



Flavours of Farmland

Celebrating Ontario farmers and Ontario grown commodities



This publication is a celebration of Ontario's diverse and abundant commodities, and their contribution to Ontario's agricultural sector. With each commodity, we highlight passionate producers across the province. We urge you to support your local farmers by purchasing directly from their businesses.

With every purchase, you sow the seeds of solidarity, nurturing our communities and landscapes for a flourishing future.

www.ontariofarmlandtrust.ca



✦ Ontario's ✦ Agricultural Sector

Ontario has 11.8 million acres of farmland, and houses the largest number of farms and farmers in Canada, making its agricultural industry crucial for the nation's economy. More than half of Canada's best farmland is in Ontario, providing a fertile foundation for agricultural success. By protecting this valuable farmland and supporting agricultural businesses through our outreach and education efforts, OFT aims to strengthen the sector's vital role in boosting the economy and ensuring food security for everyone in Ontario.



GDP Contributions

Ontario's abundance of prime land drives the province's strong agricultural output, adding **\$49 billion to Ontario's GDP**. This accounts for 30% of the total GDP generated by agriculture across Canada.

Employment

The agri-food supply chain employs a significant part of Ontario's workforce — over 871,000 Ontarians, which is **1 in every 9 workers**. It plays a crucial role in driving economic growth and prosperity.

Food Security

Ontario farmers produce over 200 different products, with more than 4,900 food and beverage businesses who manufacture and process **42% of Canada's food and beverages**.

Environmental Benefits

Approximately **20%** of Ontario's farmland consists of **natural habitats** such as forests, grasslands, and wetlands. These areas are **home to species at risk** and provide **vital ecosystem services**, including water purification, flood prevention, and carbon storage. Protecting farmland is, therefore, crucial for biodiversity, habitat preservation, and environmental sustainability.

Soil Classes

In Ontario, a diversity of soil types support a wide range of farming activities. However, provincial policies focus on protecting **prime agricultural land** identified by the Canada Land Inventory (CLI) soil survey, which ranks soil into seven classes. Only classes 1-3 are labelled as prime agricultural lands, which is the basis for many provincial land-use policies. These policies overlook agricultural soils that fall outside that range, yet still support a variety of agriculture. Many of the crops produced in Ontario thrive on soil classes 4-7, reinforcing our belief that all farmland deserves protection.



Specialty Crops

In various regions of Ontario, unique microclimates create ideal conditions for growing **specialty crops**. These crops are valued for their distinctive flavours, uses, or ability to thrive in specific climates. Areas like the Holland Marsh and the Niagara Peninsula allow farmers to grow crops such as grapes, peaches, lavender, and nuts, even on land that isn't classified as prime agricultural land. Since these growing conditions can't be replicated elsewhere, it's crucial to protect all farmland to preserve agricultural diversity.



Are you a member of Ontario's vibrant agricultural community?

Whether you're a producer or part of a commodity group, we'd love to partner with you!



- Highlight your commodity and its vital role in Ontario's economy.
- Showcase your farm(s) and share your story with a broader audience.
- Join us in educating consumers on the importance of supporting local producers and diverse farmland.



For more details, contact us at: info@ontariofarmlandtrust.ca

Sheep Wool



Ontario Raised Sheep



- Most sheep farms are found on farmland with soil classes ranging from 4-6. Their diet mainly consists of pasture and hay, and sheep often graze on farmland not suitable for row crops such as corn or soybeans.
- As of 2024, Canada is home to approximately 823,400 sheep and lamb on 8,487 farms. Ontario is home to the largest breeding flock in Canada, representing 31.5% of the national total.

The Philosopher's Wool Company

Ann and Eugene Bourgeois, the late founders of the company, built their wool business on the principles of social justice, environmental integrity, and creative joy. Today, the community continues their legacy by selling high-quality, Canadian-produced wool. The company is also seeking to build working relationships with Ontario sheep farmers, with a strong commitment to sustainable agriculture, local fair trade, and environmental education.



philosopherswool.ca



philosopherswool2022@gmail.com



2 Alma Street, Tiverton

Scan to learn more!



Alpaca Wool

Ontario Raised Alpacas

- Most alpaca farms reside on lands with soil classes ranging from 4-6.
- Alpacas produce a luxurious natural fibre that is softer than cashmere and warmer, lighter, and stronger than other natural fibres.
- In Ontario, an acre of land can sustain about 5-8 alpacas.
- In 2023, it was reported that there were 388 farms raising 4,220 alpacas in Ontario.



Stonefield Eden Alpacas

Dee bought the 100 acre farm in 1998. Peter joined the farm some years later. About half the acreage is used to grow forage and pasture for their alpacas, and the other half is diverse woodlot with a large wildlife population. They always had the idea of keeping the land as a farm and wild space. They knew they would never allow development on the land but what would happen if the property was sold? Dee found the Ontario Farmland Trust and the question was answered.



stonefieldedenalpacas.com



stonefieldedenalpacas@gmail.com



Consecon



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Lavender



Ontario Lavender

- Lavender grows best in soil classes 4 or higher, which are generally less fertile and well-draining. This is because lavender prefers well-drained, sandy or gravelly soils and doesn't tolerate waterlogged conditions.
- Approximately 300 to 1,800 pounds of dried flowers are produced per acre of lavender.
- Ontario is home to over 60 lavender farms, offering opportunities for new growers to enter the market through value-added products like satchels, salves, essential oils, and agri-tourism.

Tullamore Lavender Co.

Tullamore Lavender Co. (TLC) is a small-scale lavender farm working hard to bring a little more TLC into the world. TLC is run by Stephanie Craig and Steve Larmer. They focus on creating thoughtful lavender products and experiences, with a particular interest in exploring and sharing the uniqueness of culinary lavender grown in Ontario. They grow several different varieties of lavender to showcase the differences and tasting notes of each.



www.tullamorelavender.ca



[tullamore_lavender_co](https://www.instagram.com/tullamore_lavender_co)



7595 Wellington County Road 109,
Arthur



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Medicinal Herbs






Ontario Grown Herbs

- Ontario is home to many native medicinal herbs like Yarrow, Goldenseal, Witch-Hazel, and Wild Bergamot, traditionally used for healing and wellness.
- Medicinal herbs grow in a range of soils from well-drained loam to moist clay with many species adaptable to Ontario’s diverse growing conditions.
- These herbs are used for immune support, skin care, digestion, and respiratory health, with applications in teas, tinctures, oils, and salves.

Heart’s Content Organic Farmstead

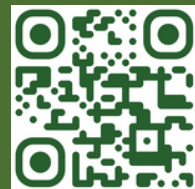
Heart’s Content Organic Farmstead is located along the Brantford to Dundas Rail Trail. The farmstead has a bike repair station and picnic shelter, making it the perfect trailside shop. Farmers Ella and Richard are dedicated to conservation, and growing medicinal herbs to handcraft their herbal products such as balms, salves, and dried herbs. You can enjoy the beauty of their farm by staying in their private suites, campsites, or glamping hut. Whether you’re looking for a quiet nature escape or a place to stay while exploring the trails, their farm is the perfect stop.



 hcof.ca
 226-802-2801
 27 Ronald Rd, Brantford



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Craft Beer



Ontario Hops

- Hops generally grow best in soil classes 1-3, though they can also perform well in class 4 soils depending on management practices and local conditions. They thrive in deep, well-drained soils that retain moisture without becoming waterlogged.
- Ontario's hop acreage has expanded over 1,200% in the last decade, with over 45 varieties grown and an average yield of 800-1,500 pounds per acre.
- Ontario is home to over 300 craft breweries, producing 800,000 hectolitres of craft beer annually, making them the largest buyers of Ontario-grown hops.

GoodLot Farmstead Brewing Co.

GoodLot was established by Gail and Phil Winters in 2009, supplying organic hops to Ontario craft brewers. In 2017, they diversified their hop farm to become the first farm-to-barrel brewery in the Greenbelt. Their passion is using local ingredients to demonstrate the terroir of local beer while supporting other local farms like GoodLot.



www.goodlot.beer

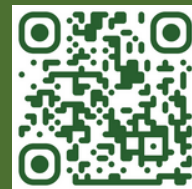


[goodlot.beer](https://www.instagram.com/goodlot.beer)



18825 Shaws Creek Road, Alton

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Nut Trees



Ontario Nut Trees



- Nut trees prefer loamy or sandy loam soils, but they can grow in a variety of soil classes, most commonly in classes 1 to 4.
- Farmers in Ontario grow hazelnuts, walnuts, chestnuts, and heartnuts commercially on over 600 acres.
- Ideal climatic zones for nut trees are those that are protected from late spring frosts. In Ontario, those zones are regions near large lakes.

Grimo Nut Nursery

Ernie Grimo founded Grimo Nut Nursery in 1973 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, specializing in grafting disease-resistant, hardy nut trees. Joined by his daughter Linda, they expanded the nursery into a thriving business. Their orchards grow hazelnuts, walnuts, chestnuts, black walnuts, pecans, and hickory, breeding high-quality trees for future crops. Their current projects focus on disease resistance and hardiness for hazelnuts, and improving heart shape and cracking ease for heartnuts, emphasizing the importance of local foods and edible landscapes.



www.grimonut.com



[grimonut](https://www.instagram.com/grimonut)



979 Lakeshore Road,
Niagara-on-the-Lake

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Hazelnuts



Ontario Hazelnuts

- Early attempts to grow European hazelnuts in Ontario failed, but now winter-hardy varieties thrive near the Great Lakes.
- Hazelnut trees take several years to establish, beginning to produce around 15% of full yield by year 5. Yields increase by 10–15% annually, reaching full production with about 2,500 lbs per acre by year 11.
- Hazelnut trees produce abundantly for 50-100 years.



Haldimand Hazelnuts

Alison MacKenzie is the owner of Haldimand Hazelnuts, established in 2016 in Cayuga, Ontario. They are dedicated to producing delicious, fresh, locally grown hazelnuts. Their family-run farm, home to over 2,500 trees, produces seven unique hazelnut varieties. From harvest to processing, each hazelnut is cared for to ensure it meets their highest standards of flavour and freshness. Support local agriculture by choosing their premium hazelnuts!



Haldimand Hazelnuts



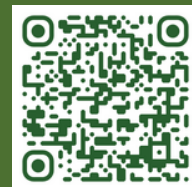
haldimandhazelnuts@gmail.com



2860 Haldimand Road 20, Cayuga



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Maple Syrup

Ontario Maple Syrup

- Maple syrup is deeply rooted in Indigenous culture and heritage, and for thousands of years has sustained their communities, serving as a sweetener, anesthetic, meat preservative, and trade item.
- Ontario farmers average 70 taps per acre, yielding 600–800 gallons of sap or about 20 gallons of syrup. The province has 2,013,549 tree taps across 389 maple farms.
- In 2024, Ontario exported 374,595 kg of maple products worth approximately \$3.45 million. The top export destinations were the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom.



Woodleigh Farms Ltd.

Woodleigh Farms Ltd., established in 1902 in Cavan near Peterborough, ON, is a 6th-generation family business. They produce maple syrup, vegetables, and greenhouse plants, and harvest firewood, corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, straw, and hay. Committed to environmental stewardship, they implement organic and sustainable practices, focusing on soil health to ensure the land is made better for future generations. Today, Norman, Emily and their family oversee day-to-day operations on the farm.



www.cavanfresh.ca



[woodleighfarms](https://www.instagram.com/woodleighfarms)



528 Sharpe Line, Cavan

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Seeds



Ontario Seeds

- Seeds are critical to agriculture, serving as the foundation of our food supply and essential for adapting to climate change.
- There is an estimated 45-70 lbs of dried beans per acre grown in Ontario depending on the bean variety, seeding rate and spacing.
- The seed industry contributes over \$6 billion to the economy, employs 63,000 Canadians, and exports \$640 million annually.



Carrick Seeds

At Carrick Seeds, seeds are grown on their farm in South Bruce, in gardens tucked into a patchwork of small fields, pastures, and swamps. Their goal is to offer seeds for all the foods which make up a complete diet: carbohydrates and protein staple crops, vegetables, oilseeds, and herbs. They also offer resources to guide gardeners through cooking the crops they harvest and saving their own seeds.



www.carrickseeds.ca



carrickseeds@gmail.com



269 Field Road, Mildmay



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Fruits & Vegetables

Ontario Fruits & Veggies

- Ontario's fruits and vegetables grow on a range of soil classes. The Holland Marsh is known as the "vegetable capital of Canada," with its nutrient-rich organic soils ideal for growing a variety of fruits and vegetables.
- Ontario produces over a third of Canada's fruits and vegetables, contributing more than \$4.2 billion and 66,000 jobs to the economy.
- Ontario imports over \$5 billion worth of fruits and vegetables, leaving a large potential for Ontario farmers and farmland to grow more to meet local needs.

Barrie Hill Farms

Barrie Hill Farms, a second generation family-owned farm, spans 200 acres, and cultivates fruits and vegetables, some of which are open for public picking from May to November. The farm's success is attributed to Adrien and Evelyn Gervais' foresight, work ethic, and community support. Today Morris Gervais and his family operate the farm. Their family aspires to sustain the farm for future generations, fostering a legacy of farming and land stewardship.



www.barriehillfarms.com



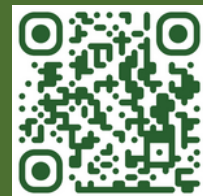
[barriehillfarms](https://www.instagram.com/barriehillfarms)



2935 Barrie Hill Road, Barrie



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Ginseng



Ontario Ginseng

- Ginseng is a specialty crop that grows best on class 3 or 4 soils. It is a unique crop with specific soil drainage, texture, and pH requirements to thrive.
- During early North American settlement, excessive harvesting almost drove Ontario's wild ginseng to extinction, leading to North American ginseng's threatened status under the Species at Risk Act.
- Today, most of the world's North American ginseng is grown by independent farmers in Ontario's fertile soil, in former tobacco fields, and under black shades to mimic a forest canopy.

Tota Farms

Tota Farms, a fourth-generation family-owned agricultural business in Southern Ontario, has specialized in high-quality ginseng for over thirty years. Committed to sustainability, they aim to reduce their carbon footprint while adhering to good agricultural practices. Their mission is to leave their land and community better than they found it, ensuring quality products and environmental responsibility.



www.totafarms.com



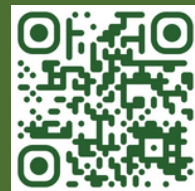
[ginsengfarms](https://www.instagram.com/ginsengfarms)



271 E Quarter Townline Road,
Burford



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✘ Pumpkins & Squash ✘

Ontario Pumpkins & Squash

- In 2024, an estimated 11,266 acres of pumpkins and squash were harvested in Ontario, with an average yield of 140,988 lbs per acre.
- The farm gate value of Ontario's pumpkin production was estimated at around \$23.3 million, representing 63% of the national total.
- It is difficult to determine just how many Ontario farms are growing pumpkins and squash, since they are so popular that many farms grow them as only a small part of their farming operation. From butternut squash soup to Halloween jack-o'-lanterns, Ontarians LOVE squash!

Morrison Pumpkin Farm

Morrison Pumpkin Farm, a family-owned business since 1985, thrives in South Georgian Bay. With over 50 pumpkin, squash, and ornamental varieties, they provide farm fresh produce to their communities and open their picturesque farm to the public for family fun every year. Be sure to plan a visit to their farm and savour their produce, fall decor, corn maze, and creative displays with your loved ones!



www.morrisonpumpkinfarm.com

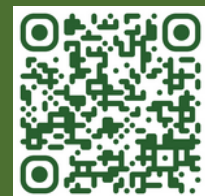


[morrisonpumpkinfarm](https://www.instagram.com/morrisonpumpkinfarm)



4449 County Road 124,
Collingwood

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Honey



Ontario Honey

- Ontario beekeepers make up 25% of beekeepers in Canada, and manage 13% of the country's bee colonies.
- In 2024, Ontario was home to 4,095 beekeepers who looked after 111,263 colonies with an average yield of 24 kg of honey per colony.
- The best quality honey comes from hives with access to diverse, pesticide-free flora.
- Honeybees contribute \$3.18 billion annually to the economy through pollination. Pollination services benefit orchard fruits, berries, vegetables, forage, and more.

Hiveshare

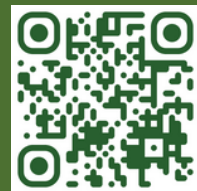
Chris began beekeeping in 2012 out of a curiosity about honeybees and their declining population. He broadened his expertise through global beekeeping communities, travelling to Spain, France, Romania, Jordan, and Sweden. Featured on local Georgina news and international stages, Chris aims to raise awareness about bee threats alongside his maintenance and production efforts.



- www.hiveshare.ca
- [hiveshare](#)
- Sutton



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✦ Pork & Poultry ✦

Ontario Pork & Poultry



- Pork and poultry farms can be found on a range of soil classes. For example, class 6 soil provides great pasture for pigs and chickens to live and forage on.
- In 2022, Ontario had 997 hog farms raising 5,927,075 hogs, with Perth and Huron counties leading in pork production.
- Ontario pork is exported to 41 countries, with major markets including the United States, Mexico, and Japan. In total, Ontario farmers exported pork valued at \$709.7 million.
- In 2021, Ontario had 2,060 poultry and egg farms, producing a whopping 316.4 million dozen eggs!

Little Fields Farm

Little Fields Farm, nestled in Bright, Ontario, was founded in 2015 by Claire. With a commitment to regenerative farming and environmental sustainability, the farm offers CSA vegetables, flowers, and pasture-raised meat and eggs. Together, the Little Fields Farm team work to promote community-based ecological farming, aiming to keep the power and knowledge of sustainable food production in the hands of local communities.



www.littlefields.farm

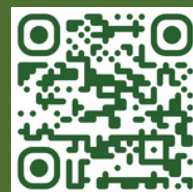


[littlefieldscsa](https://www.instagram.com/littlefieldscsa)



867207 Township Road 10,
Bright

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Flowers



Ontario Flowers

- Ontario's field-grown flowers cover approximately 159 hectares. Depending on the variety of flowers and foliage, they can be cultivated on a range of soil types and fertility levels.
- Ontario's floriculture sector generates \$736 million in farm gate sales and employs over 7,500 people. Ontario is the third-largest greenhouse floriculture producer after Florida and California.
- The market for field-grown cut flowers in Ontario is valued at \$6 million and is growing rapidly.

The Garden in Harrington

The Garden in Harrington is a family-owned farm in Oxford County, Ontario, growing over 120 varieties of flowers and foliage on nearly 2 acres. Established in January 2020 by owners Debra and Christopher, it offers field-grown, in-season flowers, annuals, perennials, and herbs. The Garden also provides event space, workshops, and educational programs for homeschoolers, families, and community groups, making it a welcoming place to enjoy a beautiful floral landscape.



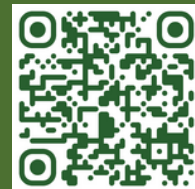
www.thegardeninharrington.com



[thegardeninharrington](https://www.instagram.com/thegardeninharrington)



336813 33rd Line, Embro



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Crabapples

Ontario Crabapples


- Crabapples are commonly found on soil classes 1-4, though can also be found throughout the entire range of soil classes.
- Any apple less than 2.5 cm diameter is considered a crabapple.
- Ontario is home to the *Malus coronaria* species of crabapple, also known as 'Wild crabapple', 'American crabapple' and 'Garland crabapple'. Though they are too bitter for humans to eat, they are a food source for wildlife.




Almarium Sours

Almarium Sours' Pomarium Renaissance[®], is a unique artisanal juice made by blending diverse crabapple-sized fruit grown in their chemical-free orchard. Trees live their natural lives. Fruit is harvested from trees selected from wild-sourced seedlings as they matured over 35+ years. The result is a single ingredient juice with sensational flavour. A small-scale, producer-processor, their juice is only available locally and sells out every year!



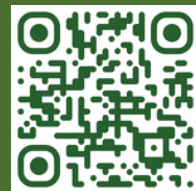
 almariumsours.ca

 [almariumsours23](https://www.instagram.com/almariumsours23)

 Grafton



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Scan to access the Flavours of Farmland Map!



About OFT

Our mission is to protect and preserve Ontario farmlands and associated agricultural, natural and cultural landscapes of food production for the benefit of Ontarians today and future generations.

The Ontario Farmland Trust is the only province-wide conservation charity dedicated to the permanent protection of Ontario's farmland. Recognizing that a healthy environment is fundamental to a productive, local food system and healthy communities, we work to protect and preserve Ontario farmlands and its natural and cultural landscapes for the benefit of current and future generations. Since 2004, OFT has partnered with farmers using farmland easement agreements to protect 2,700+ acres on 26 farm properties across the province.

As part of our vision for a future where Ontario's farmland is highly valued, and recognized as an integral part of a thriving economy, OFT has made leaps towards raising greater public awareness on the importance of Ontario's diverse farmland. Through channels both online and in-person, OFT has cultivated accessible spaces for learning, sharing and networking to amplify the need to support our farmers and food-producing landscapes.

Contact us to learn more!



(519) 781-3276 (FARM)



www.ontariofarmlandtrust.ca



info@ontariofarmlandtrust.ca



c/o University of Guelph
50 Stone Road East
Guelph, ON, Canada N1G 2W1