



Welcome to Rural Ontario

Understanding Agriculture In Wellington County



Did you know?

Wellington's agri-food sector is the Counties leading industry, contributing \$2.8 billion to the Canadian economy and employing almost 36,000 people on farm and food manufacturing and retail value chain. That means \$469 million income in workers on farms and upstream jobs. For Wellington County farmers, these nearly 27,000 operations are their business, their home, and a place to raise their family.



Almost **36,000** jobs and **\$469 million** in annual wages and salaries



Over **\$2.8 billion** contributed to the Ontario economy in GDP



Nearly **27,000** business operations

Wellington County accounts for **5.8%** of Ontario's agri-food value chain while covering only **0.2%** of the Ontario Land Base



Stay in Your Lane

Share the Road with Farm Equipment

Farm machinery must use the roads to travel between fields and farms. This equipment is often wide and long and travels more slowly than other vehicles. Be alert for flashing lights and the distinctive triangular Slow-Moving Vehicle (SMV) sign which is only meant for farm vehicles, indicating the vehicle can travel at maximum 40 kmph.



Slow Moving Vehicle sign



Did you know?

6.5 seconds. That's how long you have to react when driving a car **80 km per hour** approaching a tractor **100 m** ahead, traveling at **25 km per hour.**

Did you know?

In the busy growing season farmers often work around the clock to plant or harvest their crops?



Normal Farm Practices

Normal farm practices are activities that happen on the farm as part of the production of food, fibre, and other agricultural and horticultural products. Some of these activities can create **odour, noise, dust, flies, smoke, light and vibration disturbances.**



The **County's climate** is favourable for producing a wide range of agricultural commodities including field and horticultural crops, livestock, dairy, eggs and poultry and specialty products like maple syrup and honey. The County's farmland is made up of some of the **most productive soils in Canada.**

Respect Farm Property - Farm Families live and work here

- ➔ **Maintain Biosecurity** - The high standard of Ontario's food system requires biosecurity on the farm to prevent disease and infection in plant and animal populations. Respect signs warning of such situations and do not enter.
- ➔ **Livestock Safety** - Fencing for livestock protects the farm animals and the neighbourhood. Stay outside of the fencing area.
- ➔ **Stay on Marked Trails** - Even in the winter, always assume that fields can have crops planted. Hiking or driving on fields without permission ruins crops that have been planted.
- ➔ **Keep Fields Clean** - Dumping household garbage, yard waste and creating fire pits on farmland damages crops, injures animals, pollutes water and disturbs the ecosystem.

Farms are Private Property – Assume 'No Trespassing'

The countryside may appear to be “wide open spaces,” but, farmland is private property where the crops and waterways are used to grow crops to sell or feed their animals. Before approaching any property you must have permission from the landowner whether or not there are signs posted. It is illegal to trespass on farmland without permission



Farms are businesses that run 24/7

- ➔ Farmers with animals spread manure at different times of the year. Manure provide nutrients, organic matter and good bacteria for the next crop planted
- ➔ Farmers are accustomed to caring for animals through snow, wind, sun and mud. Animals in fields can be muddy in wet weather, and often lay down, day or night.
Sprays may be required to control noxious weeds, insects and fungus, protecting crops. The Weed Control Act requires that weeds are kept under control on **all properties** in Ontario.
- ➔ To keep farm crops and livestock safe it is important to not feed wild animals in the countryside and keep garbage contained and disposed to minimize the attraction of wildlife such as coyotes, skunks, black bear and deer.

Ask a Farmer!

Do you have more questions about farming? Some online resources:

Real Dirt on Farming
realdirtontfarming.ca/
Farm Food 360
farmfood360.ca/

Resources:

OFA's Agriculture Matters Guide: ofa.on.ca/growag
Ontario Federation of Agriculture Road Safety ofa.on.ca/resources/smv-roadsafety/

Wellington County Federation of Agriculture contacts:

WFA Website: www.wfofa.on.ca
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