

ECOLOGICAL DAYS BIOS

Bryan Gilvesy:

Bryan Gilvesy HBA, is a graduate of Richard Ivey School of Business, and the University of Western Ontario. He is the Chairman of the Norfolk County ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services), the emerging program that envisions farmers as key environmental solution providers, and also the Co-Chair of the Sustain Ontario Steering Committee, the coalition for good food and farming.

He is the recipient of the 2009 International Texas Longhorn Association Breeder of the Year Award, 2008 Canadian Agri-Food Award of Excellence For Environmental Stewardship, 2007 Premier's Award For Ag Innovation, and the 2006 Toronto Food Policy Council Local Food Hero Award.

Christie Young:

Christie is the Founder and Executive Director of FarmStart. She has extensive experience in program initiation and development, fund raising and coalition building. She also has experience and wide networks in both agriculture and the community food security sector. Christie has worked with farmers and farm leaders on and off farms in several countries. She worked for several years with FoodShare in Toronto, organizing the Field to Table Festival. She was a founding Board member of Local Food Plus.

Christie continues to be inspired by all the passionate, hard working and dedicated new farmers who are making delicious change in their lives and our communities. And she is thrilled that FarmStart can be part of building a healthy sustainable agriculture for future generations.

Dr. Robert Nurse:

Dr. Nurse was born in Guelph, ON, grew up in Oshawa, and now resides in Leamington. Dr. Nurse obtained his BSc (Hons) in Ecology and Evolution from the University of Western Ontario, his MSc. in Weed Ecology from the University of Guelph, and his PhD in Weed Ecology from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. He is currently the Weed Scientist/Ecologist at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Harrow, ON and conducts research for a diverse array of crops including corn, soybean, edible beans, sweet corn and several vegetable crops including processing tomatoes. His main objectives are obtaining minor use herbicide registrations, developing reduced risk weed management systems including organic systems, determining the impact of climate change on weed biology, and developing control strategies for invasive and non-native weeds.

Freeman Boyd:

FREEMAN and MARION BOYD farmed on the Niagara Escarpment for 30 years, vending poultry products and garden produce at the Owen Sound Farmers Market. The core of their business was a small provincially inspector poultry abattoir. Freeman also studied and taught Philosophy of the Environment at the University of Guelph, completing a Ph.D. in agricultural ethics in 2005. A dedicated field naturalist, Freeman has a special interest in birds, mushrooms and botany. He is twice past president of the Owen Sound Field Naturalists. Freeman is married

with three grown children. He has been coordinator of the Grey Bruce Local Food Project since its inception in 2007.

Anne Verhallen:

Anne graduated from the University of Guelph in 1985 with a B.Sc.(Agr.), majoring in Soil Science. She joined OMAFRA in 1988 as a Soil Conservation Advisor, working in the counties of Essex and Kent. Most of her work at that time focused on soil conservation and soil management in field and horticultural crops. Currently, Anne works in the area of horticultural soil management with project interests in cover crops, compaction, crop rotation, fertility, irrigation scheduling and soil health.

Bill J. van Nes:

Farm with wife Cindy and six children, ages 13 to 1 year old on St Brigid's Dairy Ltd near Brussels Ont. Some of the land has been certified Organic since 2003. I started a grass based, mainly seasonal organic dairy farm 2010. Presently milking 250 (Nov 23, 2011) on 400 pasture acres included in 650 acres of certified organic land. Milk is sent to Harmony Organic. Presently milking balance of Jerseys and Jersey crosses. Pasture moves are 1 to 2 acres approx. 5-6 times a day. Trend is toward grazing taller, longer rest periods. Cool season grass rest period presently 20 to 30 days. Fence is moved by Gallagher tumblewheel system. Plan for some bush grazing(silva grazing) and grazing some warm season perennials next August/September.

Chris Boettcher:

Together with my wife Gabriele and five children I operate a mixed bio-dynamic farm in northern Huron County. I started with my first 30 ewes during high school and sheep have been part of my farm ever since. We have been certified with Demeter Canada since 1996. Today we grow grains, bean, forages and vegetables using a six-year rotation. The sheep flock, however, plays a most important role in the success of our farming operation. We raise 600+ lambs off our 350-ewe flock.

David Weber

In 1996 David & Ellen Weber bought some holstein heifers to raise for export, along with starting a small fabricating business. Three years later he built the first shelter for pasture poultry. Conventional farming was not going very well for them. Then the border closed in 2003, after which time they finally quit with the conventional farming and bought beef cows intending to direct market. This was followed by getting further involved in the poultry business by purchasing a quota. With this they started redesigning the poultry shelters, adjusting them to meet current needs as their business continues to grow. David and his wife Ellen have 5 children aged from 9 to 14, all enjoying the farm.