



Welcome TO RURAL ONTARIO



Understand agriculture in your area

Agriculture is one of the province's leading sectors, with nearly 50,000 farm family businesses across the province.

Experience local flavours

Discover one of the many farms, farmers' markets, retailers and restaurants serving up local food, fibre and flowers right in your backyard.



16% of farms sell products direct to consumer

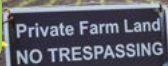


Over **1,100** farms sell at farmers' markets



Over **5,200** farms sell directly from their farm, at stands, or pick-your-own

Travelling rural routes



Be a good neighbour

Share the road with farm equipment

Farm machinery must use the roads to travel between fields and farms. This equipment is often large and travels slower than other vehicles. Be alert for flashing lights and the distinctive triangular Slow-Moving Vehicle (SMV) sign which is only meant for farm vehicles travelling a maximum of 40 kmph.



Be patient

Share the road. Farmers have a limited time to plant and harvest crops that feed our communities. Passenger vehicles incorrectly passing farm equipment results in serious accidents.

Respect private property

The countryside may appear to be "wide open spaces," but, farmland is private property. Before approaching any property you must have permission from the landowner whether or not there are signs posted.

Get to know where your water goes

Learn where and how the water leaves your property. On many rural properties water flows into private drains. This means if your drain is blocked or modified, it can impact the drainage of your neighbours' property too.

Respect farm operations

- ✓ **Maintain Biosecurity** - The high standard of Ontario's food system requires biosecurity on the farm to prevent disease and infection in plant and animal populations. Respect signs warning of such situations and do not enter.
- ✓ **Livestock Safety** - Fencing for livestock protects the farm animals and the neighbourhood. Stay outside of the fenced area.
- ✓ **Stay on Marked Trails** - Assume that fields have crops planted, like winter wheat. Hiking or driving vehicles and recreational vehicles, like snowmobiles and ATVs, on fields without permission ruins crops.
- ✓ **Keep Fields Clean** - Dumping household garbage, yard waste and creating fire pits on farmland damages crops, injures animals, pollutes water and disturbs the ecosystem.

Normal Farm Practices

- ✓ Normal farm practices are activities that happen on the farm as part of the production of food, fibre, and other agricultural and horticultural products. Some of these activities can create odour, noise, dust, flies, smoke, light and vibration disturbances.
- ✓ Farmers with animals spread manure at different times of the year.
- ✓ Farmers care for animals in all weather conditions. Animals in fields can be muddy in wet weather, and often sleep laying down, day or night.
- ✓ Sprays may be required to protect crops from noxious weeds, insects and fungus. The Weed Control Act requires that weeds are kept under control on *all properties* in Ontario.
- ✓ Dispose of garbage properly to avoid attracting wildlife to farm operations and residences.

Questions?

Visit these online resources to learn more about farming:

Real Dirt on Farming
realdirtorfarming.ca

Farm Food 360
farmfood360.ca

Faces Behind Food
farmfoodcareon.org/faces-behind-food

OFA resources

Homegrown website:
homegrownofa.ca

Agriculture Matters guide
ofa.on.ca/growag

Road Safety resources
ofa.on.ca/resources/smv-roadsafety



Tax on farm properties

If you have farmland on your property, you may be eligible for the Farm Tax Program.

Visit Agricorp's website (www.agricorp.com/en-ca/programs/farmtaxprogram/Pages/Overview.aspx) to learn more.

