



Possibility grows here.

Greenbelt Foundation

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Greenbelt Foundation Backgrounder

Report Launches: *Understanding How Greenbelt Agriculture Feeds the Regional Economy* and
Greenbelt Farmers: Economic Network Case Studies

Date: February 28, 2022

Prepared For: Various Media

Prepared By: Greenbelt Foundation

Overview

The Greenbelt Foundation has published two new research reports titled *Understanding How Greenbelt Agriculture Feeds the Regional Economy* and *Greenbelt Farmers: Economic Network Case Studies*. Both reports unveil new details about the health and success for the Greenbelt's agricultural and agri-food industries, the economic impact of agriculture within the Greenbelt on the broader economy, as well as highlight the variety of challenges currently facing the industry.

Background

The [*Understanding How Greenbelt Agriculture Feeds the Regional Economy*](#) report is a quantitative study of economic activity in the Greenbelt and the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) generated by the agricultural and agri-food industries. The report finds that the agri-food industry in the Greenbelt contributed \$4.1 billion in GDP and close to 59,000 jobs to Ontario's economy in 2020. The report further reinforces that a strong agriculture sector generates opportunities for growth in other industries to help support a more resilient economy and enhanced food system security for Ontario.

The value of goods and services purchased by Greenbelt farms is estimated at \$900 million. Over 70 per cent of this economic activity takes place within the Greater Golden Horseshoe. This data provides a window into the agriculture supply chain and indicates that in many cases, businesses that provide goods and services to agriculture producers have emerged within relatively close proximity to agricultural land. This results in significant local economic activity with benefits that remain in local communities and support our rural economies.

The [*Greenbelt Farmers: Economic Network Case Studies*](#) report profiles seven Greenbelt farmers from a variety of farm types, sizes, and operations. These interviews allowed researchers to gain an understanding of many aspects of each farm business such as crop production, equipment and tools, and industry relationships. The interviews also allowed researchers greater insight into the significant economic contributions of the agricultural sector in the Greenbelt by describing the supply chain for each of the farms. The interviews were also able to go in-depth to learn greater details about day-to-day farm operations such as where the farmers get seeds, where crops are processed, and where their crops are sold. This allows for greater insight into the web of connections and supply chains that support agricultural production.



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The significant contribution from Greenbelt farmers is more than simply economic. The eggs, milk, meats, nuts, and produce sold by these farmers not only contributes to international supply chains but also powers the local food industry here in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

The farms profiled in the case studies are:

1. Almet Farms, Tyrone, ON
2. Grimo Nut Nursery, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
3. Eek Farms, Ansnorveldt, ON
4. Tomar Farms, Orono, ON,
5. Kauzlaric Family Farms, Niagara, ON
6. Ovino Farm, Acton, ON
7. Joe Loewith and Sons Ltd., Hamilton, ON

About Greenbelt Foundation:

Greenbelt Foundation is a charitable organization, solely dedicated to ensuring the Greenbelt remains permanent, protected and prosperous. We make the right investments in its interconnected natural, agricultural, and economic systems, to ensure a working, thriving Greenbelt for all. Ontario's Greenbelt is the world's largest, with over two million acres of farmland, forests, wetlands and rivers working together to provide clean air, fresh water, and a reliable local food source.

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