



Township of Southgate
Conference, Workshop/Seminar & Training Policy #2
Council and Staff Education Evaluation Report
Council, Training, Seminars & Professional Development/Self Study

Participant's Name: Deputy Mayor Barbara Dobreen

Course/Workshop/Conference: Annual Politicians Meeting - 2023	Overall Evaluation:				
	Excellent	Good	X	Average	Poor
Association/Institution Provider: Bruce and Grey Federations of Agriculture	Name of Instructor: Speakers from organizations across Agri-Food Industry				

Dates Attended: (if online, indicate online) Saturday, March 25, 2023 - 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Keady Community Centre

Purpose of Attending:
 This annual Politicians' meeting is an opportunity for municipal, provincial and federal representatives to collectively learn about the issues, challenges and opportunities facing the Agri-Food industry so we can work together to break down barriers, or at least not create new ones.

Please summarize the contents and the main points of the course: (Attach additional pages if necessary)
 Representatives from the Federations of Agriculture, the Agri-Food Industry Sectors, planners and source water protection agency, as well as the elective officials attending, educated each other on many topics. Best practices, funding programs, Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS), road blocks facing the farm industry and rural communities as a whole, predation and guardian dogs, infrastructure, municipal services, education, border enforcement, lack of processors, housing and farm workers, the grocery code of conduct, and more were discussed. So much information compressed and captured in a 5 hour window will most certainly lead to better conversations and decisions in the future. The Agri-food sector is an economic driver of both jobs and GDP in Bruce and Grey alone. However, there continues to be a labour shortage, and excessive multi-layers of government oversight of seasonal farm workers adds to the delays and financial burden on farmers. Farming isn't just low skill/low wage jobs. There are opportunities for technical expertise and the trades as well. Farmers continue to be leaders in being good stewards of the land ... it is their livelihood after all and chemicals cost \$\$\$. They take every step to protect it by seeking innovative technological solutions to reduce greenhouse gases and employ the 4R principal to soil management: Right Product, Right Rate, Right Place, Right Time.

Will you use this information in your role? If yes, explain how:
 Absolutely. With the plans of subdivisions being presented in Southgate, we need to consider growing up and in rather than single family dwelling sprawl. The presentation by Waterloo Planner Kevin Eby on Housing and Bill 23 was very interesting and has been shared for reference. There are 2 million units of housing capacity available. Using a 'Funnel' analogy, he showed it is not necessary to add more houses to the pipeline. Rather, by 'opening/widening the bottom of the funnel', would result in more housing flowing through. Protecting farm land from further red tape, oversight and now urban sprawl is still a major concern. With the restrictions being placed on the use of weed control, unkept ditches and weeds are affecting the farms that border them. The financial implications of Bill 23 on rural municipalities is still unknown but most certainly will be felt and may in fact backfire in the goal to build more homes faster. As of Right housing (ARUs) could create issues of conflict with neighbours and most certainly water and waste water capacity. Being able to speak with MPP's Thompson and Byers about local issues was timely and hopefully will be beneficial to us as a region.

Do you recommend that other Council Members/Staff attend this course? If so, who and why?:
 Highly recommended. It was pointed out that the migration from the GTA is losing the agricultural voice at the municipal table. It is essential that policy makers understand the contributions the Agri-Food industry makes to our economy, locally and Canada-wide. The workshop brief provided by the Federation and the presentation by Kevin Eby was very informative. The Real Dirt on Farming is also an excellent magazine and additional copies were secured for circulation throughout Southgate.

Should similar course material be presented in house? If yes, by whom?
 The OFA and GCFA have been touring and delegating to councils in the region. Southgate has worked closely with the AG community on issues in the past and I have confidence will continue to do so.

Signature: [Redacted Signature] **Date:** 04-Apr-23

POLITICIANS' MEETING

March 25, 2023

10:00am – 3:00pm

Organized and Sponsored by:
Bruce County and Grey County
Federations of Agriculture

The Bruce County and Grey County Federations of Agriculture feel it is important to take time to provide our elected Municipal, Provincial and Federal government representatives with constructive input from grassroots organizations. We would like to enhance communication between the agricultural industry and all levels of government so we might create a better understanding of issues creating barriers to successful rural communities and profitable farming families.

- ✓ Nearly 50 thousand farms across Ontario with 11.7 million acres of farmland
- ✓ Over 750,000 Ontarians work in the agri-food industry (10% of the labour force)
- ✓ Ontario's agri-food industry including agriculture, food processing, wholesale, retail and food services contributes over \$47 billion annually to the provincial GDP
- ✓ Ontario farms generated \$20 billion in agri-food products annually.



Agriculture at a Glance

AS OF 2021



1,946
farms



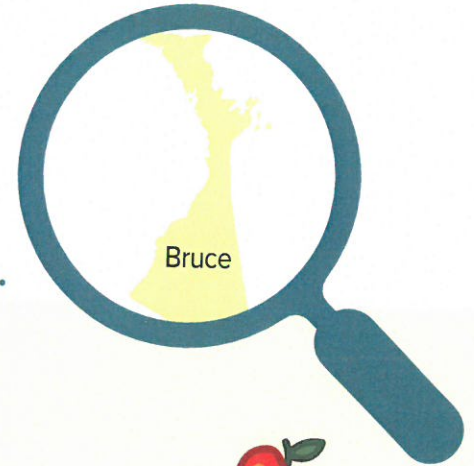
510,477
acres of farmland



262 acres
is the average sized farm

Local Snapshot

Bruce County
CENSUS DIVISION



Bruce

Local Farm Sales

13%
sell farm
products directly
to the
consumer:



4
farms operate a CSA
(Community Supported Agriculture)



29 farms sell
at farmers' markets



146 farms sell directly from their
farm, at stands, or pick-your-own

Economic Contributions in 2021

Local Impact



The local agri-food sector
employed **5,180** people
through **1,874** local agri-food
business establishments

Farm Cash Receipts



\$720 million
in Farm Cash
Receipts



- Cattle
- Grains & Oilseeds
- Dairy

Across the Province

Farm cash receipts
generated by local farms
supported **\$1.6 billion**
in GDP and **23,659**
employees in the agri-food
sector from farm to fork
across Ontario

Farm Facts



19.9%
generate renewable
energy, including
solar, bioenergy and
wind power



30.1%
of farm
operators
are female



53.9%
are small farms
(less than \$100,000
in revenue)



Source: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (2021) County Profiles.

Agriculture at a Glance

AS OF 2021

Local Snapshot

Grey County
CENSUS DIVISION



2,178
farms



448,197
acres of farmland



206 acres
is the average sized farm



Grey

Local Farm Sales

20%
sell farm
products directly
to the
consumer:



14
farms operate a CSA
(Community Supported Agriculture)



46 farms sell
at farmers' markets



259 farms sell directly from their
farm, at stands, or pick-your-own

Economic Contributions in 2021

Local Impact



The local agri-food sector
employed **8,210** people
through **2,243** local agri-food
business establishments

Farm Cash Receipts



\$558 million
in Farm Cash
Receipts



- Cattle
- Grains & Oilseeds
- Dairy

Across the Province

Farm cash receipts
generated by local farms
supported **\$1.2 billion**
in GDP and **18,334**
employees in the agri-food
sector from farm to fork
across Ontario

Farm Facts



17.2%
generate renewable
energy, including
solar, bioenergy and
wind power



32.0%
of farm
operators
are female



69.0%
are small farms
(less than \$100,000
in revenue)



Source: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (2021) County Profiles.

Meeting Agenda

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Speakers</u>
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome & Introductions	Dianne Booker, President GCFA
10:15 – 10:20	BCFA 2023 Update	John Gillespie, Vice President Bruce County Federation of Ag
10:20 – 10:25	GCFA 2023 Update	Dianne Booker, President Grey County Federation of Ag
10:25 – 10:30	OFA Update	Drew Spoelstra OFA Vice President Paul Vickers OFA Zone 2 Rep.
10:30 – 12:00	Bill 23	Kevin Eby
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch/Networking	
1:00 – 1:10	Dairy Farmers of Grey Bruce	Mark Hamel
1:10-1:20	Bruce Grey Soil and Crop	
1:20– 1:30	Zone 2 Sheep Producers	Jay Lennox
1:30-1:40	Bruce Grey Beef Producers	Rob Lipsett Richard Suchow
1:40 - 1:50	Georgian Bay Fruit Growers	Brian Gilroy
1:50 - 2:00	ALUS	Keith Reid
2:00 – 2:45	Open Forum/Questions to Commodity Representatives	
2:45 – 3:00	Wrap Up	





The following brief outlines the issues, opportunities and priorities which the Ontario dairy sector is currently facing.

Infrastructure Investment

Ontario is under-serviced when it comes to dairy processing capacity, and we ask that the province incentivize and attract companies to build and expand it here. We are seeking a partnership between the dairy sector and the government to bring jobs, economic growth and increased processing capacity for our sector through investments in a new processing facility in Ontario.

In addition to this, we are seeking a partnership with government for an infrastructure renewal fund that would be used to upgrade and modernize the outdated existing dairy processing facilities. This fund would help bring sustainable practices and innovations to our sector, which will help improve our competitiveness and attract more private investment along with research.

New investments are needed to help the dairy sector's aging infrastructure to drive future market growth for the sector and secure our local supply chains. Together with its partners, DFO can play an integral role in bringing these opportunities to life, but we need the engagement and financial commitment from government to do it.

Modernizing Education Programs and Training Facilities

Education and training programming in Ontario is not meeting the needs of the future dairy sector workforce. DFO is looking to partner with the government to invest in modernizing training facilities, incentivizing producer participation in knowledge transfer opportunities and encourage the recruitment of jobseekers and international students. Future economic growth relies on the future of our people, and we are looking for a partner to ensure the long-term sustainability of our sector by investing in educational resources to meet these objectives.

DFO is appreciative of the Grow Ontario announcement made on Nov. 28, 2022 and feels that the programs included in this announcement will help to increase and maintain a workforce in the dairy sector.

Lessening Red Tape and Regulations

DFO would like to work with government to reduce red tape, improve competitiveness and strengthen supply chains. This would help with export access and market growth. DFO is thankful for Ontario's Fall 2022 Red Tape Reduction Package and would like to continue working with government to ensure outdated regulations do not hold back the Ontario dairy industry.

Federal Level – Trade Agreements and Protecting Canadian Dairy/No More Market Access Concessions

Due to the combined access granted under CETA, CPTPP, CUSMA and the World Trade Organization, there will be outsourcing of 18 per cent of our domestic dairy products to foreign producers, who will supply milk for imported dairy products that will replace those made with Canadian milk on store shelves, by 2024. All political parties sitting in the House of Commons have committed that no further concessions will be granted to the Canadian domestic dairy market in any new trade agreements; this must be the norm going forward. More market access is a threat to the Canadian dairy sector. The government must

not grant the U.K. any additional access and must ensure trading partners are not granted access to our domestic market through multiple trade agreements.

DFO asks that government works with the dairy industry to ensure any additional access to the domestic dairy market is not granted. This would include negotiating a permanent free trade agreement with the U.K. or in any other trade agreement.

Federal Level – Border Enforcement

The expected increase in imports entering Canada as a result of recent trade agreements means that it will be more important than ever to ensure that the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) and Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) have the tools they need to adequately monitor and enforce Canada's dairy regulations and standards at the border. This means ensuring they have the resources to conduct inspections to validate these products at the border, and audits of foreign farms and processing plants to ensure all imported products are produced according to Canadian production standards.

DFO asks that government works with the dairy industry to support measures to ensure the CFIA and CBSA have the resources and training needed to enforce trade agreements, dairy regulations and production standards at the border.

Politicians Brief 2023

As the local chapter of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Bruce County Soil and Crop members facilitate responsible management of crops, soil, water, and air. We actively seek, test and adopt optimal farm production and stewardship practices. We are individuals involved in farming and ag industry. We are dedicated to preserving and improving the environment. As stewards of the land, we recognize that the soil, water, and air do not belong to us, and have been entrusted to us to provide the world with food and other ag products for today, and for generations to come.

Unlike many other industries, agriculture is unique in that the environmental impact of our practices directly affects both the short and long-term viability of our businesses. If we use practices that cause soil, water and nutrient degradation, our crop yields will quickly decline.

BSCIA members have been working to improve our use of Nitrogen and Phosphorus in our cropping systems. We are performing trials and providing data that will allow Bruce County farmers to use these solutions to prevent important environmental concerns like algal blooms and nitrogen emissions. With this information, farmers can make informed decisions to make their farms as sustainable as possible. Farmers in Bruce County, and in all of Ontario, have invested labour and capital to be responsible and sustainable partners in their local community.

BSCIA has some issues we feel are important for you to consider in helping our farm members to continue to operate in a safe and efficient manner. One large issue we are being challenged with is the 30% reduction of Nitrogen emissions. The fact is that nitrogen emissions cost us money. It is in our best interest to use Nitrogen as effectively as possible. This is why Bruce county farmers have adopted practices to mitigate these emissions. We use nitrogen inhibitors to stop volatilization and denitrification, or in other words, losses of nitrogen fertilizer to the air. These inhibitors keep the nitrogen in a plant useable form during the growing season. Mitigation comes in other forms such as the 4R's of fertilizer use. The 4R's include the right rate, the right time, the right source, and the right placement. One example of this is making multiple trips over the field to split total crop nitrogen needs, by applying the product when the plant needs it.

Bruce county farmers have an invested interest in reducing nitrogen emissions on their farms as it has a direct cost, affecting our profitability. What we need to be sure of, is that we aren't mandated to reduce our **actual use** of nitrogen. In today's world we cannot afford to be producing mediocre crops on highly productive land. A cut in the amount of nitrogen we can use, will take away our ability to compete in world markets.

With BCSCIA being focused on local member research and outreach, we are also asking for continued funding for local and provincial ag research. As a small volunteer run organization with limited funds, we request continued funding for our own trials, and for farmers to do their own research. Without this funding it can be difficult to stay on the leading edge. Funding like GLASI, Growing Forward, the Canadian Agricultural Partnership and OFCAF have been greatly beneficial. We look forward to more of these opportunities in the future.

In closing, agriculture is the backbone of Bruce county's economic engine, and we appreciate the past, present and future support of our elected representatives. We hope to continue to keep our farms and rural communities regenerative, sustainable, and successful. Thank you.



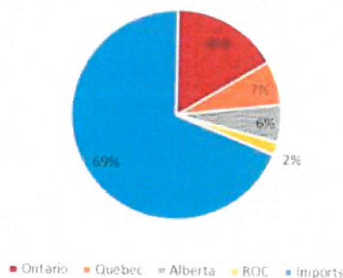
Why Sheep are Important to Ontario:

- Ontario's 3,000 sheep farmers contribute \$100 million to the Ontario economy, contribute \$207 million to Ontario's GDP and sustain more than 3,500 jobs.
- Money invested in the Ontario Sheep sector provides a 5.55:1 return in net economic activity.

Ontario's Sheep by the numbers:

- Ontario processes 285,000 sheep & lambs annually - 52% of the sheep & lambs processed in Canada (547,000)
- Ontario is Canada's largest market for lamb - the third largest lamb market for processing in North America, behind Colorado and California

Canadian Lamb Supply



Lambs 95-109 lbs.



Ontario Sheep Farmers' Priorities for 2023

- **Ontario sheep Farm Cash Receipts dropped 10% in 2022.** OSF is asking the province of Ontario to increase the cap on the **Ontario Risk Management Program (RMP)** by \$100 million annually.
- The Ontario government to commit to increase investment in programs that support **Meat Processing Capacity** and infrastructure, and the training, recruitment, and retention of meat cutters and industrial butchers.

For more than 30 years, Ontario Sheep Farmers has been an advocate and unified voice for Ontario's 3,000 sheep farmers, representing the sheep, lamb and wool industries.





**The information in this brief is publicly accessible on the BFO website and presented with permission from Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO).*

Brief submitted by Rob Lipsett

Business Risk Management (BRM)

The current suite of BRM programs plays a critical role in managing market and weather-related risks beyond farmer's control. However, while farmers are taking on much of the risk of growing food for Canadians, the current suite of BRM programs remain in need of critical updates. While BFO supports enhancements to AgriStability, increased focus should be placed on the development of new sector specific revenue and/or margin-based insurance programs. For low margin businesses like the beef sector, and the frequent and volatile shifts in global commodity markets becoming more normalized, it is more important than ever to modernize BRM programming on a sector-specific level to help farmers manage the risks of today and tomorrow. Similar efforts must be undertaken to improve forage insurance. Existing products aimed at hay, and native and tame pasture are insufficient. The Canadian Cattle Association (CCA) is initiating an Industry- Government Forage Insurance Task Team to foster a more focused, collaborative effort to improve the available products. We will be counting on FPT ministers to ensure the results are reflected in improved insurance coverage and competitive premium structures.

BRM Priorities:

1. Continue to place high priority on the development of new revenue and/or margin-based insurance programs.
2. Support the transition from rainfall-based forage insurance to yield-based forage insurance.
3. Increase the interest-free portion and cash advance limit under the Advance Payments Program.
4. Increase the AgriStability trigger to 85 per cent.
5. Increase/remove the AgriStability operational cap.
6. Increase Agri Invest funding back to pre-Growing Forward 2 levels.

In addition, BFO strongly encourages policymakers to assess and implement the recommendations stemming from the 2020 study released by the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food entitled Facing the Unexpected: Enhancing Business Risk Management Programs for Agriculture and Agri-food Businesses. Incorporating Environmental Components into BRM Programming.

The possibility of incorporating environmental targets and/or other cross-compliance requirements into the BRM suite of programs would represent a fundamental shift in BRM programming and as such should be approached with caution. Tying environmental targets/requirements to BRM programs would almost certainly increase the complexity and

administrative burden on both producers and administrators for programs that are already quite complex in nature.

With that said, BFO would support incentive-based options to reward willing producers. For example, BFO is supportive of the concept of tying premium rate reductions or credits to BMP uptake so long as the loss in premium revenue does not translate into increased premiums for those who do not participate, or impact coverage.

While we are aligned in ensuring our sector is as sustainable as possible, incentives prove more useful than barriers.

Environmental Programming

BFO supports the concept of increasing the government cost-share, raising funding amounts, and other incentives for producers who meet certain environmental requirements when accessing environmental funds and other on-farm programs funded through CAP, OSCIA, etc.

Beef Farmers of Ontario

1. supports the incentivization and adoption of emission reducing technologies;
2. believes that access to incentives should not be based on operation size, and the incentive list should attempt to provide balance amongst sectors and developed in coordination with sector representatives, government, and general farm organizations;
3. believes that early adopters should have access to rebates and other incentives;
4. is supportive of proposals that limit the administrative burden for farms and government, protect farmer data, use aggregate sampling, and factor in regional differences when it comes to weather patterns, soil type, etc.;
5. supports the focus on BMPs as a standard for emissions reductions credits provided the list of up to date BMPs is developed in coordination with commodity sectors, government, and general farm organizations, and does not prioritize or favour, directly or indirectly, certain sectors over others by virtue of what BMPs are included.

Existing programs with environmental modules or components should also be leveraged and supported, including the Environmental Farm Plan and sector specific on-farm quality assurance programs, such as:

1. Verified Beef Production Plus (VBP+) and the Ontario Corn Fed Beef Quality Assurance Program (OCFBQA) in the beef sector.

Government must also continue to place high investment priority on research, commercialization, and on-farm adaption of products and practices that will reduce agriculture's environmental footprint and enhance productivity. Furthermore, the environmental focus needs to extend beyond GHG emissions. Manure management, drought preparation and water management, soil health, etc., all need to be included under the "environmental" umbrella.

Finally, FPT governments must take a more proactive and visible role in recognizing and promoting the value that grasslands and ruminant livestock play in the management of healthy ecosystems and environments. This means doing more to protect marginal lands, promoting forages in crop rotations, incentivizing the grazing of corn stalks and cover crops, and supporting the development of community pastures and other public grazing lands.

Georgian Bay Fruit Growers Brief for March 25th

Annual Politicians Meeting

The Georgian Bay Fruit Growers Inc. (GBFG) is the organization that represents the apple growers in Grey, Bruce and Simcoe Counties. This region grows about 25% of the province's apples, making it a significant economic driver. Ontario produces about 45% of Canada's apples. Apple growing has gone through significant changes in the last two decades with a transition to high density tree plantings and new higher valued varieties.

One of the top priorities in Ontario is to increase the supply of housing and we are supportive of smart growth, balancing the need for local food production and housing. Fruit and vegetable production requires specific soil types, microclimates and other unique features. It is important that specialty and prime agricultural land is protected.

Farmers currently make up about 1% of the population of Ontario and at times have been vilified in the press when it comes to being environmentally and socially responsible. One of the things that is most troubling is that the public and government all too often believe misleading or activist biased stories that only possess a sliver of reality. Climate change has become one of the biggest challenges facing society today. Farmers are NOT the bad actors! As a matter of fact, we are part of the solution.

One acre of apple trees removes about 15 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually which is the equivalent of approximately 59,000 kms driven by the average passenger vehicle! That same acre of trees also generates about 6 tonnes of oxygen and provides about 250,000 Btus. of cooling.

Although there are many issues negatively impacting apple growers, I will focus on the big two, access to labour and crop protection materials.

Labour

Today I want to highlight the importance of the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program. We are very fortunate to have skilled seasonal workers come to our farm every year, with some people coming here for 35 years.

- Ontario fruit and vegetable farms are more affected by labour shortages than any other farming sector.
- A recent study (by the Canadian Agricultural Human Resources Council) has found that:

- The demand for farm workers is rising faster in Ontario than in any other province.
- While the demand for farm workers rises, the supply of domestic workers is projected to shrink, with 6,600 fewer Canadian residents available to work in Ontario's agriculture sector by 2029.
- Growers depend on programs like the **Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program** to ensure a sufficient workforce to support a strong food supply chain.
- In 2021, the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association, launched the More than a Migrant Worker campaign to recognize the important role of international guest workers in helping produce food in Ontario. There is a great web site and social media campaign – please check it out. www.morethanamigrantworker.ca/
- Labour is a much bigger share of operating costs for fruit and vegetable farming than for any other part of agriculture; it makes up more than 5 times the share of costs than in grain & oilseed farming.
- Therefore, new labour policies and regulations impact fruit and vegetable farming disproportionately, for example: minimum wage, public health rules, housing standards, etc.
- There was a point in the distant past where you could perhaps say “More oversight and regulation is needed” but we've gotten to the point where three or four agencies are regulating and inspecting a farm just for labour, and that's not even including the liaison officials from the workers' consulates who check up on their well-being throughout the year.
- Ontario SAWP employers as a group consistently have a compliance rate of 99% or higher.
- We need to find a healthier balance and get to a point where farms with a good track record don't keep finding themselves in highly stressful and seemingly never-ending inspections and burdened with new rules designed for the very few bad actors who are falling short of the existing rules.

Crop Protection

- Safe and responsible crop protection practices are a vital component of ensuring locally grown, safe and nutritious produce for Ontarians.

- Availability of crop protection products, including developing new solutions remains essential along with ensuring a science-based approach to crop protection regulation is vital.
- Ongoing grower education and safety certification ensures that crop protection products are used responsibly.
- The sector strongly believes that any crop protection products harmful to the environment and to the public should not be registered, be used in Canada, or on products imported into Canada.
- Although it is a federal responsibility, we seek provincial support to ensure that growers continue to have access to safe crop protection materials to maintain our domestic food supply.
- The lack of new funding for the Minor Use Pesticides Program of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Pest Management Centre (PMC) remains a major concern for crop protection in the edible horticulture sector. Many new crop protection registrations would not happen for fruit and vegetables without the work of the PMC.
- Canadian farmers face inconsistent requirements for things like re-entry periods into fields to growers south of the border. For example, fields cannot be entered up to 10 times longer than in the U.S., creating significant competitive disadvantages.
- Work continues to demonstrate the benefits of workers wearing gloves to protect against exposure to crop protection products while working in fields/orchards; however, these studies are extremely costly and time consuming.



Who We Are

ALUS, originally an acronym for Alternative Land Use Services, is a charitable organization with an innovative community-developed and farmer-delivered program that produces, enhances and maintains ecosystem services on agricultural lands. Projects such as wetland restoration and enhancement, riparian buffers, shelterbelts, afforestation and native prairie grass restoration provide cleaner water and air, habitat, carbon sequestration and climate resiliency.

Our Guiding Principles



Community-developed

The ALUS program is flexible. It is designed to be customized by local communities to respect local agricultural and environmental priorities, and help create rural resilience.



Farmer-delivered

Agricultural producers are in a unique position to provide important solutions to some of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time, including climate change and biodiversity loss.



Science-based

Based on sound scientific principles and verification guidelines, ALUS provides valuable support and technical expertise for the design and implementation of natural infrastructure projects and nature-based solutions.



Market-driven

The ecological services produced by ALUS projects have economic value on the marketplace, which ALUS is actively developing. Citizens, corporations and philanthropists invest directly in environmental stewardship.



Integrated

The delivery of the ALUS program is intended to complement existing conservation programs, including federal and provincial government policy frameworks.



Targeted

The ALUS program produces ecosystem services on marginal and ecologically sensitive parcels and on lands that can be managed in a different manner.



Accountable

ALUS projects are independently monitored, verified and audited by trusted farm organizations or reliable institutions. Data collection respects the highest standards in data integrity and confidentiality.



Voluntary

Farmers and ranchers who choose to participate in the ALUS program have flexible agreements that suit their operation and offer them financial compensation for their ecosystem management.

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

ACT FOR CLEAN WATER



SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN AMENDMENTS APPROVED

The Source Protection Plan sets out policies that use a variety of approaches to protect municipal drinking water sources, including education and outreach, the development of risk management plans, prohibition, land use planning, and monitoring. These policies will help keep contaminants out of our aquifers, rivers and lakes that are sources of drinking water. The policies in the Approved Plan came into effect on July 1, 2016.

Section 36 Source Protection Plan amendments submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) were approved for the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, and Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Regions.

The focus of the Source Protection Plan amendments addressed the following areas:

1. New/amended Wellhead Protection Areas (Blairs Grove, Durham, and Dundalk),
2. New East Linton Intake Protection Zone 3/Events-based Area for large fuel storage threats,
3. Policy changes for salt application and storage threats,
4. Policy changes for fuel storage and handling threats, and
5. Policy direction for Risk Management Officials regarding Sec.59 land use screenings.

The Source Protection Committee continues with Source Protection Plan implementation efforts and amendments where needed (e.g. new/amended drinking water systems, updated Ministry Technical Rules, areas of concern).

The source protection planning process is directed and funded by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks in conjunction with municipalities.

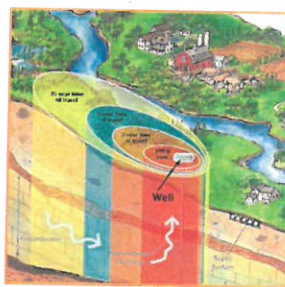
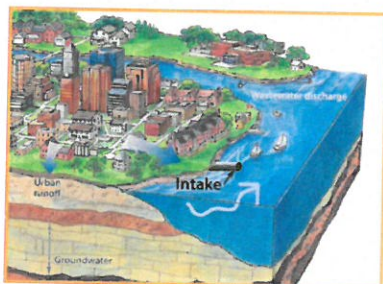
For more information and to view maps of vulnerable areas where policies apply, please visit our website: home.waterprotection.ca.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- 12 Member Source Protection Committee + Chair
- Representatives from Municipal, Agricultural, Commercial/Industrial, Public, Environment and Health sectors

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE GUIDING PRINCIPLES, WE VALUE:

- Comprehensive, science-based research
- Recognizing and engaging all members of the community as valued stakeholders
- Informed decision-making through communication, education and responsiveness to community enquiries
- Being open and transparent
- Sustainable and long-term decision making



Salt Responsibly this Winter

Conservation Ontario and local source protection authorities have launched a Salt Responsibly Campaign to help raise awareness about road salt issues and promote better road salt management while keeping people safe when traveling.

Tips to Salt Responsibly:

- Spread salt sparingly and evenly.
- Shovel or plow before applying salt.
- Clean up salt spills.
- Keep the lid on your salt container closed to protect it from rain/snow.



<https://conservationontario.ca/conservation-authorities/source-water-protection>

Best Practices

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has released the best practices for source water protection to help ensure communities and landowners in areas not covered by provincially-approved source protection plans have the tools they need to protect their drinking water sources - <https://www.ontario.ca/document/best-practices-source-water-protection>. Over the next two years, drinking water source protection staff will be setting up meetings with municipalities across this Region to better understand the guidance material and help with its implementation for interested municipalities.

Annual Reporting Highlights from 2022, since 2016

Risk Management Plans new/renewed in 2022: 37
Risk Management Plans since plan approved in 2016: 160
Land Use Planning Screenings in 2022: 59
Land Use Planning Screenings since 2016: 487



Quick Facts:

This Region is home to more than 160,000 people and covers approximately 8400 square kilometres. The Source Protection Region contains 38 municipal residential drinking water systems including 29 groundwater sources (aquifers), 8 surface water sources, and 1 combined system.

Contact local office

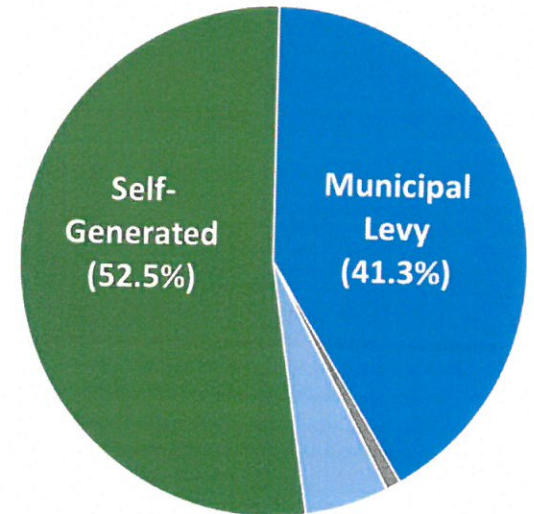
To find out more, please visit your local source protection region website at: home.waterprotection.ca or email Program Manager Carl Seider at c.seider@waterprotection.ca



Grey Sauble CONSERVATION



- Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) employs a team of experts who are passionate about protecting, managing, and conserving our natural resources and habitats and sharing their appreciation and understanding of the environment with others.
- By working together with our community, we're able to help to protect people and property from natural hazards like flooding and erosion and address specific environmental challenges we face locally.
- Our 29,000 acres of natural areas offer incredible opportunities to explore and learn more about our natural world and deliver many economic, social and environmental benefits to the watershed communities and ecosystems we serve.
- GSCA is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors made up of elected officials from our eight member municipalities (Arran-Elderslie, The Blue Mountains, Chatsworth, Georgian Bluffs, Grey Highlands, Meaford, Owen Sound, and South Bruce Peninsula).
- The GSCA watershed is over 3,100 square kilometres in size, contains 5 primary river systems and over 155 kilometres of Great Lakes shoreline.
- \$3.9M Annual Budget
- Approximately 28 Full-time Staff, plus several seasonal staff.
- Connect with us to learn more about our programs and the amazing agricultural stewardship incentives that we offer.



■ Municipal Levy (41.3%) ■ Provincial Transfer (0.9%)
 ■ MECP (DWSP) (5.3%) ■ Self-Generated (52.5%)



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Visit our website at: www.greysauble.on.ca



Grey County Federation
Of Agriculture

Bruce County Federation of
Agriculture
"In Unity there's Strength"

446 – 10TH Street Hanover, ON N4N 1P9
Phone: 519-364-3050 Fax: 519-364-4119 e-mail: bruce@ofa.on.ca or grey@ofa.on.ca

Save the Date

We would like to cordially invite you to our

16th Annual Politicians Meeting

Saturday March 23rd 2024
10am to 3pm

at the Elmwood Community Centre.

Lunch will be provided.