

# 2025 FARMLAND FORUM



*Watershed Wisdom:  
Water Protection's Role in Farmland Conservation*

## FORUM PROGRAM

- 8:30 am**            **Registration**
- 9:00 am**            **Welcome & Opening Remarks**  
*Marsha Paley, Board Member, Ontario Farmland Trust*
- 9:10 am**            **Welcome from OFT**  
*Martin Straathof, Executive Director, Ontario Farmland Trust*
- 9:20 am**            **Small Group Discussions**
- 9:30 am**            **Morning Keynote:**  
***Climate Change, Farmland, and the Water We Share***  
*Jeremy Pittman, Associate Professor and Associate Director of Graduate Studies, University of Waterloo*
- 10:15 am**           **Small Group Discussions**
- 10:25 am**           **Break & Table Switch**
- 10:40 am**           **Morning Panel:**  
***Flowing Together: Collaborative Approaches to Agricultural Water Planning***
- *Martin Keller, Senior Manager, Watershed Planning and Source Protection, Conservation Halton*
  - *Jack Imhof, Aquatic Ecologist/Watershed Scientist, Freshwater Conservation Canada (retired)*
  - *Merrin Macrae, Professor of Geography and Environmental Management, University of Waterloo*
  - **Moderator:** *Drew Spoelstra, OFA President*
- 11:40 am**           **Small Group Discussions**



ONTARIO FARMLAND TRUST  
PROTECTING FARMLAND FOREVER

**#2025FarmlandForum**

- 11:55 am**            **Plenary**  
*Eli Enns, Co-Founder & CEO, IISAAK OLAM Foundation*
- 12:30 pm**            **Lunch, Networking & Table Switch**  
*Online: Networking rooms will open at 1 pm*
- 1:30 pm**            **Briefing on OFT's Current Activities and Projects**  
*Martin Straathof, Executive Director, Ontario Farmland Trust*
- 1:50 pm**            **Small Group Discussions**
- 2:00 pm**            **Afternoon Panel:**  
***Farming with Water: Stories of Restoration, Protection and Resilience***
- *Drake Larson, Farmer, Three Ridges Ecological Farm*
  - *Jackie Kelly- Pemberton, Owner/Operator, Pemdale Farm*
  - *Alyssa Cousineau, Senior Hub Manager- Great Lakes, ALUS*
  - *Rick Kootstra, Farm Manager, Huronview Demonstration Farm*
  - **Moderator:** *Tori Waugh, Executive Director, Ontario Soil Network*
- 3:00 pm**            **Small Table Discussions**
- 3:10 pm**            **Break & Table Switch**
- 3:25 pm**            **Afternoon Keynote:**  
***Tools & Strategies for Agricultural Water Management***  
*David R. Lapen, Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)*
- 4:05 pm**            **Small Table Discussions**
- 4:15 pm**            **Final Reflections & Closing Remarks**  
*Margaret Walton, Chair of the Board of Directors, Ontario Farmland Trust*
- 4:20 pm**            **Adjournment**

