



## Season 3, Episode 4

# “Farmer-led research helps us realize that we're really innovators”: Improving ecological farming practices and farm-to-farm knowledge sharing with the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario

Featuring: Dr. Erin Nelson, Dr. Sarah Larsen, Heather Newman, Brent Preston

## Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the benefits of “farmer-led research” compared to research proposed and carried out by an external organization or agency?
2. What did hearing from the farmer-researchers themselves add to your understanding?
3. The farmer-researchers talk about isolation in the farming profession. How do you think participation in the farmer-led research program could help with that isolation?
4. One guest mentioned the de-funding of extension services in Canada. Why do you think access to knowledge about ecological and organic farming might be in decline? How do you think farmer-led research could make up for some of this loss of knowledge in Canada? How might farmer-led extension services differ from- and improve upon- more traditional structures of agricultural extension?