

# Ontario's Resources for Agriculture and Agri-Food

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November 4, 2011

# Outline

- Northern Ontario Growth Plan, 2011
- Programs and Services
- Human Resources

# Northern Ontario Growth Plan, 2011

- Prepared under *Places to Grow Act, 2005*;
- A strategic 25-year plan to strengthen Northern Ontario that will:
  - Diversify the region's economic base
  - Increase access to education, training and career opportunities
  - Ensure communities are well positioned to attract people and investment
- Will guide regional decision-making and investment planning
- Structured around six theme areas – economy, people, communities, infrastructure, environment and Aboriginal peoples.
- [www.placestogrow.ca](http://www.placestogrow.ca)

# Agriculture, Aquaculture and Food Processing

Government and industry partnerships for growth & diversification:

- Undertake and disseminate Northern Ontario research
- Identify bio-economy opportunities
- Identify land improvement and environmental sustainability needs
- Expand production to contribute to a sustainable local food source
- Explore complementary economic activities on agricultural land
- Support buy-local initiatives that increase consumers' awareness of and intent to buy Ontario / Northern Ontario products
- Support marketing and branding of environmental stewardship, innovation and food safety
- Support development of production, processing and distribution systems

*(Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, 2011, section 2.3.3)*

## Programs - Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation

- Funding for projects that support job creation and the strengthening of communities in Northern Ontario;
  - Infrastructure and Community Development
  - Emerging Technology
  - Northern Energy
  - Enterprise North Job Creation
  - Northern Ontario Entrepreneur
  - Northern Ontario Young Entrepreneur
  - Northern Ontario Youth Internship and Co-op
- For information, visit: [www.nohfc.com](http://www.nohfc.com)

## Programs – Growing Forward

Federal-provincial-territorial initiative supporting the development of a profitable, innovative agri-food sector adept at managing risk and responsive to market demands.

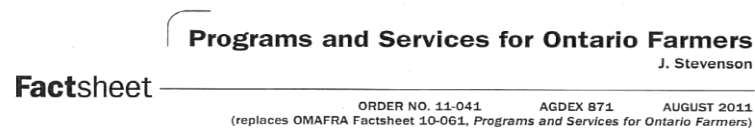
- Business Risk Management Suite
  - AgriInvest and AgriStability
  - Production Insurance
- Best Practices Suite
  - Business Development
  - Environment and Climate Change
  - Food Safety and Traceability
  - Bio-security
- Innovation and Science Suite
  - Farm Innovation Program
  - Agri-Tech Commercialization Center
- For information, visit: [www.ontario.ca/growingforward](http://www.ontario.ca/growingforward)

## Programs - General

- Rural Economic Development Program (RED)  
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/rural/red/index.html>
- University of Guelph / OMAFRA Partnership  
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/research/programfundingindex.htm>
- Agricultural Adaptation Council  
<http://www.adaptcouncil.org/>
- Agriculture Management Institute  
<http://www.takeanewapproach.ca/>

# Resources

## Factsheet – Programs and Services for Ontario Farmers



The following is a summary of programs and services currently available to Ontario farmers that are funded by the Ontario and/or Canadian governments. Check with your commodity organizations for additional commodity-specific programs that may be available through your associations.

The information is current as of the publication date. However, programs and services are subject to frequent changes. To verify any of the program information, consult the contact listed for each program.

The programs in this Factsheet are listed in the following tables:

Section 1:	Growing Forward – Business Risk Management Programs
Section 2:	Growing Forward – Best Practices Suite of Programs
Section 3:	Loan, Business Risk and Financial Assistance Programs
Section 4:	Tax-Related Programs
Section 5:	Business Advisory Assistance Programs
Section 6:	Environmental and Conservation Programs
Section 7:	Human Resources, Employment and Education Programs
Section 8:	Health Monitoring, Inspection and Diagnostic Programs
Section 9:	Financial Protection and Compensation Programs
Section 10:	Funding Programs to Build Business Opportunities
Section 11:	Northern Ontario Business Development Programs

The Agricultural Information Contact Centre of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) provides province-wide, toll-free technical and business information to commercial farms, agri-businesses and other rural businesses:

Phone: 1-877-424-1300  
E-mail: [ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca](mailto:ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca)

Specific information for Northern Ontario is available by calling OMAFRA's Northern Ontario Regional Office at 1-800-461-6132.

The OMAFRA website ([www.ontario.ca/omafra](http://www.ontario.ca/omafra)) is available 24 hours a day. The site provides publications, Factsheets and detailed technical information on crops, livestock, engineering, land use planning, environmental management, business management and economic development. Business management information can be found at [www.ontario.ca/agbusiness](http://www.ontario.ca/agbusiness).

### Ag Business Update Electronic Newsletter

This monthly electronic newsletter provides concise business information, including business programs, conferences, courses and publications. To subscribe, select the Events and Newsletters link on the OMAFRA website ([www.ontario.ca/agbusiness](http://www.ontario.ca/agbusiness)).

The Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada website ([www.agr.gc.ca](http://www.agr.gc.ca)) lists federally administered programs.

For comprehensive information on starting a new farm business, see Publication 61, *Starting a Farm in Ontario*. To obtain a copy of this or any other ministry publication:

Phone: 1-800-668-9938  
Web: [www.serviceontario.ca/publications](http://www.serviceontario.ca/publications)

## Websites:

- [www.ontario.ca/omafra](http://www.ontario.ca/omafra)
  - Business Information Bundles;
  - Production and organization development factsheets;
  - E-letters;
- [www.ontario.ca/mndmf](http://www.ontario.ca/mndmf)
  - Northern Ontario Programs and Resources;
- [www.serviceontario.ca/publications](http://www.serviceontario.ca/publications)
  - Paid Publications



# Human Resources

## Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

- Northern Ontario Regional Office  
Phone: 1-800-461-6132; Email: [noroaginfo@ontario.ca](mailto:noroaginfo@ontario.ca)
- Client Services Branch - Agriculture Development Advisors;
- Agriculture Development Branch – Beef Production Systems Lead
- Food Inspection Branch – Meat and Bee inspectors
  
- Agricultural Information Contact Center  
Phone: 1-877-424-1300; Email: [ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca](mailto:ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca)
- Program Specialists and Leads (southern Ontario)
  - Crop and Livestock Production;
  - Environmental Management, Drainage and Engineering
  - Food Processing, Domestic and Export Marketing
  - Funding Programs

# Human Resources

## **Ministry of Northern Development and Mines**

- Northern Development Officers
- Northern Development Advisors
- [http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/northern\\_development/default\\_e.asp](http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/northern_development/default_e.asp)