



MFA UPDATE 2026



AGRICULTURE IS AN ECONOMIC DRIVER IN MIDDLESEX

- 2518 Farms
- Employ over 27,000 people
- \$1.4 billion in farm cash receipts
- Top 3 commodities: Grains, Poultry and Hogs
- Strong agriculture = strong communities!

Source: OMAFA 2025 County Profiles

WHY WE NEED TO PROTECT FARMLAND

- ✔ Bill 21 - Protect Our Food Act
- ✔ Legacy Lots
- ✔ Conservation Authorities

Agriculture land is productive, essential valuable, finite and non renewable!



CARGILL SARNIA

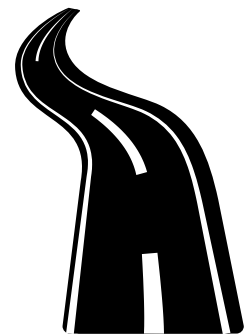
- located on the boundary between the City of Sarnia and the Village of Point Edward
- Being threatened by 2 proposed residential developments in close proximity
- Handles 35% of Ontario's export grain and is a major importer of local fertilizer.
- Area federations and farmers urge municipalities and Cargill to implement appropriate zoning buffers between the grain terminal and surrounding sensitive land uses



SUPPORTING THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR



Reliable broadband internet for business development and utilizing precision agriculture technology.



Roads, bridges and culverts to transport farm equipment and distribute agri-food products.



Access to natural gas to attract and retain businesses in rural communities.





WIND TOWERS

- 300 ft high + 70 ft for blades
- Concrete base proposed 10 ft (3-4 m) deep
- Constructed with concrete and rebar
- Estimated production = 6 MW per tower
- Landowner concerns:
- Removal of base at end of life
- Proposal is to only remove 1 m of concrete from base – this is not enough to return land to production

RAILWAYS

- \$45M to improve safety nationally
- Railways refuse to acknowledge Drainage Act
- Court Case supports municipality position
- Farm crossings upgrade costs



HIGH SPEED RAIL

- Toronto to Quebec City
- 300 km per hour
- Requires new dedicated fenced infrastructure
- Major impacts to farmland remain unresolved
- Alternative is high frequency rail
- 200 km per hour
- Can use existing infrastructure once upgraded
- Prioritize passenger rail over freight rail



BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

- Lots of unknowns
- Fire suppression
- End of use (recycling vs landfill)
- Estimated Ontario will need to expand from 42,000 to 88,000 MW by 2050
- Could lose up to 2.2M acres of land



MEDIAN RESULTS OF 151 COST OF COMMUNITIES STUDIES

Service	Residential	Industrial	Agriculture
Fire/Police/Ambulance	↑	↔	↔
Municipal Services	↑	↑	↑
Recreation	↑	↓	↔
Sewer/Water	↑	↑	↓
Revenue : Expenses	\$1.16	\$0.30	\$0.37

Source: American Farmland Trust

OFA MUNICIPAL RESOURCES

<https://ofa.on.ca/growag/>

- Economic Snapshots of Agriculture Sector
- Agriculture Matters Guide
- Guide to Support Agriculture in your Municipality
- Agriculture Considerations When Designing Municipal Roadways
- Agriculture Economic Development Initiatives
- Welcome to Rural Ontario





**Thank
You!**