



# About Dufferin County Agriculture

# So...who are DFA and OFA?



Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is the largest general farm organization in Ontario, proudly representing 38,000 farm family members across the province.

- ***Our Mission: Farms and Food Forever.***

We are the leading agricultural advocate for Ontario farmers, their farm businesses and their communities

- Dufferin Federation of Agriculture (DFA) is the local County Federation of Agriculture representing over 585 Dufferin Farm Families

We are the leading agricultural advocate for Dufferin farmers, and advocate locally, and bring out grassroots input to OFA



# Agri-Food: An Economic Powerhouse



- In 2023, the farms in Dufferin County census division\* generated \$200 million in farm cash receipts with grains & oilseeds, cattle, and poultry & eggs representing the top 3 commodities.



- The 695 farms have 980 farm operators actively farming 157,389 acres in total farm area, with an average farm size of 226 acres.



*Source: OMAFRA 2021 County Profiles*

# Agri-Food: An Economic Powerhouse



- The local agri-food sector in the Dufferin County census division employed 3,545 people through 926 local agri-food business establishments.



- The farm cash receipts generated by Dufferin County farms supported over \$387 million in GDP and 6,278 employees in the agri-food sector from farm to fork across Ontario in 2023.



# Agriculture at a Glance

AS OF 2024

## Local Snapshot

Dufferin County  
CENSUS DIVISION



695  
farms



157,389  
acres of farmland



226 acres  
is the average sized farm



## Local Farm Sales



4  
farms operate a CSA  
(Community Supported Agriculture)



18 farms sell  
at farmers' markets



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

## Economic Contributions in 2023

### Local Impact



The local agri-food sector  
employed **3,350** people  
through **954** local agri-food  
business establishments

### Farm Cash Receipts



**\$200 million**  
in Farm Cash  
Receipts



- Grains & Oilseeds
- Cattle
- Poultry & Eggs

### Across the Province

Farm cash receipts  
generated by local farms  
supported **\$387 million**  
in GDP and **6,278**  
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



34.7%  
of farm  
operators  
are female



69.4%  
are small farms  
(less than \$100,000  
in revenue)



Source: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (2024) County Profiles.



**Dufferin County Farmers are stewards of 43% of the land in Dufferin**

**Farmland loss (2021 census) is progressing at an alarming rate of 319 acres every single day.**

**With a growing population, this is not sustainable**

# Sustainable Agriculture

## Dufferin Rural Water Quality Program (DRWQP)



Following a 1 time \$50,000 contribution in 2012, Dufferin has provided funding to the program since 2017 *Thank you!*

This is a cost share program, with landowners contributing most of the \$.

- well upgrade and decommission projects are eligible anywhere in the County. These projects are not restricted to farm properties
- An estimated 635 kg of Phosphorous is retained on the landscape annually from DRWQP projects
- The program targets projects that will protect and enhance our water quality.

## Eligible projects:

- Tree planting
- Well decommissioning and upgrades
- Livestock access restriction
- Cover crops
- Clean water diversion
- Erosion control/wetland creation
- Innovative projects

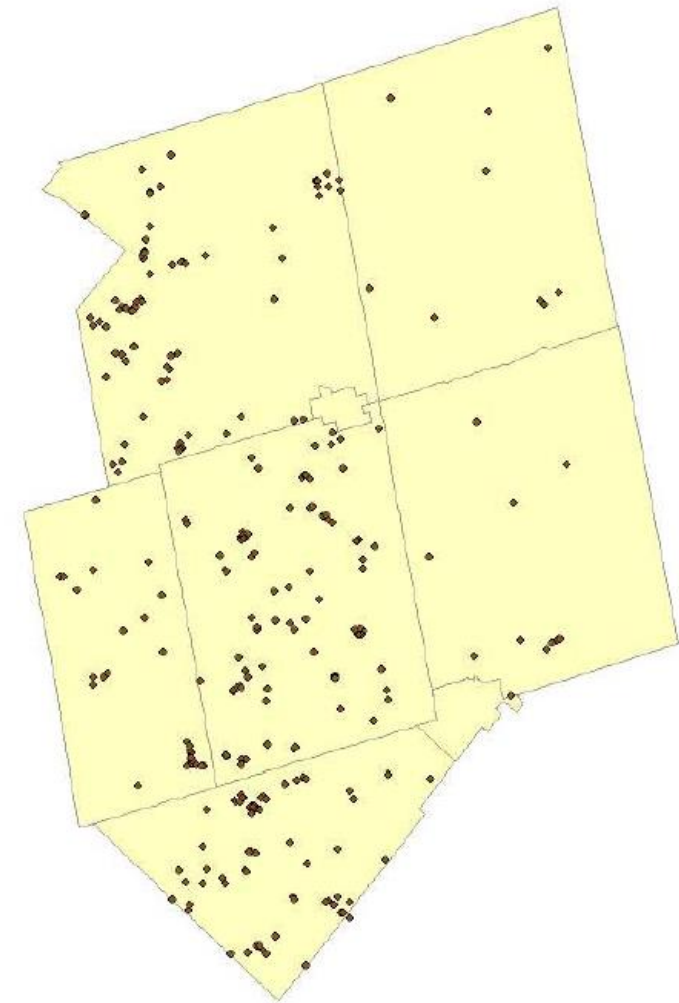


Figure 2: DRWQP project locations 2012 – 2024





environmental farm plan  
*sustainably farmed*



*More programs that protect  
our resources!*

## About Environmental Farm Plan

The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is an assessment voluntarily prepared by farm families to increase their environmental awareness in up to 23 different areas on their farm.

Through the EFP process, farmers highlight their farm's environmental strengths, identify areas of environmental concern, and set realistic action plans with time tables to improve environmental conditions.



**RESOURCE**



## **Guide to support agricultural growth in your municipality**

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) has identified municipal barriers and opportunities to support growth in Ontario's agriculture and agri-food businesses.

**Ag is big business**

**Now let's protect it!**

**[ofa.on.ca/GrowAg](https://ofa.on.ca/GrowAg)**

# Supporting the agri-food sector

## Checklist to Support Agricultural Growth in Your Municipality

This checklist is accompanied by a *Guide to Support Agricultural Growth in Your Municipality*. Please consult the *Guide* for further information on how to implement the actions in the Checklist, and why they are important for supporting the agricultural sector in your municipality.

### I. Land Use Planning

- ☐ Outlined a clear definition and policy for on-farm production, value-added agriculture, and agri-tourism in municipal policies

**A thought to ag when planning  
can make a big difference**

- ☐ Ensured the roads department incorporates design features for roads, bridges and traffic circles that allow for the safe passage of large farm equipment

### II. Property Assessment and Taxation

- ☐ Adjusted the farm tax ratio below 25% of the residential tax rate
- ☐ Passed a resolution supporting OFA policy on taxation for buildings used for value-added



# Thank you, contact us anytime!



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