

# RURAL ONTARIO GROWS WITH NATURAL GAS

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is asking the provincial government to engage in helping to expand natural gas delivery to rural and small town Ontario. We need a long-term commitment to provide natural gas access to Ontario farms, rural businesses and homes.

OFA is working closely with Union and Enbridge to explore how best to extend gas lines throughout rural Ontario. OFA believes a multi-year project, requiring a modest annual public investment will be most effective. The project will not be disruptive to existing natural gas customers and will provide competitively priced energy to help grow rural Ontario.

A public/private partnership to extend natural gas to rural Ontario is the single best investment Ontario can make in our rural economy. Rural Ontario cannot grow and achieve its economic potential without natural gas.

## Key Facts:

- ✓ Natural gas is accessible to less than 20% of Ontario farms and rural households (but over 90% of urban homes have gas)
- ✓ Ontario families switching from electric heat to gas save \$3,800 per year
- ✓ Ontario families switching from propane save \$1,800 per year with gas

- ✓ Annual savings of \$1,800 per household equals savings of \$1.1 billion per year
- ✓ 5,000 small town and rural businesses will save approximately \$35 million per year
- ✓ Energy savings will result in \$150 million per year boost to net farm income
- ✓ Achievable energy savings for Ontario rural residents and farm businesses can readily exceed \$800 million per year (reaching up to two thirds of rural Ontario)
- ✓ This energy saving becomes new disposable income. It will provide simple things that families have deferred or gone without and help grow thousands of new jobs.

Visit [YouTube.com/OntarioFarms](https://www.youtube.com/OntarioFarms) to watch a video about natural gas expansion to rural Ontario.