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[New and Updated Funding Programs for On-Farm Projects](#) **[1]**

Farmland Stewardship Fund, Kawartha Conservation

Funding is available (50-75% with individual project caps) for City of Kawartha Lakes landowners with projects demonstrating a benefit to watershed health, such as:

- nutrient and soil loss
- cropland and shoreline erosion
- manure storage runoff
- livestock access to watercourses
- farm well management
- and other projects addressing water health

Priority is given to projects within the Talbot River sub watershed, however projects with significant stewardship potential in other CKL locations will be considered.

Kawartha Conservation will be holding two info sessions to outline the details of this new program: The first at 7pm at the Kirkfield Lion's Club on July 15th and the second at 7pm at the Fenelon Falls Arena and Community Centre on July 20th

For more info, visit the [Kawartha Conservation website](#) [2], or contact Becky Parker: (705) 328-2271 x 223 | bparker@kawarthaconservation.com [3].

2015 SARFIP Updates, OSCIA

Funding is available (40-80% up to \$20,000) for the adoption of BMPs to support your farm's native wildlife habitats, wetlands, streams/ponds, forests, pastures/grasslands and more. Visit the [Species At Risk Farm Incentive Program website](#) [4] for full program details, or contact OSCIA at: (519) 826-3035 | (226) 979-2465 | sarfip@ontariosoilcrop.org [5].

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Funding is available (up to 50% in priority areas) to support projects involving wildlife ponds, wetland restoration or creation, riparian buffer creation, wetland fencing, and nesting boxes. For more information, contact Jenn Lavigne: (705) 721-4444 x 245 | j_lavigne@ducks.ca [6].

Kawartha Farm Stewardship Collaborative

Further funding opportunities are available from [partners](#) [7] in the KFSC. If you have on-farm projects in mind, visit kawarthafarmstewardship.org [8] and let us know how we can help by filling out a project intake form.

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[Great Looking Corn! \[9\]](#)

Check out these pics of the emerging flint corn at the [The Kanienkeha:ka \(Mohawk\) Flint Corn Seed-Saving & Education Project \[10\]](#)!



We planted the corn with the help of generous volunteers at our field day on May 29th. These seeds, collected from Mohawk communities 25 years ago, had been in the freezer for about 20 years. Now approximately 80% of the seeds we planted have germinated and are growing strong!

Please join us at our next [volunteer field day on Friday June 19th \[11\]](#)! Contact rosie@farmsatwork.ca [12] for more information.

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[Thanks for the Coverage, Voice of the Farmer! \[13\]](#)

PAGE 8, VOICE OF THE FARMER, JUNE 2015



Farms at Work recognized the grant they received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation last week at the registered Dorset sheep farm owned by Bob and Gail Irvine of Selwyn. (L to R): Selwyn Township Mayor Mary Smith; Peterborough MPP & Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Jeff Leal; Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant Review Team volunteer, Dr. Ramesh Makhija; and Farms at Work Director, Pat Learmonth attended the event that showcased local productive farming.

- SUBMITTED PHOTO

FARMS AT WORK working to educate Farmers

By: Cathy Hamill-Hill,
VOTF Contributing Editor

Most farmers can name a couple of people as mentors, who have helped them get a start in the business of farming, which is mostly about learning from experiences instead of from a text book. It is easily understood why the "Farms at Work" Educational On-Farm Mentorship Program has seen such huge success with having individuals in small groups receiving about 30 hours of education from experienced farmers that currently operate successful farms.

The Farms at Work program that began in 2009 is a non-profit local agricultural organization that was founded by Pat Learmonth about six years ago. She said, after leaving the USA with her husband and moving to Ontario to buy a farm in the Peterborough area, she looked around to see what could be learned locally in farming- and found little. After years of thought and research, she launched "Farms at Work" which is all about promoting "healthy and active farmland".

Programs for Farms at Work have included helping farmers learn about farm stewardship and native pollinators.

Recently, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and Peterborough M.P.P. Jeff Leal and members of the Ontario Trillium Foundation visited the Sheep Mentorship program at work at one of their five field days. Local members of council joined in with the event that was held to recognize the Ontario Trillium Grant that was a 3 year, \$192,300 grant given to Farms at Work. The event was held at the Sheep Mentor's Rocky Lane farm, home of Bob and Gail Irvine.

Jay Adam, program coordinator for Farms at Work explains that it was decided to ask the special guests to come at this time to see the Mentorship program in action.

"The Mentorship Program has grown each year. We are adding Maple Syrup production this fall. We have expanded from Sheep and Beekeeping, adding in Pasture Management. Each of our sessions have been full since we started," Jay explained. He added, "The mentors are never farmers that just started with their type of farming; we select our mentors carefully and we contract only those with the right amount of experience and expertise."

Pat Learmonth said she feels strongly that Ontario needs more farmers. "The numbers of farmers we have lost (exited) from farming and the amount of farmland lost (to other uses) shows we need people from places other than agriculture to come into farming. We need to be realistic as to how our future of farming is going to be built."

The Mentorship Program is encouraging people to try farming. "We see our mentees range from new entrants to farming, to retirees looking to diversify. We have a whole range of demographics. We want to tap into new minds and create profitable business models for our future," she said.

With so much success with the current Mentorship Program, Pat says that Farms at Work is considering branching out to other commodities and other areas in the future.

The Mentorship Program for Maple Syrup production is now looking for applicants. More information can be found at: www.farmsatwork.ca

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[Planting for Pollinators on Farms!](#) [14]



In 2014, farmer Peter Leahy decided to restore a wet area on his farm. Historically the area was used as pasture for grazing cattle, but he was keen to improve the site to keep his cattle out of the muck, to improve water quality on his farm, and at the same time increase habitat for waterfowl and pollinators.

So last year, Peter reached out to partners in the [Kawartha Farm Stewardship Collaborative](#) [15] to help him achieve these goals. [Ducks Unlimited Canada](#) [16], and the [Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program](#) [17] helped to fund the excavation for a shallow wildlife pond, to fence out livestock, and to install an alternate watering source for Peter's cattle.

This spring, FAW designed a planting plan that includes a range of pollinator-friendly, native plant species, from trees to shrubs and grasses. Volunteers from the [Otonabee Region Conservation Authority](#) [18] assisted Peter and FAW staff with planting on June 1. The [Peterborough County Stewardship Council](#) [19] contributed funding to help him with the cost of the plants.

If you're on your way up to Lakefield, watch for the site on the west side of County Rd 28. For more photos of the project, check out our [Facebook page](#) [20].

And if you're interested in learning more about how you can benefit native pollinators on your farm, check out our [Native Pollinators pages](#) [21]. They're chock-full of useful information!

If you'd like to see some of our planting projects in person, on Wednesday September 2, we'll be hosting a tour of a couple project sites that we've worked on recently. We'll spend the morning touring the sites and hearing from the farmers we've worked with, and in the afternoon, we'll get our

hands dirty with a planting at another farm up near Lakefield.

Send us a message for more details! info@farmsatwork.ca [22] | (705) 743-7671.

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[4,000 Seeds in a Day!](#) [23]



[The Kanienkeha:ka \(Mohawk\) Flint Corn Seed-Saving & Education Project](#) [10] got underway with a bang last Thursday and Friday, as a quarter acre plot at the Trent Experimental Farm was prepared and planted ahead of the weekend rain.

Led by Indigenous grower leiérhes Carolyn Givogue Grant, FAW and [TRACKS](#) [24] staff, along with a host of wonderful volunteers, worked hard to make it happen. By late Friday evening, forty-four traditional mounds were planted with corn, squash and beans, along with almost 4,000 corn seeds from four landraces of flint corn that were planted in rows.

Stay tuned for further updates as the plants emerge and field days continue throughout the summer. If you are interested in this project and would like to volunteer to help in the garden, please contact rosie@farmsatwork.ca [12].

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Source URL: <http://farmsatwork.ca/news/201506>

Links

[1] <http://farmsatwork.ca/news/new-and-updated-funding-programs-farm-projects> [2] <http://kawarthaconservation.com/klfsf> [3] <mailto:bparker@kawarthaconservation.com> [4] http://ontariosoilcrop.org/en/programs/species_at_risk.htm [5] <mailto:sarfip@ontariosoilcrop.org> [6] mailto:j_lavigne@ducks.ca [7] <http://www.farmsatwork.ca/Kfsc/partners> [8] <http://www.farmsatwork.ca/kfsc/project-intake> [9] <http://farmsatwork.ca/news/great-looking-corn> [10] <http://farmsatwork.ca/news/kanienkehaka-mohawk-flint-corn-seed-saving-education-project> [11] <http://farmsatwork.ca/event/haudenosaunee-flint-corn-planting-party> [12] <mailto:rosie@farmsatwork.ca> [13] <http://farmsatwork.ca/news/thanks-coverage-voice-farmer> [14] <http://farmsatwork.ca/news/planting-pollinators-farms> [15] <http://www.kawarthafarmstewardship.org> [16] <http://www.ducks.ca/> [17] http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/en/programs/species_at_risk.htm [18] <http://www.otonabee.com/> [19] http://www.peterboroughcountystewardship.org/Home_Page.html [20] <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1112359278778610.1073741840.292460614101818&type=1> [21] <http://www.farmsatwork.ca/pollinators> [22] <mailto:info@farmsatwork.ca> [23] <http://farmsatwork.ca/news/4000-seeds-day> [24] <https://trackscamp.wordpress.com/>