

Agricultural Economic Development:
The Farm Community Perspective

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Here are three questions for you:

- Do you know what the population of the world will be by 2050?
- What is the estimated population increase likely to be in the Greater Golden Horseshoe by 2031?
- What percentage of the world's freshwater reserves are controlled by Canada?

OFA – draft wording

- Property tax treatment of value added facilities for products grown in Ontario.
- If historically at least 51% of the product is grown and “value-added” by the same farmer or farmers, and at least 90% of the product is grown in Ontario, then the facilities should be subject only to the farm tax rate.

Agricultural Rural Area – Halton's vision

- Maintain and enhance economically viable *agricultural* industry.
- Promote sustainable *farm practices* and protect the right to farm.
- Promote *agriculture* as the primary land use in the rural areas of *Halton Region*
- Implement programs and plans to support *agriculture* including:
 - Hire an Agricultural Facilitator to liaise between the *agricultural community* and Regional Council;
 - Use Community Improvement Plans under the Planning Act to promote and support *agriculture*;
 - Regional Council will consider funding on an annual basis toward supporting a viable and sustainable *agricultural industry* in *Halton*;

- Develop an economic development and investment strategy for *agriculture* in *Halton*, marketing and promotion of *local agricultural* products to *Halton* communities;
- Assist with farm succession planning including attracting new, young and immigrant farmers to *Halton*;
- Provide financial support to promote environmental stewardship including the preparation of EFP's and Environmental Impact Assessments for *agricultural* buildings, and preservation and enhancement of natural areas and functions, fiscal tools including innovative tax policies, reduced development charges, and venture capitals for innovative *agriculture*;
- Assist with the development and implementation of education programs to promote public awareness and support for the *agricultural industry*; and
- Develop programs for securing *agricultural lands* from non-*farming* landowners for long term *agricultural* uses by farmers.

6 Things That Could Aid Local Farm Economies

- The creation of a local co-ordinator between farmers and planners acting as an Economic Developer.
- The inclusion of the word “local” into public institutional food procurement.
- The consolidation and expansion of grant and loan programs.
- Local Agricultural Advisory Committee’s in all counties / regions.
- Getting the Ministry of Finance to instruct MPAC about Value Added and Value Retention projects.
- Starter opportunities for new Canadians.