



Grey Agricultural  
*Services*

## GREY COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICES CENTRE

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March 22, 2022

Corporation of the County of Grey  
Randy Scherzer, MCIP, RPP  
Director of Planning & Development  
595 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue East  
Owen Sound, ON N4K 3E3

Dear Randy:

I would like to thank you most sincerely on behalf of myself, the staff here at Grey County Agricultural Services Centre, and the farmers and rural organizations of Grey County, for the continued support that the County of Grey provides to our office. We truly appreciate this facility and the annual grant that is given to our organization. We continue to be appreciative to the County for covering the cost of our phones, and internet. The new laptops, access to software, the creation of our online cloud, and IT support, truly have been an asset to our productivity. We could not have managed through Covid and its shutdowns without the simplified and secure access to our work files stored on SharePoint.

The Ag Services Centre is a tremendous resource to the agricultural community of Grey County, and your annual grant allows us to maintain these services. Farmers often comment what an excellent service we provide, and how thankful they are to have us here. Our winter courses have remained online for a second year, with encouraging results. A couple of our later course offerings will be in-person. It will be wonderful to return to this preferred method of course delivery. However, online courses have allowed us to expand our audience, so we will be attempting to offer hybrid options moving forward. The attendees from other counties repeatedly comment that they wish that their county had a similar office. We have found that increasingly, we also field calls from other places in the province who have heard of us and felt we could be of help to them.

The Grey County Agricultural Services Centre provides a strong central focus for agriculture in Grey County and the province. As you are well aware, we co-ordinate and organize local events and workshops as well as assist with communication throughout the agriculture community by providing a network where farmers, farm organizations and agribusiness can work together. As agriculture is the largest industry in the economy of Grey County, this has proven to be a very successful approach and a much-needed service. The Grey County Agricultural Services Centre offers a way to provide support to all commodities in this industry, through an organized structure.

2021 continued to be a challenging year that saw us continuing to deliver virtual events. We continued to tweak successes in 2020 to deliver even better virtual offerings. In hindsight, it was rewarding to develop this new approach of engagement and content delivery. Covid has pushed our Grey Bruce Farmers' Week (GBFW) conference onto the global stage and that will be a positive step moving forward.

It is always a pleasure for us to assist the County of Grey on various initiatives and we look forward to continuing to do so. If there is ever a project that we could assist you with, please let us know.

Thank you for providing the opportunities to support leadership within agriculture in Grey County through your annual grant. It is most sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Lorie Smith, Vice President  
Grey County Agricultural Services