

Background

I am one of the four founding members of Everdale, a non-profit charitable organization with charitable status (www.everdale.org). I have devoted the last ten years to the establishment of Everdale as one of Canada's premier ecological learning centres. Although I have been involved with all aspects Everdale's development my principal role has been as the manager of Everdale's organic farm and the coordinator of Everdale's farm-related training programs.

I believe in collaboration and sharing. Over the past decade I have established productive working partnerships with organizations and individuals such as: Seeds of Diversity Canada, FoodShare, SPIN Farming, Farm Start, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, University of Guelph, other farmers, educators, and local grass roots organizations.

Organic Farmer

I have worked as a full time organic farmer since 1996. During this time I have spearheaded and managed Everdale's 150-acre multi-crop and mixed-livestock operation that focuses on connecting with consumers via direct-marketing and value-added services. Gross sales are currently \$200,000 per year.

I am an experienced grower with detailed system-based knowledge of mixed vegetable production, value-added farm products, cover cropping, mixed grains and livestock. My farming experience extends beyond the field. I also have many years of experience developing and administering Everdale's farm budgets, crop plans, and human resources.

I have developed Everdale farm's diverse markets including a Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) program (one of the largest in Ontario), farmers markets, farm gate sales; wholesale and retail accounts.

I also run a family farm business with my wife and three daughters. We run a mixed livestock operation: sheep for meat and wool; laying hens for eggs; pigs; and draft horses.

Educator and program developer

I have developed curriculum raised, raised money for and coordinated the implementation of the following educational programs and community-based food and farming initiatives. Here is a list of some of my teaching and program development work to date:

- In 2009, I have been working part time as a farm planning consultant for a new farming project being developed in Cannington, Ontario. Like Everdale, this project will combine a working farm with hands-on educational programs and community-based food and farming initiatives.
- In 2007, I worked with Heifer International to develop a farm planning program for new farmers called Farmers Growing Farmer (FGF). In 2008, I secured \$300,000 of start-up funding and the program was launched. As Everdale's farm manager and farm education coordinator, I continue to oversee FGF.
- In 2003, I co-founded CRAFT Ontario, a collaborative farmer training effort that now

has more than 50 member farms who offer on-farm internships across Ontario (www.craftontario.ca). I continue to play an active role in administering this network of farms.

- In 2000, I secured funding from Agriculture Canada to launch Future Farmers, one of Canada's first organic farming internship programs. Since that time I have been the primary farmer-trainer for more than 40 farm interns and more than half of these young people have gone on to start farming careers. Future Farmers is one of Canada's leading on-farm internships with a comprehensive training itinerary.
- From 1999 until the present I have planned, promoted and coordinated dozens of farm education events such as public tours, harvest celebrations, workshops, and seminars. These public events and trainings have been attended by more than 5,000 people.

Fundraiser

I have raised and administered more than \$1,000,000 in grants from agencies such as Heifer International, Ag Canada, Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities, Metcalf Foundation and Trillium.

Non-profit administrator

Since its inception I have played a lead role in administering Everdale. I have developed financial tools (budgets, loans, cash flow projections); worked to establish an effective board of directors; supervised staff (hiring, training, evaluating); and participated in an ongoing collective planning process for Everdale's physical (50-acre) site as well as for its programs. I am also on the board of directors for Canadian Organic Growers (COG) and the Organic Council of Ontario (OCO).