

Ministry of Agriculture,  
Food and Rural Affairs

Ministère de l'Agriculture, de  
l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales

Office of the Minister

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February 27, 2017

Dear Mayor/Reeve/Warden:

Applications for the 2017 Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence program are now being accepted. I ask that you please share this information in your municipality.

The Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence program was created to recognize and foster the spirit of innovation that thrives in Ontario's \$36.4-billion agri-food sector. Each year, our agri-food sector demonstrates leadership in innovation by developing new and exciting products, production methods and ways of doing business that help drive growth and create jobs in our province.

Every year the program recognizes up to 50 award-winning innovations across the province, including the Premier's Award which is valued at \$75,000.

Primary producers, processors and agri-food organizations are invited to submit applications until **11:59 p.m. on April 28, 2017**.

Details on eligibility, innovation categories, assessment criteria, the application and selection processes can be found in the enclosed 2017 Program Guidebook and Application Form or [online](http://www.ontario.ca/agrifoodinnovation) ([www.ontario.ca/agrifoodinnovation](http://www.ontario.ca/agrifoodinnovation)). For additional information, please contact the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300 or [ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca](mailto:ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca).

I have also enclosed a copy of a brochure that highlights the recipients of the 2016 program for the Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence.

I look forward to celebrating the great innovations developed in your municipality to grow our agri-food sector and Ontario's economy.

Sincerely,

Jeff Leal  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Enclosure



Good Things Grow in Ontario  
À bonne terre, bons produits

## CHECKLIST FOR COMPLETING YOUR PREMIER'S AWARD APPLICATION

### 1. Eligibility Criteria

- ☐ Did you review the eligibility criteria in the Program Guidebook and Application Form? Are you eligible to apply?
- ☐ Did you complete the eligibility chart on the application form? (Part C)
- ☐ Primary Producer/Farmer - Did you include your Farm Business Registration (FBR) number or alternative document? (see details in the Program Guidebook and Application Form)

**TIP:** A primary producer/farmer is defined as eligible to obtain an Ontario Farm Business Registration number, which requires at least \$7,000 in gross farm income. For more information contact Agricorp @ 1-866-327-3678 (Monday to Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

- ☐ Processor – Did you provide your business registration / incorporation number?
- ☐ Agri-Food Organization – Did you provide your organization's mission statement, purpose and objectives? Did you include a current list of your Board of Directors?

### 2. Completing the Application

- ☐ Did you provide a summary of your innovation? (20 word maximum)
- ☐ Did you provide answers to all of the application questions? If you require assistance with your application, please contact your nearest OMAFRA office or call toll free at 1-877-424-1300.
- ☐ Did you certify your compliance with the Terms and Conditions of Participation, Compliance with Legislation and Regulations and OMAFRA Family Relationship disclosure by signing your application or following the electronic submission process (Part E)?

**TIP:** It is recommended that you answer each question with no more than 500 words per response. Provide quantitative information where appropriate (i.e. # acres, # of products, employees, financial benefits, etc.).

**TIP:** It is recommended you align your answers with the assessment criteria listed in the program guidebook (uniqueness and originality, development, operational benefits, adoption and/or commercialization, broader use, impact or benefits).

### 3. Supporting Information

- ☐ Did you include photos of your innovation?

**TIP:** Applicants are strongly encouraged to include five or six jpeg photos (of their innovation submitted on an USB or CD or via email to: [premiersagrifoodinnovationaward@ontario.ca](mailto:premiersagrifoodinnovationaward@ontario.ca)). Photo examples include: the innovation, innovation partners, family, farm signs, farm equipment, etc.

**TIP:** Other supporting information may include, but is not limited to the following:

- testimonials/letters of support
- marketing plan and resources

If you have any questions or require additional support in completing your application, contact your nearest OMAFRA office or call toll-free at 1-877-424-1300.