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To: [Deas, Michelle](#)
Subject: Ag Business Update, Issue #163 - November 2020
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Agriculture Business Update

November 2020

Issue #163

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
- Marketing
- Human Resources
- Financial Management
- Funding Programs
- Conferences, Workshops and Seminars

Covid-19 Outbreak

Accredited Farm Organizations 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 pandemic and its effects on the agriculture industry. Please follow 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**](#)

Government Resources and Updates

Both the Ontario and Canadian Governments have useful information for farmers and agribusiness owners about the COVID-19 Pandemic. 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>>](#)

Marketing

2020 grains, oilseeds and pulse outlook update

The first nine months of 2020 have been challenging for grains, oilseeds, and pulse producers. The year began with significant concern due to 2019 harvest challenges, numerous trade issues, including canola, durum, peas, and lentils. Then COVID-19 led to closures of processing facilities and ports worldwide, which, combined with trade restrictions, raised questions around trade flows. Some concerns quickly alleviated as reduced rail demand created increased capacity for grains, oilseeds, and pulses.

[More>>](#)

Human Resources

Skilled trades training returns to Kemptville Campus for truck, agricultural technicians

Skilled trades programs are back at the Kemptville Campus. Starting next year, secondary school students will have the opportunity to train for careers in high-demand skilled trades through three new programs to be offered at the campus, including truck and coach technician, heavy duty technician, and agricultural technician.

[More>>](#)

Food Focus! Podcast: Having the Critical Discussion of Mental Health in Ag

Mental health is a topic we need to bring to the fore; in agriculture and everywhere.

During ag mental health week, Mike spoke with Jason Medows, host of the mental health focused Ag State of Mind podcast, about the issue and how to help. Jason has a unique perspective as a farmer, a pharmacist, and someone who has battled mental health himself.

[More>>](#)

The Farmers' Toolbox

This website brings together mental health resources in one convenient spot. The resources available are targeted towards farmers and people who live in rural Ontario.

[More>>](#)

Financial Management

Canadian Cow-calf Cost of Production Network

Canfax Research Services (CRS) is proud to present the Canadian Cow-calf Cost of Production Network (CDN COP Network) funded by the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) and delivered with our provincial partners. The CDN COP Network will host 26 producer [focus groups](#) across Canada, consisting of 5-6 producers representing different eco-regions and production systems in each. The objective is to develop baseline cost of production statistics in a way that minimizes the response burden on producers.

Funding Programs

Northern Ontario Recovery Program (NORP)

Companies can apply to NORP for assistance with projects that help them adjust to the impacts of COVID-19, such as, but not limited to:

- Building renovations and new constructions
- Customer and employee safety installations
- Equipment purchases, including personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Marketing for new business initiatives
- Restructuring of business operations

Applications will be open from October 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020, with the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) administering the new program.

[More>>](#)

Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program

The Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program will help more operations, including farms, to take additional measures to improve health and safety for their workers and ensure the continued supply of healthy food during the COVID-19 outbreak. Funding is available now for the Enhanced Agri-Food Workplace Protection Program. Eligible submissions for project costs incurred on or after March 15, 2020 are received and assessed on a continuous basis, while funding is available.

[More>>](#)

Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Funding for Sectors Intake Now Open

Ontario's government is helping to grow the province's agri-food and agri-products sectors by launching the Place to Grow: Agri-food Innovation Initiative – a program which will help drive innovation, reduce red tape, and address industry priorities. The "Funding for Sectors" stream and will support agriculture and food value-chain partners in address emerging sector challenges and opportunities to create sector wide benefits. This cost-share intake will remain open until November 26, 2020.

[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.

Agricultural Excellence Conference – December 8-10 2020

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

[More>>](#)

Ontario Agricultural Conference (formally South West Agricultural Conference) – January 6-7, 2021

Event will be virtually held
Registration now open

[More>>](#)

Grey Bruce Farmers Week – January 5-12, 2021

Event will be virtually held

[More>>](#)

Thanks for reading the Ag Business Update.

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

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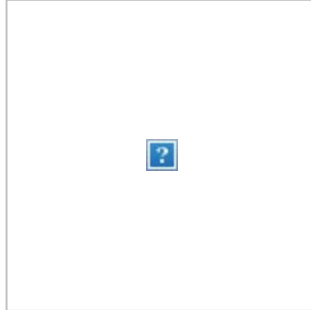
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