Farms and Food Forever

Grey County Agriculture
Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)

- Representing more than 38,000 farm families
- Advocate for farmers through government relations, farm policy recommendations and lobby efforts
- Support 52 county and regional federations
- Member Service Representatives to provide front-line service to members
- Farm policy research staff to keep on top of regulatory and legislative matters
Grey Federation of Agriculture (GCFA)

- Celebrating 80 years
- Formed in 1940 to work on a local level to represent the voice of the farmer in Ontario
- 1,544 Grey County Members (2019)
- GCFA works to advance agriculture and the rural community through partnerships, education and advocacy
- Works with OFA to provide lobbying efforts and resources for local members
BOTH

- Regular County Meetings
- MP/MPP/Local Politician Meeting
- Information Meetings
  - Shed Talks
- Host All Candidates Mtgs
- Annual Ag Review Paper.
- Affiliated with: Farm and Food Care Ontario and AGSCAPE
  - Elementary Public Speaking contest
  - Ag Career Education
  - Social Events

- Represent Grey County Members
- Advocate on issues, Legislation and Regulations
- Lobby Provincial & Federal Governments
- Advocate for agriculture
- Farmers working for farmers.

- Represent Ontario Members
- Grassroots Policy Development
- Farm Business Registrations
- Access to 21 Experienced, knowledgeable Member Service Representatives
- Exclusive discounts and promotions through OFA membership
- Highly skilled farm policy research staff.
- Educational opportunities province wide and webinars
- Training opportunities
Share of Ontario’s Farm Cash Receipts
Comparison: 2011 vs 2016

Data source: OMAFRA Stats
1.4% of Ontario’s population are operating farms
Agri-food sector is the #1 driver of the Provincial economy
Generates 47.7 Billion to Ontario GDP
Creates 837,000 jobs
Ontario Farmers produce more than 200 farm and food products

**Economic Contributions of Grey Farm Production to the Provincial Economy in 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Jobs</th>
<th>GDP (Millions of Dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23,918</td>
<td>$1,149.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data source: OMAFRA Stats
Agriculture in Grey County

- **Total Number of Farms**: 2,304 farms
- **Total Farmland Area**: 495,483 acres
- **Largest Farming Industry**: Beef Cattle Farming 693 farms
- **Major Field Crop**: Hay 120,581 acres
- **Major Fruit Crop**: Apples 3,352 acres
- **Major Vegetable Crop**: Sweet Corn 49 acres

Data source: OMAFRA Stats
Estimated Farm Cash Receipts (FCR) by County and Crop ($ Million)- 2018

Data source: OMAFRA Stats
Grey County’s Top Commodities (blue) as a percentage of Provincial total - 2018

Steers and Slaughter
Heifers 12%

Honey 10%

Barley 15%

Calves 8%

Sheep and Lambs 10%

Fruit 7%

Maple Products 8%

Forest Products 10%

Data source: OMAFRA Stats
Grey County Federation Supports OFA’s Provincial Priorities

- Natural Gas
- Broadband
- Schools
- Transportation
GCFA’s 3 Key Priorities for 2020

- Membership Engagement
- Youth in Farming
- Healthy Farms and Environment
Youth/Member Engagement

✓ According to the 2016 Census of Agriculture, Grey County added young farmers at more than double the national rate with a 20% increase in farmers under 35. We saw a 61% increase in gross farm receipts between 2011 and 2016.

✓ Young Farmers are the key to agriculture’s future, we want to ensure they feel supported and welcome into the OFA farm community.

✓ We know that our strength and our capacity to influence policy is tied to our members and their willingness to participate.
Farmers in Grey County, represented by the Grey Federation of Agriculture (GCFA) support the philosophy that farmers play a lead role as stewards of a healthy land, air and water environment.

Farmers in Grey County have a strong history of embracing initiatives that promote a healthy environment, programs such as the Environmental Farm Plan, ALUS and farm practices that include cover cropping, no till and others that are gaining momentum.

GCFA is advocating for more communication between the Conservation Authorities and the farm community.
Grey County Federation Directors

- Paul Wettlauffer – West Grey
- Mike Ryan – West Grey
- Kevin Raszmann – West Grey
- Allen Hughes - Meaford
- Keith Reid – Meaford
- Dianne Booker – Meaford
- Jackie Pennings – Southgate
- Hugh Simpson – Grey Highlands
- Christine Robinson – County Of Grey
- Paul McQueen – Country Of Grey Alt
Our Professional Team is Ready to Help

Contact us:

OFA Zone 2 Director
Grey/Bruce:
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Grey County Federation Office
Hanover
Admin – Jackie Pennings
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Grey County President & OFA Director at Large
Hugh Simpson
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OFA Member Service
Representative Grey/Bruce
Joanne Hughes
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Farmland Property Tax Rate

With the increase of farm assessments, farmland property rates have shifted. How you can help.
Impacts on Property Tax in Grey County

✓ In Grey County Farmland CVA has increased by 71%

✓ Residential CVA has only increased by 5%
Impacts on Farm tax in Grey County

2.69%  2.47%  3.0%  4.7%
Impacts on Farm tax in Grey County

As the new assessments have phased in, the farm tax burden has increased as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% tax from farm</th>
<th>$ increase in Farm Tax Burden</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>$256,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>$511,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>$661,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>$900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2.33M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GCFA appreciates the county reducing the farm tax ratio to 0.24 in 2019.
The county was still able to reduce the residential tax rate from 0.359% in 2018 to 0.358% in 2019.
This proves GCFA’s position that lowering the farm tax ratio will not have a significant impact on other property classes.
Even with a reduced farm tax ratio, Grey farmers tax burden was a record high in 2019.
To avoid further shifts of property tax burden onto Grey county farmers, GCFA asks council to consider reducing the farm tax ratio again in 2020.

County governments have full authority to adjust the farm tax ratio anywhere between 0%-25% of the local residential tax rate each year.

2020 is the last year of the MPAC assessment cycle.

A new MPAC assessment cycle will begin in 2021.
Farm Tax Ratio Required in Grey County

- To maintain the 2019 farm tax burden 4.2% would require a ratio of **0.218**

- To Prevent the farm tax burden from setting a new record in Grey county, we ask council to consider supporting one of the following farm tax ratio in 2020.

  - Farm tax burden at historical 3% level would require a ratio of **0.153**.
Farm Property Tax Ratio
Municipalities That Have Lowered the Farm Tax Ratio

- Oxford 0.235
- Dufferin 0.22
- Elgin 0.23
- Prince Edward 0.2319
- Chatham-Kent 0.22
- Lambton 0.226
- Grey 0.24
- Norfolk 0.23
- Brant 0.24
- Lennox and Addington 0.23
- Region of Durham 0.20
- London 0.1752
- Kingston 0.2375
- Hamilton 0.1767
- Ottawa 0.20
- Caledon 0.1689
- North Bay 0.15
- Halton Region 0.20
Thank you for your interest in Grey County Agriculture

Any Questions?