

Agri-Food Forum

Saturday November 22, 2025

Growing
Bonfield
Together!

Welcome Everybody!

Grandissons
Bonfield
Ensemble!



Session One: Setting the Scene

9:45am - Registration

10:15am - Welcome / Introduction to the event

10:30am - Overview of Strategic Plan (2025-2030)

10:40am - Planning & Development Update

10.50am - Introduction to the Business Retention + Expansion (BR+E) Initiative
“Growing Bonfield Together: Community Business Survey 2025”

11:00am - Break



Session Two: Promoting Collaboration

11:20am - Agri-business Capacity Building Project.

11:30am - Nipissing University

NOON - Harvest Lunch

1:00pm - Roundtable Session: *“Realizing Bonfield’s Potential”*

2:00pm - Roundtable Summary

2:20pm - Break



Session Three: Understanding our potential

2:30pm - NOFIA (Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance)

3:00pm - Ontario Federation of Agriculture

3:15pm - Click Fork, Northern Ontario's Online Farmer's Market

3:30pm - Panel Discussion - Comprising various delivery partners.

3:55pm - Wrap-up / networking

4:30pm - Venue Closes



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Session One: Setting the Scene

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Strategic Plan (2025 - 2030)

Context and Background

- From reliance to “resilience”
- Community & Stakeholder Engagement
- Adoption of Strategic Plan



Strategic Plan (2025 - 2030)

Context and Background

- From reliance to “resilience”
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- Adoption of Strategic Plan



AT A GLANCE

Vision

The Township of Bonfield is a reliable, effective, and trusted provider of services to the community.

Mission

A modern municipal government which fosters safety, and a sense of community through fiscal responsibility and sustainable growth

Guiding Values and Principles

The Township is a service provider and facilitator making decision based upon the following values:

1. Service Excellence with Courtesy and Respect
2. Financial Prudence and Accountability
3. Sustainable Growth and Investment Readiness
4. Environmental Consciousness
5. Collaboration and Transparency



Strategic Pillar One: Responsible Government

Priority Action Items

Goal #1 - Create and Maintain a Communication and Brand Strategy

Goal #2 - Create and Foster an Environment that Facilitates Community Participation in Events

Goal #3 - Comply with Federal, Provincial, Regional and Municipal Legislation and Regulations



Strategic Pillar Two: Economic & Social Development

Priority Action Items

Goal # 4 - Foster and Support an Environment which promotes positive Social, Health & Economic Development outcomes.

Goal # 5 - Ensure municipal infrastructure is being maintained based upon a robust analysis of its condition



Strategic Pillar Three: Fiscal Prudence

Priority Action Items

Goal # 6 - Ensure new spending decisions are informed by an up to date understanding of asset management priorities

Goal # 7 - Modernize and simplify administrative processes

Goal #8 - Understand the opportunities for shared resources



Strategic Pillar Four: Environmental Stewardship

Priority Action Items

Goal #9 - To lead and support the Township of Bonfield as it makes the transition to a more sustainable future.



Overview

Provincial / Regional

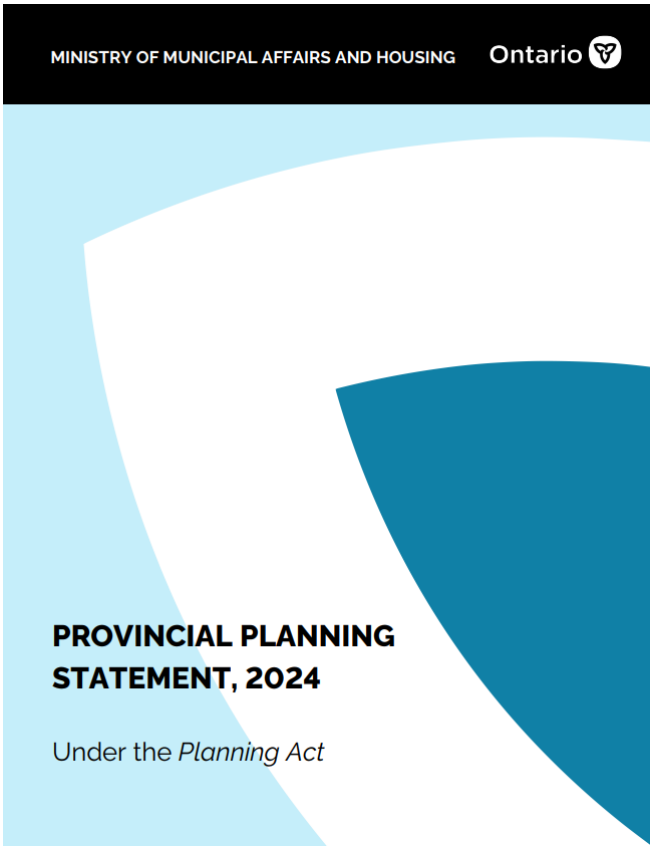
- Ontario Planning Act 1990 (As Amended)
- Provincial Planning Statement (PPS 2024)
- Growth Plan for Northern Ontario (2011)

Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13

 [Download Word](#)  [Print](#)

Versions	Regulations under this Act	Revoked/spent regulations under this Act
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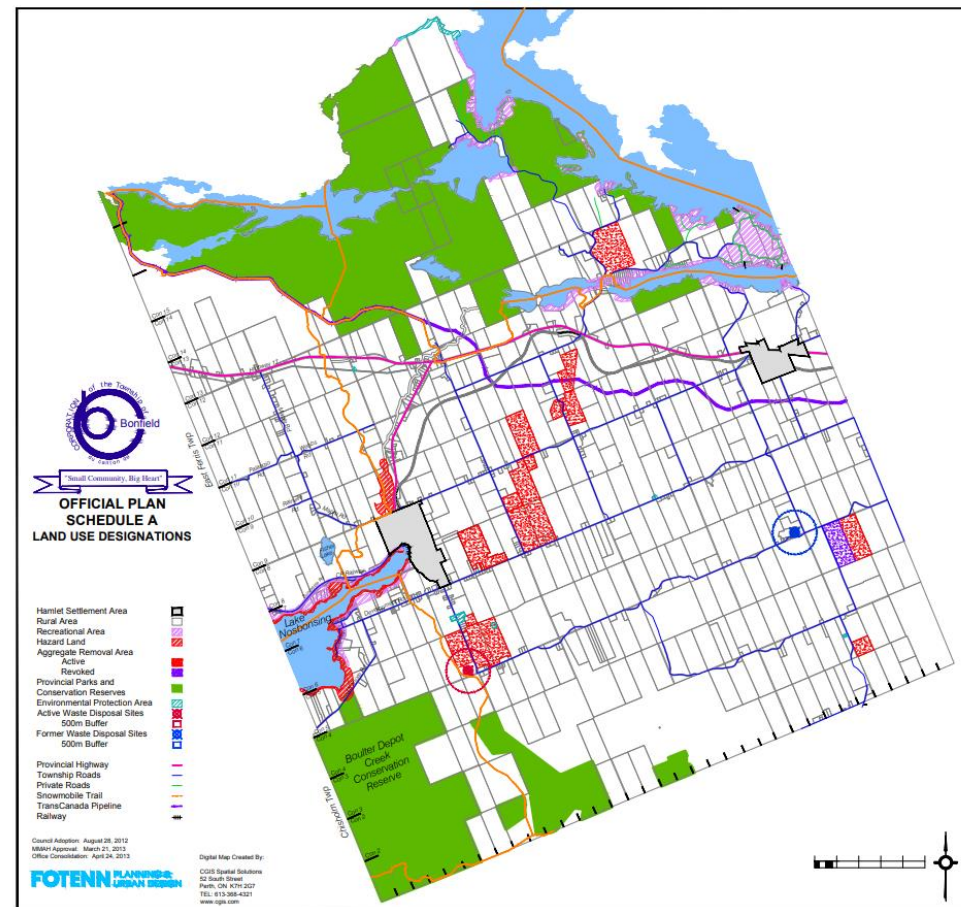
CURRENT June 5, 2025 - [e-Laws currency date](#) (October 30, 2025)
March 31, 2025 - June 4, 2025



Overview

Township of Bonfield Official Plan

- Adopted April 2013.
- Guiding Principles:
 1. Sustainable Development
 2. Natural Environment and Resources
 3. Affordable Housing
 4. Diversified Economy
 5. Community and Aboriginal Engagement



Overview

Township of Bonfield

Official Plan

- Agriculture / Food policies:

Policy 4.2 - Rural Area

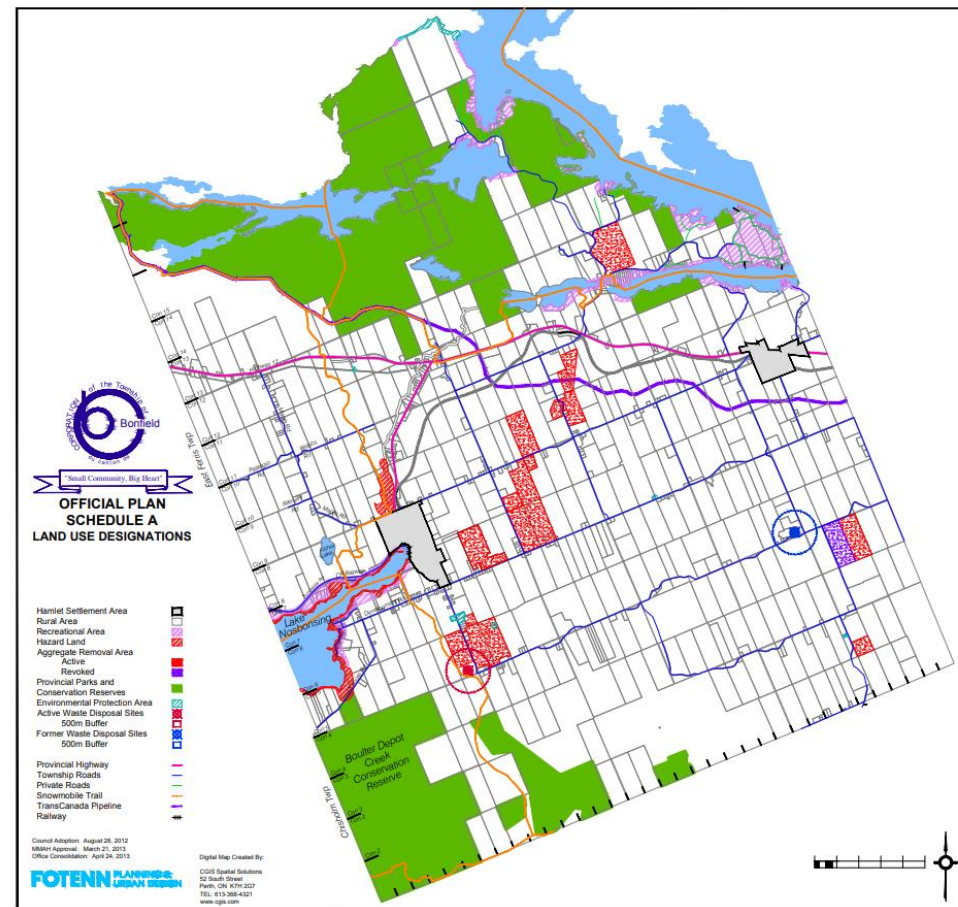
Policy 5.1.3 - Fish Habitat

Policy 3.17 - Community Gardens

Policy 3.10 - Minimum Distance

Separation (MDS) Formulae

- **MDS 1 - to permit development in proximity to existing livestock facilities**
- **MDS II - To build a new or expanded livestock facility.**



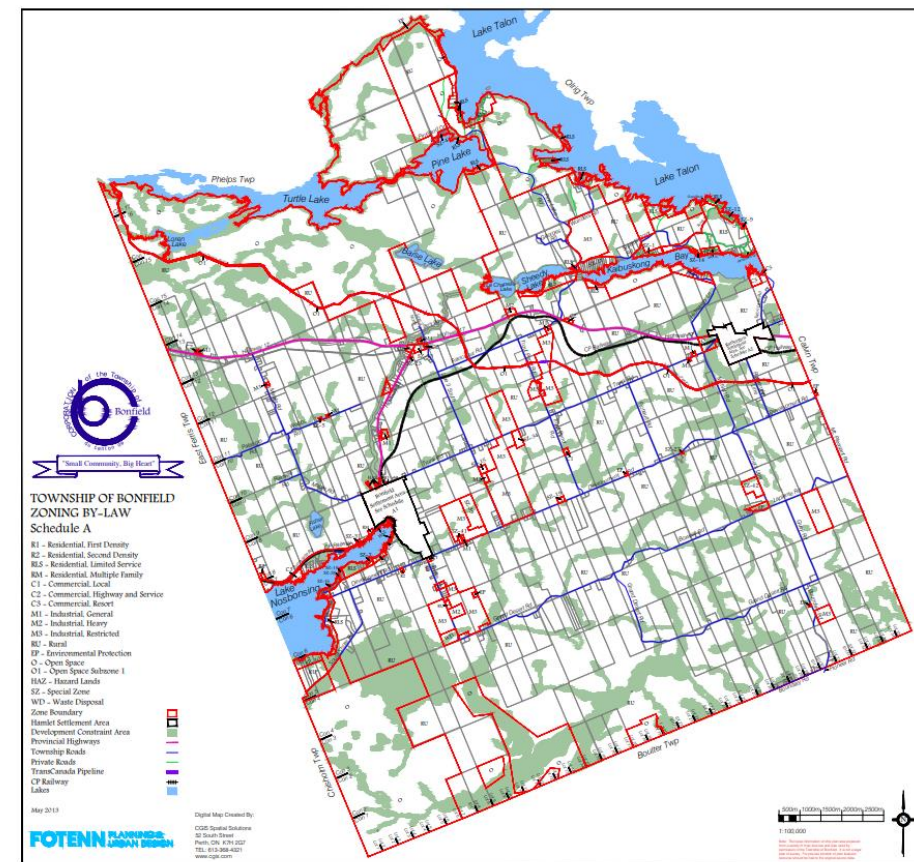
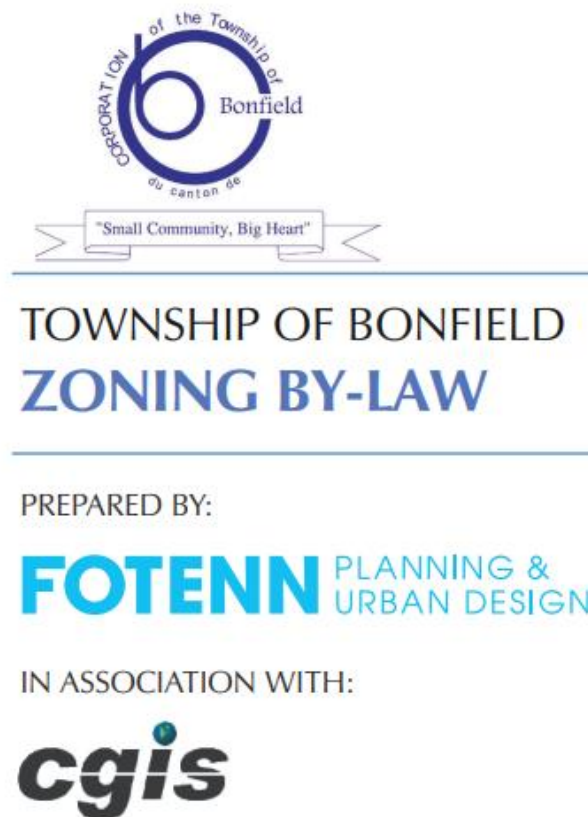
Overview

Township of Bonfield

Comprehensive Zoning By-law

- Adopted 2013.

- **Various Definitions**
- **Section 3.42 - Livestock Raising**
- **Section 3.30 - Home Occupations**
- **Section 3.31 - Home Industries**



Township of Bonfield
Zoning By-law - May 2013

Schedule C – Provisions for Non-Residential Uses

Zone	Permitted Use Category	Minimum Lot Frontage (m)	Minimum Lot Area (ha)	Maximum Lot Coverage (%)	Minimum Front Yard (m)	Minimum Exterior Side Yard (m)	Minimum Interior Side Yard (m)	Minimum Rear Yard (m)	Minimum Floor Area (sq. m)	Maximum Height (m)	Accessory Building (m)	Supplementary Provisions
C1	Commercial, Local	60	1.0	20	6	6	3	3	75	11	3	Section 6.6 – 6.11
C2	Commercial, Highway & Service	60	1.0	20	6	6	3	3	75	11	3	Section 6.6 – 6.11
C3	Commercial Resort	60	1.0	20	6	6	3	3	75	11	3	Section 6.6 – 6.11
M1	Industrial, General	60	1.0	50	10	6	6	10	-	11	3	Section 6.12 – 6.17
M2	Industrial, Heavy	60	1.0	50	10	6	6	10	-	11	3	Section 6.12 – 6.17
M3	Industrial, Restricted	60	1.0	50	10	6	6	10	-	11	3	Section 6.12 – 6.17
RU	Rural	60	1.0	50	10	6	6	10	75	11	3	
EP	Environmental Protection	-	-	-	30	30	30	30	-	-	3	-
O	Open Space	-	-	-	10	8	8	10	-	11	3	-
HAZ	Hazard	-	-	-	10	8	8	10	-	11	3	-
WD	Waste Disposal	100	5.0	-	20	20	20	20	-	-	-	-

Overview

Township of Bonfield

Comprehensive
Zoning By-law
provisions for
non-residential uses
- Adopted 2013.

More recent changes

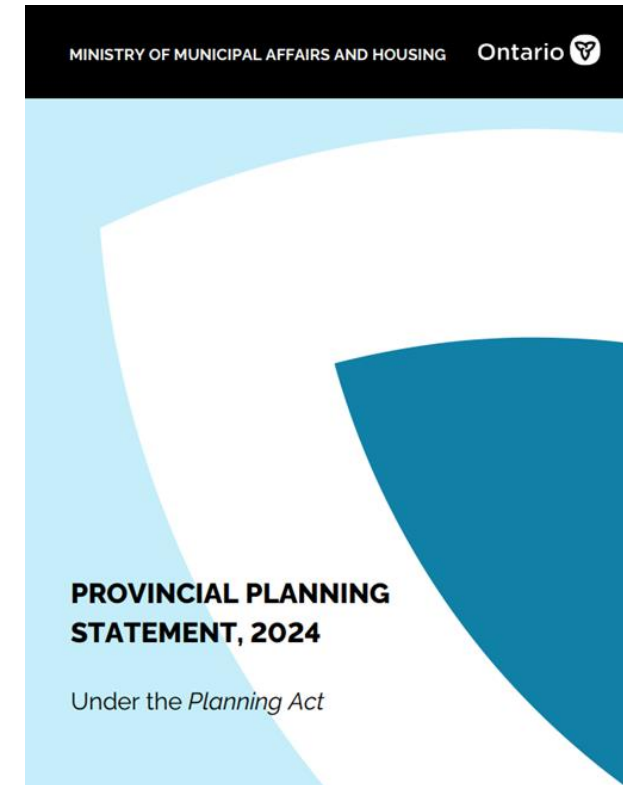
- Official Plan (OP) and Zoning By-law (ZBL) Review
 - Commenced in 2022* / Public Meeting held in **April 2023**.
- Ontario Provincial Government continues to make amendments to the Ontario Planning Act, and other Provincial Acts.
- Progress on OP Review delayed
 - Pending feedback from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH).
- **Section 6.1.7** of the **Provincial Planning Statement** states: *'Where a planning authority must decide on a planning matter **before their official plan has been updated** to be consistent with the Provincial Planning Statement, or before other applicable planning instruments have been updated accordingly, it **must still make a decision that is consistent with the Provincial Planning Statement.**'*

Provincial Planning Statement (PPS 2024)

Section 4.3 contains various policies on Agriculture, including:

4.3.1 General Policies for Agriculture, Part 1:

*‘Planning authorities are required to use an **agricultural system approach**, based on provincial guidance, to maintain and enhance a **geographically continuous agricultural land base** and support and foster the long-term economic prosperity and productive capacity of the **agri-food network**’.*

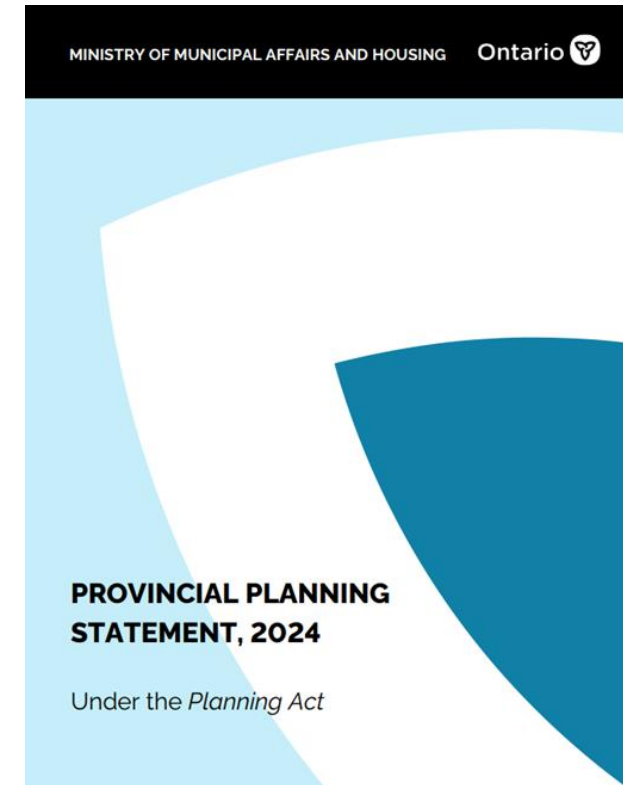


Provincial Planning Statement (PPS 2024)

4.3.1 General Policies for Agriculture (Continued)

Part 2: *'As part of the agricultural land base, prime agricultural areas, including specialty crop areas, shall be **designated** and **protected** for long-term use for agriculture'; and*

Part 3: *'Specialty crop areas shall be given the **highest priority for protection**, followed by Canada Land Inventory Class 1, 2, and 3 lands, and any associated Class 4 through 7 lands within the prime agricultural area, in this order of priority.*



Business Retention and Expansion (BR + E) Initiative

Growing Bonfield Together: Community Business Survey 2025

Let's Grow Bonfield!

We want your input!

The Township of Bonfield is pleased to launch our new Community Business Survey 2025.*

We want to:

- Strengthen Bonfield's economy
- Work directly with your business
- Identify challenges
- Uncover opportunities for growth

Scan the QR Code below to schedule your business consultation today or call 705-776-2641.



For more information, please visit
bonfieldtownship.com/economicdevelopment

*The Township of Bonfield's Community Business Survey 2025 is being delivered in accordance with the Ontario Governments' Business Retention and Expansion (BR+E) Initiative.



Growing Bonfield Together: Community Business Survey 2025

Phase One: Business Survey Interviews (Oct 2025 - Jan 2026)

- Over **100 businesses** identified as being operational within the Township of Bonfield.
- More than **15 businesses** committed so far, including:
 - Agri-Food Businesses
 - Retail, Banking, and Public Service Organizations
 - General Contractors
 - Visual Artists and Photographers
- Interviews to take place on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays** and **Thursdays** through to Christmas, and / or January 2026.
- **Target of 30+** businesses and organizations - to achieve a statistical “sample size”



Follow this QR
Code to schedule
your **Business Survey**
Interview today using
the **Bookings App**

Growing Bonfield Together: Community Business Survey 2025

Phase Two: Analysis of Survey Results (Jan - March 2026)

- Once the survey window has closed, staff will follow-up with interview participants to gain **further clarification** on any pressing matters or potential opportunities identified.
- Staff will also complete a **preliminary analysis of the data** as-a-whole and start to produce graphs, charts and summary reports, etc. to display the results.
- A retreat will then be scheduled to go over the anonymous feedback received - so key trends and potential action items can be identified.

Growing Bonfield Together: Community Business Survey 2025

Phase Three:

Development and launch of Community Business Survey Action Plan (Mar - May 2026)

- Scheduled Retreat
 - Council review and comment on the draft policies and project-based recommendations
 - Further consultation with project deliver partners and Industry stakeholders
 - Preparation and launch of **Final Action Plan June 2026**.
-
- EXTRA: The Township of Bonfield has applied to the Ministry of Rural Affairs' **Rural Ontario Development Program** for funding to produce an Economic Development Strategy. Outcome anticipated this Winter.

Growing Bonfield Together: Developer's Forum 2025

Wednesday November 26, 2025 (8:30am - NOON) Bonfield Community Centre

Developer's Forum

Wed, Nov 26 | 8:30am-Noon

Free to Attend!

A half-day networking session for landowners, developers, contractors, and community leaders. We aim to position Bonfield as a welcoming, sustainable place to invest, build, and grow.

The logo features the word "Growing" in a green script font above "Bonfield" in a bold blue sans-serif font, with "Together!" in a green script font below it.

Agri-Food Forum

Saturday November 22, 2025

Growing
Bonfield
Together!

Break time!

Grandissons
Bonfield
Ensemble!



Agri-Food Forum
Saturday November 22, 2025

Growing
Bonfield
Together!

Grandissons
Bonfield
Ensemble!

Session Two: Promoting Collaboration



Agri-Food Forum
Saturday November 22, 2025

Growing
Bonfield
Together!

Grandissons
Bonfield
Ensemble!

Agri-Business Capacity-building project



Agri-Food Forum

Saturday November 22, 2025



Let's get to know each other!



1. Please state your First and Last Name
2. How long have you lived / worked in Bonfield Township?
3. What is your agri-food business or organization?
4. What (if any) challenges are you currently facing?
5. What potential solutions could help you succeed moving forward?

Agri-Food Forum

Saturday November 22, 2025

Growing
Bonfield
Together!



Dr Dan Walters
Associate Dean
and Professor,
Geography program



Dr. James Murton
Environmental Historian,
History and Environmental
Science and Studies programs

Grandissons
Bonfield
Ensemble!

NIPISSING

U N I V E R S I T Y

Canadian Rural Places: the Big Picture

Bonfield Agri-Food Forum

Township of Bonfield, ON, Nov 22, 2025

Jamie Murton, Department of History





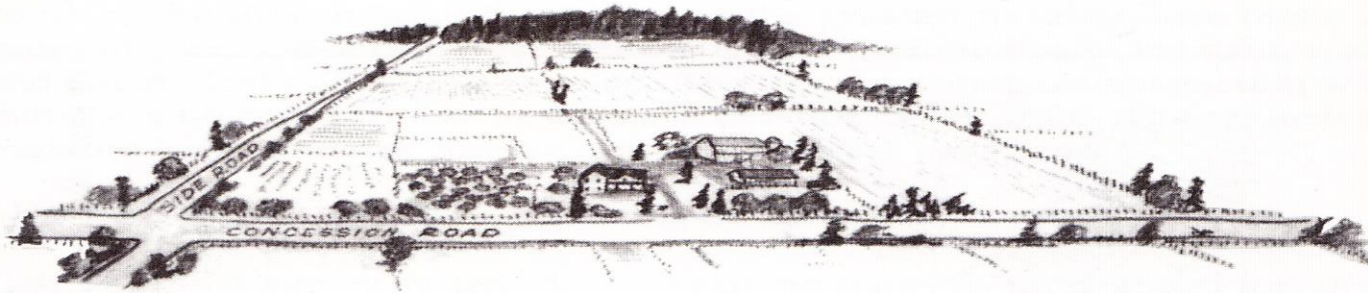
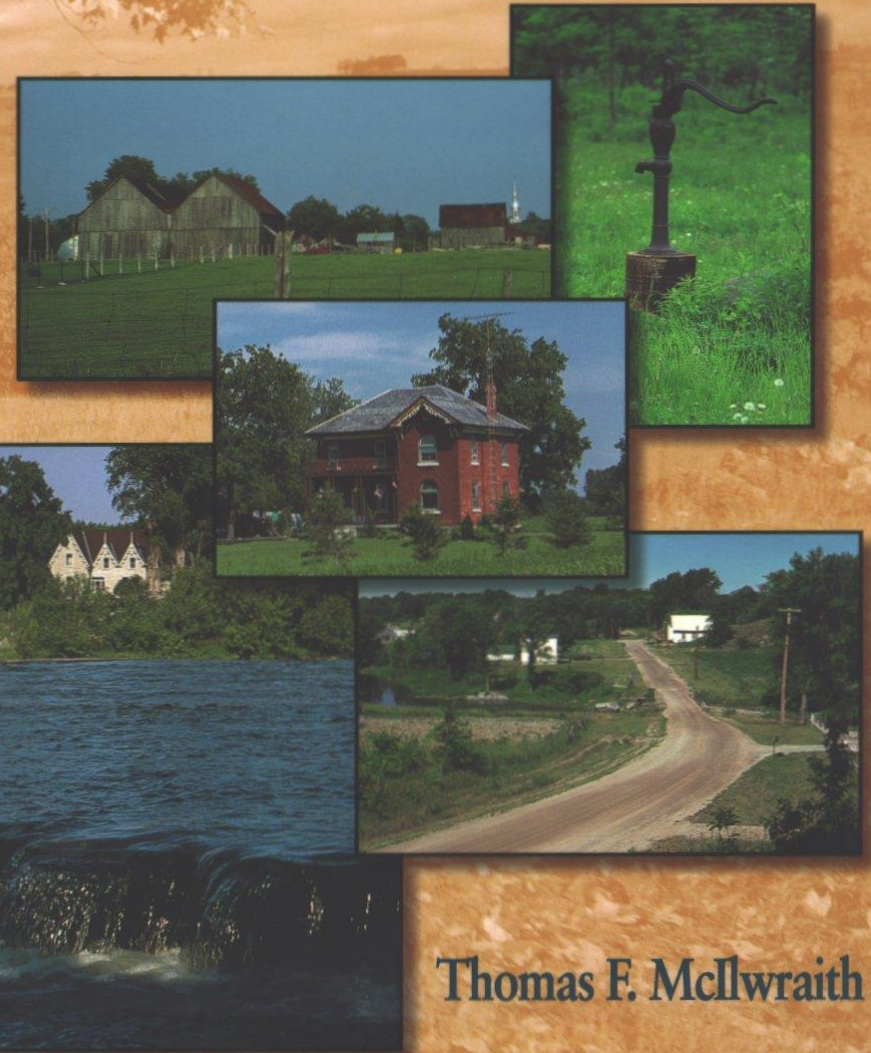


Figure 4.3 100 ACRES. The basic farm lot is somewhat deeper than it is wide.

LOOKING FOR OLD ONTARIO



Thomas F. McIlwraith

The Wheat Harvest of Canada as Imagined by the UK Empire Marketing Board

- Source: Empire Marketing Board, “The Wheat Harvest of Canada.” Library and Archives Canada, Box number: B090/X1, Item number, 2845214, 1926 - 1934



Cheese Factories in Southern Ontario, 1891

Source: Fig 4 in Hayley Goodchild, “Building a ‘natural industry of this country’: an environmental history of the Ontario Cheese Industry from the 1860s to the 1930s.” Ph.D. Dissertation, Department of History, McMaster University, 2016.

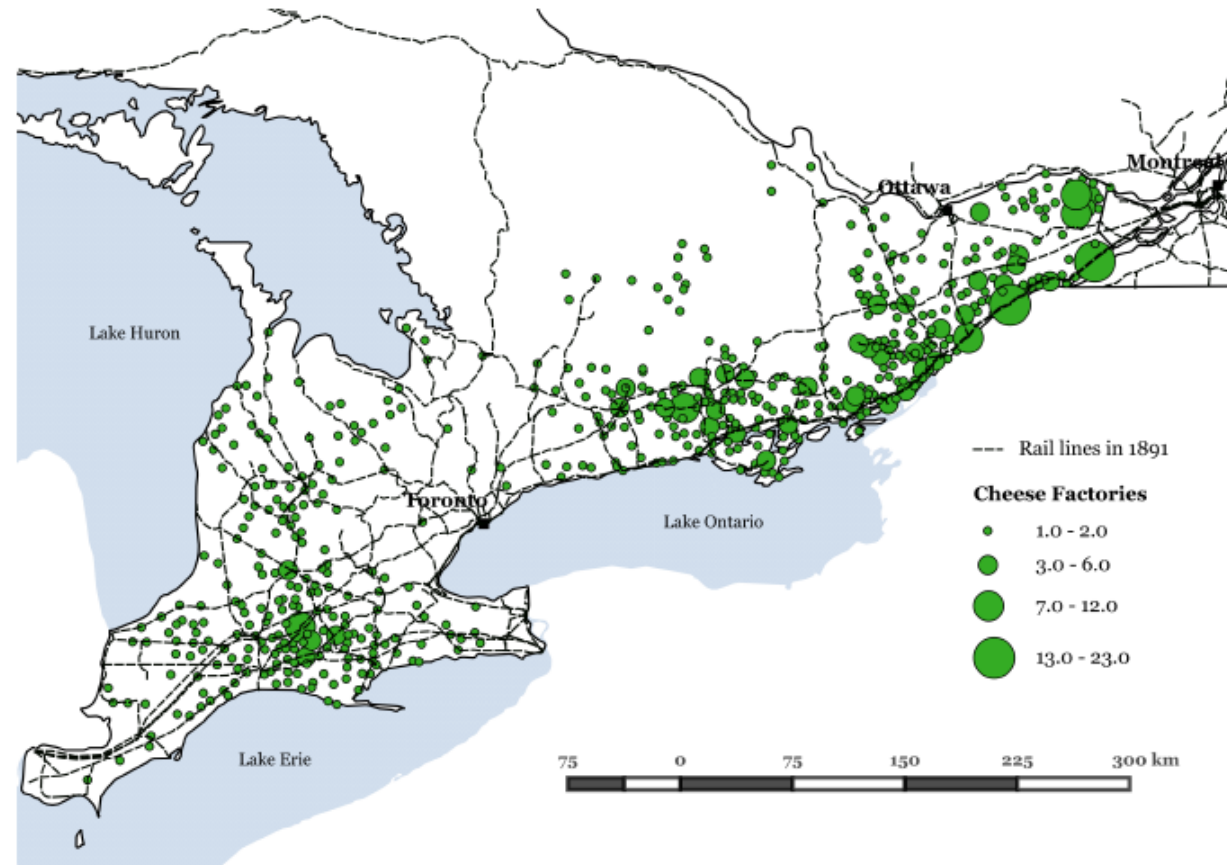
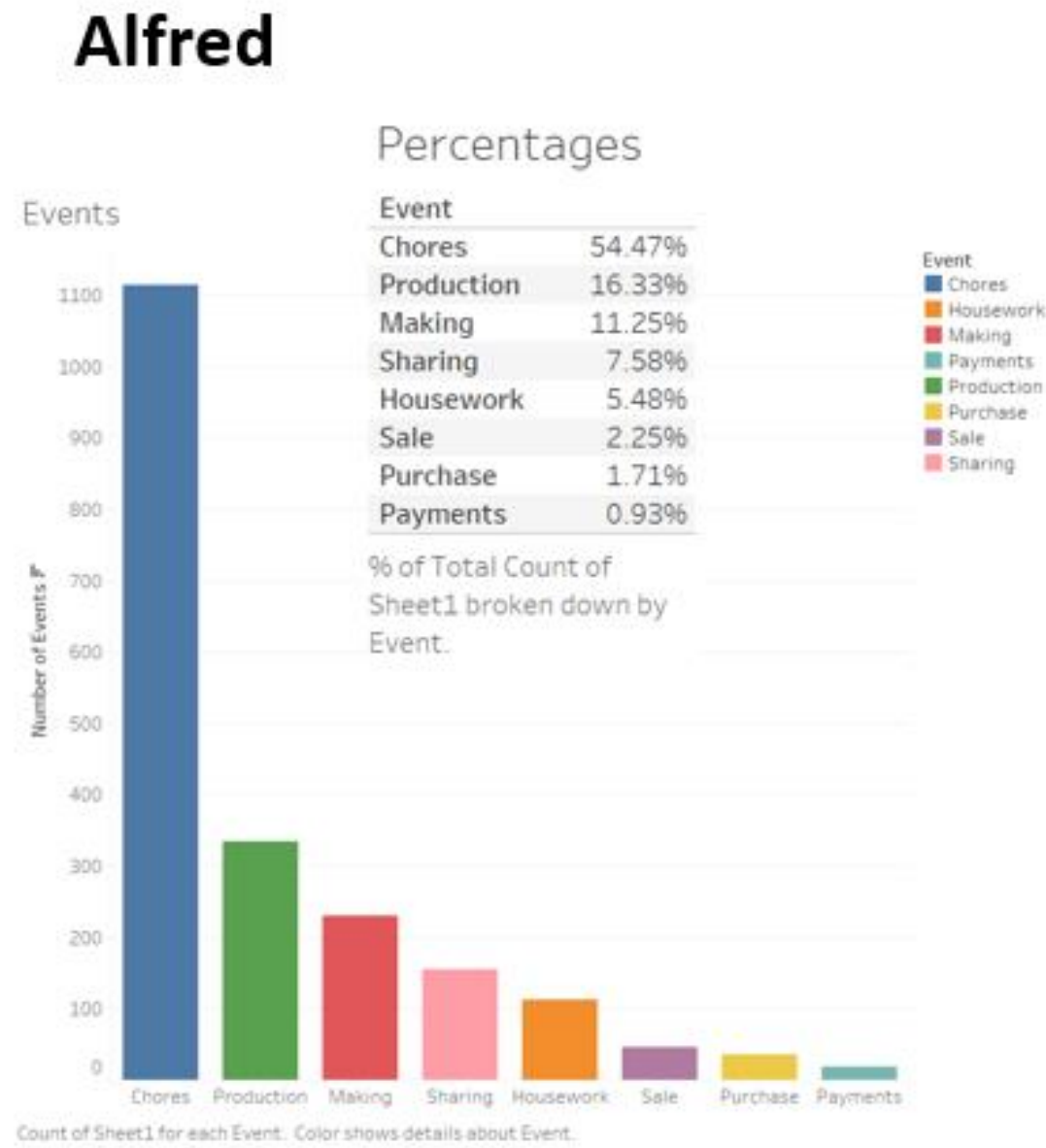


Figure 4. Cheese factory distribution in southern Ontario, 1891 [map]. The map represents the 835 cheese factories listed in the Bureau of Industries, *Annual Report...1891*, 71–83. See Appendix 2 for an explanation of mapping methodology and

Division of On-Farm Labour, Alfred Arner



Decline of Rural and Farm Populations in Canada

Rural Populations

- Majority of Canadians rural, 1947 (Ruth Sandwell)
- 24% of Canadians rural, 1971

Farming Populations

- 1 in 3 (34%) Canadians farmers, 1931 (Statistics Canada)
- 4% of Canadian population farmers, 1986
- 1.6% of Canadian population farmers, 2021 (Statistics Canada)
- 1.1% of Ontario populations farmers, 2021 (Statistics Canada)







Agri-business Capacity
Building Project
November 22, 2025

Dan Walters, PhD
Geography



Agricultural Environmental Best Management Practices: A review



1) What are the motivations and barriers to implementing BMP?

2) How effective are BMP (controlled tile drainage, buffer strips)?

3) How to fund the adoption of BMP?



Drescher M., et al (2024) Social psychological factors drive farmers' adoption of environmental best management practices. *Journal of Environmental Management*.

Research objective:

Surveying Ontario farmers to investigate the factors and resource constraints combine to determine adoption of farm forests, riparian buffers and windbreaks, and how these relationships are modified by farmer demographics and farm characteristics.

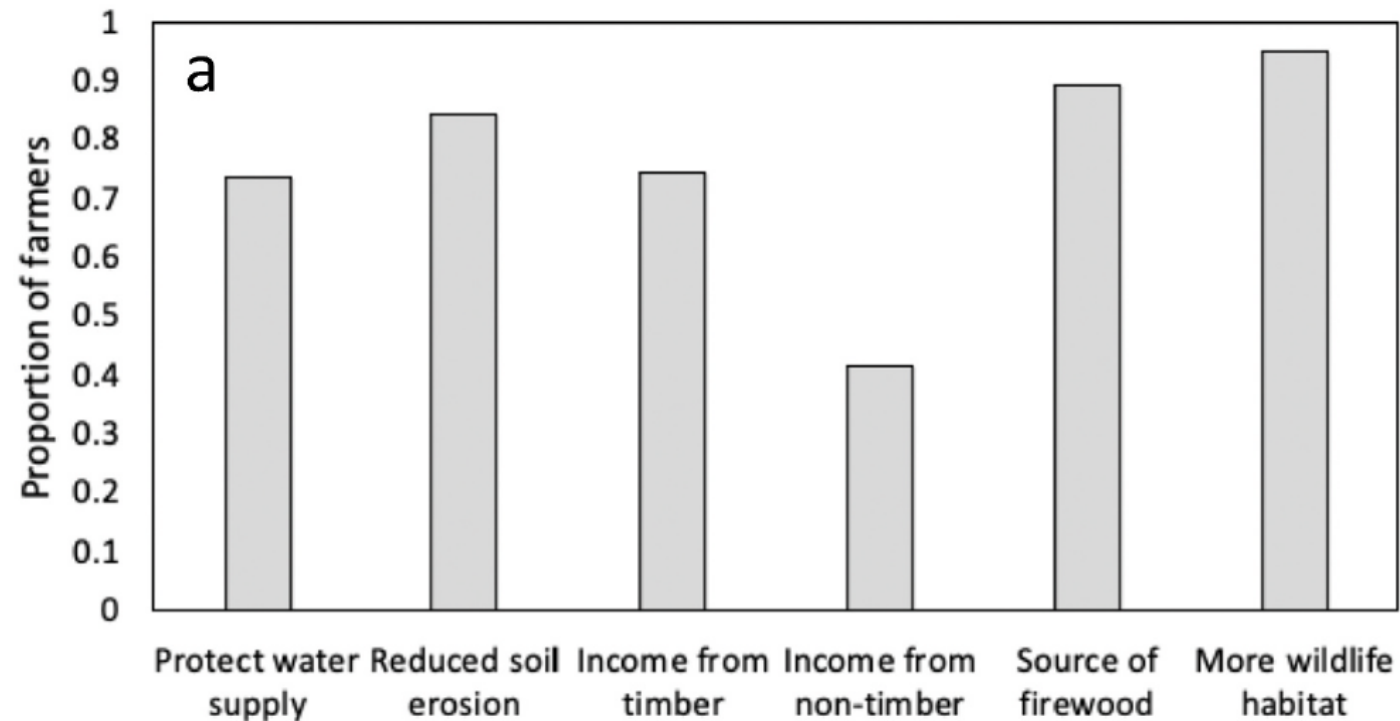


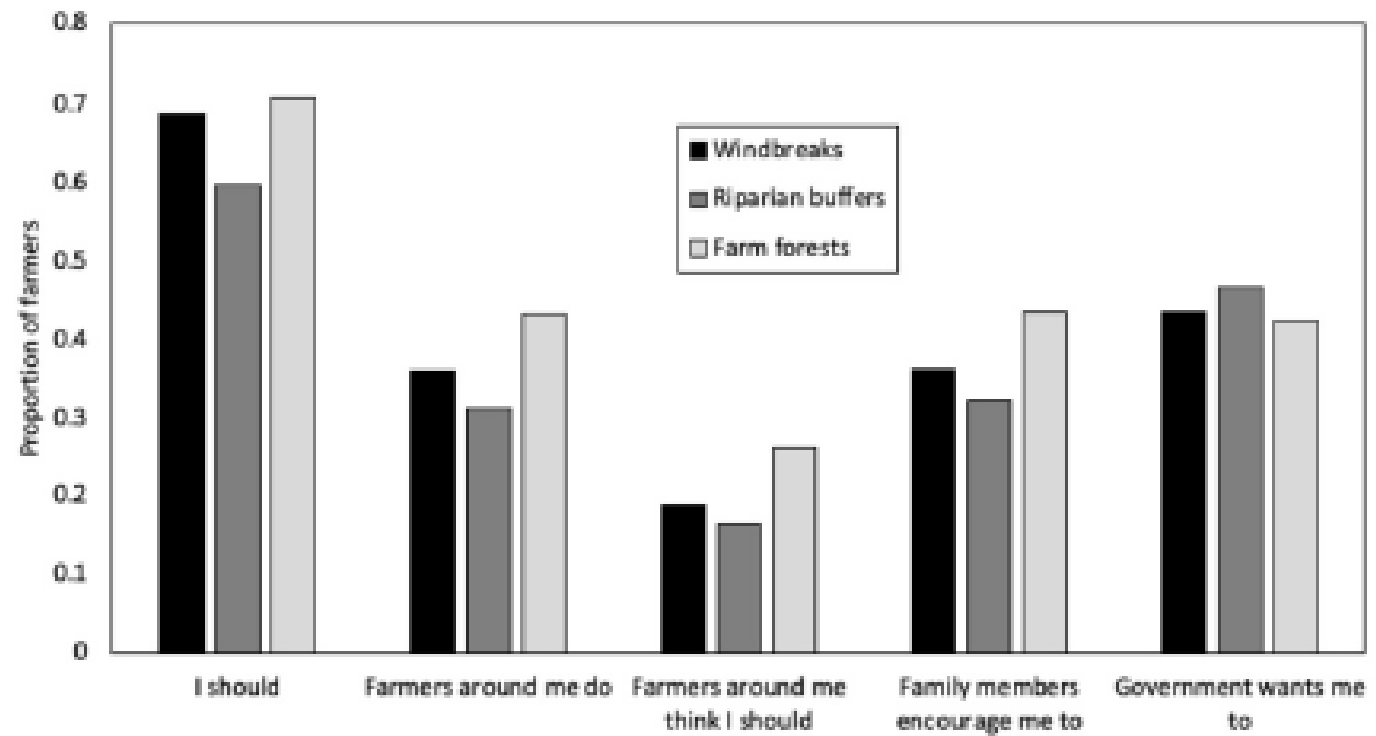
Fig. 2. Proportion of farmers who agreed that various benefits are provided by farm forests

Drescher M., et al (2024) Social psychological factors drive farmers' adoption of environmental best management practices. *Journal of Environmental Management*.

Research objective:

Surveying Ontario farmers to investigate the factors and resource constraints combine to determine adoption of farm forests, riparian buffers and windbreaks, and how these relationships are modified by farmer demographics and farm characteristics.

Fig. 3. Proportion of farmers who agreed with various normative beliefs and social norms regarding BMP.



Drescher M., et al (2024) Social psychological factors drive farmers' adoption of environmental best management practices. *Journal of Environmental Management*.

Research objective:

Surveying Ontario farmers to investigate the factors and resource constraints combine to determine adoption of farm forests, riparian buffers and windbreaks, and how these relationships are modified by farmer demographics and farm characteristics.

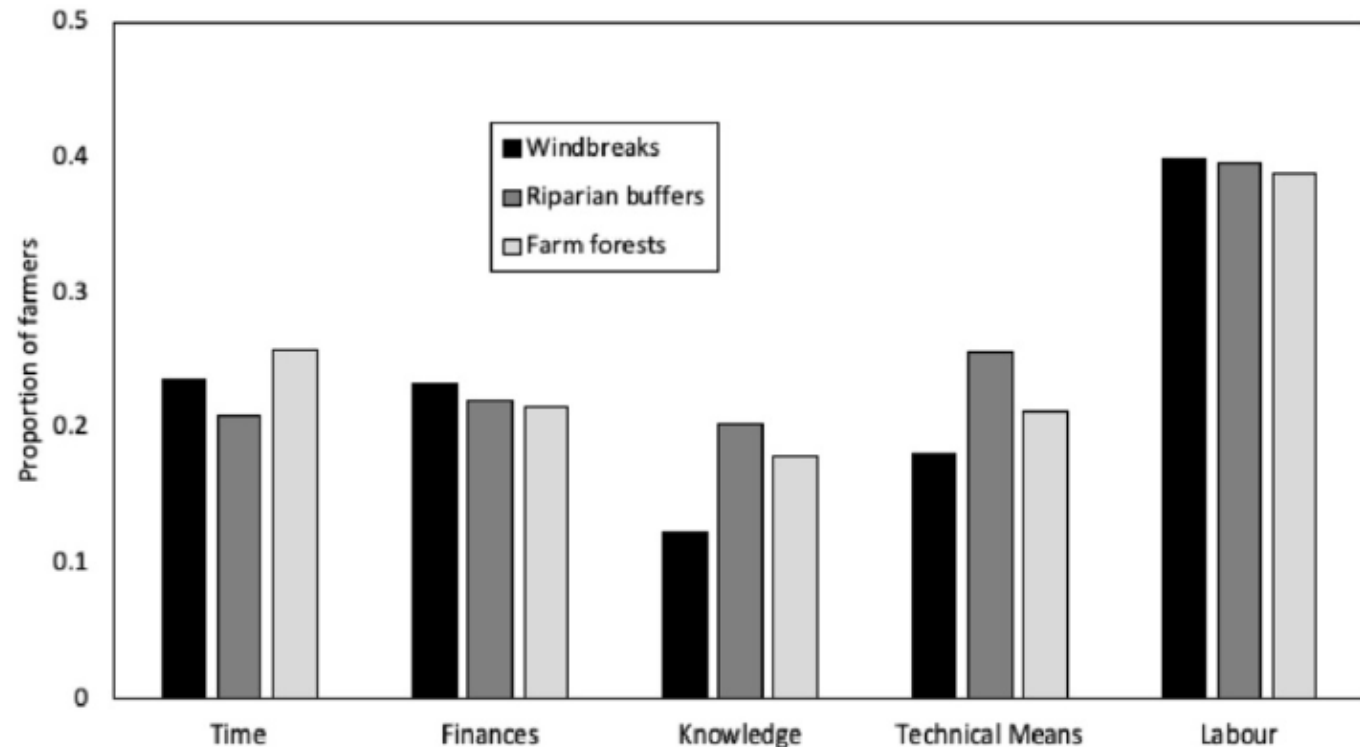


Fig. 4. Proportion of farmers who agreed that resource were barriers to adopt BMP.

Drescher M., et al (2024) Social psychological factors drive farmers' adoption of environmental best management practices. *Journal of Environmental Management*.

Research objective:

Surveying Ontario farmers to investigate the factors and resource constraints combine to determine adoption of farm forests, riparian buffers and windbreaks, and how these relationships are modified by farmer demographics and farm characteristics.

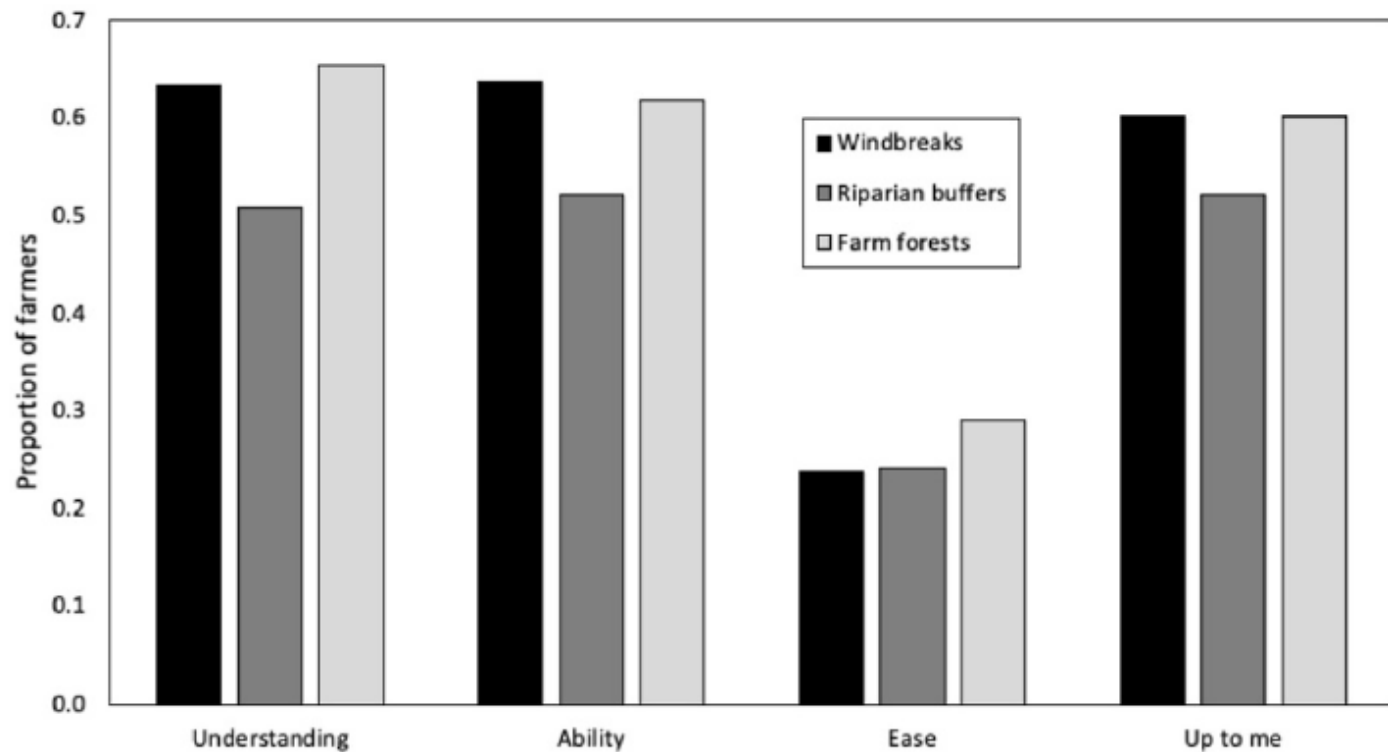


Fig. 5. Proportion of farmers who agreed that they had the capacity to adopt BMP.

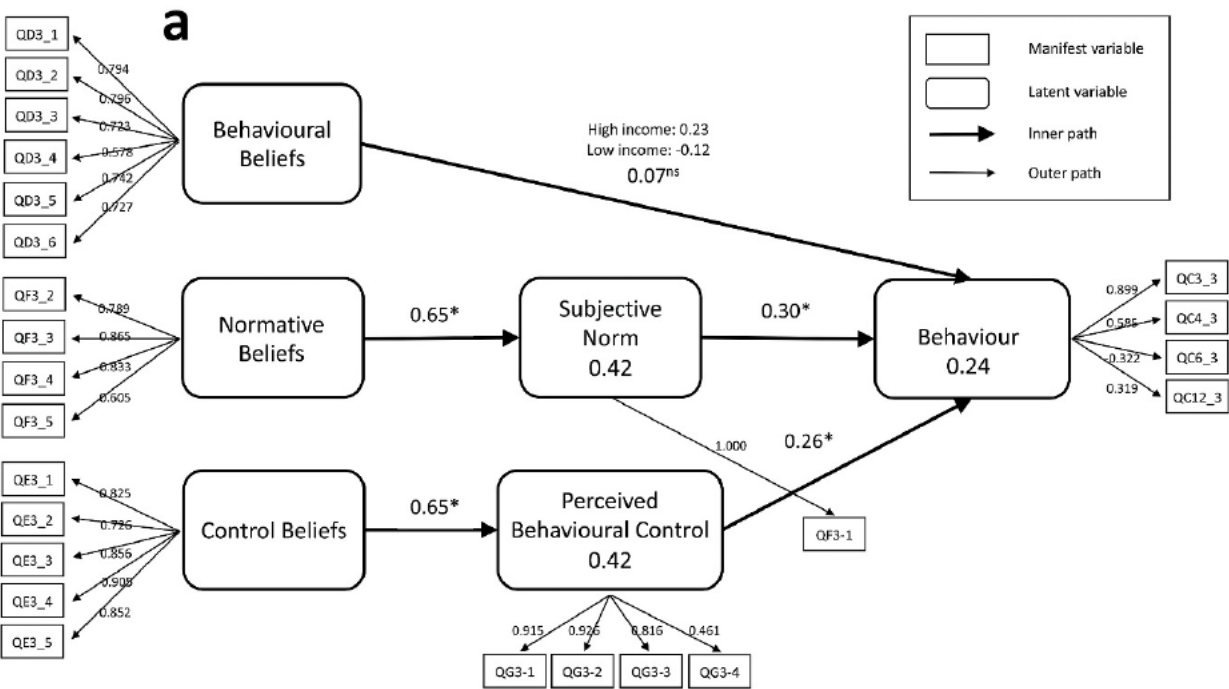
Drescher M., et al (2024) Social psychological factors drive farmers' adoption of environmental best management practices. *Journal of Environmental Management*.

Research objective:

Surveying Ontario farmers to investigate the factors and resource constraints combine to determine adoption of farm forests, riparian buffers and windbreaks, and how these relationships are modified by farmer demographics and farm characteristics.

Key findings:

- 1) The perceived benefits of BMPs consistently were of lowest impact on actual BMP adoption behavior
- 2) The belief of having a personal obligation for adoption and the perception of the capacity for adoption consistently were of higher impact, with lack of labor as main constraint.



Potter et al. 2024 Best Management practice adoption amongst potato producers in Ontario: a study of drivers and barriers. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*.

Drivers (motivations)

- family and future generations
- ecosystem, soil and human health community and social relationships
- efficiency and profitability
- based on beliefs and values

Barriers

- unknown risks to future cash crop yield
- the agronomic challenges (equipment)
- the lack of Ontario-specific information on economic costs and benefits
- lack of guidance

Who do farmers trust?

Farmer typology	Trust in peers	Trust in OMAFRA	Trust in OPB
Small-scale	61%	37%	62%
Medium-scale	72%	50%	71%
Large-scale	40%	80%	80%

1) What are the motivations and barriers to implementing BMP?

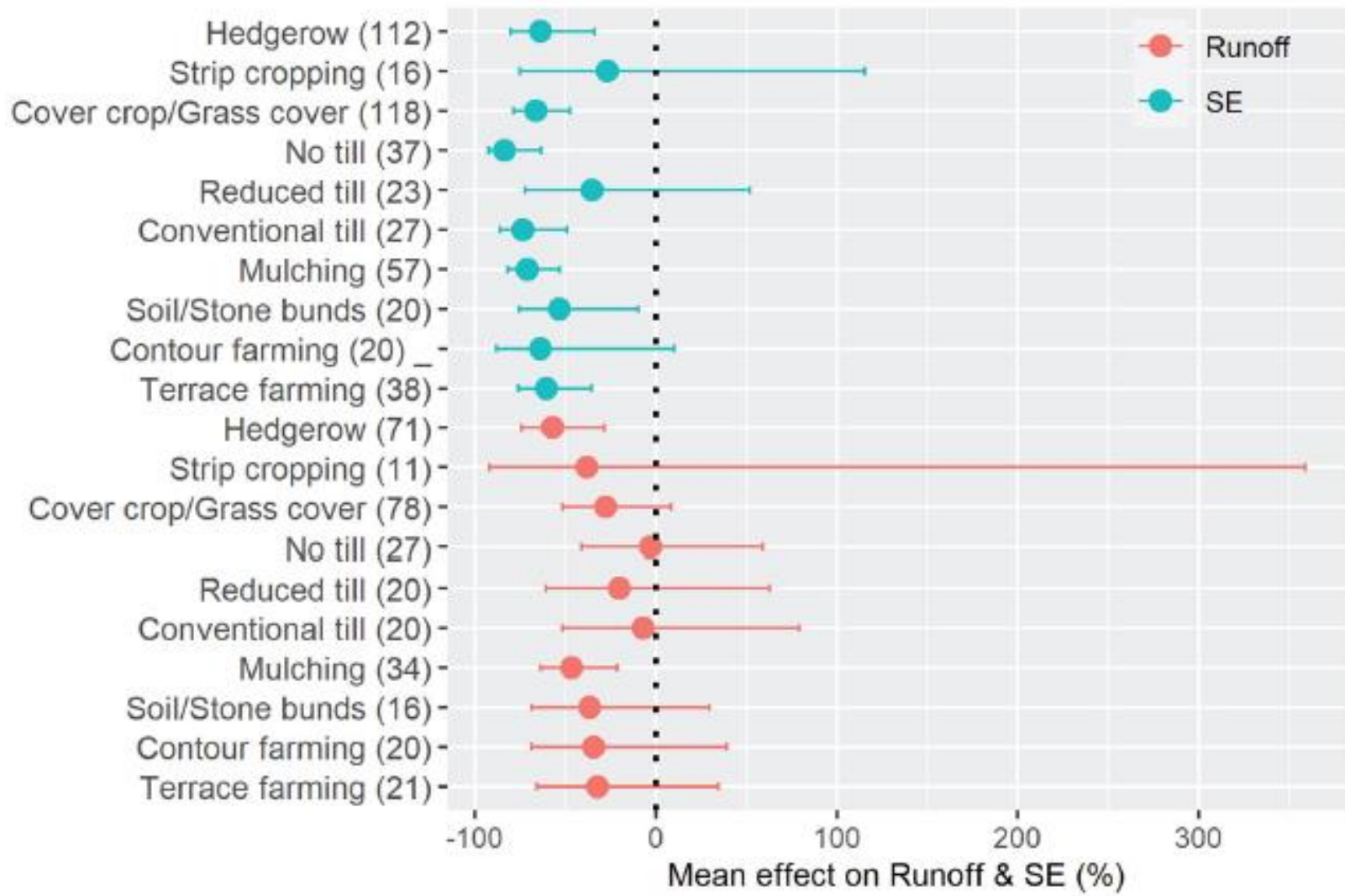
2) How effective are BMP (controlled tile drainage, buffer strips)?

3) How to fund the adoption of BMP?



Rajbanshi et al. 2023 Quantification of the effects of conservation practices on surface runoff and soil erosion in croplands and their trade-off: A meta-analysis. *Science of the Total Environment*.

Fig. 3. The overall mean response of surface runoff and soil erosion to the conservation practices.



Tanga et al. 2025 Controlled drainage – Effects on nutrient attenuation and water quality – a field study in Eastern Ontario, Canada. *Agriculture Water Management*.



INVEST NORTH
Grow - Regional Tile Drainage

The Regional Tile Drainage Initiative is designed to support the agriculture sector in installing tile drainage to increase the amount and improve the quality of arable land in Northern Ontario resulting in more productive growing seasons and increased crop yields for producers.

Controlled drainage

- reduced total flow (37 %)
- nitrate (21 %),
- SRP (57 %) loads from planting to freeze-up, highlighting its potential for cold-climate cropping systems.



Figure 1: Uncontrolled drainage

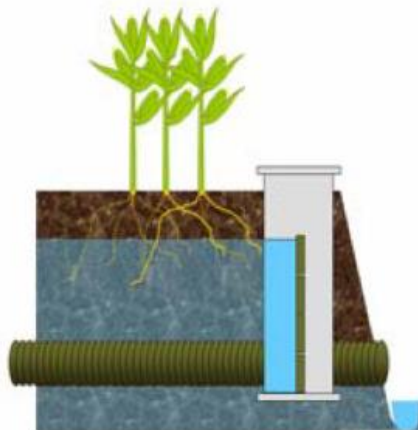


Figure 2: Controlled tile drainage

EXPERIMENTAL SETUP



Fig. 1. Location of drainage structures with direction of flow in the tile drain laterals shown.

Dunn et al. 2022 Impacts of different vegetation in riparian buffer strips on runoff and sediment loss. *Hydrological Processes*. 36:e14733

Research objective:

What is the effectiveness of different types vegetative buffer strips and width on reducing runoff and sediment loss?

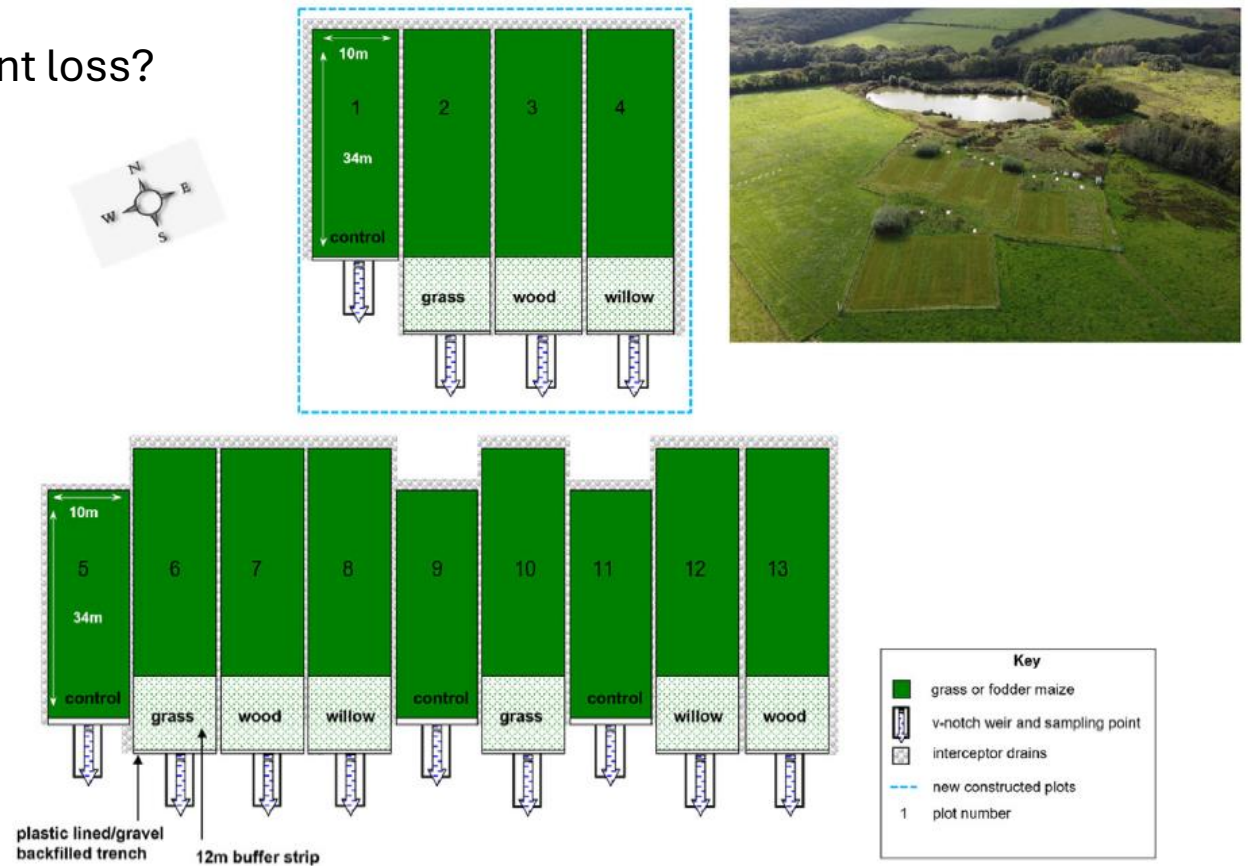
Research Design:

Our experiment used a replicated plot scale facility to compare the efficacy of 12 m wide buffer strips for controlling runoff and suspended sediment loss during 15 sampled storms spanning 2017–2020.

Key findings:

Runoff reductions: willow buffer strips (49%); deciduous woodland buffer strips (46%); grass buffer strips (33%)

Sediment loss: willow buffer strips (44%); deciduous woodland buffer strips (30%); grass buffer strips (29%)



1) What are the motivations and barriers to implementing BMP?

2) How effective are BMP (controlled tile drainage, buffer strips)?

3) How to fund adoption of BMP?



Cost-sharing programs

- <https://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/cost-share-programs/>

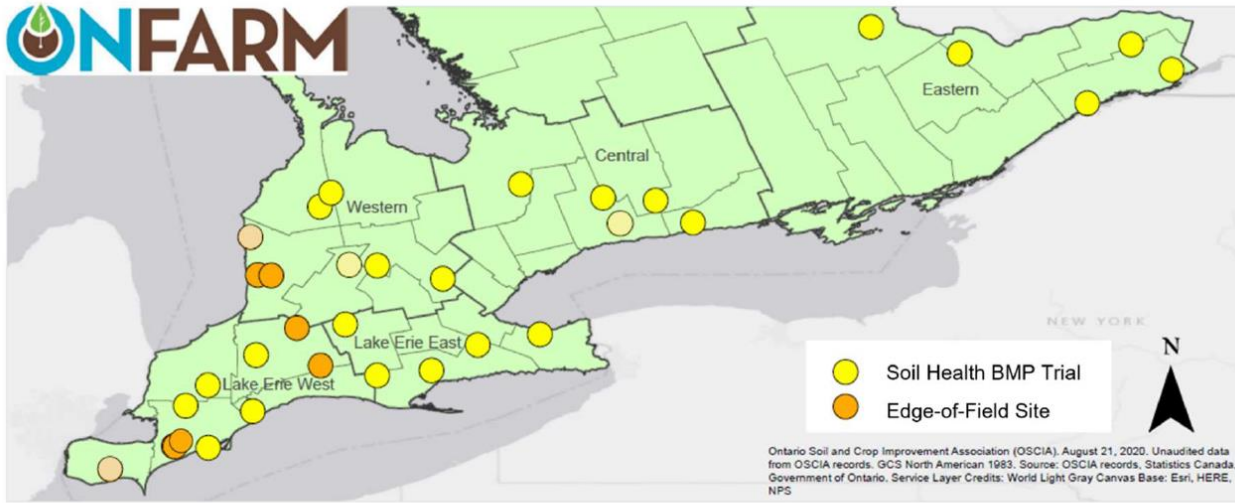


Figure 1. Locations of ONFARM Soil Health BMP Trial (yellow) and Edge-of-Field Sites (orange).

Accepting Applications

Special Provisions for Financial Difficulties

Under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, Ontario farmers who are experiencing financial difficulty may qualify to access financial advisory services to complete a Farm Financial Analysis.

☎ 519-826-4214
✉ s-cap@ontariosoilcrop.org

[Learn more](#)

Accepting Applications

Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP)

Under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, as part of the Ontario Agricultural Sustainability Initiative, OSCIA is delivering the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP), a funding program to support farmers in making their agricultural lands more productive and resilient.

☎ 519-826-4214
✉ s-cap@ontariosoilcrop.org

[Learn more](#)

What BMPs are you adopting?

Questions?





Figure 4-12. Monitoring stations of the subsurface drain collectors.

Agri-Food Forum

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Growing
Bonfield
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Lunch time!

Grandissons
Bonfield
Ensemble!



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Roundtable Session & Feedback



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Growing
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Session Three:

Grandissons
Bonfield
Ensemble!

Understanding our potential



Agri-Food Forum

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Grandissons
Bonfield
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Emily Seed, Executive Director
Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance (NOFIA)



Northern Ontario Farm Innovation
Alliance

Advancing Northern Ontario Agriculture



Who We Are

NOFIA represents farmers!

Board of Directors

Yves Gauthier, President

Norm Koch, Vice President

Mark Kunkel, Secretary

Dennis Jibb, Director

Rudy Buitenhuis, Director

Adrian Struyk, Director

Jason Desrochers, Director



Who We Are



NOFIA represents all of Northern Ontario!

Advisory Council

Patrick Connolly, Algoma

Eddy Haasen, Cochrane

Lana Reading, East Nipissing/Parry Sound

Kebbi Rhyner, Kenora

Jim Martin, Manitoulin

Fritz Jaspers, Thunder Bay

Joel Olivier, West Nipissing/East Sudbury

Diane Wiber, Muskoka



Who We Are



Staff

Emily Seed, Executive Director

Leia Weaver, Project Development Advisor

Rachel Kehoe, Communications & Events Coordinator

Ian McLennan, Communications & Events Assistant





Our Strategic Focus



Mission: To address practical opportunities and challenges to sustainability and profitability in 3 key areas.

1

Local Food

Increasing awareness and access to local food in Northern Ontario

2

Technology

Supporting technology adoption in agriculture to promote scalability and address northern challenges

3

Sustainability

Collaborate and partner to ensure long-term sustainability of agriculture in Northern Ontario

Our Work

- Agricultural Plastics Disposal Program
- NOHFC Tile Drainage Administration
(37,500 acres improved)
- Research - crops, livestock, technology,
local food
- Resource & Knowledge Sharing

Sustainable

Innovative

Connected



NORTHERN ONTARIO AG CONFERENCE

INNOVATIVE. CONNECTED. SUSTAINABLE.

Topics include:

- AI fundamentals, building healthy soils, recycling waste plastic, practical biosecurity, how to access funding, and more!
- \$1500 Innovative Northern Farmer Award
- 2 x \$2000 student bursaries for northern ag and veterinary students
- Agricultural innovation tradeshow



FEBRUARY 6 & 7, 2026

HOLIDAY INN,
1696 REGENT ST. SUDBURY, ON

REGISTRATION:

705-647-4782

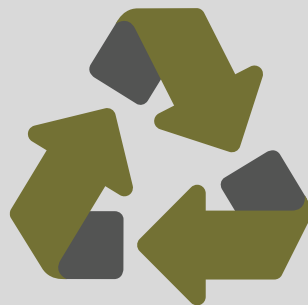
www.nofia-agri.com/noac





AGRICULTURAL PLASTIC DISPOSAL PROGRAM

A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION FOR DISPOSAL OF AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS.



Advanced
Recycling



Sustainable
Solution



FREE to
participate



Sustainable Canadian
Agricultural Partnership



Ontario 



Federal Economic Development
Agency for Northern Ontario

Agence fédérale de développement
économique pour le Nord de l'Ontario

Canada 



Cost-Share Programs Open Today

Special Provisions for Financial Difficulty

Under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, Ontario farmers who are experiencing financial difficulty may qualify to access financial advisory services to complete a Farm Financial Analysis.

519-826-4214

s-cap@ontariosoilcrop.org





Cost-Share Programs Open Today

Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP)

Under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, as part of the Ontario Agricultural Sustainability Initiative, OSCIA is delivering the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP), a funding program to support farmers in making their agricultural lands more productive and resilient.

[519-826-4214](tel:519-826-4214)

s-cap@ontariosoilcrop.org



Questions from You



Connect with us

info@nofia-agri.com

705-647-4782



Agri-Food Forum

Saturday November 22, 2025

Growing
Bonfield
Together!



Grandissons
Bonfield
Ensemble!

Stephanie Vanthoff
Member Service Representative, Northeastern Ontario
Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)



**Ontario
Federation of
Agriculture**



Ontario Agriculture at a Glance



Nearly **50,000**
farms across the province



11.7 million
acres of farmland



243 acres
is the average sized farm



Local Farm Sales

16% sell
farm products
directly to the
consumer;



322
farms operate a CSA
(Community Supported Agriculture)



Over **1,100**
farms sell at
farmers' markets



Over **5,200**
farms sell directly from
their farm, at stands,
or pick-your-own

Economic Contributions

Ontario's agri-food
sector grosses



\$51 billion
in GDP annually

Ontario's agri-food
sector employs



over **867,000** people
11% of the
Ontario labour force

Ontario
exports
nearly



\$28 billion
in agri-food products
annually

Ongoing advocacy on priority files

Members identified top 3 issues impacting farm businesses

Actions & outcomes:

1. Taxation

- OFA advocated for carbon tax exemptions & pause on capital gains changes
- OFA urging government to update critical farm tax programs & policies

2. Energy

- OFA pushing for affordable & accessible energy mix that meets farm, industrial & economic needs

2. Compensation for wildlife damage to crops (Northern Ontario)

- OFA highlighting need for farmer compensation

Source: 2024 OFA Farm Business Confidence Survey

Cancellation of Carbon Tax

on 19 March 2025 in Community

On March 14, 2025, Prime Minister Mark Carney issued an Order in Council to remove the consumer carbon tax effective April 1, 2025.

The Greenhouse Pollution Pricing Act (GGPPA) received royal assent in 2018 and placed a consumer tax on gasoline, diesel, and natural gas used in transportation and heating, as well as on industrial emitters. The consumer carbon tax cost farmers over \$100 million annually.

Relief for Ontario farmers

The carbon tax will not be collected on fuels used for agricultural production, including natural gas for heating and barn heating, which have placed a significant cost burden on farmers since the tax was introduced in 2019.

The relief was announced in 2023 from the Parliamentary Budget Office, removing the consumer carbon tax will save farmers over \$100 million a year.

This change in policy provides much-needed relief for farmers from the negative impact of the carbon tax on their businesses and their ability to remain competitive in a global marketplace.



Ongoing advocacy on priority files

Members identified top 3 issues
impacting farm businesses

Actions & outcomes:

3. Protecting the right of property access

- **Theft:** OFA partners with Crimestoppers, police on prevention & awareness
- **Trespassing:** OFA biosecurity & no trespassing signage; Viewpoints on trespassing & respecting marked trails/planted crops
- **Easements & expropriation:** OFA advocates on railway crossings & other land use and planning issues

These priorities were also part of the OFA's provincial & federal election priorities this year.



Ongoing advocacy on priority files

We make sure decision-makers hear regularly from farmers on issues that matter to you:

- Farmland preservation
- Interprovincial trade
- Municipal development charges
- Storm water management
- Insurance issues
- Transportation
- Rural physical & social infrastructure



Farm Business
Registration

Farm Property Class Tax
Rate Program

Farm Plates



Individual Farm
Membership



...s (e.g. social events, education,
s, etc.)

... Council representative to attend county
...ion meetings as an ex officio.

... return, also attend municipal functions to show
... our support and interest.

Offer resources and advice on agricultural issues.

Volunteer to serve on municipal committees (e.g.
Committee of Adjustment, Official Plan review,
workforce, economic development, etc.)

... delegations, including introductions and
updates, with no ask. Follow up with
delegations that cover one topic at a time.

- ✓ **Check local delegation procedures.** These can vary from community to community.
- ✓ **Work together.** Work with your OFA Zone Director and MSR and show/explain the relationship between OFA and the local federations.
- ✓ **Dress for the occasion:** Farmers are professionals and business owners. Dress formally at council meetings, and casual (but



Engaging with municipal councils and staff

...e of this guide is to assist county and regional federation directors with how to effectively
...ips with local municipalities. Local federations are the closest agricultural contact to
... and with the proper tools, federations can work with municipalities and ideally
... of information for the growth of the local community.

Energy Opportunities on Ontario Farms

Ontario farms use about 3 per cent of Ontario's electricity or approx. 4.5 terawatt hours each year. While farmers do buy power, they can also produce and sell electricity.

Energy Opportunities

Virtually every farmer could take advantage of one or more of these in the future.

Biogas (Electricity from Manure)

There are 4,500 dairy farms, 600 feedlots and 1,100 poultry and pork operations each of which could provide 150 kW for 6,000 hours a year. These 3,200 farms can produce 2.9 billion kWh annually. And they will have a peak capacity of a half gigawatt that can be used to help balance the grid and meet peak requirements.

Wind Power

If 2,500 farms each have three towers of 2 mW each, it would provide up to 15 gigawatts of capacity generating 37 million kWh per year. Farmers can also have wind towers to provide their

Before signing a lease or easement agreement, ensure it fits your plan for your farm.

1. Meet and work with your neighbours and your OFA Member Service Representative.
2. Seek legal counsel. If there is a group of landowners impacted by a large project, consider obtaining legal representation for the group. Request the facility owner pay for legal services.
3. Transferability – Stipulate that the agreement cannot be transferred by a facility owner to any person or company without your approval or include steps to facilitate an agreeable transfer.
4. Appearance – Prohibit advertising. Stipulate a maintenance schedule to ensure the appearance of a facility does not increase injurious affection. Stipulate site reclamation and decommissioning.
5. Building Restrictions – Include a map of the property as an appendix to the agreement that outlines areas where farm activities are prohibited, and where new buildings can and cannot be built, to ensure land remains available for new farm operation buildings.
6. Fill Material & Chemicals – Do not allow fill to be taken from your land, prohibit toxic gear oils and fluids on your land, and stipulate remediation.
7. Conversion to Easement – Try to negotiate a lease agreement and avoid an easement or conversion to an easement, as it can be difficult or impossible to discharge.
8. Option to Purchase – A valuable agreement, separate from a lease or easement agreement, and includes valuation and option payment. Take your time to review an option; it can be exercised to achieve the underlying lease or easement.

OFA Consolidated Agricultural Land Use Policy

Updated: March 21, 2025

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RESOURCE



Agriculture Matters: A guide for municipal councillors and staff

The purpose of this guide is to provide an overview of issues affecting farm businesses today, as well as identifying opportunities for local communities to support this untapped, and sometimes undervalued, economic sector. It is available electronically at ofa.on.ca/GrowAg.

Farming is a unique sector which aims to grow plants and animals under environmental conditions that are rarely under a farmer's control. The variable timing of planting season, the length and intensity of the growing season, as well as economic and political factors can intensify the challenges associated with operating a farm business. Farmers are willing to engage with municipalities on topics affecting the sector, however, any outreach should consider the time of year and should engage farmers early and often throughout the process.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)'s 51 county and regional federations offer strong, grassroots leadership, and should be your first point of contact when addressing municipal issues affecting agricultural businesses in your community.

Agri-food: Driving Ontario's economy forward

Land Use Planning and Economic Development

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RESOURCE



Guide to support agricultural growth in your municipality

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) has identified municipal barriers and opportunities to support growth in Ontario's agriculture and agri-food businesses.

While many policies are established at the provincial and federal level, there are many best practices that municipalities can implement to support their agri-food sector.

Municipalities can support agricultural economic development through:

- 1 land use planning,
- 2 property assessment and taxation,
- 3 financial incentives and reduced costs,
- 4 community and regional food planning, and
- 5 consultation with the farming community.

Property assessment and taxation

- ☐ Adjusted the farm tax ratio below 25% of the residential tax rate
- ☐ Passed a resolution supporting OFA policy on taxation for buildings used for value-added agriculture (i.e. facilities should be subject to no more than 25% of the residential property tax rate, if historically at least 51% of the product is grown and value-added to by the same farmer(s), and at least 90% of the product is grown in Ontario); *See Template on Page 4: Sample Resolution Supporting a Change in Tax Treatment of On-Farm Value-Added Activities*

Financial incentives and reduced costs

- ☐ Enacted a by-law with exemption from development charges for new farm structures
- ☐ Passed a resolution supporting OFA policy on the amendment of the Development Charges Act; *See Template on Page 4: Sample Resolution Supporting an Amendment of the Development Charges Act to Exempt New Farm Buildings*
- ☐ Implemented business development strategies, such as Community Improvement Plans, that encourage private investment, renew infrastructure, and waive development fees for agricultural and agri-food businesses



Starting and Growing Your Farm

Whether you are new to farming or exploring new opportunities, OFA has gathered these resources to help you start and grow your farm business.

+ Getting Started

+ Accessing Farmland

+ Navigating Taxes



OntarioFarms

@ontariofarms • 1.05K subscribers • 207 videos

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) represents the interests of 38,000 Ontario farmers...more

ofa.on.ca and 3 more links

Subscribe

Home Videos Shorts Live Playlists





Cultivating Local:

Seizing Opportunities to Grow Ontario's Local Agri-Products Sector

Consider your staffing



Determine if y



Legal obligations. Learn more at Ontario.ca through the "Employment Standards Act" page about what is expected of you as an employer in Ontario.



Promote that you are hiring. Leverage AgCareers.com or your local workforce planning board to post your job opportunities.

Explore funding and financing options



Reach out to your local Community Futures Development office to assist with funding, counselling, and strategic planning.



Visit AgPal.ca and Farm Credit Canada at fcc-fac.ca to learn about funding programs for the agricultural sector.



Learn about financing opportunities by contacting the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC), the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC), or your local bank

Stephanie Vanthof

Member Service Representative

Algoma, Cochrane, East Nipissing/Parry Sound, Manitoulin-North Shore/Sudb
Muskoka, Temiskaming, West Nipissing/Sudbury East

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Ontario Federation of Agriculture

200 Hanlon Creek Boulevard

Guelph, ON N1C 0A1



Agri-Food Forum

Saturday November 22, 2025

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Grandissons
Bonfield
Ensemble!

Chantal Lewington, Owner

Click Fork - Northern Ontario's Online Farmer's Market / Dalew Farms

Welcome to your Online Farmer's Market Northeastern Ontario!

Working together to make regionally grown and ecologically produced foods more accessible to residents in Northeastern Ontario



Chantal Lewington

Dalew Farms

- **Direct Marketing for over 20 years**
- **We primarily produce and market grass fed, grass finished beef, bison & pasture-raised pork**
- **Secondary products include:**
 - **Pastured hens**
 - **Small amount of cash crops, now certified organic**

Click Fork - How did it all start!?

- Closure of local food co-op
- Farmers gathered
- Idea: amalgamate local farm products to one website!



- Soft Launch in 2018
- Success but a lot of extra logistical/clerical work for farmers....
- Spring of 2019, Click Fork is managed by one farm only



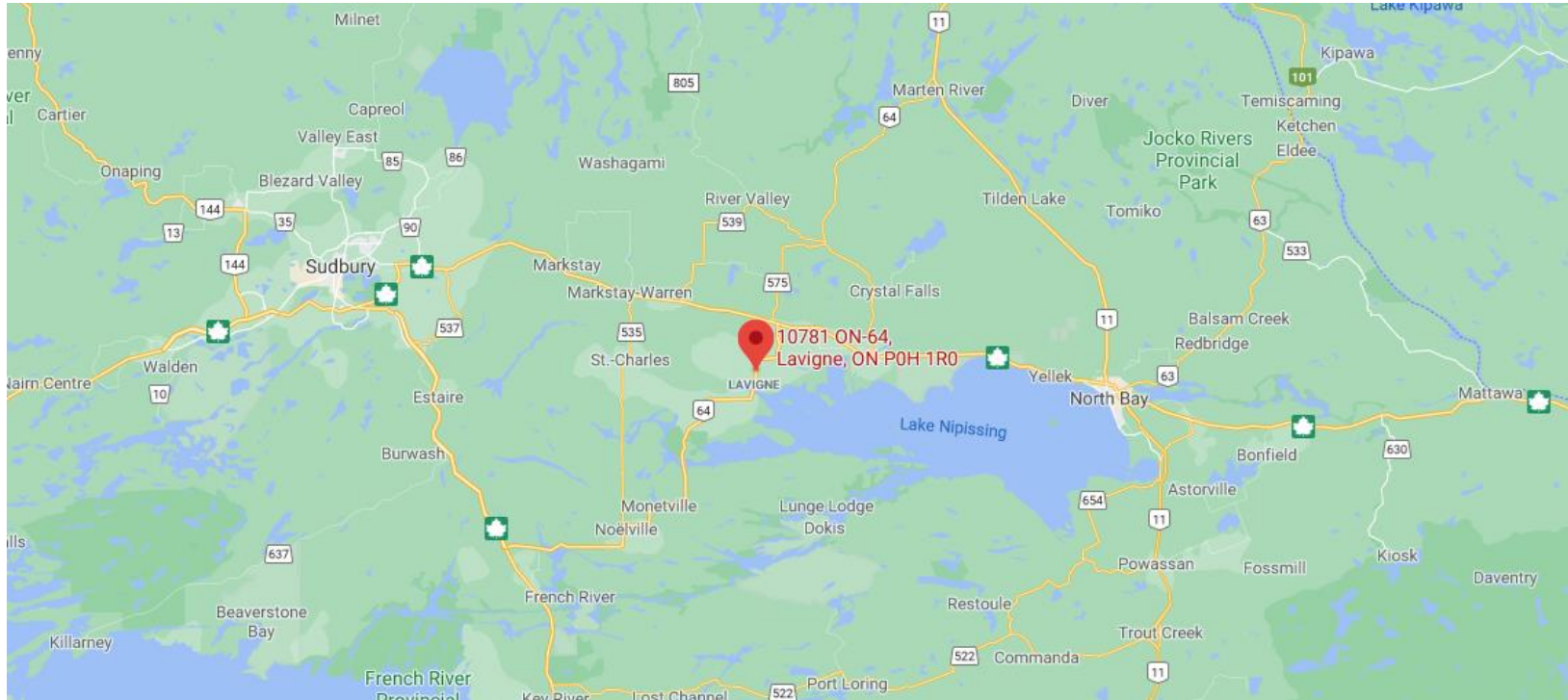
Click Fork Today

- Stable/Growing Client base with 100+ orders every order cycle
- 50+ Vendors
- Centralized Packing on 1 farm, using less packaging & simplifying pick up/delivery to consumers



Click Fork Today

- Located centrally to 2 major cities (1 hour each way)
- Also marketing to immediate surrounding community (smaller portion of sales as we are in a rural area)



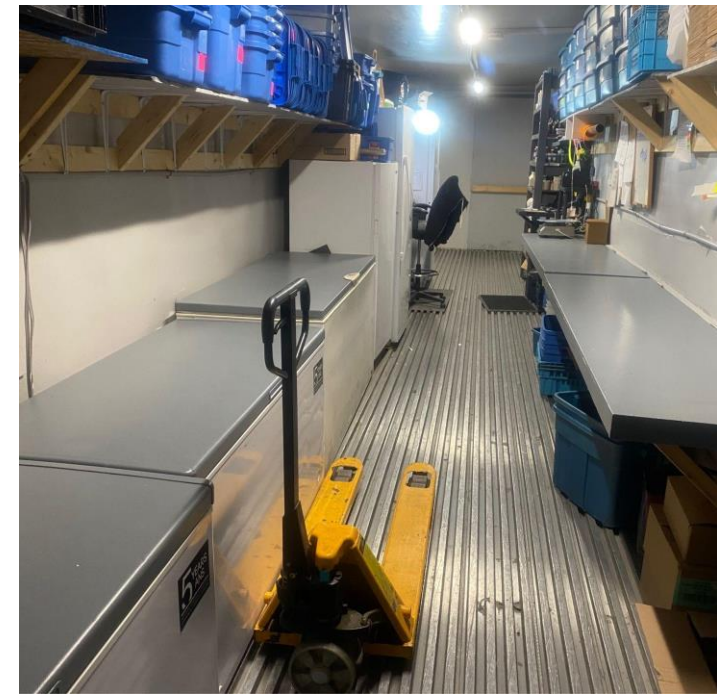
Click Fork Today

- Community Pick Up:
 - 6 Pick Up Locations (Free)
- Home Delivery
 - For a fee (depending on location)
 - 3rd party delivery service in North Bay



Click Fork Today

- 53' Insulated Transport Trailer refurbished into packing warehouse
- Includes a 10' x 8' walk-in cooler to store refrigerated product
- Chest Freezers for frozen goods
- addition of shelving for dry goods



Click Fork Today

- 53' Insulated Transport Trailer refurbished into inspected kitchen!
- Includes a 10' x 8' walk-in freezer to store product and tray freeze produce/meals
- Preserving in-season local produce by blanching/freezing and canning
- Transforming into prepared meals, soups, broths, baking and more!



Click Fork Today

- 40' Insulated Reefer Trailer for extra freezer storage *especially for summer and fall harvest of local proteins.
- Other local producers can rent freezer space
- Added Office Trailer Space

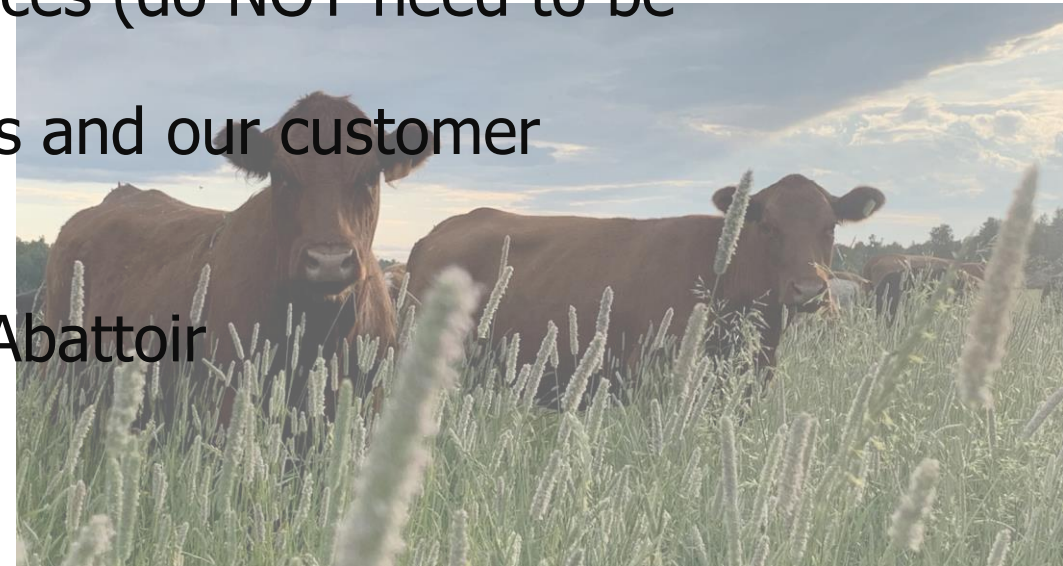


How to Become a Click Fork Vendor



- Requirements are Based on our Mission/Vision/Values and Customer Expectations:

- GMO-Free and Drug-Free
- No use of pesticides/artificial fertilizers (for produce growers)
- *Grass-Fed, Grass-Finished for Ruminant animals
- Preference given to local first and those who follow organic/regenerative agricultural growing practices (do NOT need to be certified organic).
- Local/natural/sustainable is very important to us and our customer base.
- Meats are processed at a Provincially Licensed Abattoir
- Food be prepared in an inspected kitchen.



How to be a Click Fork Vendor

- Avoid too much duplication of products
- Accept new vendors on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- Waiting list if a spot becomes available.



What's in it for vendors?

- Access to our expanding customer base (900 + contacts)
- Marketing Services included/collaboration
- Order fulfillment/delivery to the customer
- Access to your dashboard to manage content & inventory on your vendor page on our website.
- No cost for vendor page on our website, you receive 75% of sales, CF receives 25% commission. Payment made to you monthly via e-transfer.

Vendor Switcher (The Happy Place Farm (Mock Vendor Page))

Click Fork

New

Howdy, Chantal Lewington

Screen Options

Dashboard

Orders

Reports

Media

Products

All Products

Add new product

Store Settings

Support

Profile

Collapse menu

Products

Add new product

Switch back to Chantal Lewington.

All | Published | Drafts | Sorting

Bulk Actions

Apply

Show all product types

Filter by Facebook sync st

Filter

		Name	SKU	Stock	Price	Categories	Tags	Brands	Date	Facebook sync
		Garlic, Scapes – 1 Lb. — Draft	CFK 125-1-1	Out of stock (0)	\$9.00	All Products, Fresh Produce, Produce	ecologically grown, organically grown	—	Last Modified 2025/04/23 at 1:53 pm	Do not sync

Bulk Actions

Apply

1 item

Challenges/Warnings

- Must have good computer skills to use our platform
- Strong organizational/planning skills are a must-have *esp for produce growers on a bi-weekly delivery schedule
- Delivery logistics & feasibility/volume

Click Fork Expansion/Liscencing

- Currently working with IPON (Intellectual Property Ontario)
- Looking for Hub locations across ontario to redirect customers to farmers/artisans in their area

Click Fork Bonfield!?



Contact Info

Chantal Lewington (Market Manager)

Email: info@clickfork.ca

Phone: 705-482-8098

Questions?

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Julie Mensinga-Poirier
Economic and Business Advisor
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agri-Business

OMAFRA



November 2025

Julie Poirier Mensinga

Economic and Business Advisor

Northern AgriFood Advisory Unit

Labour, Trade and Economic Development Branch

Economic and Business Advisor - Agri-Food Sector

- The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) offers a monthly Agriculture Newsletter tailored to your region.
- You can subscribe to my regional newsletter.



Subscribe to our
Northern Newsletter

October 2025

**Algoma, Manitoulin, Nipissing,
Parry Sound and Sudbury**
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness

Ontario 

Brought to you by:

Julie Poirier Mensinga
Economic and Business Advisor
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
I can be reached at:
julie.poiriermensinga@ontario.ca
(705) 471-3389



Providing expertise in areas such as agriculture, food and economic development, business support, research and business intelligence, and other resources that foster economic growth and support economic development in the agri-food sectors in Ontario.

We are dedicated to cultivating a welcoming environment that champions inclusion, diversity, equity, anti-racism, and accessibility. This commitment extends to all our programs and interactions, ensuring that harassment and discrimination are never tolerated.

You can also contact the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at: 1-877-424-1300 for assistance.

[Sign up for Newsletter](#)

Online Events

Webinar: Rotational Grazing



Ontario Certified Crop Advisor Association
and
Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
Present



ROTATIONAL GRAZING

IMPROVING SOIL FERTILITY FOR NUTRIENT-DENSE BEEF



RANDY GAMBLE

SCAN HERE
TO REGISTER



OMAFRA Resources

Agricultural Best Practices

Publications and tool

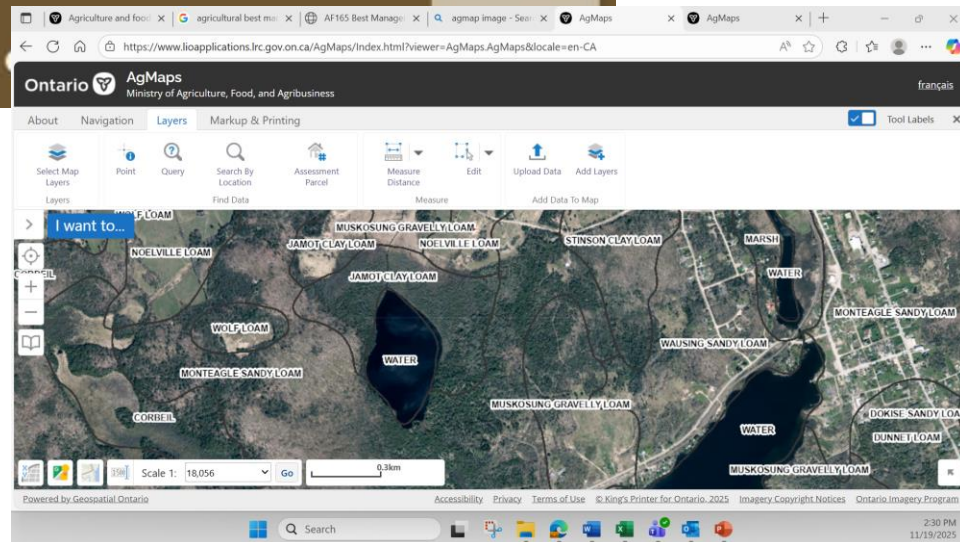
Agmaps

Professional Development

Domestic and export food marketing

Programs

Connecting



EFFICIENT GRAIN DRYING TECHNIQUES FOR QUALITY AND PROFITABILITY

ORGANIZED BY: ENGINEERING AND INNOVATION UNIT, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BRANCH, OMAFA

Scan Me to Register for
the Webinar



Date: 3rd December 2025

Time: 7-9 pm EST

Presenters:

Dr. Digvir S. Jayas, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Lethbridge

Dr. Chandra B. Singh, RADAR Research Chair in Agricultural Engineering and Technology, Director, Advanced Post-Harvest Technology Centre (APHTC), Lethbridge Polytechnic



THANK for
your time and
attention

Julie.poirermensinga@ontario.ca

Happy to help however I can



Agri-Food Forum
Saturday November 22, 2025

Growing
Bonfield
Together!

Session Three:

Grandissons
Bonfield
Ensemble!

Panel Discussion / Q & A period



Agri-Food Forum
Saturday November 22, 2025

Growing
Bonfield
Together!

**Thank you
and goodbye for now!**

Grandissons
Bonfield
Ensemble!

