

February 2015

2015 York Region Annual Farm Employment Survey

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Regional Municipality of York, in partnership with the York Region Agricultural Liaison Group, the York Region Federation of Agriculture and the nine local municipalities, is currently contacting local farm-based businesses to gather employment and business information for its second annual farm-based employment survey.

York Region has been conducting door-to-door surveys of businesses within the Region since 1998. Farm-based businesses have historically been excluded from the survey, with the Region relying on data from Statistics Canada's Census of Agriculture to obtain information on farm activity. In an effort to learn more about the Region's agricultural sector, York Region conducted its first annual farm-based employment survey in 2014. The data collected includes information on the types of business activity such as crop production, forestry and logging and animal production and aquaculture.

The information collected from these surveys will be used for a variety of purposes, including:

- Monitoring Regional agricultural economic trends to help inform planning and economic development policies and business retention strategies to support the Region's agricultural business community
- Developing a contact list of York Region farmers who wish to be contacted about future initiatives promoting the Region's agricultural industry
- A free listing promoting your business in Regional and Local business directories

Specific business information is kept confidential and will be used for internal purposes only at an aggregate level. Data from some fields of the employment survey are also published in the York Business Directory. If you do not wish for your business information to be made publicly available, you can opt to exclude your business from the Business Directory. York Region and its Local Municipalities will abide by the Terms of Use for this data which are outlined on the following page. For more information on the Region's business directory please visit www.york.ca/businessdirectory. Additionally, if you do not wish to be contacted by the Region about future initiatives, you can opt out on the attached survey form.

It should be noted that the York Federation of Agriculture has mailed this information on behalf of the Regional Municipality of York and its nine local municipalities in recognition of its support of this Farm Employment Survey. Please be assured that your contact information has not been released and remains confidential as the YFA values your privacy.

We encourage you to take a few minutes to complete the attached blank survey form and send it back to us at the address below. Alternatively, the survey can be completed and submitted electronically at www.york.ca/businessdirectory.

For further information, please contact

Paul Bottomley, Manager, Manager, Policy, Research and Forecasting, York Region Long Range Planning Branch at (905) 830-4444 ext. 71530

or

Kim Empringham, Secretary/Treasurer/Director, York Federation of Agriculture, (905) 888-1235

Your assistance in providing information for this survey is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Farm Employment Data Terms of Use

The following tables summarizes the Terms of Use that York Region and the Local Municipalities will abide by, as it pertains to the business information collected through the 2014 York Region Farm Employment Survey. Please indicate on the York Region Farm Business Information Update Form if you would like to opt out of the York Region Business Directory.

General Business Information	
Business Name	Publish in Business Directory
Business Phone	Publish in Business Directory
Toll Free Phone Number	Publish in Business Directory
Business Fax Number	Publish in Business Directory
Website	Publish in Business Directory
General Email Address	Publish in Business Directory
Street Address	Publish in Business Directory
Mailing Address	Publish in Business Directory
Business Activity Information	
Primary and Secondary Business Activity Information	Publish in Business Directory
Do you participate in direct on-farm sales from this location?	Only Published in Aggregate Form
Does the farm currently export goods and/or services outside of Canada?	Only Published in Aggregate Form
Do you undertake primary processing on-site?	Only Published in Aggregate Form
Employment Information	
Number of Employees	Only Published in Aggregate Form
Employee Range (e.g. 20-49, 100-499)	Only Published in Aggregate Form
Is your location hiring in the next 6 months?	Only Published in Aggregate Form
Labour hired from outside of Canada?	Only Published in Aggregate Form
Additional Information	
What is the total acreage of the farm?	Only Published in Aggregate Form
How many acres of land are owned?	Only Published in Aggregate Form
How many acres of land are rented?	Only Published in Aggregate Form
Year this business established in York Region	Only Published in Aggregate Form
Survey Contact Information	
Survey Contact Name, Title, Phone number and direct email address	Private

Public York Region and Local Municipal staff may publish this data in the York Region Business Directory unless the business has decided to opt out of the directory

Aggregate York Region and Local Municipal staff may only publically use/publish this data in an aggregate form. For example, if a specific business indicates that it exports, that information will only be published as an aggregate total as part of the total number of businesses that export in York Region; or the Region will not publish the number of employees at a business but rather a general 'employee range' (e.g. 100-499, 500+) may be publically used.

Private York Region and Local Municipal staff will only use this information for internal purposes and will not share or publish the information. For example, the contact information for the Survey Contact will be used to contact the business for future Employment Surveys; however this information will not be shared with any third parties.