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This form must be filled out using Adobe Acrobat Reader.

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Although your form may *appear* to be filled out correctly when using non-Adobe software, Adobe Acrobat Reader is the only software that will properly retain your form details. Non-Adobe software such as Microsoft Office products and internet web browsers (i.e. Google Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer, EDGE, and Safari) as well as scanned applications are NOT supported. All mobile devices including iphones, androids, ipads and MAC computers are also NOT compatible.

Applicants that do not complete this form in Adobe Acrobat Reader will be required to resubmit their application using Adobe Acrobat Reader. Applicants who complete this form using non-Adobe software will be required to **redo and resubmit** using Adobe software before it can be accepted.

TO COMPLETE THIS FORM:

1. Download a free version of Adobe Acrobat Reader if you do not already have it installed on your computer. [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)
2. Save this form to your computer before you begin filling it out.
 - File > Save As > [give the file a name] > Save.
 - Do NOT fill out this form in your internet browser window.
3. Open the file from your computer.
 - Make sure that the file is opening in the Adobe Acrobat Reader software.
 - You can work on completing the form at any time. Remember to save your file along the way.
 - Once complete, save the file.
4. Email the Adobe-completed PDF form as an attachment to AgRuralPrograms@ontario.ca
 - Do not send your document using Adobe Cloud.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 27, 2022 11:59pm

Part A - Applicant Information

1. Operating Name of Business/Organization (Name under which the business operates)

Legal Name of Business/Organization (Complete name business is registered under)

Same as Operating Name or:

BUSINESS MAILING ADDRESS AND WEBSITE

Address

City/Town

Municipality

Province

Postal Code

Website URL:

PRIMARY CONTACT FOR APPLICATION

First Name

Last Name

Job Title

Business Email Address

Phone

2. Application Type and Eligibility (select only one):

Eligibility Criteria - The following criteria must be met to be considered an eligible Applicant.

Primary Producer/Farmer Businesses

- A farm business that is a legal entity and produces agricultural commodities in Ontario under a valid Farm Business Registration Number (FBRN) or an allowable exemption. A primary producer / farmer must:
 - reside in Ontario
 - be a citizen or a permanent resident of Canada

Processor Business

- A Processor Business that is a legal entity that processes agricultural commodities, food, beverage or agri-based products in Ontario. An eligible Processor Business must:
 - be a Canadian owned company with less than 100 permanent full-time salaried and non-salaried employees, and
 - have a minimum of 50 per cent of the food ingredients processed in its Ontario-based processing facility must be sourced from Ontario growers/producers

Agri-Food Organization/Association

- Is a not-for-profit and Ontario-based (i.e., is located in Ontario and, where applicable, has a membership composed primarily of Ontario residents/businesses/organizations)
- Has a direct relationship to the Ontario Agri-Food Sector.

Agri-Food Innovator (an individual or an Agri-Food business (that is not a Primary Producer/Farmer Business or a Processor Business))

- An Individual, must
 - Be a resident of Ontario
 - Have a direct relationship to the Ontario Agri-Food Sector
 - Be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada
- An Agri-Food Business must:
 - Be a primary business/facilities in Ontario with less than 100 annual full-time employees
 - Have a direct relationship to the Ontario Agri-Food Sector

Education Institution

An Ontario based high-school or accredited Ontario University/ College

Northern Indigenous businesses and/or Indigenous communities

- A Northern or Indigenous owned business located in Ontario
- Indigenous Community located in Northern Ontario

3. Farm Business Registration Number (FBRN), If Applicable.

A Farm Business Registration Number (FBRN) for a qualifying business can be received by registering with the OFA, CFFO or NFU-O. This is a six- to seven-digit number. Farm businesses that earn a gross farm income of \$7,000 or more (for income tax purposes) are required by legislation to register their business.

If applicable, please indicate if you have qualified for one of the following FBRN exemptions. Further documentation may be required to verify your exemption status.

Religious exemption

Cultural exemption

4. Describe the Organization/Business and/or its Products/Services. (250 word maximum)

For Agri-Food Organization/Association - Please attach your organization's mission statement, purpose and objectives as well as a list of the Board of Directors.

For Education Institutions and/or Agri-Food Innovator – describe your relationship to the Agri-Food Sector:

5. Number of Employees as of February 2022

Employees	Number
Full-time (30 hours or more/week)	
Part-time (less than 30 hours/week)	
Temporary/Seasonal	
Volunteers	

Part B - AWARD CATEGORIES

6. Which Award Category are you applying to? (Select only one)

COVID Agri-Food Champion

- Have implemented innovative solutions to address COVID-19 related challenges in the Agri-Food sector

Innovation in Food Processing*

- Have demonstrated how innovation has supported the efficiency and/or effectiveness of the Agri-Food processing sector.

Innovation in Agriculture

- Can demonstrate how innovation has supported efficiency and/or effectiveness of Ontario's Agriculture sector
- There is limited adoption of the identified innovation in Ontario's Agriculture sector

Women in Agriculture

- Have demonstrated agri-food leadership and how those efforts are supporting the growth and development of Ontario's Agri-Food sector

Youth in Agriculture

- Applicant is under 29 years old
- Has demonstrated agri-food leadership and how those efforts are supporting the growth and development of Ontario's Agri-Food sector

Education in Agriculture

- Demonstrates awareness building, innovation, training and/or skill development that supports growth within the Agri-Food sector

Northern and Indigenous owned business and/or communities

- Has implemented to support the Agri-Food sector:
- awareness building, innovation, training and/or skill development and/or
- innovative solutions to address COVID-19 related challenges

7. Which Outcomes has your innovation addressed? (Select all that apply)

Addressing labour shortage issues through supply chain innovations

Mitigating COVID 19 risks to enhance workers' health and safety

Enhancing food safety, traceability and/or stewardship practices in the agri-food sector

Increasing/ maintaining access to high-quality, local and nutritious food

Supporting agriculture and rural economic growth including market development and trade

Increasing public engagement and support for agriculture and local food

Building leadership capacity and increased involvement of women and youth in the agri-food sector

Strengthening public trust and public knowledge about Ontario's agri-food sector

8. Provide describe your Innovation in detail and how Outcomes were achieved (max 500 words)

*Include any Pictures, drawings and letters of support to strengthen your application,

9. Development, Uniqueness and Originality of the Innovation

Describe the evolution of your innovation, including whether you developed this innovation yourself, modified existing technology or adopted it from elsewhere. Highlight what makes your innovation unique and original. Outline the process used in developing, modifying or adapting your innovation and what stage of development it is in (i.e. concept, design, prototype, development or operational).

Evolution of Innovation

Details (30 words maximum)

Developed myself

Modified existing technology

Adopted from elsewhere

10. Broader Use, Adoption and/or Commercialization

Provide an overview on the broader use, adoption and/or commercialization of your innovation (if applicable).

Broader Use, Adoption and/or Commercialization

Details (50 Words maximum)

What is the broader use for your innovation beyond your business, organization, or community?

Has your innovation been adopted? By who? How?

Has your innovation been commercialized? How?

OR

If not, how might this be accomplished?

PART C – ATTESTATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Compliance with Terms and Conditions of Participation

I, the undersigned, acknowledge that I have read, understood, agreed to and fully complied with the terms and conditions of participation in the Excellence in Agriculture Program as set out in the Program Guidelines and in this Application Form, and attest that the information provided on all parts pertaining to the Program is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Compliance with Legislation and Regulations

I further attest that I / we are in compliance with all federal, provincial and municipal legislation that applies to me / us and our operations and to the innovation that is described in this application. I / we accept that the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, in their sole discretion, may for any reason and at any time retract an award, including the use of the Excellence in Agriculture wordmark, and that I / we will follow all directions issued to us thereafter concerning the same.

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)

I solemnly attest that the owners of this business and / or the Board of Directors of this agri-food organization are not employees of OMAFRA or related to employees of OMAFRA.

Authorized Signing Officer Name

Title

Email

Date (YYYY/MM/DD)

Take notice that the information you supply on the application form is being collected by OMAFRA's Economic Development Division and may be used and disclosed for the purpose of administering and promoting the Excellence in Agriculture Program. This includes processing your application, confirming your program eligibility, and contacting you in the event that you are selected as an award recipient. Your information may be subject to audit and also be shared with application review panels. In the event that you are an award recipient, your name, contact information and photographs may also be disclosed in print and/or electronic form to promote the objectives of the Excellence in Agriculture award as set out in the Program Guidebook and Application Form.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the collection, use and disclosure of the information you submit, please contact: Administrative Services Representative, Rural Programs Branch, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, at 1 Stone Rd. W., Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2, phone: 266-979-7884.

**Or, for more information, contact the
Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300.**