



# **Information for new farming members of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture**

Ontario Hazelnut Association Symposium  
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Presented by:  
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## Presentation Topics

Information about:

- The Ontario Federation of Agriculture
- Farm Income Tax
- Farm Business Registration
- Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program
- Farm Property Assessment



## OFA's Mission: Farms and Food Forever



- OFA is a producer-led general farm organization based in Guelph, Ontario. OFA deals with a broad range of issues affecting producers, e.g., land use, taxation, environment, labour, etc.  
<https://ofa.on.ca/issues/>
- OFA represents and champions the diverse interests of Ontario's agri-food sector and rural communities.
- OFA's work involves government relations, farm policy development and research, lobby efforts, community representation, and media relations.



**OFA is the largest general farm organization in Ontario, proudly representing 38,000 farm family members across the province.**



- OFA is a member-led general farm organization funded through our membership of 38,000 family farm businesses from across Ontario. Approx 88% of all Ontario farms are OFA members
- OFA adds member value through engaging with members in policy development, research, advocacy, communications, as well as member benefits and services.
- OFA supports 51 county and regional federations across Ontario  
<https://ofa.on.ca/federations/>
- As a federation, OFA has 30 organizational members and affiliates representing Ontario commodities, including the Ontario Hazelnut Association

## 2026 will be OFA's 90th anniversary year!



- 1936 - the Ontario Agricultural Conference was organized in response to the creation of the Canadian Chamber of Agriculture, later renamed the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.
- 1937 - Name officially changed to the Ontario Chamber of Agriculture
- 1940 – Name changed again to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture

## Our Mission: Farms and Food Forever



- 18 member-elected Board of Directors consisting of farmers from across Ontario  
<https://ofa.on.ca/about-ofa/board-of-directors/>
- 47 staff <https://ofa.on.ca/about-ofa/staff-directory/>
- Including Member Service Representatives: 20 field staff in 15 geographical zones across Ontario. On-the-ground advocates for OFA members, their families and Ontario's agriculture industry  
<https://ofa.on.ca/about-ofa/msr/>



## Farm Income Tax



- For income tax purposes, Canada Revenue Agency defines a business as an activity where there is a reasonable expectation of profit and there is evidence to support that intention.
- CRA's website  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/businesses/farmers-fishers.html>
- Has links to:
- **RC4060 Farming Income and the AgriStability and AgrilInvest Programs Guide**
- **T1163 Statement A - AgriStability and AgrilInvest Programs Information and Statement of Farming Activities for Individuals** form is for self-employed farmers or partners of partnerships who report farming income and participate in the AgriStability and AgrilInvest programs.

## Farm Business Registration (FBR)



- Farmers who earn a minimum annual gross farm income of \$7,000 or more (as defined by the Canada Revenue Agency) must register under the Farm Business Registration (FBR) program in the following year.
- Annual registration is an eligibility requirement for some Ontario government programs, including the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program and farm license plates.
- Agricorp administers the Farm Business Registration Program. Renew or start a new application online by [www.agricorp.com/fbr](http://www.agricorp.com/fbr).
- Registrants select OFA or another accredited general farm organization to receive their 2024 Farm Business Registration fee of \$255 (plus HST) for the 2024 registration year.



## Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program



- Farmland that is being worked by a Farm Business Registrant is eligible for the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program.  
<https://ofa.on.ca/resources/farmland-tax-puzzle/>
- Agricorp administers the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program through a multi-year application process. Property owners need to ensure Agricorp has their property tax roll numbers linked to their Farm Business Registration number.
  - If you rent the land out, you need to use your tenant farmer's FBR
- Those who do not yet qualify for the FBR Program can apply for a start-up exemption until they reach the FBR \$7,000 income threshold.
- **To be eligible for the farm tax rate:**
  - MPAC must assess (value) the property as farmland
  - Property must be used for farming
  - Farm business farming the property must have a valid FBR number (or an exemption)
  - Meet Canadian citizen/permanent resident ownership requirements

## Farm Property Assessment



- The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) assesses all properties in Ontario including farms. Under the four-year assessment cycle, MPAC sent out a Notice of Assessment to property owners in the fall of 2016.
- A new property assessment update was scheduled in 2020 but was delayed due to COVID concerns.
- The province recently announced that all property values will remain frozen at 2016 values in 2024 and they are “reviewing the property tax system.”
- Every farmland residence plus one acre of land will be classified in the residential tax class.
- Farmland and farm buildings are classified in the farm tax class if approved by Agricorp under the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program.
- Check your MPAC assessment notice to verify your farmland is classed as “Farm”.



**Thank you**

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