

# 2020 Ivarson Soil Science Scholarship Recipient

## JOANNE THIESSEN MARTENS

The CFFAE awarded the 2020 Ivarson Soil Science Scholarship to **Ms. Joanne Thiessen Martens**, a PhD student in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Manitoba. Her PhD research focused on optimizing the use of struvite fertilizer as a phosphorus source in organic cropping systems. Joanne has published six peer-reviewed research papers and review articles and was a co-author on an additional 11 journal articles and one scientific book chapter. She also designed and piloted novel nutrient management tools for organic farmers and agronomists, co-leading training events to equip organic farming practitioners to improve their soil fertility management skills.



Joanne chose to study agriculture for her undergraduate degree partly due to the potential to contribute knowledge and skills to rural development activities in developing countries. Not long after her 1999 graduation from Agroecology, she embarked on a three-year, full-time volunteer experience in rural Brazil (2000-2003), where she provided technical and organizational support to a small, newly formed association of organic fruit and vegetable farmers. She also served as a director on the board of the Manitoba Organic Alliance (2009-2017) which provided her with valuable insights into the commercial organic agriculture sector and offered an opportunity to support the sector's local umbrella organization.

Following completion of her Ph.D. program, Joanne hopes to pursue a career in research and extension using a co-design approach that integrates new scientific understanding with farmers' experiential knowledge, resulting in appropriate adaptation and implementation of research in local contexts. She hopes to advance the knowledge of ecologically based soil and crop management to enhance the sustainability and resilience of a wide variety of agricultural production systems, including organic and conventional production systems. Her research interests include intensification of ecological processes to increase the health and productivity of agricultural systems, strategic use of soil amendments to restore productivity in degraded soils, and enhancement of nutrient recycling at both local and broader scales.