

2021 Ontario Biodiversity Summit

Mainstreaming biodiversity within agriculture

Thursday September 16, 2021

9:30am **Opening message** *Steve Hounsell, Ontario Biodiversity Council & Dorothy Taylor, Curve Lake First Nation*

Welcome *Mark Reusser, Ontario Federation of Agriculture*

9:55 **Keynote presentation: Improving Resilience and biodiversity on my farm and in my community** *Mike Swidersky*

10:35 **Panel presentations: Best management practices and future opportunities for mainstreaming biodiversity within agriculture**

Moderator: Danie Glanc, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

The Environmental Farm Plan and its role in the conservation of biodiversity

Maria Ramirez Giraldo, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

Pollinator-friendly agricultural practices *Nigel Raine, Rebanks Family Chair in*

Pollinator Conservation, University of Guelph

Sustainable market drivers – what does it mean for biodiversity on the farm?

Mike Bутtenham, Grain Farmers of Ontario

ALUS: Enabling community-developed and farmer-led biodiversity restoration

Lara Ellis, Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS)

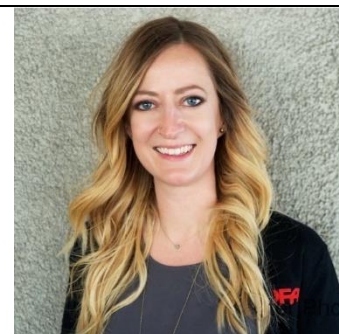
11:35 **Closing summary** *Danie Glanc, Ontario Federation of Agriculture*

Speaker biographies

Mark Reusser, a Waterloo County farmer, is the Vice President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA). He serves as the Zone 9 Director representing the counties of Dufferin, Wellington and Waterloo. Mark operates a broiler chicken and cash crop farm near New Dundee. As a current Vice-President for the Waterloo County Federation of Agriculture, Mark actively works on local regional committees to better understand the issues facing farmers in the region. He is a former member of the Waterloo Region Nutrient Management Committee, Waterloo Region Biosolids Committee, Waterloo Region Smart Growth Strategy and Rapid Transit Committee.



Danie Glanc is the Farm Policy Analyst with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Danie is responsible for science- and evidence-based policy, including plant, pollinator, and animal health, disease and welfare. Her portfolio includes work with animal protection and biosecurity, trespass to property and occupiers' liability, veterinary and livestock medicines, and lab-made and genetic technologies. Her role at OFA promotes development, awareness and advocacy of sound policy positions as an organization, and provides input on government, industry and stakeholder policies. Danie is a graduate of the University of Guelph, obtaining her Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Animal Biology, and her Master of Science degree in Animal and Poultry Science.



Mike Swidersky graduated with an agriculture diploma from the University of Guelph in 1998. He farms with his wife Amber and two teenage children in Melancthon Township in north Dufferin County. Their farm business consists of a commercial flock of annual pasture lambing ewes, custom grazing groups of steers and heifers and a cut flower business which is operated by Amber. Their farm is 100% perennial pasture with no hay or crops grown. Mike's interests are with intensive grazing/pasture management with emphasis on increasing soil organic matter and soil biology. He has managed the local community pasture (Grey Dufferin Community Pasture) for the past 8 years. In 2021 they grazed a total of 750 steers and heifers as well as 400 ewes and their lambs.



Maria Ramirez Giraldo has been a Programs Analyst with the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) since 2016. The OSCIA is a grassroots farming organization that delivers a number of education and cost-share programs to the farming community. Maria manages the delivery of the Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL) and the Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program (SARFIP). She has also supported the delivery of various other environmental stewardship programs and coordinates the electronic Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) platform. Maria is currently a board member of the Carolinian Canada Coalition representing OSCIA and is completing the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP). Maria has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences degree from the University of Guelph with a major in Natural Resource Management.



Nigel Raine has been a leader in pollination conservation and ecology in Britain. He started at University of Guelph in 2014. Prof. Raine has been an adviser and expert witness for the All Party Parliamentary Group on Agroecology; the Advisory Committee on Pesticides; the Environment Audit Committee (a select committee of the U.K. Parliament); the National Action Plan for pesticides; and the Pollinator Conservation Delivery Group. He has also advised the European Food Safety Authority. He is a Fellow of both the Royal Entomological Society and the Linnean Society of London. He has held academic positions at Sheffield University, the Zoological Society of London and Queen Mary University of London.



Mike Buttenham is the Sustainability and Environment Lead for Grain Farmers of Ontario. Within his role as Sustainability and Environment Lead, Mike leads the development of Grain Farmers of Ontario’s sustainability initiatives and works with supply chain partners to develop win-win solutions for sustainable agriculture requirements. He actively participates in industry working groups related to environment, sustainability, and management of nutrients to advance sustainability and environment efforts on farm.



Lara Ellis is Senior Vice-President of Policy and Partnerships of ALUS. She is eager to scale the conservation work of ALUS Canada by finding effective ways to strengthen environmental protection and grow community sustainability and resilience. Lara is focused on the development of new regulated and unregulated ecosystem services markets and growing support for natural infrastructure on agricultural lands. Prior to her work at ALUS, Lara worked at the Ivey Foundation, Nature Canada and CPAWS-Wildlands League promoting forest conservation, protected areas, and sustainable resource use. She has two degrees from McGill University, a B.A. in English Literature and a Master’s of Management (McGill-McConnell Program). She is based in Toronto, Canada.



Program at a glance

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 23

9:00am – 12:00pm	Mainstreaming biodiversity within business	Register now!
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THURSDAY OCTOBER 14

10:00am–12:00pm	Funding biodiversity and nature-based climate actions	Register now!
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1:00pm – 3:00pm	Investing in natural infrastructure for biodiversity and climate resilient communities	Register now!
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