



Position Description: On-Farm Volunteers

The Ontario Farmland Trust (OFT) works across Ontario to protect farmlands and associated agricultural, natural and cultural landscapes of food production for the benefit of current and future generations. There are three aspects to OFT's work: farmland securement and stewardship, policy engagement related to farmland protection, and outreach and education. To have an even greater impact, we are seeking engaged and passionate volunteers to get involved with our work. Help protect farmland for future generations, through volunteering with OFT!

On-Farm Volunteers

On-Farm Volunteers support hands-on education, outreach, and demonstration activities at OFT's Bourgeois Farm in Tiverton, Ontario. Volunteers will help with several projects happening at the farm including the Best Management Practice Demonstration Plot project, Conservation initiatives, and the Community Garden.

This role is ideal for people who enjoy working outdoors, learning by doing, supporting community events, and helping connect people with farmland protection, environmental stewardship, and conservation in action. For those who are new to working in outdoor environments, a willingness to learn and have fun is valuable and welcomed.

Tasks will include, depending on the interest of the volunteer:

1. Physically demanding tasks such as:
 - Support BMP demonstration plot setup, transplanting, and harvest activities
 - Assist with conservation projects such as invasive species removal, bird and insect identification, planting trees and flowering species, environmental restoration, and site maintenance
2. Event management and Education and Community Engagement tasks such as:
 - Help set up and take down event materials, including tents, tables, signage, displays, and activity stations
 - Welcome visitors, manage visitor parking during events, answer basic questions, encourage participation, and direct detailed questions to OFT staff
 - Help collect attendee feedback through surveys or informal conversations
 - Support outreach displays related to OFT's mission and goals, farmland protection, conservation, environmental stewardship, and the BMP demonstration project

On-farm volunteers ideally will have some combination of the following experience & interests:

- Comfortable working outdoors in variable weather conditions
- Willingness to participate in hands-on farm tasks such as planting, setup, harvesting, or event preparation
- Comfortable speaking with members of the public or welcoming event attendees - further training is available to support volunteers in this area



- Interest in community engagement, education, or farm-based learning
- Ability to follow instructions and work safely around farm equipment, tools, crops, livestock areas, watercourses and uneven ground
- Experience with farming, gardening, outdoor work, conservation work, event support, or public outreach is an asset, but not required

Time commitment:

- Time commitment will vary by season and event. Most volunteer opportunities will take place from spring to fall, with minimal commitment during the winter.
- We are seeking volunteers with an interest in supporting events throughout the year. Every activity is a chance to learn more about farmland protection, and build a network of contacts.

Location:

- Various locations across Ontario
 - Currently this volunteer role is based out of our Bourgeois Farm location in Tiverton, Ontario. As such, volunteers must have access to a vehicle or other mode of transportation to the property.

Level of Supervision:

- Volunteers will be provided with safety training and equipment, and are expected to follow safe practices while completing tasks (see Volunteer Manual for full details).
- Volunteers are expected to follow the Code of Conduct as outlined in the Volunteer Manual.
- OFT staff will oversee volunteers during tasks, and are available for volunteers to redirect members of the public to for comments, questions, or concerns.