

Pilon, Janet**Subject:** Message from OMAFRA on Agricultural System Implementation**From:** Coombs, Johanna (OMAFRA) <Johanna.Coombs@ontario.ca> **On Behalf Of** Bailey, Sharon (OMAFRA)**Sent:** June 6, 2019 3:12 PM**Subject:** Message from OMAFRA on Agricultural System Implementation**Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs****Ministère de l'Agriculture,
de l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales**2nd Floor
1 Stone Road West
Guelph, Ontario N1G 4Y2
Tel: 519-826-6800
www.ontario.ca/OMAFRA2^e étage
1 Stone Road West
Guelph (Ontario) N1G 4Y2
Tél. : 519-826-6800
www.ontario.ca/MAAARO

Food Safety and Environmental Policy Branch

June 6, 2019

Dear Municipalities in the Greater Golden Horseshoe,

As you may know, the government recently announced the Housing Supply Action Plan. Included in this plan are changes to the Growth Plan ("A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe"). The changes give communities more flexibility outside of the Greenbelt while continuing to encourage municipalities to develop strategies to sustain or enhance their Agricultural System.

The Agricultural System approach, unique in North America, addresses both the protection of farmland and the viability of the agri-food sector. The intention is to support job creation, allow local food to flourish and create trade and economic opportunities.

OMAFRA would like to collaborate with you on mapping refinements to the agricultural land base to ensure it reflects local realities. Our staff will be in touch to request an opportunity to meet with your planners and economic developers to initiate this process, if not done already.

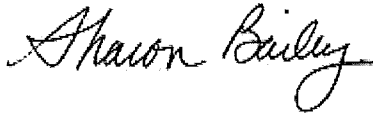
In the meantime, if you have any updated data and mapping that may not have been captured in the 2018 provincial agricultural land base map (e.g. settlement area boundaries, municipally designated prime agricultural areas), please share it with OMAFRA's Rural Planner covering your area. We are also interested in learning about issues raised by landowners that need to be considered.

Since the Greenbelt Plan has not been changed, the provincial agricultural land base mapping remains in effect in the Greenbelt. Municipalities are required to bring official plans into conformity with A Place to Grow and Greenbelt Plan by July 1, 2022. This includes refining and incorporating the agricultural land base map into official plans. OMAFRA is inviting municipalities to come forward with refinements to their agricultural land base mapping as soon as they can.

Below you will find a list of additional resources for your convenience. OMAFRA is updating the Implementation Procedures for the Agricultural System in Ontario's Greater Golden Horseshoe (2019) to align with A Place to Grow and will send you a link once posted.

If you could forward this message to the Planning and Economic Development leads in your municipality, that would be appreciated. If you have any questions about the Agricultural System, mapping or web portal, please feel free to contact me, at 519-826-6800 or sharon.bailey@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



Sharon Bailey
Director
Food Safety and Environmental Policy Branch

Resources

A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019

Agricultural System mapping portal - The portal, which can be used for economic development purposes and to inform Agricultural Impact Assessments, helps visualize the agri-food network, such as transportation infrastructure and food processors.

List of OMAFRA's Rural Planners

Economic tools