

FARMLAND PRESERVATION

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Ontario must ensure the long-term protection of our best farmland for farming.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Land that can produce food is limited in Ontario (and globally). We need to protect our foodland, recognizing the vital role it plays in providing food security for us at home and around the world. Farmland provides more than just food, fuel, fibre and ornamentals: it also provides key environmental benefits for water and air quality, flood mitigation and pollinator habitat, to name just a few.

Unfortunately, high housing prices are increasing calls for urban sprawl onto productive farmland.

Increasing Ontario's housing supply can be achieved without taking away our limited productive farmland. Brownfield redevelopment and high-density targets within existing cities and towns can provide the necessary housing while still protecting our agricultural land.

Right now, we are seeing an exodus of people moving from cities into rural areas, partly motivated by changing work patterns. This creates opportunities for rural areas, but we also need to be aware of the risks this poses for farmland and farming.

WHAT DOES CFFO WANT TO SEE?

- 1 Protect prime agricultural areas with Greenbelt-type protections across Ontario that prevent settlement area boundaries from expanding into prime agricultural land.
- 2 Commit to defining and mapping prime agricultural areas across the province, as has already been done in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.
- 3 Increase density development within settlement area boundaries.
 - Increase provincial density targets both in large cities and small towns.
 - Incentivize brownfield redevelopment.
- 4 Develop policy that supports the businesses and communities that are a vital part of the farm-to-fork chain.

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