at the University of Guelph; so, in 1969, Dr. Jack Ketcheson began some serious zero-till research. Zero-till typically did not move crop residue off the crop row. No-till usually did more aggressive in-row tillage and moved crop residue off the crop row area, particularly for corn planting. By 1970, zero-till was used on 4,000-6,000 acres in Ontario according to Daynard. That acreage grew a bit but then declined during the more prosperous ‘Big Iron’ 70s. University of Guelph Dr. Ketcheson’s zero-till work in 1981, began exploring the (no-till) residue-removed-from-row concept. This produced a distinct corn yield improvement. His work also noted crop rotation benefit for no-till.

Serious soil erosion, financial hardship and better herbicides brought renewed interest in no-till in the early 80s. Now, no-till progressed from zero-till and made use of Ketcheson’s residue removal observations. Some added in-row tillage was also found to be helpful. The necessity for crop rotation was confirmed by farmers. Farmers also learned that soil type was not usually a limiting factor for no-till where drainage and soil condition were good.

At this point, farmers were moving beyond the U of G results of long-term tillage comparison research that reported zero-till yield reductions for continuous corn. Those farmers who experienced success were aware that based on current information, the existing long-term tillage comparisons were flawed. Valid comparisons require development and perfection of the no-till “system” before it could be compared to other tillage “systems”. Traditional research does not accommodate the comparison of “systems” because of the many variables that are necessary to optimize the potential of any tillage “system”. Thus, the focus shifted from tillage and tillage comparisons to tillage “systems development”.

CONSERVATION TILLAGE **HOT SPOTS** – EARLY 80s

At the beginning of the 80s, soil conservation activity in many areas focused on no-till and ridge tillage opportunities. The practices began to spread in a ripple effect around the most successful innovators.

In **OXFORD COUNTY**, a small group was trying no-till. Some of their work was in cooperation with Dr. Jack Ketcheson (U of G) and with support from Harvey Wright, OMAF. John Hart was a leader here.

In **EASTERN ONTARIO**, Jack and Ron McCoy and Jack Fraser were working with Dr. Dick Coote, AAFC, on tillage research including zero-till. Ron McRae and John Miller soon followed on their own. Ron, a seasoned innovator, quickly moved on to ridge tillage.



Ron McRae



Jack Rigby

In the **RONDEAU BAY** Watershed, in the early '80s, there was a targeted effort to reduce soil erosion and sediment load in the Bay. This farmer-led initiative formed the Rondeau Agricultural Conservation Corporation. Jack Rigby was the leader and began no-till in 1982. Peter Cummings provided valuable support and others soon followed. This work precluded the Lake Erie Soil, Water and Environmental Enhancement Program (SWEEP) initiative.

In **KENT and ESSEX**, John Schleihauf, OMAF, worked with several farmers on ridge tillage at the beginning of the 80s. These included Doug Smith, Randy Renaud, Bert Ramelaer and Brian Skipper.

Doug Smith, Kent County, virtually “invented” precision crop management and led the development of strip cropping with Jack McGregor, Huron County and Jim House, Elgin County following immediately.



Doug Smith

In **HURON COUNTY** in 1980, Don Lobb, Jack McGregor and George Thompson began investigating tillage options. Don began no-till in 1981 and Jack began ridge-till and strip cropping in 1982. In 1982, others tried no-till including Tom Hayter and Bruce Shillinglaw — who previously had six years of no-till experience near Newmarket.



Don Lobb

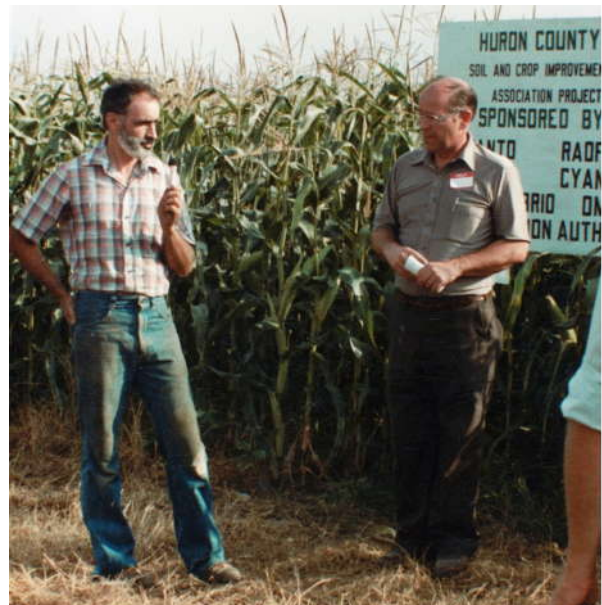
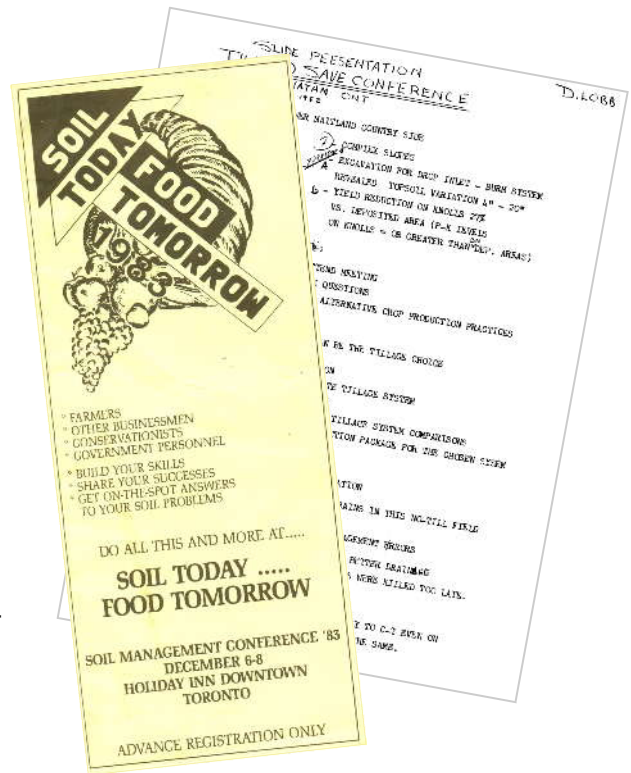


Jack McGregor

In the **Rondeau Bay** area, farmers were working together to solve soil erosion problems and for many years Jack Rigby hosted a Conservation Day to expand information exchange.

Huron “District” (Appendix 2) — was proposed by Don Lobb and Bruce Shillinglaw and supported by Tom Prout (A-BCA). The Huron Soil Conservation District (est. 1983), included the Maitland Valley and Ausable-Bayfield Conservation Authority watersheds. The number of tillage projects (mostly no-till) doubled nearly every year. An annual Conservation Day encouraged information exchange. The first was at Don Lobb’s farm in 1982. The “District” had farmer-led conservation tillage workshops with information exchange as a priority. They sometimes included others like Rondeau or Oxford. The format evolved and became the basis for the early Innovative Farmer Workshops.

The “District” combined the resources of Conservation Authorities (CA), OMAF, MNR, OME, Soil and Crop Improvement Association and farm suppliers and became the model for the 1984 Ontario Joint Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Program (JSWCP).



Conservation Day, 1982: Bruce Shillinglaw, Huron County and Dwight Quisenberry, US Soil Conservation Service.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

◆ SWEEP (Soil, Water and Environmental Enhancement Program)

The soil conservation movement was well underway. Farmers, particularly in Huron and Rondeau, were providing leadership and the CAs and OMAF were supportive. The movement received a huge boost in May 1986 when SWEEP was announced. (Appendix 3)



Dr. Wally Findlay (AAFC-Harrow) led the Technology Evaluation and Development (TED) component that funded research and demonstrations. He encouraged many “Innovative Farmers” to be active participants in the research process — often on their own fields. He found dollars to make important work happen and he actively participated in IFO activities so he would be well informed. Wally is the only person to be named an “Honourary Life Member of IFO”. (See Appendix 3)



Wally Findlay

Art Bennett, retired Director of Extension of OMAF, was the first chair of the Technology Assessment Panel (TAP that monitored the SWEEP Project. His support for and interest in soil conservation and “Innovative Farmers” was extremely important and helpful during the SWEEP years. His involvement and interest in IFO/IFAO has never ended.



Art Bennett

Bruce Shillinglaw succeeded Art Bennett as Chair of TAP.

◆ UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

In 1985, Dr. Garry Kachanoski arrived at U of G to replace the retired Tom Lane with Extension work for the Department of “Land Resource Science”. In this capacity he would lead much of the new Conservation Tillage Research, particularly the T2000 Project. (Appendix 4) This assisted about 35 farmers across Ontario in doing side-by-side comparisons between their conventional tillage and a conservation tillage practice. No-till did particularly well considering that the farmers and their advisors were novices and the soils were in a biological transition state. Garry took a fresh look at no-till and other practices. His fresh look at no-till was most helpful.

1988: Established a “Centre for Soil and Water Conservation” with Dr. M.H. Miller, Director. Assistant was David Lobb (graduate student). This brought sharp focus to the tillage/soil quality relationship

1990: With SWEEP funding, established a land stewardship chair (Dr. Mike Goss) to support soil and water improvement activity. Don Lobb was on the Advisory Board.

Dr. Murray Miller was particularly helpful with his plant nutrition / mycorrhiza (VAM) / soil phosphorus work. Dr. Clarence Swanton was very active with his work on weed control / tillage system relationships. Dr. John Sutton studied plant disease/tillage relationships.



Dr. Garry Kachanoski

◆ OMAF — CONSERVATION ADVISORS

In 1984, the first Conservation Advisors were hired as OMAF’s contribution to the Joint Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Program. The Program was delivered in cooperation with the Conservation Authorities.

Conservation Advisors became part of the OMAF contribution to SWEEP. They helped with or participated in Workshops and later Conferences and Summer Tours. These folks assisted with soil and water conservation development across the Province and provided good connections with Innovative Farmer activities. This relationship was positive and productive. Often the farmers and advisors were learning together.

Advisors were active with the Tillage 2000 Demonstration Project (OMAF/UofG), and they helped deliver the Ontario Soil Conservation and Environmental Protection Assistance Program (OSCEPAP II) that provided dollars to farmers to improve soil and water management.

Conservation Advisors, 1988



Back row: Jack Kyle, Rob Templeman, Neil Moore, Chris Attema, Adam Hayes, Pete Roberts, Doug Aspinall, Ted Taylor, Andy Graham.

Middle row: Peter Van Adrichem, Mark Janiec, Brent Kennedy, Pierre Eves-Gasser, Dan Wright, Graham Gambles, Terry Davidson, Stephen Clare, Wilf Shier, Don Dietrich.

Front row: Mary Ann Vandenheuvel, Ann Verhalen, Lisa Sommers, Howard Lang, Helen Lammers, Sheila Nolan, Chris Meyer.

Previous advisors (1984) had been Jane Sadler-Richards, Peter Johnson, Larry Bauslough, Paul Sullivan and Harold Rudy. When Peter Johnston left, David Lobb joined the group for much of 1988. Later, Keith Reid, Garry Roberts and Bill Stevens joined the Advisors.

Conservation Day, 1985 Wilson Pate Farm Brant County

Conservation Advisors:
Don Dietrich,
Peter Johnson,
Chris (Meyer) Brown
Howard Lang
Doug Aspinall



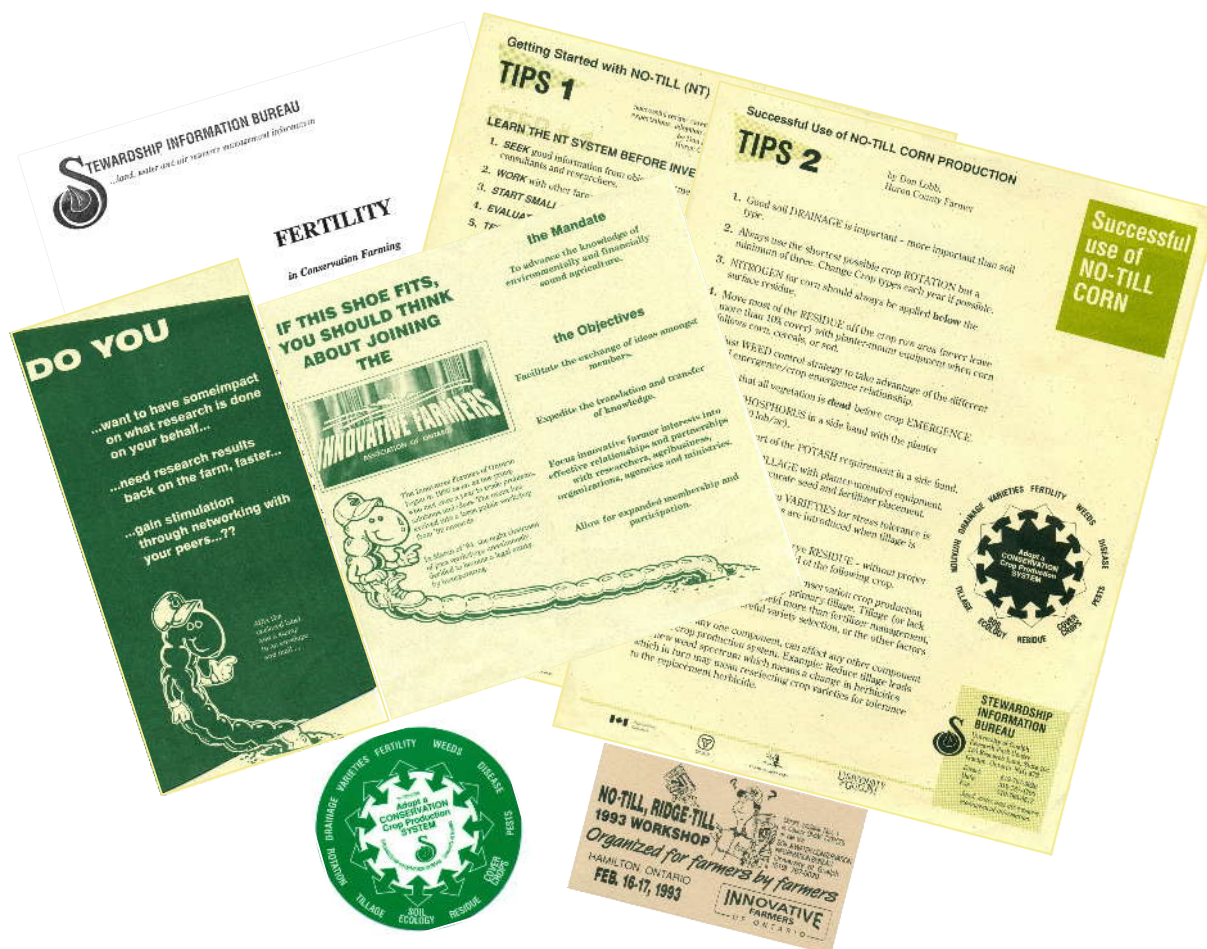
◆ SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION INFORMATION BUREAU

The Soil and Water Conservation Information Bureau (SWCIB) was established in 1989 as a SWEEP initiative and Doug Robinson was appointed manager. His office was located in the Land Resource Science Building at the University of Guelph. Doug immediately participated with Innovative Farmers (IFO) planning activities, printing proceedings of Conferences, offering seminars, and helped to run IFO affairs. He effectively assumed the role of Executive Director at no cost to the Innovative Farmers. Doug was one of those polished people who always did the right thing — on time. Doug loved working with the Innovative Farmers and was a huge help. Much of what Doug provided was by or for Innovative Farmers. He designed the future IFAO logo and produced Fact Sheets, promotion pieces and soil management packages. This kept his assistant, Helen Lammers-Helps, busy. Helen was also involved in Workshop planning and the compilation of workshop proceedings. Jack Rigby was on the Advisory Board for SWCIB.



Doug Robinson

Eventually, as funding changed (the SWEEP Program ended), SWCIB became the Stewardship Information Bureau with Green Plan funding and moved to the Guelph Research Park.



THE FIRST 10 YEARS—INNOVATIVE FARMERS ACTIVITIES

◆ WORKSHOPS

At the 1985 Pate Conservation Day in Brant County, Don Lobb proposed to Howard Lang, Senior Conservation Advisor, that we organize a “No-Till” Workshop of the most experienced Ontario no-tillers. The objective was to collectively advance no-till more quickly. (Appendix 5)

This letter brought the beginning for the name, Innovative Farmers and the workshops.

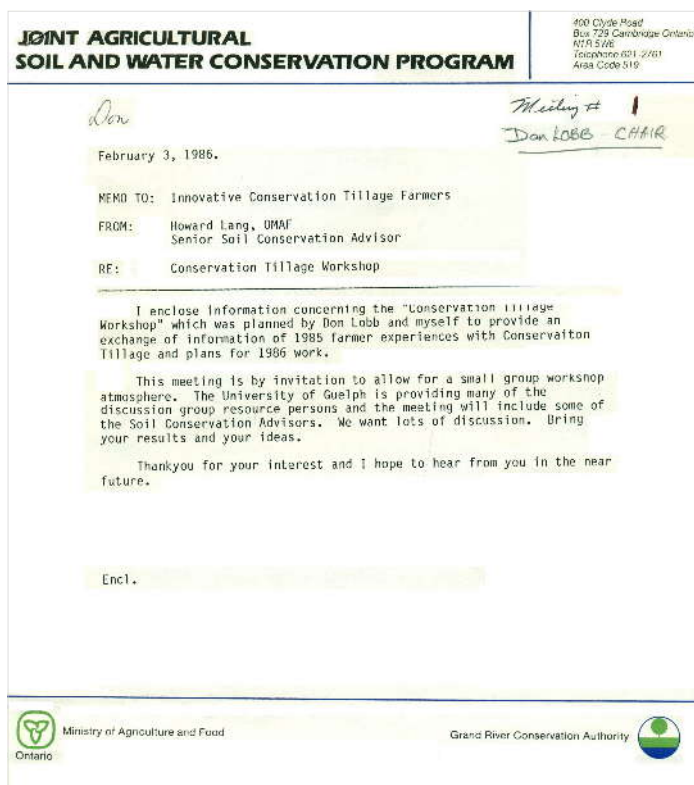
Don Lobb, with help from Howard Lang, chaired the first Workshop on February 20-21, 1986.

The name “Innovative Conservation Tillage Farmers” was shortened to “Innovative Farmers” during the event. The name was dropped for the next two workshops and then used again from 1989.

22 Farmers attended – 15 with significant experience along with 24 extension research and ag business people. This was an invitation-only affair and farmers were required to present and share information about their no-till experience. Research and extension people were invited to participate in a support role. This reversal of roles was fresh and productive and became an Innovative Farmer strength. Farmers were now setting the agenda for no-till development.

It is notable that the SWEEP TED and TAP leaders (Dr. Wally Findlay, Art Bennett and Herb Norry) attended as this was viewed as an opportunity to identify priorities for SWEEP research work. TED and TAP maintained a close association with and contributed to Innovative Farmers activities throughout the SWEEP years.

Workshops followed in December 1986 (chair, Bruce Shillinglaw), December 1987 (Doug Glenn), March 1989 (Jack Rigby), March 1990 (Doug Smith), January 1991 (Bob Hart). Some were referred to as No-Till/Ridge-Till Workshops. Each year the number of participants increased. The format became more formal and included a speaker roster, sponsors and exhibitors. Attendance grew to 100. Support was provided by (TAP - SWEEP), Middlesex Soil and Crop, Rondeau Bay Conservation Group and from 1990, the Soil and Water Conservation Information Bureau. Both no-till and ridge-till issues were addressed.



◆ SUMMER TOURS

A proposal for Summer Tours was presented at the December 1986 Innovative Farmer Workshop. (Appendix 6) In 1987, Conservation Advisors began organizing Summer Tours to compliment the workshop meetings. The focus was information gathering and information exchange.

Brent Kennedy and Adam Hays took the lead on this. They received help from others, particularly Doug Robinson, Manager of the SWCIB.

Over several years, tours visited Ontario farms and research sites from Harrow to the Quebec border and focused on real issues for crop, soil and tillage management. In 1994, a tour included Quebec and in 1995, one included Michigan. Eventually, tours have gone further afield.



20" soybeans, Bob DeBrabandere's farm, 1995



Doug Smith's variable rate planter drive, 1995

◆ GREAT LAKES NT DISCUSSION GROUP

In 1987, as a result of discussions between Don Lobb and Jerry Grigar, USDA State Agronomist for Michigan, the Great Lakes No-Till Discussion Group was formed using the Innovative Farmers format. It grew to include participants from Ontario, Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. (Appendix 7)

Participants included farmers, researchers from University of Guelph, Michigan State University, Purdue University, Agriculture Canada, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, the U.S. Conservation Technology information Centre and the Ontario Soil and Water Conservation Information Bureau. These meetings were very focused conservation tillage information exchange opportunities and usually lasted for two days.

Attendance was usually limited to 25-35 people. The group remained informal and continued for about 15 years.

The Ontario farmer participants belonged to Innovative Farmers. However, there was no formal association with Innovative Farmers. All Innovative Farmers did indirectly benefit from this group's activities.

CHANGE AND GROWTH

◆ PARTNERS

By 1991, the Innovative Farmer Workshops had grown to 60 farmers plus soil care stakeholders and continued by invitation only. Up to 1991, the Workshop Chairs were personally responsible financially for arrangements. There was pressure from other farmers and the press for open meetings. Because Innovative Farmers was not incorporated legal liability was an issue — the **Ontario Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society (SWCS)** and **Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA)** agreed to partner with Innovative Farmers, thus providing legal protection for the Conference for the next several years. These partners also assisted in organizing and delivering conferences. IFAO owes much to these organizations for their valuable support at a critical time.

◆ SPONSORS

As the conference grew, financial support by sponsors became increasingly important and allowed IFO to attract some of the best speakers in the world. Soon, sponsors wanted to be associated with “Innovative Farmers” and looked to IFO as industry leaders in progressive thinking and activity. In essence, sponsors made it possible for the Innovative Farmers to be productive and grow. Mutual respect made this a valuable relationship.

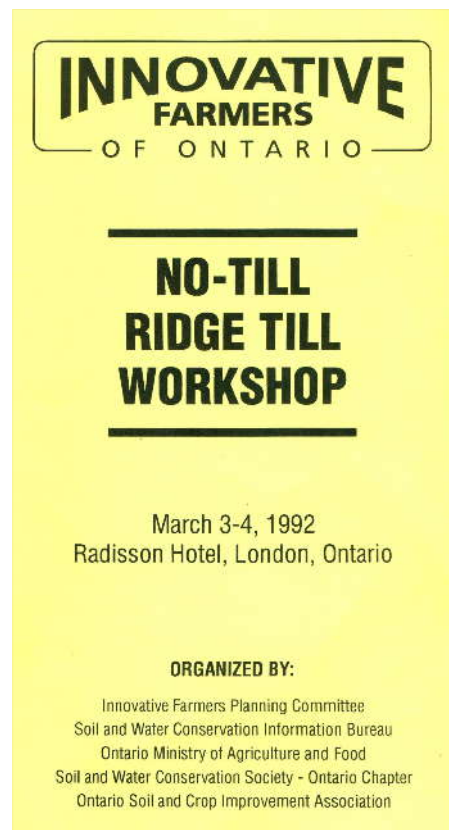
◆ OPEN CONFERENCES

1992 CONFERENCE – Brian Fletcher was Conference Chair.

The first open Conference, an Innovative Farmers No-Till/Ridge-Till Workshop, was in London in March 1992, with 450 attendees. The Conference now included a full roster of speakers, a trade show and banquet and had strong sponsor support.

Doug Wagner of OSCIA and Paul Fish of SWCS helped with the Conference logistics and continued to do so for several years.

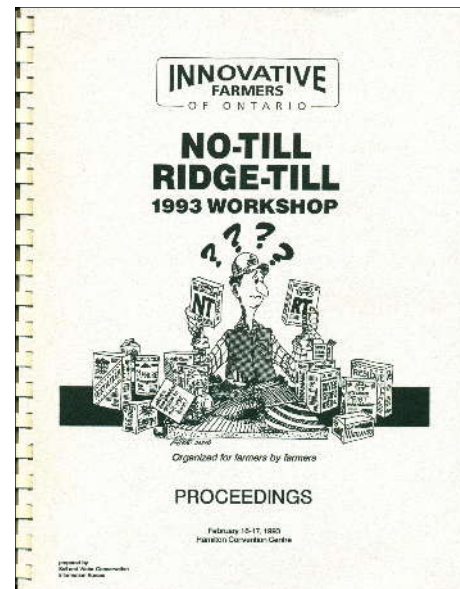
The SWCIB and OMAF Conservation Advisors also helped organize this Conference.



1993 CONFERENCE – Jim House was Conference Chair

The 1993 Conference was held at the Copps Convention Centre, Hamilton and attracted 550 participants. Jack Rigby raised more than \$100,000 from a receptive and generous agriculture industry. The result was a first class conference and the establishment of financial security for the Innovative Farmer Conference. Some of the directors complained about the workload, so new options for conference delivery were considered.

Country Guide magazine was interested in a new project and in July 1993, offered to take the lead on the 1994 Conference with Innovative Farmers as partners.



1994 CONFERENCE – Wilf Riddell was Conference Chair

Country Guide led the 1994 Workshop with support from Innovative Farmers, Stewardship Information Bureau, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association and Soil and Water Conservation Society. Lillie Ann Morris and Kerri-Sue Lang did the hard work for the “Guide”.

There were around 500 participants. The number of exhibitors and supporters increased.

Following this Conference, the Innovative Farmers’ directors decided to return to smaller Conferences with their former partners.

INNOVATIVE FARMERS OF ONTARIO

1994 Innovative Farmers of Ontario No-Till/Ridge-Till Workshop

February 22nd & 23rd, 1994

*Regal Constellation Hotel
Rexdale, Ontario
(near Toronto Int'l. Airport)*

Brought to you in part by:

Country Guide
and leading industry suppliers

Thanks to:
Innovative Farmers Planning Committee;
Stewardship Information Bureau,
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture & Food,
Soil and Water Conservation Society –
Ontario Chapter,
Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Assoc.

Interested in Innovation?

Join other innovators at Canada's foremost workshop on *No-Till & Ridge-Till* farming!

Workshop topics:

- Weed/Pest Control
- Equipment
- Fertility and Manure Management
- Crop Residue Management
- Ridge-Till Management
- Strip Cropping
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and more!

Who should attend...

Veteran No-Tillers looking for fresh ideas

Early No-Tillers looking for answers

Growers considering reduced tillage

For more information call:
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Make plans to attend this leading edge workshop!

Details available soon in *Country Guide* and from IFO, SIB, OMAF & OSCIA

◆ SPECIAL PROJECTS—1994

SUMMER TOUR

Visited several farms in Southwestern Quebec. Saw ridge-till, no-till and precision weed management. Some of the Quebec farmers participated in IFO activities for several years.

NUFFIELD SCHOLARSHIP

IFO agreed to provide financial support to members that were selected to be scholars. Those scholars would then share their findings with IFO and the agricultural communities. George Thompson, Clinton, was the first scholar supported by IFO in 1993 and Jack Rigby, Blenheim, in 1994.

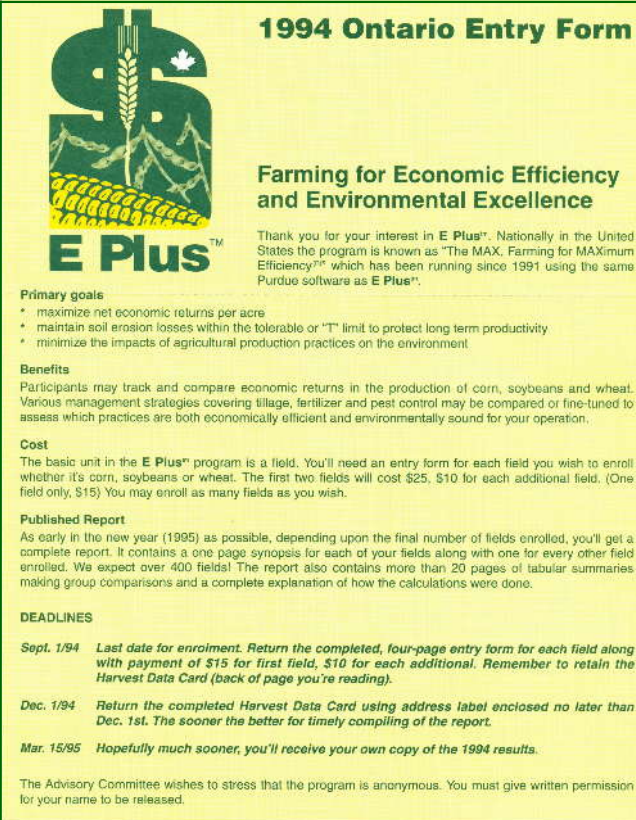
OUTDOOR FARM SHOW

In 1994, Innovative Farmers was invited to do a conservation / no-till demonstration at the Outdoor Farm Show. Bob Hart co-ordinated this. IFO (later IFAO) demonstrations continued for several years at this event. This project required a lot of work and time.

E-PLUS

In 1994, Innovative Farmers started a crop economic analysis project called E-Plus, which stood for “Farming for Economic Efficiency and Environmental Excellence”. It was funded by CIBA and Don Caruthers was hired to manage the project.

In 1997, it evolved into the Crop Cost Analysis Program (CCAP) and included a foliar feeding project in its crop cost analysis. Funding now came from CanAdapt. This project concluded in 2000.



1994 Ontario Entry Form

Farming for Economic Efficiency and Environmental Excellence

Thank you for your interest in **E Plus™**. Nationally in the United States the program is known as "The MAX. Farming for MAXimum Efficiency™" which has been running since 1991 using the same Purdue software as **E Plus™**.

Primary goals

- * maximize net economic returns per acre
- * maintain soil erosion losses within the tolerable or "T" limit to protect long term productivity
- * minimize the impacts of agricultural production practices on the environment

Benefits

Participants may track and compare economic returns in the production of corn, soybeans and wheat. Various management strategies covering tillage, fertilizer and pest control may be compared or fine-tuned to assess which practices are both economically efficient and environmentally sound for your operation.

Cost

The basic unit in the **E Plus™** program is a field. You'll need an entry form for each field you wish to enroll whether it's corn, soybeans or wheat. The first two fields will cost \$25, \$10 for each additional field. (One field only, \$15) You may enroll as many fields as you wish.

Published Report

As early in the new year (1995) as possible, depending upon the final number of fields enrolled, you'll get a complete report. It contains a one page synopsis for each of your fields along with one for every other field enrolled. We expect over 400 fields! The report also contains more than 20 pages of tabular summaries making group comparisons and a complete explanation of how the calculations were done.

DEADLINES

Sept. 1/94 Last date for enrolment. Return the completed, four-page entry form for each field along with payment of \$15 for first field, \$10 for each additional. Remember to retain the Harvest Data Card (back of page you're reading).

Dec. 1/94 Return the completed Harvest Data Card using address label enclosed no later than Dec. 1st. The sooner the better for timely compiling of the report.

Mar. 15/95 Hopefully much sooner, you'll receive your own copy of the 1994 results.

The Advisory Committee wishes to stress that the program is anonymous. You must give written permission for your name to be released.

◆ DOUG ROBINSON IS GONE

A few hours before he died on September 27, 1994, Doug said in the sternest voice he could muster, "Don't ever undervalue what IFO is worth to the agricultural industry. If you never break their trust, IFO will do well."

Immediately, work began to establish an award in memory of Doug Robinson by Innovative Farmers and the Robinson Family. In 1995, the process was agreed on with the Robinson Family and the University of Guelph.

IFAO contributed \$1,000 per year for five years. The Robinson Family contributed funds so the award could go beyond five years.

The award was to recognize excellence in communications by University of Guelph students and was first awarded in 1997.



Douglas M. Robinson Memorial Fund

Douglas M. Robinson died on September 27, 1994 at the age of 63. He graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in 1953. Doug was an innovator in agricultural and natural resource communications. Early in his career, he was instrumental in establishing the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's motion picture division at the Ontario Agricultural College, and later produced and hosted an hour-long agricultural news show on Toronto's CFTO-TV. In 1962, Doug founded Summit Film Productions Ltd., a leading producer of agricultural and environmental films. In 1989, he became the first manager of the Stewardship Information Bureau at the University of Guelph. Most recently, he founded and helped incorporate the Innovative Farmers' Association of Ontario.

Doug's great love of agriculture and nature was reflected in Maplewood Farm, his home, hobby farm and maple syrup operation.

In recognition of Doug Robinson's zeal for innovation in agriculture and his significant contributions to the field, the **Douglas M. Robinson Memorial Fund** has been established to provide support for students who share his love of agriculture.

INCORPORATION

To address the incorporation issue, Don Lobb prepared a sample 3-page by-laws draft for Doug Robinson in October 1993 (Draft #1, Appendix 8). Doug was now filling the role of Executive Director—and he liked the idea. Incorporation would allow Innovative Farmers to be independent in the operation of their affairs, allow them to take on new activities and provide legal and financial protection for the directors. A By-Laws Committee was established and work began.

In May 1994, Draft #4 was submitted to a lawyer for consideration. The lawyer's changes greatly annoyed Doug. However, Doug passed away before they were fully addressed.

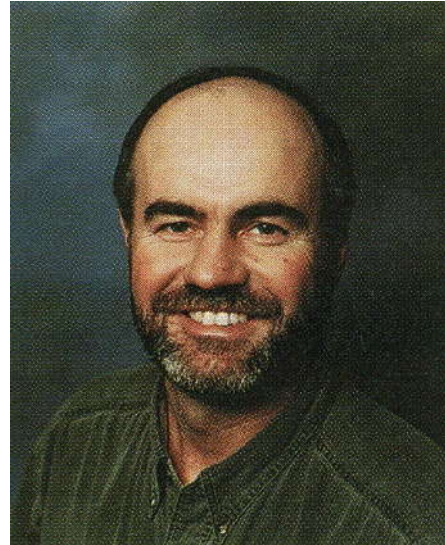
The lawyer had removed the constitution items that stated the mandate and objectives. This was later replaced in 2007.

Don Lobb and Bob McIntosh kept re-working “drafts” for committee considerations. Don has all eight versions as he did much of the writing. Our Board had lots of experience and many opinions so Bob needed lots of political skill to get the by-laws finished.

The by-law development process was not completed until early 1995 (Draft #8B).

The by-laws, were then approved at the 1995 Conference. Innovative Farmers now became **Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario**.

It is notable that when they were approved, amendments were already in process – and were then approved.



Bob McIntosh
Founding President



NEW DIRECTIONS—YEAR 10

◆ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In October 1994, Lillie Ann Morris was hired to work for Innovative Farmers as Executive Director. She had grown up on a farm in Kentucky where soil conservation was Job One. Like Doug Robinson, she was extremely committed to IFAO and its activities. Lillie Ann continued until May 1996, when she left to expand her own business. Her interest and attendance at events has continued.

This was a really busy and very productive time as expanded activities were introduced to grow IFAO. Following are some highlights for 1995.



Lillie Ann Morris
Executive Director

◆ 1995 ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCE — Chair was Don Lobb

The decision was made to go back to smaller workshops but to retain the same focus and format. About 200 participants attended this event at the Holiday Inn in Guelph on February 2-3.

TOURS (An expanded info-sharing focus)

The 1995 **Ontario** Summer Tour on Day-1 began at Ridgetown College with weed control and narrow row corn; then precision farming where Doug and Jim Smith demonstrated their “Farming by the Foot” technology including the Smith Box System (yield monitor) and variable rate equipment. Jim developed the computer “box” and the software to run it. On Day-2, the tour visited no-till narrow row corn, soy and white bean evaluations, planter and combine modifications and Larry Elder’s trans-till/no-till work that precluded research on pre-plant strip tillage by Dr. Tony Vyn. Speaker was Grant Mangold, agINNOVATOR, a Successful Farming Magazine.

In August, a tour to **Michigan** saw precision crop management, strip-till narrow row corn and beans and compaction studies and made use of our GLNTDG contacts.



The Ultimate Innovators:
Doug Smith & Jim Smith




Lillie Ann Morris, Executive Director
Wilf Riddel, Treasurer

IFAO NEWSLETTER—Issue #1, Sep. 1995

Lillie Ann Morris, Executive Director, identified the need for a newsletter as a means of adding value for IFAO membership.

Helen Lammers-Helps began publishing the Newsletter as a result of the SIB-IFAO contract. Helen continued this until 2007.

farm Innovator




Issue: 1
SEPT 1995

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the first issue of **farm Innovator**, a quarterly newsletter for IFAO members. As a member, your contribution is critical to its success. Editor, **Helen Lammers-Helps** welcomes your contributions for the Members Forum, Hot Tips and all other ideas.

If you want to participate in **E Plus™**, take time to fill out the forms now! The more fields enrolled, the more useful the final report.



Our summer tour was a great success! We saw everything from twin rows to upside down cutter bars for a closer edible bean shave. For more details see **Don Lobb's** report. Thanks to all our hosts for their hospitality.

In August, the Innovative Farmers participated in the **OUTDOOR FARM SHOW (OFS)**, compliments of **MONSANTO**. Demonstrations of no-till drills and plots of **Roundup-resistant** soybeans were featured.

AUGUST 29–30, a tour to Michigan will highlight the work of **Fran Pierce**. See his efforts with site-specific cropping and yield mapping. We'll also talk to farmers where 20" row crops are the norm.

Check out the summary from our **member profile** survey on pages 3 & 4.

Reserve **JANUARY 31 & FEBRUARY 1, 1996** for our Winter Workshop and Annual Meeting.

Best wishes for a productive, trouble-free harvest season. Until next time,

Bob McIntosh, President

MEMBERS FORUM...your place to air & share

Combines and Compaction

We are growers who farm clay loam soils in the Caledonia area. Soil compaction is one of our most serious problems and we believe combines are one of the worst culprits. Our empty **JOHN DEERE 9500** combine with 6-row corn head, chaff spreader and half of a tank of fuel weighs 28,000 pounds. Considering 30.5–32 front

tires and 18.4–26 rear tires and 80%–20% axle distribution, there is 24.9 psi under the front tires and 11.2 psi under the rear tires. With the bin full, total weight is about 40,000 pounds and the axle distribution changes to 78%–22%. Under these conditions, ground pressure is 34.7 psi (front) and 17.6 psi (rear).

Concern about ground pressures led us to equip our combines with **VA73×44–32** front tires and **28L–26** rear tires. This change only reduces loaded ground pressure to 21.4 psi (front) and 10.6 psi (rear).

These ground pressures are undoubtedly causing serious soil compaction and yield damage. We challenge combine manufacturers to give us combines that exert less than 10 psi ground pressure with a full bin.

*Robert & Thomas Misener
growers, Caledonia, ON*

Stunted Corn in No-Till

This year I'm seeing slower growth in my no-till corn where corn was planted in 1993. Presently, I use a three-coulter system. I believe we either need longer rotations or row cleaners on the planter or both. Is anybody else experiencing this problem and/or have a solution to share?

Bob McIntosh, grower, St. Marys, ON

SUMMER TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

A well-attended and successful summer tour was held **JULY 12 and 13** in the Ridgetown–Thamesville area and **St. Marys–Seaforth–Hensall** area. Here are the highlights:

NARROW ROW CORN research by **Gord Schiefele**, Ridgetown College at 7 locations over 3 years indicates an 8–10 bu/ac advantage for 20" rows over 30" rows.

TWIN ROWS (6" apart, 30" centres) are giving grower **Dan Martin** a 6 bu/ac increase in soybean yield over single rows in a ridge-till, strip crop system.

Jim Shaw, RCAT weed researcher, finds that **NO-TILL WEED PRESSURE** increases as soybeans are planted later.

MORE 1995 PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

IFAO Expertise and knowledge was now in demand.

- Participated in Gustafson Research Tour to Iowa – Bob McKinnon
- Participated in Soil Conservation Council of Canada “Forum 2005 – Producers Setting New Directions”, Saskatoon. The E.D. and several directors attended.
- Prepared paper “Ecosystem Relationships – Opportunities for Co-Existence in a Modern Environment” – Don Lobb
- Participated in Ontario Field Crop Research Committee – Jim House
- Ontario Weed Committee – Jack Rigby
- Established a Projects Committee
- Member Profile Database (average acreage 665; 75% owned computers) – Lillie Ann Morris
- Expanded E-Plus – Don Carruthers, Manager
- Participated in an Agriculture Canada Activities Review for the Harrow Research Centre – Don Lobb presented
- Managed and carried out a tillage demonstration at the Outdoor Farm Show – Bob Hart
- Supported a Nuffield Scholar – Jack Rigby
- Held a Precision Farming Seminar – Bob Hart, chair
- Work began on Policy, Procedures and Operations document to supplement the By-Laws – Don Lobb
- Became an active member organization in the Soil Conservation Council of Canada.
- Industry respect was evident in many ways, for example, the Cyanamid “No-Till Doctor” column and Booklet, 1995-96. (Appendix 9)
- Work began on an industry-led contract to deliver a No-Till Management Workshop in 1996.

PRECISION FARMING SEMINAR

Site specific crop management

BOB HART – CHAIR

March 8th, 1995
Woodstock OMAFRA Boardroom

There is a tremendous amount of interest amongst Ontario's growers to tie crop inputs more closely with actual yield potential in order to maximize profits and minimize nitrogen leaching. But because precision farming is an industry in its infancy, there is confusion over what technology is available, what information should be collected and what that information means. This seminar will serve to focus these questions and provide many of the answers from researchers, farmers, and industry and government representatives.

THE FIRST 10 YEARS — A REVIEW

Innovative Farmers had ten good and productive years. IFAO was off to a good start!

Doug Robinson and Lillie Ann Morris set a high standard of professionalism for the conference delivery and for organization activities.

Jack Rigby was particularly effective at fundraising. Wilf Riddell worked tirelessly and conscientiously as treasurer, and others contributed in whatever way they could be most effective.

IFAO had a sizeable contingent of strong dedicated innovators that had useful information to share. It had a reputation of being a positive, productive and trusted organization that attracted a faithful membership and solid industry support.

IFAO was incorporated and in a legal position to set its own agenda and manage its own affairs.

But...it would face new challenges.

OMAF had dropped the Joint Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Program so Conservation Advisors were gone. Thus, most help for on-farm projects was gone.

The Conservation Authorities lost funding for doing soil-related work.

SWEEP was concluded. This further reduced on-farm support for innovation and research.

The Federal Land Stewardship Program and Green Plan funding had been very helpful with soil conservation work but now were gone.

The SIB was in decline following Doug Robinson's death and support for IFAO diminished until it closed in 1997.

HOWEVER...IFAO had strong, dedicated, positive-thinking members and a new legion of leaders were already in the ranks and ready for the challenge. It would proceed and serve its members well.

To them innovation is the life-blood of agriculture—and-agriculture begins with the soil.

THE NEXT 15 YEARS—1996-2011

“THE INNOVATIVE FARMERS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO”

- **Conferences**
- **Supporters / Sponsors**
- **Projects / Activities**
- **Snapshots from IFAO files**
- **A Proud Moment**
- **Reflections:**
 - Jack Rigby
 - Bob McIntosh
 - Gabrielle Ferguson
 - Don Lobb
- **People through the years**
 - Founders (Conference Chairs prior to incorporation)
 - Presidents
 - Directors
 - Secretary-Treasurers
 - Executive Directors
 - Office Managers
 - Ex-Officio Directors
 - Honourable Mention

CONFERENCES



The conference has always been the focal point of IFAO activities. Members share, listen and learn at this forum. The atmosphere has been described as positive and productive. It is run with precision and professionalism. It is this atmosphere and this event that has continued to attract sponsors. Attendance usually ranges from 250 to 400.

While innovation can take many forms, the focus of IFAO has been soil care and practices that support it. Innovative activity by the members drives the IFAO agenda.

The interactive sessions between farmers and with speakers are often the most productive and have been a trademark of IFAO.

Speakers have included IFAO members plus a host of the most knowledgeable — Garry Kachanoski, Fran Pierce, Jim Kinsella, Tom O'Dell, Marion Calmer, Dwane Beck, Bill Edwards, Murray Miller, Terry Schneider, Jill Clapperton, Ray Rawson, Eileen Kladevco, Al Tomlin, Carlos Crovetto, Grant Troup, Manfred Neunaber, Jerry Glover, Clarence Swanton, Bob McNabb, Robert Peirette, John Greene, Jim Lake, and many more.

Conference Chairs

Jim House (1996), Bary Newcombe, Bob McKinnon, Bob Misener, Eric Kaiser, Grant Collins, Rob Helm, Ken Nixon, Sonke Claussen

Conference Co-ordinators

Lillie Ann Morris, Doug Wagner/Helen Lammers-Helps, Megan and Barry Newcombe (9 years), and Carrie James since 2009.

Emcees

Ross Daily, Kevin Stewart, Tom Sawyer, Peter Hannam, Archie Wilson

◆ SUPPORTER APPRECIATION

When Bob McIntosh served as President, he hosted a summer barbecue in 1995 to show appreciation to IFAO supporters and sponsors. Other presidents did the same. More recently, a dinner has been held the evening before the conference to allow speakers, supporters, sponsors and directors to socialize.



◆ SPONSORS

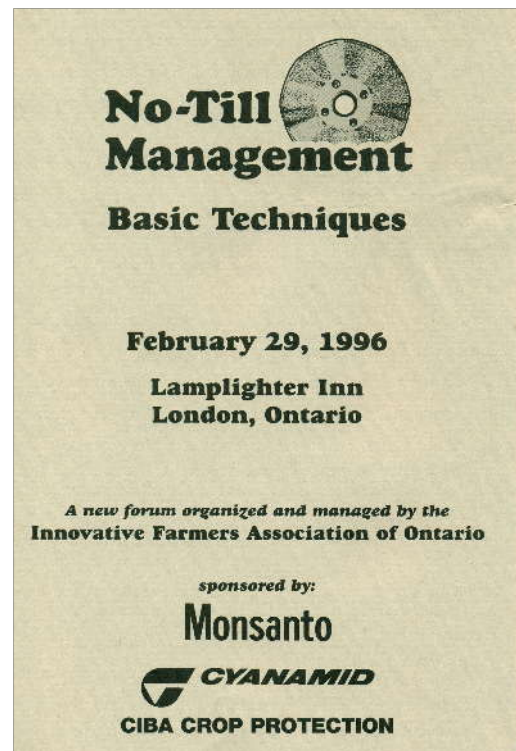
Sponsors make it possible for IFAO to deliver a quality conference and have been valued partners over the years. They see value in associating with innovative, positive and credible thinkers. Sponsors like to be where the “action” is.



PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES

◆ NO-TILL MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

IFAO organized a “No-Till Management” Basic Techniques seminar in cooperation and on contract with Monsanto, Cyanamid and Ciba Crop Protection. Approximately 300 attended. These companies recognized IFAO as the most capable and credible group to deliver such a seminar on their behalf.



◆ NUFFIELD SCHOLARS

IFAO has provided financial support to investigate leading edge agriculture around the world. It is intended that the scholars learning experience will benefit all of Ontario agriculture. Scholars supported by IFAO include:

1993: George Thompson

1994: Jack Rigby

1997: Ron McCoy

◆ MEMBER PROFILES

Profiles have been assembled sporadically. They have included average age, farm size, no-till acres, crops, etc. They provide information that defines the character and needs of IFAO. Profiles also provide benchmarks by which change can be measured. For example, in 1995, 75 percent of members had computers and just over 50 percent had a university education. Profiles are invaluable when corporate support needs to be justified. Those responsible for profiles have included Lillie Ann Morris (1995) and Megan Newcombe (1998-2000).

PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES

◆ MEMBERSHIP LISTS

Membership lists have been maintained from 1995 and are for the use of IFAO only. People responsible have included:

1995: Lillie Ann Morris

1996-2000: Jim House

2001: Bob McKinnon

2002-2006: Jim & Lorraine House

2007-Present: Carrie James

◆ NEWSLETTERS

In 1995, on the initiative of Lillie Ann Morris, a Newsletter, called The Farm Innovator, was introduced to add value for IFAO membership. Helen Lammers-Helps of the SIB prepared The Innovator Newsletter and continued to do so for several years after the Bureau closed.

In 2001, a Newsletter Committee was formed with Gabrielle Ferguson as Chair (until 2006). The Last “Innovator” (Issue 49) was produced in May 2007. Since Carrie James became Executive Director, a printed newsletter was replaced by electronic communication, via email and a website that Barry Newcombe started in about 1998.



Helen Lammers-Helps

◆ MARKETING / BUSINESS MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

These meetings have addressed many specific topics such as, Bio-Tech Information Day, Solutions to Manure Management including Fertilizer Management, Efficient Pest Control, Grain Marketing, Precision Land Management, ‘Show and Tell’ Days and Land Management Days. Meeting chairs have included Bob Hart, Wilf Riddell, Bob McIntosh, Kevin Eisses, Rob Helm and Ken Nixon.

◆ OUTDOOR FARM SHOW

IFAO participated with demonstrations such as no-till planting and compaction reduction. Coordinators have included Bob Hart, Stephen Broad, Adam Hayes and Rob Helm.

PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES

◆ DOUGLAS M. ROBINSON MEMORIAL FUND

This was initiated in memory of Doug Robinson to support worthy students in the agricultural communication course at the University of Guelph. IFAO and the Robinson Family contributed to this fund. The award provides young reporters with early exposure to the importance of soil care and innovative activity. Winners have reported on the IFAO Conference.



◆ E-PLUS

E-Plus, a crop production analysis project, began in 1993 under the sponsorship of CIBA. The focus was on comparing conservation tillage systems. Eventually funding changed to Agriculture Canada (CanAdapt) and the name changed to Profit Tracker until the project ended in 2000. The project was managed by Don Carruthers.

◆ SOIL CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF CANADA

IFAO has been a member organization since 1995. SCCC was formed in 1987 on the initiative of Senator Herb Sparrow. It provides a national voice for the protection of soil and manages the Soil Conservation Hall of Fame, National Soil Conservation Week and national soil conservation events. It engages in consultation exchange with the Federal Government on soil care issues and delivery opportunities. Members have an opportunity to collaborate in information exchange and raising the profile for soil care needs. IFAO representation on SCCC has been: Don Lobb, Stephen Broad (SCCC President in 2006), Barry Newcombe, Don Ready.



PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES

◆ RESEARCH PROJECTS

Research projects have included:

- Foliar feeding of crops
- H.A.D.D. Weed Management Studies for corn and soybeans
- Nitrogen Management Systems
- Develop Low Compaction Systems (see below)
- Control of Problem Weeds
- Greenhouse Gas Mitigation / Nitrogen Management
- 30-Year Summary of Reduced Tillage Research
- Study of Soluble Phosphorus Contribution from Cropland as Affected by Tillage and by Tile Drainage
- AAFC Weed Control Study
- Pilot project regarding Carbon Trade Agreement with Five IFAO Members

Chairs of the Research Committee have included:

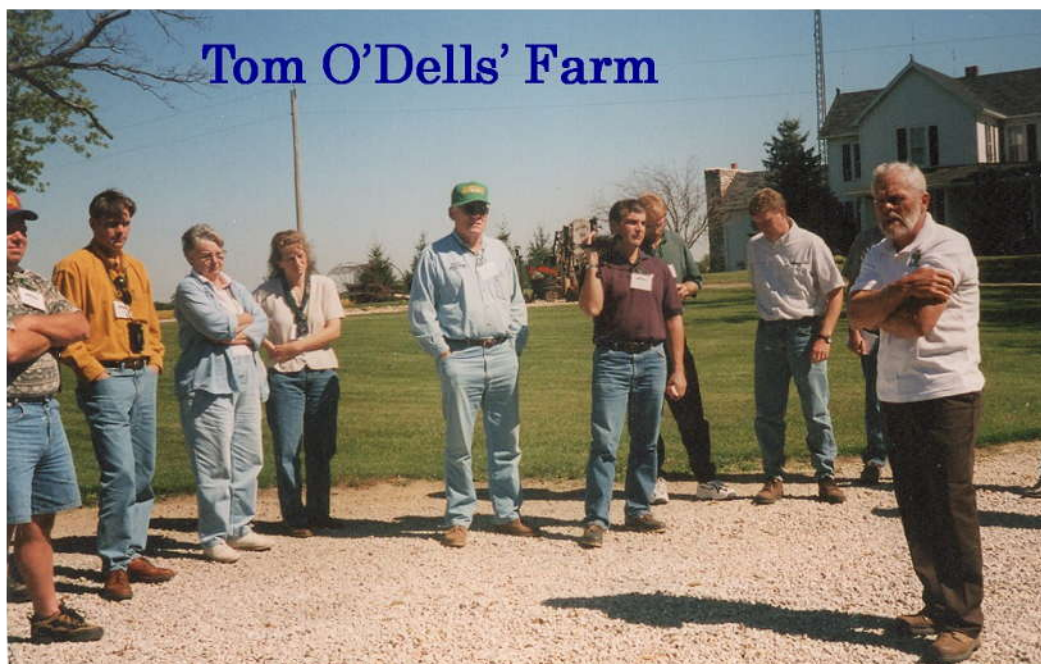
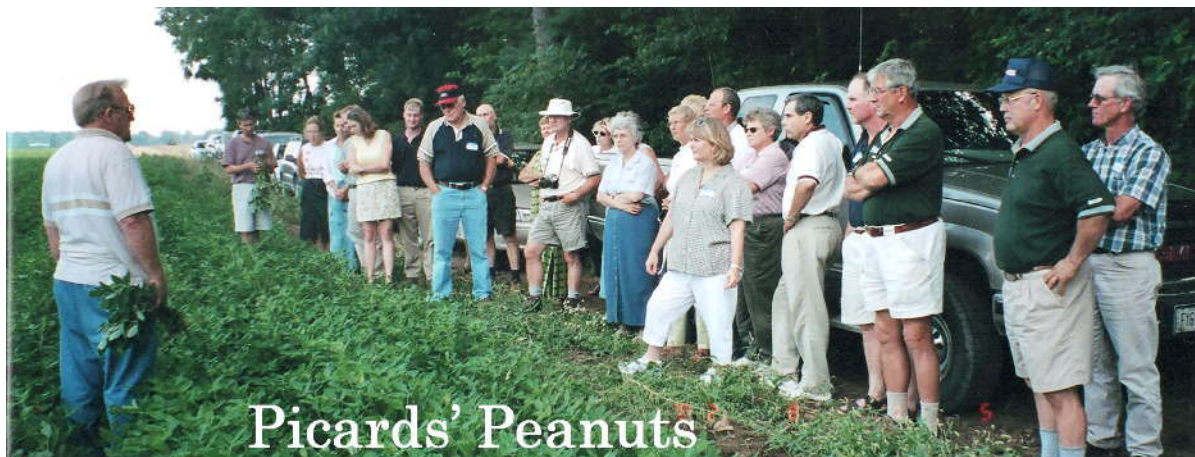
Adam Hayes,
Gabrielle Ferguson
Andy Van Niekerk.



PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES

◆ SUMMER TOURS—TRIPS

Trips were organized by Jim and Lorraine House from 1996 to 2010. Members have enjoyed them and have had the benefit of seeing how some really good crop production is managed in other areas. Destinations have included various points in Ontario, Quebec, North Eastern USA and the Mid-West United States. For the past several years, IFAO has organized a trip to the National No-Till Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.



PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES



PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES

◆ INNOVATIVE FARMER OF THE YEAR

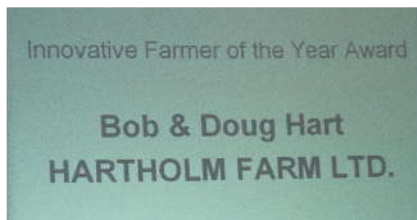
The Innovative Farmer of the Year Award is sponsored by BASF Canada in recognition of an outstanding contribution to innovation in crop production agriculture, for environmental protection and for active leadership in their community and Ontario agriculture. Recipients include:

- 2001: John Miller
- 2002: Laurence Taylor
- 2003: Hartholm Farm Ltd.
- 2004: Rick McCracken
- 2005: Tom Ogema
- 2006: Francis Hogan
- 2007: Cornelissen Farm
- 2008: Jack Rigby
- 2009: Schoulten Farms
- 2010: Bob Misener
- 2011: Bob McIntosh

Laurence Taylor



Rick McCracken



Francis Hogan



Cornelissen Farm



Jack Rigby



Schoulten Farms



Bob Misener



Bob McIntosh

SNAPSHOTS FROM IFAO FILES

A page from the IFAO Farm Innovator Newsletter, Issue: 38, May 2004 gives insight to the level of IFAO activity. The President was Rob Helm.

Annual General Meeting

The tenth Annual General Meeting of the Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario (IFAO) was held in London on February 18, 2004.

Following are some of the highlights of the meeting and committee reports. A complete copy of the Annual General Meeting minutes is available to members by contacting the IFAO office.

President Rob Helm called the meeting to order. The 10th Annual Meeting of the IFAO was convened in accordance with Article 5 of the Bylaws of the Association.

President Rob Helm welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the annual meeting. He made the following report.

The 2003 BASF Innovative Farmer of the Year Award went to Bob Hart of Hartholm Farms. A very successful bus trip went to Ohio last summer with stops at an Amish settlement, North Appalachian Experimental Watershed Research Station with highlights on manure application and no-till practices.

The Low Compaction Grain buggy has been built and very well promoted at the Outdoor Farm Show and the Toronto Farm Show.

Work continues on the Greenhouse Gas Issue.

I wish to thank Jim and Lorraine House, Barry and Megan Newcombe, IFAO Directors and Executive for all the effort they put into keeping this organization operating. On behalf of all members I would like to extend our appreciation to the 2003 Partners in Innovation:

FOUNDING PARTNERS (\$10,000 + per year)

BASF Canada

Gustafson

Monsanto Canada Inc.

Pioneer Hi-Bred Limited

Syngenta Crop Protection Canada Inc.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS(\$1,000 to \$4,999 per year)

Al's Tire Service

Bayer Crop Science

Cargill Inc.

Growmark

Michelin

Ontario Sugar Beet Growers

Committee Chair Reports

Reports were given by the various committee chairs.

Ontario Weed Committee - Grant Collins

Membership - Lorraine House

Marketing Meeting Report - Kevin Eisses

Awards Committee - Al Hamill

Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition (OFEC) -
Eric Kaiser

Crops Engineering Research Committee -
Bob Misener

Ontario Field Crop Research Coalition - Bob Misener

Research Committee - Gabe Ferguson

Outdoor Farm Show - Rob Helm

Soil Conservation Council - Stephen Broad

President's BBQ and Car Tour - Rob Helm

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation - Stephen Broad

2003 Conference - Eric Kaiser

Show and Tell Meetings 2003 - Eric Kaiser

IFAO Web Site - Barry Newcombe

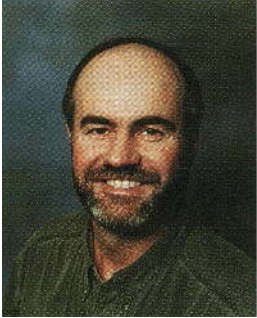
Newsletter Report - Gabrielle Ferguson

Nominating Committee - Rob Helm

2003 Bus Trip - Jim House

SNAPSHOTS FROM IFAO FILES

2001 DIRECTORS



Bob McIntosh



Wilf Riddell



Stephen Broad
President



Bob Misner



Eric Kaiser



Jim House



Rob Helm



Bob McKinnon



Gabrielle Ferguson
CCA



Adam Hayes
OMAF



Al Hamill
AAFC

(Photo not
available)

Keith Nordemann

SNAPSHOTS FROM IFAO FILES



2005 Directors

Standing: Al Hamill, Larry Ratz, Ken Nixon, Dick Buitenhuis, Duncan Hough, Gabrielle Ferguson, Mike Cowbrough
Seated: Wilf Riddell, Rob Helm, Grant Collins, Kevin Eisses, Barry Newcombe



2009 Directors & Officials

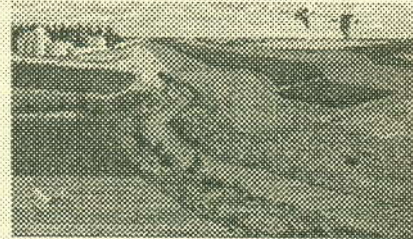
Standing: Dick Buitenhuis, Harry Biemans, Sonke Claussen, Ken Nixon, Grant Collins, Andy Van Niekerk, Greg Stewart, Barry Newcombe, Terry Ross.
Seated: Kevin Eisses, Meagan Newcombe, Lorraine House

A PROUD MOMENT FOR IFAO

IFAO RECEIVES AWARD

IFAO was recognized for promoting no-till practices during a banquet at the National No-Tillage Conference on January 13, 2006. IFAO received one of the No-Till Farmer Innovator Awards sponsored by Syngenta Crop Protection and the *No-Till Farmer* magazine.

"This group's active involvement in research and education has created solutions to production and conservation



challenges. Their work has influenced industry professionals and farmers in Canada and around the globe," said Dana Stubbendick, market development manager for Syngenta Crop Protection.

The Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario

ORGANIZATION

Started in 1986, the Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario (IFAO) first served as a forum to exchange ideas and share solutions among a group of devoted no-till farmers. Now with more than 300 members, the organization continues to educate and promote sustainable agriculture through enhancing the soil, and it also works closely with researchers to help improve the quality of no-till farming. As the organization expanded, IFAO established an annual conference where speakers from around the globe and more than 400 participants gather to share information about no-till topics from problem weeds to marketing solutions.

Based in Port Stanley, Ontario, IFAO and its members are active in numerous research projects and educational opportunities throughout Canada and the United States. Currently, several IFAO members are participating in a 3-year pilot carbon sequestration program that is investigating the reduction of carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere by increasing the amount of organic matter stored in the soil.

IFAO works with the Soil Conservation Council of Canada and the University of Guelph. Board members sit on numerous provincial and federal committees, including the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program Advisory Committee, the Ontario Weed Committee, the Ontario Field Crop Research Coalition and the Nutrient Management Working Group. Additionally, IFAO funds an annual "Farmer of the Year" award, a journalism scholarship and various no-till projects through the Farm Coalition Research Council.



REFLECTIONS

“In the early days, some likeminded people from across Southern Ontario were interested in preserving and improving their soil by changing the way they farmed. These were people who were prepared to throw out the rulebook, examine every aspect of raising a crop and question the traditional wisdom, not afraid to make mistakes, willing to share their successes and their failures and in the end write a new rule book.”

—Jack Rigby

“When IFAO was in the process of being incorporated it seemed important to “get it right”. Several people contributed to this. Don Lobb worked tirelessly to make sure that the founding by-laws would guide the organization in the right direction for years to come. Lillie Ann Morris insisted that conferences and meetings be run professionally and on time, a tradition that lives on today. Jack Rigby was instrumental at fundraising which allowed the organization to get off to a solid start. Along with the other directors on the founding board everyone worked together with a common goal – to form a stable organization that could maintain its focus even as new people replaced them on the board in the years ahead.”

—Bob McIntosh

“The IFAO board and members were (and still are) one of the best examples of collaborative and innovative team work. This meant that ideas were shared and improved through positive and challenging discussions. No idea, obstacle or issue was too big for the board to take a critical look at. That included strategic planning for the organization that asked difficult questions about direction and focus and commitment.

The IFAO members have a culture of sharing experiences and being willing to answer questions about why and how. The “No-Tillage Village” panels and bus tours gave members a chance to dig deeper into topics than they might otherwise be able to do in other venues. No topic was too controversial and no question too simple or complex. The IFAO conference was (and still is) one of the few chances top farm managers get to vet ideas, challenge the status quo and get challenged to make changes. “Comfortable” was not a word I heard spoken by this group. It was motivating to be part of IFAO because they were always asking why and then searching for the answer and then listening and then putting action in place. That is what drives success and satisfaction.”

—Gabrielle Ferguson

“The real value of the Innovative Farmers has been their willingness to set the agenda for innovation, research and priorities for soil management. By collaborating and sharing, we accelerated the learning process and reduced risk of failure. This fresh, positive approach attracted support from all quarters in agriculture.”

—Don Lobb

PEOPLE THROUGH THE YEARS

FOUNDERS / CONFERENCE CHAIRS

(Before Incorporation)

1986: Don Lobb
1987: Bruce Shillinglaw
1988: Doug Glen
1989: Jack Rigby
1990: Doug Smith
1991: Bob Hart
1992: Brian Fletcher
1993: Jim House
1994: Wilf Riddell

CONFERENCE CHAIRS

(After incorporation)

1995: Don Lobb
1996: Jim House
1997-98: Barry Newcombe
1999-00: Bob McKinnon
2001-02: Bob Misener
2003-04: Eric Kaiser
2005: Grant Collins
2006: Rob Helm
2007-08: Ken Nixon
2009-12: Sonke Claussen

PRESIDENTS

1995: Bob McIntosh
1996-97: Jim House
1998-99: Barry Newcombe
2000: Bob McKinnon
2001: Steve Broad
2002-03: Bob Misener
2004: Rob Helm
2005-06: Grant Collins
2007-08: Kevin Eisses
2009-12: Ken Nixon

DIRECTORS

Bob McIntosh, 1995-1998, 2001-2004
Jack Rigby, 1995-1997
Wilf Riddell, 1995-2002
Bruce Shillinglaw, 1995-1999
Don Lobb, 1995-1996
Jim House, 1995-2003
Bob Hart, 1995-1997
Bob McKinnon, 1995-2002
Doug Smith, 1995-1995
Barry Newcombe, 1995-2001, 2002-2008
Al Hamill, 1996-2002, 2007-2008
Bob Misener, 1996-2005
Stephen Broad, 1997-2003
Larry Burns, 1997-2000
Brian Skipper, 1999-2000
Eric Kaiser, 2000-2005
Keith Nordemann, 2000-2002
Rob Helm, 2001-2007
Grant Collins, 2002-2009
Robert Whitelaw, 2002-2005
Dick Buitenhuis, 2003-2009
Mark Comley, 2003-2004
Kevin Eisses, 2003-2010
Barry McBlain, 2004-2006
Larry Ratz, 2004-2007
Ken Nixon, 2005-
Duncan Hough, 2005-2006
Terry Ross, 2006-2009
Sonke Claussen, 2007-
Junior Van Geffen, 2007-2007
Don Rickard, 2008-2009
Harry Biermans, 2008-
Don Ready, 2009-
Steve Johns, 2009-
Lennie Aarts, 2009-2010
Keith Burns, 2010-
Jim Patton, 2010-
Blake Vince, 2011-
Jim Burns, 2011-
Darryl Burnett, 2011-

PEOPLE THROUGH THE YEARS

SECRETARY / TREASURER

1994-02: Wilf Riddell, Treasurer
1995-00: Helen Lammers-Helps,
Secretary
2003-05: Barry Newcombe,
Secretary/Treasurer
2006-08: Dick Buitenhuis, Treasurer

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

1991-94: Doug Robinson
1994-96: Lillie Ann Morris
2002-07: Wilf Riddell
2009- Carrie James



Carrie James, Executive Director

The **Executive Director** provides the firm hand on the rudder as directors change, priorities change and circumstances change. Support and encouragement make this job lighter and contributes to the success of good organizations.

OFFICE MANAGERS

1996-09: Jim and Lorraine House

EX OFFICIO APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada:
Al Hamill, 1996-2008
Craig Drury, 2007--

OMAF / OMAFRA:

Adam Hayes, 1996-2005
Mike Cowbrough, 2005-2007
Greg Stewart, 2008--

Certified Crop Advisors:

Gabrielle Ferguson, 2000-2007
Andy van Niekerk, 2007-

Grand River Conservation Authority:

Paul Fish, 1997-2001

Stewardship Information Bureau:

Helen Lammers-Helps, 1995-1997

SUPPORTERS

(Some of the people who have helped with the hard work and promotion)

Wally Findlay (AAFC)
Adam Hayes (OMAF)
Arthur Bennett
Doug Robinson
Lillie Ann Morris (Country Guide)
Helen Lammers-Helps
Lorraine House
Al Hamill (AAFC)
Paul Fish (SWCS),
Doug Wagner (OSCIA)
Peter Darbishire (Top Crop Manager)

PEOPLE THROUGH THE YEARS

HONOURABLE MENTION

In assembling information for this history, the following people were frequently mentioned as having been particularly important to the advancement of IFAO.

Wilf Riddell — who held the organization together for many years, particularly through his years as Executive Director.



Barry and Megan Newcombe — for carrying the heavy load for many years as Conference Organizers.

Jim and Lorraine House — as Office Managers and Tour Organizers for many years.



Jack Rigby and Bob Misener — as super fundraisers.

Bob McIntosh and Ken Nixon — who have shepherded the organization forward through times of significant transition.



And to all of the directors and participants who have kept their eye on the ball for so many years.

ONWARD

A history is never complete.

It is the responsibility of the people of the day to document and record the good things that we can learn from.

We can't measure progress if we don't know where we have been.

Don Lobb