POWERING PROSPERITY IN AGRI-FOOD

The Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance (Alliance) is committed to improving the lives of Ontarians by enabling a competitive and sustainable agri-food sector — at home and around the world.

Through the Alliance, the University of Guelph (U of G) and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs deliver novel research, laboratory capacity, property management and veterinary capacity programs to ensure Ontarians have access to healthy, safe food, and that our farms and businesses are innovative, competitive and sustainable.

U of G commissioned Ernst & Young to measure the economic impact of the Alliance across Ontario and Canada as part of a broader assessment of the University’s contributions to the province and the country. This report demonstrates how the Alliance delivers positive impacts for Ontario’s agri-food sector and makes significant contributions to the provincial economy.
Alliance-funded research and laboratory capacity ensures Ontario is on guard against African swine fever (ASF) thanks to robust monitoring and emergency preparedness.

ASF is a highly transmissible viral disease in hogs that poses a significant threat to the commercial pork industry. So far, the disease has not been detected in Canada. The Animal Health Laboratory works with veterinarians and other partners to provide fast, reliable and local testing for ASF, monitoring for the disease in Ontario and verifying Canada’s disease-free status to keep borders open for international trade.

Alliance-funded researchers are also using a One Health approach, which considers the interactions among humans, animals and ecosystems, to find lasting solutions to global challenges, including diseases like ASF.
Through the Alliance, U of G manages a network of agri-food research centres at 14 sites across Ontario. Thanks to continued investment by industry partners and the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario (ARIO, an agency of the Government of Ontario), this network consists of world-class infrastructure, including the Ontario Dairy Research Centre, the Ontario Beef Research Centre and the Ontario Swine Research Centre.

These research centres are knowledge translation hubs where researchers, veterinarians and students work with industry partners to deliver farm-tested innovations for Ontario producers.

**RESEARCH CENTRES**

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**$22 MILLION**

ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ONTARIO AGRI-FOOD RESEARCH CENTRES IN ONTARIO

**219**

JOBS SUPPORTING THE 14 SITES OF THE RESEARCH CENTRE NETWORK

**$81 MILLION**

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ARIO INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY IN ONTARIO
Alliance researchers deliver Ontario agri-food solutions with global impact.

Along with laboratory capacity and veterinary training, the Alliance provides access to funding, expert research technicians and state-of-the-art infrastructure – all the resources a world-class researcher needs to develop innovative solutions and train the next generation of agri-food innovators.

BIOMATERIALS TO THE RESCUE

Dr. Amar Mohanty and Dr. Manju Misra from the U of G’s Bioproducts Discovery and Development Centre (BDDC) are global leaders in bioproducts research, thanks partly to funding from the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance.

Bioproducts offer an effective and innovative way to reduce agricultural waste and reliance on single-use plastics and petroleum-based materials.

BDDC researchers have developed several bio-based resins used in innovative products, such as the world’s first certified, fully compostable coffee pod marketed by Club Coffee, and lightweight, biocarbon-based, sustainable composites used by the Ford Motor Co., positioning Ontario as a world leader in bio-based material development.