



Farmers' role in climate mitigation

This winter has brought extreme polar vortexes seeing wind chills of -50°C, contrasted with days up to +10°C. We've had rain, snow, freezing drizzle, and just about everything in between. A number of the farmers we hear from have been worried about what this summer will bring. We've already had several summers of drought interspersed with summers of extreme rains. Farmers are the first to feel the effect of climate change as we are intimately connected with the weather and little else can wreak such havoc on the best laid plans.

Researchers are working on strategies like devices that can pull carbon from the atmosphere or seeding the atmosphere with sulfur to reduce some of the impact, but a number of these ideas are still theoretical or in testing phases. Climate change, or climate chaos, is already happening as evidenced by

the extreme weather events we're seeing, and we need to act now. Farmers are uniquely suited to be able to take steps to mitigate climate change. While agriculture is currently ranked sixth in the list of greenhouse gas emitters in Canada, by practicing carbon farming, agriculture can go from emitters to absorbers.

The NFU-O will be hosting free workshops across Ontario this spring

to help you figure out what steps you can take to implement carbon farming in your practices. Some of these ideas will be easy, and some will take longer term planning. Our goal throughout this project will to provide support to farmers who choose to implement strategies as well as to promote participants through social media and other avenues.

Do you want to learn more?

Join us on one of these dates:

**To register, visit nfontario.ca/climate.
There is no charge to participate.**

Markdale – February 20, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Agricultural Services Centre, 206 Toronto St. S, Markdale

Newmarket – February 24, 2:00pm- 4:00pm
Newmarket Public Library, 438 Park Ave., Newmarket

Thunder Bay – March 12, 7:00 9:00 p.m.
Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, Research and Engagement, Room 2001, PACI Building, 401 Red River Rd, Thunder Bay

Brantford – March 15

Downtown Toronto – March 21

Ottawa – TBD

Online Webinar – March 20



The Renfrew County 330 hosted its Annual General Meeting Monday evening, February 4. National president Katie Ward was invited to attend and speak to the members. Afterwards, Vice-President Daniel Stermac-Stein presented Katie with a basket of goodies.

Coming Events

Renfrew County Local 330 – Next meeting is Monday, March 4, 7:30 p.m. at the Barr Line Community Centre. Everyone is welcome.

Lanark Local 310 – Annual General Meeting is March 5, 11:00 a.m. at the McMartin House, 2nd Floor, 125 Gore St. Perth. Sarah Martz from OMAFRA will discuss regulations that apply for selling produce, honey, and maple syrup in Ontario. All are welcome and refreshments will be served.

Local 362 Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, Prescott-Russell, Ottawa - Annual General Meeting is March 7, 7:00 p.m. at the Riverbend Restaurant, 3256 River Rd. Manotick. Guest speaker this year will be Moe Garahan, who is the Executive Director at Just Food in Ottawa.

Perth Oxford Local 341 – Annual General Meeting is Thursday, March 28 at the Downie Optimists Hall, St. Paul's, 3185 County Rd 122, St. Paul's Station (south of Stratford). The Local will provide coffee and a light supper (pizza from Stacy's Pizza and vegetables from Golden Acres Farm) starting at 7:00 p.m. At 7:30 p.m. guest speaker, storm chaser David T. Chapman, will give a presentation on the one thing farmers always seem to be talking about...The Weather. The AGM will follow the presentation and will include a president's report, an update on the NFU Save Our Seeds Petition, and local elections. For more information contact Local president, Andy Megens at 519-284-3199.

A subscription to The Rural Voice is one of the benefits of being an NFU-O member