

## M. Eleanor McGrath

Zone 14 2021 Director–Candidate  
Springfield Farm, Apple Hill  
[www.springfieldfarmorganics.ca](http://www.springfieldfarmorganics.ca)  
Farm: 613-528-0083



Seven years ago, my husband and I became the fourth owners of Springfield Farm in Apple Hill – South Glengarry. Like many city folks we always dreamed of owning a farm, especially with four children. It has been a fast learning curve, from having a tenant farmer and cash crops on the land, to putting up a Yurt for AgriTourism, transitioning to organic and getting our hands and feet dirty to establish an apple orchard and market garden – it has been the best job and a life-changing experience.

Agriculture is the economic driver of this community and encompasses so many facets of our lives and the very landscape of the region. To represent you at the OFA Board is to represent every farm, every agricultural practice and to provide you with updates on the work of the board. As we turn the curve of the pandemic, there are exciting opportunities to capitalize on the increased interest in our food chain from your farm to the tables of Ontarians, Canadians and worldwide.

I am proud to farm in our region and proud to be a member of the OFA. Equally I enjoy volunteering in our community writing on Agriculture for the Cornwall Standard Freeholder and Eastern Ontario AgriNews. I have served on several committees for events in our region focused on farming and AgriTourism, including the 2020 Farm Hop and the very successful visit by the Irish Ambassador Jim Kelly to our region. This year, I was invited to join the Ontario Barn Preservation Society as a Regional Rep, which has given me insights into by-laws, agriculture zoning and the need to engage municipalities in the value of preserving not only iconic farm buildings but also the very core of farming life.

I want to make positive changes in areas such as technological/environmental support for all farming operations, increase extended health care for farmers and workers and ensure the food supply chain is protected at all government levels.



There is a growing need to educate the consumer - when the consumer meets the farmer selling vegetables at the local Farmers' Market, that Farmer is now our Ambassador for Agriculture. We must ensure that Farmers' Markets and all activities connected to Agriculture are protected, promoted and current with the times. My work will be to meet with you, meet with the regional boards and represent you. I will bring enthusiasm and commitment to my work at the OFA. Please call me at 613-528-0083 with your farming concerns.

**A vote for Eleanor McGrath, is a vote for all farmers!**