

From: [AG Business Update](#)
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Subject: Ag Business Update - Issue 162 - August 2020
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AG BUSINESS UPDATE

ISSUE # 162 - August 2020

This update is designed to provide you with concise, up to date agricultural business information with links to where you can find the details.

This Issue:

- [COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
- [Business Strategy / Business planning](#)
- [Human Resources](#)
- [Financial Management](#)
- [Conferences, Workshops and Seminars](#)



COVID-19 Outbreak

Accredited Farm Organization Resources

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO), and National Farmers Union (NFU) have various resources available regarding the COVID-19 outbreak and its effects on the agriculture industry. Please click the links below to the various organizations resource pages.

[OFA COVID-19 Resources](#)

[CFFO COVID-19 Resources](#)

[NFU COVID-19 Resources](#)

[Union Des Cultivateurs Franco-Ontariens COVID-19 Resources](#)

Summary of Government Programs and HR Resources

OMAFRA has drafted two resources for producers to keep them updated with the current government programs and HR resources during COVID-19. These resources will be updated on a regular basis.

[COVID-19 Government Programs for Producers](#)

[COVID-19 HR Resources for Producers](#)

Government Resources and Updates

Both the Ontario and Canadian Governments have useful information for farmers and agribusiness owners about the COVID-19 Outbreak. Please click on the below links to find out more information.

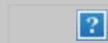
[Government of Ontario](#)

[Government of Canada](#)

Working with farm operators to stop the spread of COVID-19 on farms

The Ontario government recognizes that recent COVID-19 outbreaks on farms have resulted in a challenging situation for many farmers and other agri-food businesses and have had significant impacts on seasonal workers. In response to these outbreaks, the province is implementing a plan to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 on farms and throughout the community, which includes ongoing and expanded on-site testing, access to employment benefits and supports, and new public health guidance.

[More>>](#)



Business Strategy / Business Planning

Ag Economy Barometer

The Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer is a nationwide measure of the health of the U.S. agricultural economy. On the first Tuesday of each month, the Ag Economy Barometer provides a sense of the agricultural economy's health with an index value. The index is based on a survey of 400 agricultural producers on economic sentiment each month. Quarterly, the index is accompanied by an in-depth survey of 100 agriculture and agribusiness thought leaders. The July 2020 results have just been released.

[More>>](#)

Always in Season: A Toolkit for Local Food Practitioners

Supporting agriculture, local food and local beverage processors has never been more important. Community organizations and municipalities have a vital role to play in fostering an environment where agricultural producers and processors can thrive. Through Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding,

OFA, its partners, and Wilton Consulting Group developed a toolkit for communities to guide them through potential activities, key performance metrics, funding opportunities, and ways to collaborate to support the agri-food sector.

[More>>](#)

Coming Soon - AgriResponse.ca

Farm Management Canada has been working hard on putting together a new interactive website that will allow producers to ask all their questions about emergency preparedness and contingency planning through an online forum, and then receive answers based on the knowledge and experience of industry experts. The site will have a question forum where you can vote for a question that has already been asked or write your own, an answers section where you can find the answers to all the questions that have already been answered, and a resource library which contains useful tools to help farmers prepare for uncertainty.

The website will be launched on September 1st and will be available to all Canadian producers for free.



Human Resources

Agri Food Jobs Portal

The commitment and dedication of Ontario's agriculture and food sector workers is what keeps our grocery store shelves full and food on our kitchen tables. If you or someone you know who are looking for a new professional opportunity and the chance to make a difference during the COVID-19 outbreak, this is a one-stop-shop that highlights employment openings and training resources in Ontario's agriculture and food sector.

[More>>](#)

Food Focus! Podcast: Hard Labour - Tackling the Problem of Labour in Agriculture

Many sectors in modern agriculture depend on seasonal labour to plant, maintain, and harvest crops. Often these jobs are done by temporary foreign workers, new immigrant, or undocumented workers. In fact, cheap labour is essential across the entire food system from farms, through processing to restaurants and retail. The COVID outbreak has highlighted dependence of the food system on these low wage workers. In this episode Mike speaks with Evan Fraser, the Director of the Arrell Food Institute at the University of Guelph about the issue and what we might do to move forward.

[More>>](#)

Healthy Minds, Healthy Farms Report

Over the past year, Farm Management Canada has been working with Wilton Consulting Group on ground-breaking research that seeks to explore the connection between Mental Health and Farm Business Management. The findings from this research reveal a positive correlation between mental health and farm business management and inform recommendations to support farm business management activities that positively influence farmer mental health as well as mental health supports that positively influence farm business management activities.

[More>>](#)



Financial Management

Rural Agri-Innovation Network (RAIN) - SNAPP - COVID-19 Response

The Rural Agri-Innovation Network (RAIN), a division of the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC), is pleased to announce the Sustainable new Agri-Food Products & Productivity Program (SNAPP) - COVID-19 Recovery Fund. The program is being offered in collaboration with the Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre (NOIC) and the Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance (NOFIA).

The fund is available immediately for investment into eligible projects, for example,

- Equipment that can automate or reduce labour in agri-food production or processing
- Cooler/freezer unit outfitted for vehicles/trailers to ensure safe delivery and increase markets
- Packaging equipment to improve safety and increase capacity for regional supply

[More>>](#)



Conferences, Workshops and Seminars

OMAFRA Dateline:

OMAFRA Dateline is an online resource for use by interested individuals and organizations across Ontario. Events may be hosted by OMAFRA or other groups. The events posted on this site are aimed at sharing information of interest to agriculture and regional economic development clients. Please

check the calendar regularly for upcoming events, workshops, conferences and meetings.

Strategies for Agricultural Workers Affected by COVID-19 - September 17, 2020 or September 30, 2020

Hosted by Workplace Safety & Prevention Services
Registration is open

[More>>](#)

CAFA's Farm Tax Update -Thursday, October 15, 2020

Hosted by Canadian Association of Farm Advisors
Event will be virtually held

[More>>](#)

Agricultural Excellence Conference - December 8-10 2020

Hosted by Farm Management Canada
Event will be virtually held
Registration opens - September 8, 2020

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Thanks for reading the AgBusiness Update.

Questions or Comments: contact the editor, **Erich Weber** at erich.weber@ontario.ca

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