



Three bountiful years of Ontario Food Cluster success

The [Ontario Food Cluster](#) – the largest food and beverage processing jurisdiction in Canada and among the top three in North America – invites global food processing companies to invest and expand in Canada’s most populous province. For three years, the Ontario Food Cluster has been building its global reputation for food quality and enjoying access to over 460 million North American consumers. Ontario has retail grocery sales that total \$29 billion – more of Canada’s grocery and specialty food store market than any other province. The agriculture, agri-food and beverage sector is the province’s number one employer, and Ontario also boasts rich agricultural lands that produce more than 200 agricultural commodities – a diversity unmatched in most parts of the world.

In 2011, the Ontario Food Cluster was an organization of three agri-food and beverage processing regions – the Greater Toronto Area, City of Guelph and the Waterloo Region. These members worked alongside the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to develop Ontario’s primary food industry sectors.

In 2013, the Cluster includes 11 regions and member cities and spans Canada’s most populous province. Government partners have multiplied as well: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ontario Ministry of

Rural Affairs all now support the work of the economic and business development professionals and food research specialists of the Ontario Food Cluster.



Since its inception, the Ontario Food Cluster has participated in eight international agri-food and beverage trade missions and attended global food conferences at these sites, including: SIAL Paris and Brazil, Anuga Cologne, PLMA in Chicago and IFT New Orleans. 110 international and national news stories about the Ontario Food Cluster have been published

Meet the Ontario Food Cluster in 2014

The [Ontario Food Cluster](#) travels the world presenting investment opportunities. If you would like to set up a meeting in advance of a conference or if you are visiting Ontario with agri-expansion ideas to discuss, please email [Brad Hammond](#), Ontario Food Cluster Co-Chair and Development Officer with the Southwestern Ontario Marketing Alliance and the City of Woodstock.

Ontario Food Cluster members are available to discuss recruitment strategies in Ontario as well as financial assistance programs and tax incentives for food and beverage industry companies expanding to Ontario. The province is a global leader in agri-research and ingenuity – international companies located here can access innovative research partnerships and technology licensing opportunities through the Ontario Food Cluster.

[Contact us!](#)



Ontario Food Cluster: 11 cities and regions working together

The [Ontario Food Cluster](#) builds international trade and investment opportunities for its expanding 3,200-company agri-

as global recognition for the Ontario Food Cluster grows. [See media results here.](#)

A variety of factors converge to give Ontario its competitive advantage in the agri-food sector. If your international agri-food company is looking to locate or expand to a thriving food processing region, consider the Ontario Food Cluster.

Join 3,200 major global agri-food companies thriving in Ontario

Internationally recognized companies located in Ontario include:



Over \$3 billion of incentives

help you consider Ontario

Along with Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada, the Government of Ontario is an active player in the province's agri-food economy. Financial assistance and tax incentive programs for food and beverage companies in Ontario come from a wide variety of institutions, including Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Canada Revenue Agency, Ontario Centres of Excellence, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food as well as the Ministry of Rural Affairs, among others.

Among dozens of programs, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) initiative, [Growing Forward 2: 2013-2018](#) is significant. Processors located in Ontario may access this comprehensive program, backed by a \$3 billion investment, over five years, in federal and provincial funding. The fund is aimed at generating market-based economic growth in the sector and encourages innovation and collaboration by focusing on increased profits, expanded markets and managed risks. Under Growing Forward 2, three federal programs come into effect:

- AgriInnovation Program - focuses on investments that bring together the pre-

food and beverage sector. Ontario food exports total \$9.91 billion. The Ontario Food Cluster offers an educated workforce, excellent growth opportunities, a low-risk business environment and generous R&D tax credits that are the envy of other countries.

Ontario Food Cluster cities and regions include City of Brantford, City of Hamilton, City of London, County of Elgin, County of Middlesex, Greater Toronto Marketing Alliance, Guelph, Niagara Region, Southwestern Ontario Marketing Alliance, Waterloo Region and Windsor-Essex. The Cluster also partners with Ontario's Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Ministry of Rural Affairs; Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada.

[The Ontario Food Cluster](#)



Top 10 reasons to invest in the Ontario Food Cluster

- Stable, highly talented, motivated workforce
- Access to the North American market (NAFTA)
- Ontario is the economic engine of Canada
- World class research institutions
- Innovation leadership
- Superior infrastructure
- Business incentives
- Low risk business environment
- Openness to diversity / multiculturalism
- Quality of life

For more information on

commercialization and commercialization stages of innovation

- AgriMarketing Program - supports industry by creating and maintaining access to markets and taking advantage of market opportunities
- AgriCompetitiveness Program - enhance the sector's capacity to develop leadership, strategies, networks and tools for improving competitiveness, adapting to challenges, innovating and managing risk.

See a long list of government incentive and tax credit programs on [the Ontario Food Cluster website.](#)

For more information on investing in the Ontario Food Cluster, [please visit our website](#)

55 agri-food-specific university and college programs

Agri-food businesses harvest success from Ontario, Canada's largest pool of agri-food talent. 130,000 people in Ontario work in agri-food processing / manufacturing and wholesaling, with 483,000 more working in related sectors: food service, retail and specialty stores. Ontario is among the continent's three largest food and beverage processing jurisdictions and is home to the graduates of 55 agri-food university and college programs. Also noteworthy: the availability of qualified engineers in Canada is the highest in the G7 according to the International Institute for Management Development.



Ontario Food Cluster cities are within a two-hour drive, or less, of most major cities in the north-eastern U.S.

[Contact us](#) to discuss the advantages The Ontario Food Cluster can offer your company.

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