



Joe Bassett



Russell Hedrick



Dr. Vania Pankievicz



Joe Breker



Stewart Skinner

IFAO Conference

Wed/Thurs — Feb 20-21 — 2019

Lamplighter Inn, London, ON

The Innovative Farmers conference brings together Ontario's most progressive farmers. This year, we've got another world-class line up of speakers and over 20 farmer-to-farmer breakout sessions for you to share your ideas and pick up some new ones along the way.

A Farmer's Perspective on the Dollars & Sense of Soil Health

Russell Hedrick reaches corn yields of 318 bushels/acre and soybeans 20-30% higher than county average, while reducing fertilizer costs by more than \$70 per acre and using 50% less herbicides. Hedrick firmly believes in a systems approach that includes no-till, cover crops, grazing livestock, precision technology to manage seed placement and nutrient application and direct consumer marketing.

Corn That Produces Its Own Nitrogen: Potential Game Changer

Dr. Pankievicz researches a corn variety grown for decades in southern Mexico. This corn has aerial roots that secrete a mucus gel which feed bacteria that in return pull nitrogen out of the air and fertilize the plant. Dr. Pankievicz is researching the nitrogen-fixing traits of this gel and whether it's traits can be bred into conventional corn.

New Equipment with the Intelligence to Improve Your Soil

Joe Bassett has introduced a new equipment line, Underground Ag, that marries intelligence and iron to enable progressive farming practices that are less intrusive, less chemical-intensive, more productive and in the end more profitable. Among his patents is a device that mows and weaves cover crops into a mat on either side of a row where a primary crop is to be planted, keeping weeds at bay.

After 30+ Years of Tweaking — He's Got It Aced

Joe Breker has adopted an advanced cover crop system that alternates strips of brassicas and field peas on 30-inch centers. Using GPS, corn is planted directly over the brassica strips. It's called bio strip-till and it's like strip-tillage without the tillage. Breker's no-till and cover crop journey has enabled him to manage excessive moisture and drought while building crop nutrients and soil organic matter. And he's proud of what he's achieved. "The soil compaction created by 80 years of tillage is gone and we've kicked the soil health up." he says.

Farming is a Stressful Occupation — Let's Talk About It

Stewart Skinner has opened the conversation about high depression rates and mental illness amongst farmers. He's publicly spoken on the topic, tweeted about it, and shared his own story so others can benefit from his strength. "Being open and honest about our struggles allows others to know they aren't alone when they feel the effects of what can be very isolating feelings."

Relay Cropping Panel — moderated by Peter Johnson

Includes 20 + Farmer to Farmer sessions.

Ask questions, share, pick up game changer tips on adapting new soil health concepts to your farm operation and needs.

Registration now open at www.ifao.com

Early registration recommended — don't be disappointed!