

## Starting and growing your farm

Resources for young, new and beginning farmers

When starting a farm, you'll want to evaluate the resources you have, those you'll need, develop a business plan, and have an understanding of crop and/or livestock production.

### Exploring market opportunities

Consider what types of farm products you would like to produce, and how you will market your products. Ontario is home to many commodity and agricultural organizations that provide support and information, as well as several new entrant programs, such as:

- New Entrant Quota Assistance program (Dairy Farmers of Ontario)
- New Farmers Program (Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario)
- New Entrant Chicken Farmer Program (Chicken Farmers of Canada)

### Topics found on our website

- Accessing farmland
- Navigating taxes
- Mental wellness
- Managing your farm business
- Navigating taxes
- Planning for the future

Make sure you visit OFA's webpage, or scan the QR code below, to find resources on these and other topics: [ofa.on.ca/starting-and-growing-your-farm](https://ofa.on.ca/starting-and-growing-your-farm)



### Finding funding programs

There are a wide variety of funding programs available to Ontario farmers to support your farm business, such as:

- Agricultural Credit Corporation
- Scotiabank
- FCC Young Farmer Loan program



## Connecting, networking, learning and growing

Connecting with others and networking at events is a great way to advance your learning, gain support from peers, and grow as a farmer.



Some organizations that have young farmer networking/education programs include:

- Beef Farmers of Ontario
- Grape Growers of Ontario
- Chicken Farmers of Ontario



If you're looking to connect with other young people in agriculture, learn, and grow your skillset, consider joining a 4-H Ontario Program or Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario!

## We are here to help!

### Get in touch

OFA has a support team across the province. Please reach out by scanning the QR code below or by calling us directly at 1-800-668-3276.



### Share your thoughts

Please fill out our 4-question survey by scanning the QR code below to help us best support you in the future.



### Excerpts from recent OFA Viewpoints on young people in agriculture:

*"Agriculture's next generation is bringing fresh ideas and raising different perspectives on everything from sustainability and climate change to public trust, mental health and wellness and more."*

Drew Spoelstra, President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

**Younger farmers changing the face of agriculture, February 2024**

*"Canada is in the midst of a generational shift... Things are no different in Canada's farming sector, where both farm businesses and farm organizations are seeing younger people step forward into positions of ownership, leadership and management."*

Sara Wood, Vice President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

**Introducing the next generation of farm leaders to advocacy, April 2024**

*"As our industry evolves, barns get bigger and automation and technology become more widely used, the need for skilled tradespeople with an understanding of the unique needs of the agriculture industry will only continue to grow."*

Tracey Arts, Director, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

**Funding supports young people choosing careers in farming, food production, June 2023**

Stay Connected! Sign up for OFA's emailing list or follow us on social media.

Resource and program availability change regularly. Please visit OFA's webpage often to find the latest information.