

Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs

Office of the Minister

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Ministère de l'Agriculture, de
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August 2, 2023

Cathy Lennon
General Manager
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
cathy.lennon@ofa.on.ca

Dear Ms. Lennon:

I am pleased to share that we are launching a new support program aimed at enhancing biosecurity and risk preparedness in the agri-food sector. The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$7.5 million through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to help eligible agri-food businesses improve animal health and welfare, plant health, and food safety in their sector.

The Biosecurity Enhancement Initiative is a new, cost-share offering that is designed to help farmers, processors, and other farm-supporting agri-food businesses enhance operational resilience and improve public trust in the food supply system.

This program will be available to a variety of businesses and services that directly support Ontario's agriculture and food sector including grain elevators; custom scouting and pruning services; custom applicators; seed treatment facilities; and transport providers. Examples of eligible projects include adopting technology to reduce the spread of plant pests, incorporating innovative tools and equipment for pest monitoring, and training on mitigating biosecurity risks in certain farm and food production environments.

Under the Biosecurity Enhancement Initiative, the maximum amount of funding available and the proportion of cost-shared funding on projects varies by the category of activity supported.

The initiative will be delivered by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. More details about the initiative and its application process will soon be available online or can be obtained by calling: 1-877-424-1300.

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In our government's Grow Ontario Strategy, we made it a goal to strengthen and grow the resiliency and strength of our agriculture and food sector. This initiative will help us do exactly that by encouraging the adoption of new technology and best practices in the industry.

I encourage you to reach out to see if your business is eligible for this funding. Applications will be accepted as of September 19, 2023 on an ongoing basis, subject to funding availability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa M. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa M. Thompson
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Did you know about the Farmers' Wellness Initiative?

- Your mental health is important! If you're a farmer or a member of a farm family and in need of mental health support, please call 1-866-267-6255 and arrange to speak with a professional today.
- For additional resources visit: <https://farmerwellnessinitiative.ca/>.

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