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January 2023



Alliance Innovations

A collaboration between OMAFRA and the University of Guelph

Stories of the Alliance people, places and programs generating impact in the agri-food sector in Ontario and around the world.

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What's new?



The Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance Annual Report is here!

We are pleased to share *Growing Ontario Solutions 2021/22*, a summary of the Consolidated Annual Report of the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance, a collaboration between the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and the University of Guelph.

The Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance creates impact by directing the efforts of our people, places and programs towards six key outcomes that support competitive and sustainable agri-food and rural sectors—at home and around the world. *Growing Ontario Solutions* delves into the stories behind the numbers to demonstrate how the Alliance drives impact in Ontario.

Explore Growing Ontario Solutions

[Download the fully accessible PDF version of Growing Ontario Solutions 2021/22.](#)



WATCH: U of G Partnerships Fuel the Future of Food

The University of Guelph leverages its research partnerships to drive impact and solve real-world challenges. In collaboration with Food from Thought, the Arrell Food Institute, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs through the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance, U of G is doing its part to ensure a sustainable future.

Watch University of Guelph Partnerships
Fuel the Future of Food

Welcoming the 2022/23 Highly Qualified Personnel Scholars



The University of Guelph is training the next generation of agri-food innovators, thanks to the Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) Scholarship program. The HQP program is a competitive scholarship program jointly funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs through the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance and the Canada First Research Excellence Fund through Food from Thought at the University of Guelph.

Masters and PhD students complete research that meets OMAFRA's research priorities and learn firsthand how forward-thinking research can be mobilized to positively impact society.

The program has provided specialized agri-business and workplace experience for over 157 graduates to date.

Meet the 2022-23 Scholars and explore their projects



Dec. 7 Recognition Event

HQP scholars from the 2021/22 cohort shared methods, solutions and lessons learned from their work on real-world challenges on Dec. 7 at an event at the University of Guelph Arboretum.

Explore project posters

Winter 2023 Skills for Research Impact Series



Join us online this winter for one or multiple sessions from the [Skills for Research Impact Workshop Series](#)!

Faculty, research staff and graduate students interested in enhancing the impact of their research will learn how to successfully plan, execute and evaluate knowledge mobilization activities. Sessions will cover topics that are key to effective research communications and engagement of non-academic audiences.

January 31: [Stakeholder Engagement](#)

February 14: [Event Planning and Facilitation](#)

February 28: [Data Visualization](#)

March 21: [Podcasting](#)

March 28: [Social Media](#)

This workshop series is a collaboration among the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance, the Community Engaged Scholarship Institute and the Research Innovation Office at the University of Guelph.

For more information, contact us at kttadmin@uoguelph.ca.

READ: How Alliance-funded research is making an impact

U of G group addressing challenges for farmers in Northern and Eastern Ontario



Dr. Joshua Nasielski, a professor in the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC) who joined U of G in 2019, started the [Northern and Eastern Ontario Agronomy Research Group \(NEO-AG\)](#) to address challenges faced by farmers across the province.

[Read the full story](#)



U of G researcher exploring automation for better dairy health, production



Patty Kedzierski, a PhD candidate and highly qualified personnel (HQP) scholar, is using automated data collection to help farmers create individual feeding plans to improve the health and production of their dairy cows.

[Read the full story](#)





Dr. Joshua Nasielski

Support from the Alliance:

Joshua Nasielski uses the following Alliance resources to conduct his research.

Tier 1: Research project operating funding

Special Initiatives: Addressing specific research priorities set by OMAFRA



Patty Kedzierski

Support from the Alliance:

Patty Kedzierski uses the following Alliance resource to conduct her research.

Highly Qualified Personnel

Scholar: Supporting the development of highly skilled graduates who can meet the changing demands of the agri-food and rural sector

Media

A selection of Alliance people, places and programs cited in popular and trade media.

Improving reproductive management of dairy cows using health monitoring (Jan. 13, Dairy at Guelph)

University of Guelph researchers are assessing how cow health in the transition period affects their fertility.

\$2M gift to support field crops research, teaching at U of G's Ridgetown Campus (Jan. 4, U of G News)

Protecting grain crops from costly plant diseases under climate change and other factors is the main goal of a new \$2-million gift to the University of Guelph from Grain Farmers of Ontario.

Targeting improvements in calf health, welfare, antibiotic use (Dec. 19, Farmtario)

Based on recent research presented at Dairy at Guelph's annual research showcase, held Nov. 2 at the university's arboretum, dairy farmers in Canada can take pride in the way they manage, house and care for replacement and surplus calves. But, there is also room for improvement, research indicates.

How deadly bird flu sparked explosive outbreaks in 2022 — and why it matters for global health (Dec. 17, CBC)

Dr. Shayan Sharif, avian immunologist with the Ontario Veterinary College, discusses his concerns about the highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Ontario confirms canola flower midge populations (Dec. 15, Farmtario)

U of G environmental sciences professor Dr. Rebecca Hallett shares new information about canola flower midge (CFM) in Ontario.

Planning a holiday feast? Be prepared for the sticker shock, experts say (Dec. 10,

CTV News)

Ontario Agricultural College food economist Dr. Mike von Massow explained the causes of high food prices to CTVNews.ca.

Wellington County examines diversifying farm land uses (Dec. 1, Wellington

Advertiser)

Alliance-funded researcher Dr. Wayne Caldwell and students discuss how their research reviews on-farm diversified policies between municipalities.

Researchers target robot-specific effects on health, milk quality (Dec. 1, Farmtario)

Researchers at the University of Guelph are focusing on milking robots as they dive into ongoing studies of milk quality and dairy cow health. Results of several studies on the effects of automated milking systems were presented at the Dairy at Guelph showcase held Nov. 2 at the university's arboretum.

Events

Building knowledge together: Sharing experiences between potato farmers

Wednesday, February 1, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. The Arboretum, U of G

A conversation with three distinct yet innovative potato farmers, showcasing unique approaches to sustainability.

Can you imagine a world without French fries? Potato chips? Poutine? Without potato farmers, you might have to! With climate change and the cost of production putting more and more pressure on farmers, local potato producers are asking: how do we keep growing our favourite foods?

Registration is free and open to all.

Sharing Experiences Between Potato Farmers details & registration



OFFICE of RESEARCH
AGRI-FOOD PARTNERSHIP



School of Environmental Sciences (SES) Graduate Student Symposium

Thursday, February 2, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Arboretum, U of G

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to learn about SES research! This is also a great chance to network with OMAFRA personnel, U of G faculty and graduate students in the department. Registration, lunch, and refreshments are free!

SES Grad Symposium details & registration

A banner for the Ontario Agri-Tech Pitch Competition. The top half has a red background with white text. The bottom half has a green background with a circuit pattern and yellow text. On the right, a black box contains yellow text.

Ontario Agri-Tech Pitch Competition
LIVE Friday March 24, 2023, from 10 am to 11:30 am EST
Conference Centre, 1 Stone Road West, Guelph, ON

An extension of the Gryphon's LAAIR Program

1 \$10,000 **2 \$2,500** **3 \$1,000**
Best in Class **People's Choice Award** **Finalist Award**

Ontario Agri-Tech Pitch Competition
Friday, March 24, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. In-person and Online

The Research Innovation Office at the University of Guelph is excited to announce the Ontario Agri-Tech Pitch Competition in collaboration with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs.

By uniting farmers, academics, agri-tech entrepreneurs and investors, this event will raise awareness about the problems worth solving and showcase investible companies.

Join us online to watch as the next generation of new Ontario-based agri-tech start-up companies battle it out to be best in class.

Ontario Agri-Tech Pitch Competition details & registration

Make an Alliance Connection



Visit the Alliance website

Comments? Feedback? Events or content to include? Email kttadmin@uoguelph.ca.



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