LAND CLEARING GUIDE
With rising land prices and a lack of land availability across Ontario, there has been a concerted effort to expand agriculture in Northern Ontario where land is more available and prices are more reasonable. As the climate changes and agro-tech advances occur, agriculture in Northern Ontario has become more successful and viable, enticing a number of people to move north. With policies and tools in place to facilitate expansion, a large number of acres have been cleared and put into production.

As farmers clear more land, they need to have access to the information necessary to make well-informed decisions regarding the current and future management of their land. This resource guide was developed to provide this information, including steps involved in land clearing, best practices associated with clearing and relevant costs. This guide is intended to provide guidance for farmers to clear land for agricultural purposes and is not meant to offer guidance for forestry or other sectors involved in land clearing.

Land clearing is an involved process that includes a number of steps and potential stakeholders. This reference document presents information related to the actual act of clearing, but it is important to note that considerations outside of this document exist before and after land is cleared. Contact your local township/municipality, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and/or the local conservation authority to ensure all necessary steps are taken or approvals are received prior to clearing land. Further considerations include the need for stumpage fees or burn permits. Proactively working with impacted stakeholders can facilitate a smoother overall clearing project.

NOFIA is excited for the future of agriculture in Northern Ontario and will continue to provide the information necessary to improve current and future commercial operations.

Norman Koch,
Chair, NOFIA

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to extend our gratitude to the many people and organizations that made this project a success.

It is imperative that we acknowledge the contributions from the many survey and interview participants for their input to the project. Particularly, we want to extend our appreciation to the farmers and contractors who took the time in such a busy period of the year to share their experiences with us. This project could not have happened without them.

This project was funded in part through Growing Forward 2 (GF2), a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. The Agricultural Adaptation Council assists in the delivery of GF2 in Ontario.
ABOUT THE GUIDE

There are many steps involved and factors to be considered in a land clearing project. Clearing land can result in significant return on investment (ROI), however it can also present many pitfalls which can be quite costly in terms of both time and money.

Based on research and input provided by experienced Northern Ontario farmers and contractors, this Land Clearing Guide was developed as a practical reference tool to facilitate the land clearing process, beginning with initial decision making through to end use of the land. It contains information on the process, costs, benefits, best practices and rationale for various, commonly used land clearing techniques. It also provides key information on the legal environment for land clearing and references resources available to help farmers with land clearing and other farming projects.

WHO IS THE GUIDE FOR?

The guide was developed to inform and assist new farmers either currently located in Northern Ontario, or looking to relocate to Northern Ontario, on regional land clearing practices.

WHAT’S IN THE GUIDE?

Section 1: Planning – What factors do I need to consider?
Section 2: Clearing – What methods are available?
Section 3: Rules & Regulations
Section 4: Resources - Where else can I find help and support?

DISCLAIMER:

While this document sets forth the general principles related to various land clearing methods, it does not claim to cover every possible circumstance or outcome that may arise upon implementing the practices outlined herein and should ONLY be used as a guide. All legal, environmental, and/or other considerations should be researched further. Check local, provincial, and federal regulations for your area as land clearing regulations can vary greatly. Be sure that you’re aware of the rules and follow them.
LAND CLEARING IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

While there are many factors and steps involved in preparing and maintaining land for crop and livestock, the focus of this guide is to provide information specific to land clearing practices in Northern Ontario.

Land clearing, by definition, is the process of removing trees, stumps, brush, stones and other obstacles from an area to increase the size of the crop producing or pasture land base of an existing farm or to develop land for a new farm operation. The main steps involved in undertaking this process are detailed in the following sections of this guide.

SECTION 1: PLANNING – FACTORS TO CONSIDER

There are several reasons why you may be considering clearing your land. Regardless of the reason, it is important to carefully evaluate your land clearing plans and thoroughly understand the ramifications. In addition to key planning elements such as field selection, soil testing, and identification of the crops and varieties best suited for your soils and needs, you should take the time to consider the following factors. Do this well in advance of clearing to avoid errors and to help determine the best method of land clearing based on your specific needs and objectives.

ECONOMIC

- What is your anticipated budget for the project?
- What additional long-term costs will result from the additional acres of cleared land (i.e. fertilizer, herbicide, fuel, etc.)?
- How will the increase in land capacity affect farm cash receipts?
- How will you finance the project? Is there funding available?
- Do you have standing trees that could be harvested and sold to cover some of the land clearing costs?
TIME

- How long do you anticipate the land clearing will take?
- When will you start your land clearing project?
- How long until you have land that can be used for growing crop or raising livestock?

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL

- Will clearing land have a negative effect on privacy or wildlife?
- What are the legal restrictions/regulations associated with land clearing in your area? What permits do you need?
- What type of soil are you working with?
- Do you want to cause minimal damage to valuable top soil?
- Do you want to ensure that you do not disturb or damage quality trees?
- Do you want to avoid burning?

OTHER

- Do you want to be as close to a one person operation as possible (i.e. DIY vs contracted professional)?
- Do you have the resources (equipment/labour) to conduct the work yourself?
- Are you looking to remove stumps and boulders with same equipment?
- Are there contractors in the area? Are they available, and do they have the equipment/skill/expertise to support your selected method? Have you heard good things from others about their quality/cost of work?
- Do you want to be able to selectively clear a large tract of land, or smaller quadrants? How might your project affect adjacent land?

Once you have answered these questions you will be in a better positioned to decide whether to clear your land, and/or how to clear your land.
SECTION 2: PLANNING – CLEARING

Every parcel of land is different and should have a clearing plan based on its specific characteristics. As there are many methods and techniques used to clear land, the effectiveness of which is highly dependent on topography, ground cover/growth and intended use, it is essential to identify those that are best suited to your needs. So where do you go from here?

The tables below outline the key phases involved in clearing land and include details on process, pros and cons, cost, timing, and associated end use for typical methods used in Northern Ontario. The information is based on input provided by experienced farmers and contractors and is intended to assist you in making an informed decision based on your given needs.

### Phase 1: Trees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>METHOD</th>
<th>HARVESTING LUMBER</th>
<th>PUSH WITH BULLDOZER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Process</strong></td>
<td>Larger trees with value are harvested and removed by a contractor and sold for profit</td>
<td>Larger trees with little to no value are pushed into windrows using a bulldozer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timing</strong></td>
<td>Frozen ground preferable or summer</td>
<td>Frozen ground preferable or summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost</strong></td>
<td>Typically, a break-even scenario though some small profit can be netted depending on tree type.</td>
<td>$1100-1700 per acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>End Use</strong></td>
<td>Crop or Pasture</td>
<td>Crop or Pasture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pros</strong></td>
<td>Dollars generated through sale of wood offsets cost of having trees cleared</td>
<td>Work can be done yourself, or by a contractor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cons</strong></td>
<td>Must hire a contractor as harvesting large trees can be dangerous</td>
<td>Damage to top soil, including loss of top soil as a result of this method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Considerations</strong></td>
<td>• Consider chipping wood that is too small for logs into bio-mass fuel as a means of recovering cost of material removal. Consider verifying the market price first to ensure a return on your investment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Depending on the characteristics of the property and with proper planning, it may be possible for loggers and land clearing contractors to work simultaneously on the land clearing, making the process more efficient.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Phase 2: Brush or Light Vegetation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>METHOD</th>
<th>SHEARING WITH BULLDOZER</th>
<th>MULCHING</th>
<th>CUTTING WITH EXCAVATOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Process</td>
<td>Bulldozer with shear blades on an angle to cut brush</td>
<td><strong>Standard Mulching (1st pass)</strong></td>
<td>Use an excavator equipped with a brush mower or cutter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Use a forestry mulcher to 1” below ground to knock over and mulch small trees (20cm or less), stumps and all residue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timing</td>
<td>Frozen ground, or in summer on dry ground</td>
<td>Frozen ground</td>
<td>Summer, preferably on dry ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>$500 per acre (includes windrows)</td>
<td>$400-500 per acre, per pass (Larger mulching machines cost more per hour but work faster clearing land)</td>
<td>$800 per acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End Use</td>
<td>Crop or Pasture</td>
<td>Crop or Pasture</td>
<td>Crop or Pasture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pros</td>
<td>Least expensive, based on complete process</td>
<td>There is nothing left to pile up or burn, making the process quicker</td>
<td>Doesn't move topsoil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For winter pasturing sticks, stumps and roots stay in/on the ground</td>
<td></td>
<td>Removes all wood debris limiting the effects of woody material on soil quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cons</td>
<td>Bulldozer can remove too much top soil</td>
<td>More expensive than other methods, commonly requiring more than one pass</td>
<td>Lack of available experienced operators may pose a challenge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Woody material can affect the soil quality/composition as it rots</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Considerations</td>
<td>• Mulching – If possible residue is left to dry for 1-2 months to accelerate decomposition.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Shearing – If for winter pasturing, brush must be sufficiently sheared for tractor to pass without being damaged.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Use a brush rake or excavator to build windrows when possible to eliminate as much dirt from the rows as you can, thus encouraging better burning.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Phase 3: Stump & Root**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>METHOD</th>
<th>SHEARING WITH ROOT RAKE</th>
<th>MULCHING / SUB-SOILING</th>
<th>EXCAVATOR</th>
<th>WINTER PASTURING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Process</td>
<td>Use a bulldozer with a root rake about 2” off the ground to rip out stumps</td>
<td>Deep Mulching (2nd pass)</td>
<td>Remove under ground material and stumps using an excavator equipped with either a bucket or a brush rake</td>
<td>Once well sheared and frost has settled, cattle are set out to pasture on 1 acre slices rotating throughout winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timing</td>
<td>Summer when dry</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Summer when dry</td>
<td>Winter (frost)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>$500 per acre (includes windrows)</td>
<td>$400-500 per acre, per pass</td>
<td>$900-950 per acre</td>
<td>$190 per acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End Use</td>
<td>Crop or Pasture</td>
<td>Crop</td>
<td>Crop or Pasture</td>
<td>Pasture or limited crop (grain/forage)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pros</td>
<td>Stumps pulled can be chipped for biomass if there is minimal dirt on the roots</td>
<td>Fastest method</td>
<td>Minimal disturbance of top soil nutrients</td>
<td>Least expensive method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fastest method</td>
<td>There is nothing left to pile or burn</td>
<td>Faster turnaround</td>
<td>Quick way to clear for pasture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cons</td>
<td>Topsoil can be damaged or lost when it attaches itself to the roots and stumps that are pushed away</td>
<td>Woody material can affect the soil quality/ composition as it rots</td>
<td>Can only be done on very dry ground so as not to compact the soil</td>
<td>Takes 10 years for parcel to be usable for crop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Debris pushed by the bulldozer leaves unsightly piles</td>
<td>Ground doesn’t freeze when deep mulching, so cows and equipment sink if winter pasturing</td>
<td>Can’t clear mass acreage quickly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cons</td>
<td>Topsoil can be damaged or lost when it attaches itself to the roots and stumps that are pushed away</td>
<td>Woody material can affect the soil quality/ composition as it rots</td>
<td>Can only be done on very dry ground so as not to compact the soil</td>
<td>Takes 10 years for parcel to be usable for crop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Debris pushed by the bulldozer leaves unsightly piles</td>
<td>Ground doesn’t freeze when deep mulching, so cows and equipment sink if winter pasturing</td>
<td>Can’t clear mass acreage quickly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Considerations**

- Mulching – Remove most surface wood when mulching to limit impact on soil.
- Mulching – Using a crawler mulcher (ex: CMI Hurricane) minimizes ground and root system disturbance providing support to surface soil; mulch dries more quickly.
- Mulching – If self-propelled, it will be more costly than tractor pull, but time savings if using self-propelled. (i.e. Tractor pull – 0.5 acres per hour, Self-propelled – up to 1 acre per hour)
- Mulching – If mostly mature tag alder - a species which decomposes quickly relative to many others, mulching is good option.
- Winter Pasturing – Takes two years for grass to grow sufficiently for pasturing.
- Winter Pasturing – Can be grid or random, and shape of parcel can be adapted to topography.
- Discarding stumps in ravines, or on property edge, lessen the volume for removal or windrows.
## Phase 4: Top Clearing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>METHOD</th>
<th>WINDROWS / BURNING</th>
<th>FINISHING BASE</th>
<th>ROTTING</th>
<th>STICK RAKE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Process</td>
<td>Push materials into windrows to burn. Repeat for up to 5 years</td>
<td>Even out the ground with a farm tractor, pulling a disc, or a larger tractor with a 40’ wide disc</td>
<td>Using a bulldozer, push branches, roots, and rocks into ravines or into piles or windrows</td>
<td>Using a tractor or skidder equipped with a stick rake, clear various sized sticks by changing the angle of the rake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timing</td>
<td>Summer when dry</td>
<td>Summer when dry</td>
<td>Summer when dry</td>
<td>After tilling, summer/fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>$600-1000 per acre (includes shearing roots)</td>
<td>$650 per acre</td>
<td>$600-1000 per acre (includes shearing roots)</td>
<td>$200 per acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End Use</td>
<td>Crop or Pasture</td>
<td>Crop or Pasture</td>
<td>Crop or Pasture</td>
<td>Crop or Pasture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pros</td>
<td>If conditions are good, burning can speed up clearing process</td>
<td>Quicker process, specifically with larger tractor</td>
<td>No burning and residue of windrows</td>
<td>Inexpensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Can tile/farm between rows for 2-4 years while debris dries and rots</td>
<td></td>
<td>2-3 years for wood to rot without air is doable in the North as coniferous trees have smaller root systems</td>
<td>Do not necessarily require professional contractor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cons</td>
<td>Long process (can take 5 to 6 years)</td>
<td>The soil can be negatively impact, such that you have to remove the top layer</td>
<td>Piles can harbour weeds and become unsightly</td>
<td>Expensive capital investment as the machine costs $250K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not popular with community due to fire hazard and environmental impact</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Need to obtain permit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Burnt material stays in the soil, but should be removed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Windrows need time to dry before burning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May not burn well if windrows include lots of dirt/top soil</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Considerations</td>
<td>• Debris piles should be topsoil, mud free and well packed to ensure easy burning and/or loading for hauling off the field.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Burning - Advise Ministry of Natural Resources prior to burning windrows.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Windrows - Make windrows parallel to water.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Finishing Base –8 acres per hour with tractor, or 21 acres per hour with 40’wide disc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BEST PRACTICES & OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

TIMING

- Generally, land is cleared in the fall or early winter when the ground is dry or frozen and precipitation and runoff are typically low. This minimizes soil disturbance. Drainage also plays an important role, otherwise work should only be done on the frost or during the driest part of a dry summer to reduce damage to the land with excessive water, resulting in increased time and higher net cost.

- Do not rush it. No matter how fast you clear the land, it takes several years for the drainage to work, the acidity to neutralize, for the wood to rot in the ground and for the earth microflora to take over. It is best to not clear and tile in the same year, and to not try and cultivate until the second growth has been killed down. In general, it will take two to three years for full conversion. It is also recommended to plant new ground into cheap crops like hay, and let the process take its course while waiting for the land to improve.

ENVIRONMENT

- An appropriate buffer zone must be preserved along all watercourses to maintain fish and wildlife habitats, as per the Fisheries Act.

- Natural vegetation should be retained in drainage paths such as creeks and gullies to reduce the soil erosion and damage to river banks.

- Remove beaver dams in early fall to improve and control drainage and land condition in early spring.

- Seed dominant drainage paths on newly cleared land with grass to prevent soil erosion channels from forming.
COST

- Land clearing is a long and expensive process, and the faster one wants it cleared the more costly it is.
- Be sure to properly research grant programs to ensure eligible expenditures are clearly identified and understood.
- Utilize grants and subsidies when possible to offset land clearing costs and ensure feasibility.

CONTRACTORS VS DIY

- When hiring a contractor, do your due diligence to ensure they are reputable and have the expertise to do the job correctly.
- If feasible, consider doing the job yourself. This can not only save you money but will ensure your project is completed based on your needs.
- Consider each step of the process as well as the overall project to look at potential time and cost savings. For example, perhaps it would be wise have a contractor remove the large trees on your property while the rest of the land is being mulched.

EQUIPMENT

- Consider your long-term plans to determine whether it would be more cost effective to purchase rather than rent equipment.
- You will find that each type of equipment is very good at doing part of the job, but lacking in one way or another.
SECTION 3: RULES & REGULATIONS

There are various regulations and by-laws that must be adhered to when it comes to land clearing. These range from federal and provincial regulations through to municipal by-laws. The following information should be considered, but further research should be conducted for your specific scenario.

FEDERAL LEVEL

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Fertilizers Act and Regulations: covers agricultural fertilizers. Fertilizers and supplements may only be sold in or imported into Canada if they have been registered, packaged and labeled as prescribed and if they conform to the standards set out in the Act.

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Plant Protection Act and Regulations: to protect plant life and the agriculture and forestry industries by preventing the importation, exportation and spread of injurious pests and by providing for their control and eradication as well as the certification of plants and plant products.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Act: prescribes the assessment of any installations or activities, prior to commencement, on federally controlled water, land or air environments.

Migratory Birds Convention Act: to protect migratory game birds, migratory insectivorous birds, and migratory non-game birds that inhabit Canada during part or all of the year. There are provisions in the Act covering when and where birds may not be killed or captured or their nests or eggs disturbed.

Fisheries Act: to protect Canada’s fisheries resources and supporting habitats. It applies to all Canadian waters, including ditches, channelized streams, creeks, marshes, rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and marine offshore areas.

PROVINCIAL LEVEL

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/

Farming and Food Production Protection Act (FFPPA)
There are two main themes in the FFPPA.

- Farmers are protected from nuisance complaints made by neighbours, provided they are following normal farm practices.
- No municipal by-law applies to restrict a normal farm practice carried on as part of an agricultural operation.
**Farm Implements Act:** to improve farm machinery safety, and to protect the large investments that farmers and dealers make in farm machinery.

**Agricultural Tile Drainage Installation Act:** regulates the installation of agricultural tile drainage.

**Ministry of Environment and Climate Change**

**Environmental Protection Act:** provides for the protection and conservation of the natural environment.

**Pesticides Act & Reg. 63/09:** regulates pesticides by placing appropriate education, licensing and/or permit requirements on their use, under the Pesticides Act and Regulation 63/09. All pesticides must be used in accordance with requirements under the Pesticides Act and Regulation 63/09.

**Ontario Water Resources Act:** to provide for the conservation, protection and management of Ontario’s waters and for their efficient and sustainable use, in order to promote Ontario’s long-term environmental, social and economic well-being.

**Ministry of Transportation**

**Highway Traffic Act:** regulates the licensing of vehicles, classification of traffic offenses, administration of loads, classification of vehicles and other transport related issues. Of specific importance are the sections of the act related to agricultural equipment use on highways.


**Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry**

https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-natural-resources-and-forestry

**Forest Fires Prevention Act:** establishes rules for preventing forest fires by encouraging safe practices and procedures to prevent forest fires.

**Ministry of Labour**

**Workplace Safety and Insurance Act:** A landowner could be held liable if an accident occurs on his or her property during a contracted land clearing operation. The best advice for landowners is to obtain a WSIB clearance certificate for the operator – a confirmation that an employer is registered and has met his or her obligations.

**Conservation Authorities – Ontario**

http://conservationontario.ca/

Conservation Authorities are local, community-based public sector organizations. They represent a grouping of municipalities on a watershed basis and work in partnership with others to manage their respective watersheds. They are mandated to ensure the conservation, restoration and responsible management of Ontario’s water, land and natural habitats through programs that balance human, environmental and economic needs.
MUNICIPAL LEVEL

Zoning regulations and Applicable by-laws

Each municipality or township planning department administers local zoning regulations and bylaws. Be sure to contact and work with your local planning department and elected official(s) to have a clear understanding of what secondary uses are permitted in your area.

- Open air burning
- Tree cutting by-laws
- Zoning

Ontario One Call - Call or Click before you Dig

1-800-400-2255

Ontario One Call is a contact centre that receives excavation locate requests to ensure homeowners, excavators and infrastructure owners are safe when digging. As well, by law infrastructure owners must now register their buried pipes and cables with Ontario One Call.

Note: Not all buried infrastructure owners are members of Ontario One Call. You are responsible for notifying other companies that may have buried infrastructure in your work area. You are not clear to excavate until all Ontario One Call members have either located their infrastructure in your work area or advised you to proceed.
SECTION 4: RESOURCES

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR FARMERS – FACTSHEET

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs provides a summary of programs and services available to Ontario farmers through their Programs and Services for Ontario Farmers Factsheet, which can be accessed here: http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/facts/progserv.pdf.

For current information on funding possibilities visit NOFIA online at https://www.nofia-agri.com/.

NORTHERN ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS AND INDUSTRY PARTNERS

A number of institutions and organizations work together to promote and support the agricultural industry in Northern Ontario. This section of the guide provides key contact information, as at May 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance (NOFIA)                            | Northern Ontario | Steph Vanthof, Administrator Phone: 705-647-4782 Fax: 705-647-4783 Nofia.on@gmail.com | NOFIA’s mission is to develop strategies and partnerships to ensure the advancement of agricultural research and innovation in Northern Ontario. Their mandate includes:  
  • to promote research and development in the field of agricultural products  
  • to develop and facilitate basic research through to commercialization  
  • to advance the interests of agriculture in Northern Ontario  
  • to generate economic development in the agricultural sector in Northern Ontario  
  • to facilitate farm innovation across Northern Ontario  
  
  Source: www.nofia-agri.com |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ontario Federation of Agriculture</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Work to promote agriculture to rural and urban residents and ensure that government officials are aware of the issues/challenges facing the sector as well as the opportunities for further development and growth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Member service representatives:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Source: <a href="http://nofiaon.wixsite.com/ofanorth">http://nofiaon.wixsite.com/ofanorth</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Ontario</td>
<td>Board of Directors, Northern Peggy Brekveld, VP, Director at Large <a href="mailto:Peggy.Brekveld@ofa.on.ca">Peggy.Brekveld@ofa.on.ca</a> Mark Kunkel, Director, Zone 15 <a href="mailto:Mark.Kunkel@ofa.on.ca">Mark.Kunkel@ofa.on.ca</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algoma, Manitoulin-North Shore/ Sudbury West, West Nipissing/ Sudbury East</td>
<td>Neil Tarlton Phone: 705-692-7276 Fax: 705-692-7208 <a href="mailto:neil.tarlton@ofa.on.ca">neil.tarlton@ofa.on.ca</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cochrane, East Nipissing/ Parry Sound, Muskoka, Temiskaming</td>
<td>Bob Norris Phone : 705-647-0092 Fax : 705-647-4194 <a href="mailto:Bob.norris@ofa.on.ca">Bob.norris@ofa.on.ca</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainy River, Kenora/ Dryden</td>
<td>Bernie Zimmerman Phone : 807-487-1278 <a href="mailto:Bernie.zimmerman@ofa.on.ca">Bernie.zimmerman@ofa.on.ca</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunder Bay, Kenora/ Dryden</td>
<td>Sandra Meyer Phone : 807-475-7031 <a href="mailto:sandra.meyer@ofa.on.ca">sandra.meyer@ofa.on.ca</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 12 Northern Ontario and Haliburton</td>
<td>Steve Runnals <a href="mailto:Steve.Runnals@milk.org">Steve.Runnals@milk.org</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dairy Farmers of Ontario is a non-profit dairy farmer organization that represents almost 4,000 milk producers in Ontario. The goal of Dairy Farmers of Ontario is to strengthen the industry through discussions of harmonized dairy policies, innovation, and long-term profitability to maintain a viable Canadian dairy sector.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Source: <a href="http://www.farmnorth.com">www.farmnorth.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORGANIZATION</td>
<td>DISTRICT</td>
<td>CONTACT</td>
<td>ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO) Continued</td>
<td>Region 12 Northern Ontario and Haliburton</td>
<td>Steve Runnals <a href="mailto:Steve.Runnalls@milk.org">Steve.Runnalls@milk.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency (OSMA)</td>
<td>District 11 representing Kenora, Rainy River, Thunder Bay, Cochrane, Algoma, Sudbury, Temiskaming, Nipissing &amp; Manitoulin</td>
<td>Colleen Alloi District Provincial Director <a href="mailto:collholm@sympatico.ca">collholm@sympatico.ca</a></td>
<td>The Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency is a producer operated organization which represents all aspects of the sheep, lamb and wool industry in the Province of Ontario. It was established to encourage, promote and represent the industry. The OSMA's activities work to improve the marketing of sheep, lamb and wool through producer education, promotional campaigns, consumer education and public awareness. Source: <a href="http://www.ontariosheep.org/">http://www.ontariosheep.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Eastern Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (N.E.O.S.C.I.A) – regional Association of OSCIA Local Associations</td>
<td>North Eastern Ontario, Region 10</td>
<td>OSCIA – North Eastern Ontario District Birgit Martin, Director – North Eastern Ontario Phone: 705-282-4608 <a href="mailto:bmartin@ontariosoilcrop.org">bmartin@ontariosoilcrop.org</a> Dan Cook, President Phone: 705-272-3964 Neil Tarlton, Secretary/ Treasurer Phone: 705-692-7276 Steph Vanthof, Regional Communication Coordinator Phone: 705-647-4782 <a href="mailto:Nofia.on@gmail.com">Nofia.on@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>NEOSCIA is a district of the provincial organization Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA). The main focus of the organization is partaking in on-field research projects in conjunction with farmers, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and research groups to further develop farming practices and to add innovation to the industry. Source: <a href="http://nofiaon.wixsite.com/neoscia">http://nofiaon.wixsite.com/neoscia</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORGANIZATION</td>
<td>DISTRICT</td>
<td>CONTACT</td>
<td>ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **North Eastern Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (N.E.O.S.C.I.A) – regional Association of OSCIA** | Algoma | Harold Steward  
Phone: 705-246-7509 |  |
| | Cochrane | Adrian Struyk  
Phone: 705-272-5672 |  |
| | Manitoulin | Marca Williamson  
Phone: 705-859-2528  
wfarms@amtelecom.net |  |
| | Muskoka | Ken Pearcey  
Phone: 705-385-2844 |  |
| | Nipissing West/Sudbury East | Steven Roberge  
Phone: 705-594-9370 |  |
| | Parry Sound/Nipissing East | Klaus Wand  
Phone: 705-724-2314 |  |
| | Sudbury West | James Found  
Phone: 705-969-4597 |  |
| | Temiskaming | Sheila Randell  
Phone: 705-674-7195  
tccorg@hotmail.com |  |
| **Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO)** | Ontario | Beef Farmers of Ontario  
130 Malcolm Road  
Guelph, Ontario N1K 1B1  
Phone: 519-824-0334  
Fax: 519-824-9101 | BFO is the leading organization in Ontario working with beef farmers to develop and support landmark achievements that move the province’s beef industry towards sustainability and profitably. The Association is involved in a wide range of issues and initiatives including industry sustainability, market development, animal health and care, environment and food safety.  
Source: http://www.ontariobeef.com/about/localassociations |
| | Algoma | Will Samis, Advisory Councillor  
Phone: 705-843-5567  
ewsamis@vianet.ca  
Cleve O’Malley, President  
Phone: 705-843-2208  
janetoma@hotmail.com  
Gordon Hacker, Secretary  
Phone: 705-736-1086  
gordonhacker@vianet.ca |  |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO)</td>
<td>Cochrane</td>
<td>Jason Desrochers, Advisory Councillor Phone: 705-232-4434 <a href="mailto:desrochersfarm@gmail.com">desrochersfarm@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dave Cockburn, President Phone: 705-288-8013 <a href="mailto:info@cockburnconstruction.com">info@cockburnconstruction.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ray Recoskie, Secretary Phone: 705-272-6385 <a href="mailto:rayrecoskie@live.com">rayrecoskie@live.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kenora</td>
<td>David Rhyner, Advisory Councillor Phone: 807-221-7875</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jed Benham, President Phone: 807-755-5640 <a href="mailto:farmerjed8@hotmail.com">farmerjed8@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Linda Debney, Secretary Phone: 807-755-1552 <a href="mailto:lindalou_lmz@yahoo.ca">lindalou_lmz@yahoo.ca</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manitoulin</td>
<td>Jordan Miller, Advisory Councillor Phone: 289-686-1124 <a href="mailto:b.jordan.miller@gmail.com">b.jordan.miller@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>John McNaughton, President Phone: 705-859-2529 <a href="mailto:mcnaugjs@amtelecom.net">mcnaugjs@amtelecom.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Brent Best, Secretary Phone: 705-282-2349 <a href="mailto:brentbest@vianet.ca">brentbest@vianet.ca</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Muskoka/Parry Sound/East Nipissing</td>
<td>Klaus Wand, Advisory Councillor/President Phone: 705.724.2314 <a href="mailto:burania.wand@sympatico.ca">burania.wand@sympatico.ca</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Linda Blackmore Phone: 705-384-7121 <a href="mailto:blackmore_linda@hotmail.com">blackmore_linda@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORGANIZATION</td>
<td>DISTRICT</td>
<td>CONTACT</td>
<td>ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) | Rainy River          | Kim Jo Bliss, Advisory Councillor/Secretary  
Phone: 807-482-2863  
kimjobliss@gmail.com  
Murray McDonald, President  
Phone: 807-483-1094  
mmcdonald@tbaytel.net |                                                                                   |
|               | Sudbury West Nipissing | Adrian Verhoeven, Advisory Councillor/ President  
Phone: 705-865-2480  
adrian.j.verhoeven@gmail.com  
Austin McMurdy, Secretary  
Phone: 705-967-1418  
austinmcmurdy@gmail.com |                                                                                   |
|               | Temiskaming          | Greg Seed, Advisory Councillor/ President  
Phone: 705-647-9802  
sgseed@parolink.net  
Carol Elliott, Secretary  
Phone: 705-647-6161  
elliott.carol07@gmail.com |                                                                                   |
|               | Thunder Bay          | Bill Pinner, Advisory Councillor  
Phone: 807-475-6955  
bpinner@tbaytel.net  
Lyndon Wagenaar, President  
Phone: 807-627-1429  
lyndonwagenaar@gmail.com  
Holly Tuck, Secretary  
Phone: 807-475-6921  
foal0069@yahoo.ca |                                                                                   |
| Northeast Community Network (NeCN) | Northeastern Ontario | Agriculture Steering Committee  
Antoine Vézina, Chairperson  
Antoine.vezina@timmins.ca | The NeCN is an incorporated, regional,  
not-for-profit organization that promotes  
collaborative economic development,  
applied research and support for  
forestry, mining, agriculture and tourism  
as well as business development.  

The NeCN’s Agriculture Steering Committee guides, mentors and  
oversees the enhancement and  
development of farming and agri-  
business growth within the NeCN  
catchment area.  
Source: www.necn-rcne.ca |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Rural Agri-Innovation Network (RAIN) | Northern Ontario | David Thompson, Project Coordinator  
Phone: 705-942-7927 ext.3027  
Fax: 705-942-6169  
dthompson@ssmic.com  
General inquiry: info@rainalgoma.ca | The Rural Agri-Innovation Network (RAIN) is a project of Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre and NORDIK Institute, with support from farmers and communities to enhance the agriculture and food sector in Algoma.  
Source: www.rainalgoma.ca |
| OMAFRA – Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs | Northern Ontario Regional Office | 11790, Hwy 64  
P.O. Box 521  
Verner, ON POH 2MO  
Phone: 705 594-2312  
Fax: 705 594-9675 | OMAFRA’s Regional Advisory Services help communities foster local economic development opportunities by acting as the first point of contact in the process of the programs, tools and resources delivered by the Economic Development Branch.  
The Northern Ontario Regional Office (NORO) is part of the Regional Economic Development Branch. The Head Office is located in Verner and serves as the hub to 5 additional locations in agriculture communities across Northern Ontario: Emo, Thunder Bay, Thessalon, Gore Bay, and New Liskeard, which together form the North Region Team.  
Client Service Representatives are located in the Verner office and are a valuable link between our Agriculture Development Advisors (ADAs) and our Northern clients. They are also able to provide you with access to resources to support the development of the agriculture sector in Northern Ontario.  
| | Northern Region | Monique Legault, Regional Manager – Northern Region  
Phone: 705-594-2393  
Mobile: 705-491-1947  
Fax: 705-594-9675  
Monique.legault@ontario.ca | |
| | Northern Ontario Office: New Liskeard | Barry Botter  
Phone: 705-647-2086  
Mobile: 705-648-1799  
Fax: 705-647-7993  
barry.potter@ontario.ca | |
| | Manitoulin Office: Gore Bay | Brian Bell  
Phone: 705-282-1638  
Mobile: 705-690-5020  
Fax: 705-282-2958  
brian.bell2@ontario.ca | |
| | Timiskaming and Cochrane Office: New Liskeard | Daniel Tassé  
Phone: 705-647-2085  
Mobile: 705-648-1798  
Fax: 705-647-7993  
daniel.tasse@ontario.ca | |
| | Algoma Office: Thessalon | Dave Trivers  
Phone: 705-842-1582  
Mobile: 705-542-3261  
Fax: 705-842-1583  
david.trivers@ontario.ca | |
| | Rainy River, Kenora Office: Emo | Gary Sliworsky  
Phone: 807-482-1921  
Mobile: 807-275-8117  
Fax: 807-482-2864  
gary.sliworsky@ontario.ca | |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **OMAFRA – Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs** | Northern Ontario Regional Agriculture Development Advisors Continued | Julie Poirier Mensinga  
Office: Verner  
Phone: 705-594-2315  
Mobile: 705-471-3389  
Fax: 705-594-9675  
julie.poiriermensinga@ontario.ca |  |
| | East Sudbury, Nipissing and Parry Sound  
Office: Verner | Pierrette Desrochers  
Phone: 705-594-2313  
Mobile: 705-690-9790  
Fax: 705-594-9675  
pierrette.desrochers@ontario.ca |  |
| | Thunder Bay  
Office: Thunder Bay | Kendal Donahue  
Phone: 807-475-1214  
Mobile: 807-627-1566  
Fax: 807-475-1313  
kendal.donahue@ontario.ca |  |
| **North Western Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association – Regional Association of OSCIA** | North Western Ontario, Region 11 | OSCIA North Western Ontario District  
Andrew Brekveld, Director – North Western Ontario  
Phone: 807-630-7258  
abrekveld@ontariosoilcrop.org  
Erik Johanson, President  
Phone: 807-577-2151  
Jeff Burke, Secretary/Treasurer  
Phone: 807-933-0570  
Miranda van den Berg, Regional Communication Coordinator  
Phone: 807-577-4987  
Northwest.scia@gmail.com | Source: www.ontariosoilcrop.org |
| Local Associations | Kenora | Martin Sherwood, President  
Phone: 807-937-5739 |  |
| | Rainy River | John Sawatzky  
Phone: 807-271-3216 |  |
| | Thunder Bay | Johan Huisman, President  
Phone: 807-251-2270 |  |