



# Native Agri Update

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[www.indianag.on.ca](http://www.indianag.on.ca)

## IAPO BOARD VISITS WIIKWIMKOONG

Last month, IAPO's Board of Directors had the opportunity to visit Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory. It was a busy day with the Board touring some local farms and community projects, convening the Quarterly Board meeting, as well as attending IAPO's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual community BBQ.

Wiikwemkoong has a rich heritage of farming and local food production that continues to be supported through the efforts of the community, Council, and others. Over the years, numerous initiatives have been undertaken including the community pasture, community gardens, maple syrup, and revitalization of apple production to name but a few.



*Pierre Trudeau (center, back to camera) explains aquaculture production.*

First stop for the Board was a visit to Buzwah Fisheries. Ben Kanaswe, founder of Buzwah Fisheries, along with his grandchild Nathan (employed on the farm since graduating from Sanford Fleming College in Aquaculture), and Farm manager Pierre Trudeau shared details of the operation. The fishery started in aquaculture production in 1995 and has grown to its impressive scale today producing literally tonnes of fresh trout annually. Buzwah has also become a major employer for the community.

Aquaculture is an intensively managed

business with attention paid to every detail including: daily water temperature monitoring, daily feeding schedules and amounts, and water quality. Trout production is amazingly efficient with feed conversions close to 1 to 1 (one pound of feed for every pound of gain)! This is far more efficient than land based production where feed conversions are much higher.

Later in the day, Jocelyn Bebamikawe, Employment and Training Officer, joined in and highlighted the amazing greenhouse project at the high school (also home of the successful FIRST robotics team). The greenhouse project, initiated with the support of the Avivia Community Fund, is mid construction and upon completion will provide energy efficient greenhouse facility creating learning opportunities for students and local food production. Students have already benefited from the project, helping with the construction. Jocelyn wrapped up her tour with a stop at the Wiky Fair grounds, where construction was underway on a wood fire pizza oven by Employment and Training. Aside for the great pizza we'll see at the Wiky fair, project participants gained valuable experience and training in stone masonry.



*Bev & Louis Naokwegijig*

Last stop of the day was at Louis and Bev Naokwegijig's for a farm tour and the BBQ. The farm is a large cow calf operation, marketing most of the calves in the fall. To meet the feeding needs of the herd, the farm relies on pasture and hay, mostly large round bales and wrapped as needed. In the summer, most of

the herd is moved to the community pasture.

After the tour, thanks to the generous hospitality of Bev and Louis, everyone enjoyed Bev's legendary cooking at the community BBQ, relaxing and chatting under the trees on the farmstead.

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# Agribusiness

## U.S. FED CUTS INTEREST RATE FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 2008

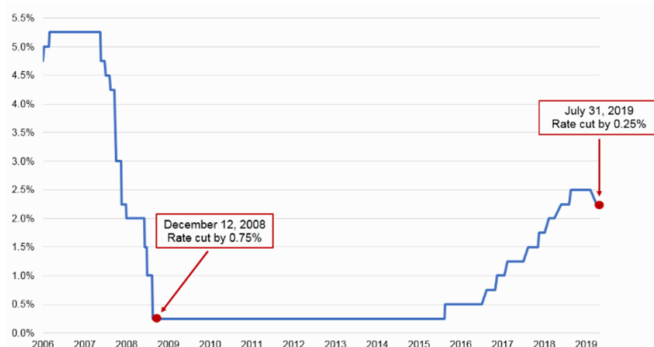
source: Pete Evans CBC NEWS Jul 31, 2019, Jim Tankersley NEW YORK TIMES Jul 31, 2019, Michelle Zadikian BNN BLOOMBERG Aug 2, 2019

The U.S. Federal Reserve cut its benchmark interest rate for the first time in more than a decade on Wednesday, reducing the cost of borrowing in an attempt to stimulate the U.S. economy, and push job creation.

The Federal Reserve cut its core lending rate, known as the federal funds rate, to 2.25 per cent. That's a cut of 0.25 percentage points from where it was before. It's the first cut since late 2008, when central banks around the world slashed rates to effectively zero to deal with the financial crisis.

The Fed's move brings its rate to within 50 points of the Bank of Canada's current rate, which sits at 1.75 percent.

While the move was widely expected, it is still significant because it indicates that the central bank sees economic clouds on the horizon that warrant the move to stimulate the world's largest economy.



### What this means for Americans

Technically speaking, Federal Reserve officials did not touch any of the rates that you see every day such as mortgage, car loans and bank rates to consumers. When they announced a quarter-point interest rate cut the rate they reduced is the federal funds rate which is what banks and other financial institutions charge one another for very short-term borrowing.

Most consumers don't do that sort of overnight borrowing, but the Fed's moves still affect the borrowing and saving rates they encounter every day.

The effect is not always direct or immediate, so consumers will not find that all of their favorite rates have changed by a quarter of a point. There is even solid evidence that the mere expectation that the Fed would cut rates on Wednesday had already pushed down some of the key rates that US consumers pay.

One of the biggest potential impacts of the Fed's cut may be

what the consumers don't see: heading off a recession. If the move works, it could prevent the economy from weakening and forestall layoffs and other economic damage that could hurt workers and consumers around the globe.

### What this means for Canadians

It may seem that the Federal cut in the states will have no impact on us here in Canada, but with the American economy being so influential on us there are many upsides and areas of concern to watch.

With the announcement of the Federal Cut, which brings into question the state of the American economy, the Bank of Canada is holding steady with no change in interest rates. This steady position is projected to cause the Canadian dollar to rise. Mortgage rates in Canada are expected to remain at their current levels or even decrease (variable rate mortgages) as we move towards the end of the year. If the rates start to decrease, it is possible that the qualifying rate for first time home buyers will also drop creating more upside for the housing market.

Concerns come with the questionable American market, and the concerning trade wars between the US and China. The federal cut was the first step in stabilizing the US Market, but if the attempt falls short it could drastically impact Canada as we rely so heavily on the US economy.

## AGRIBUSINESS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

We are always looking to become more efficient, grow bigger, faster, and to just outright find ways to be more profitable. There are always many programs available to you that could really support your efforts. Below is a short list of some great programs that might be of use for your next farm or agribusiness expansion.

### Indigenous Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative

The initiative will support Indigenous communities and entrepreneurs who are ready to launch agriculture and food systems projects and others who want to build their capacity to participate in the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada may contribute funding for up to 90% of the project's total eligible costs, normally not exceed \$500,000 per project, per year or a maximum of \$2.5 million over five years

### Rural Economic Development Program (RED)

RED provides two streams of cost share funding to support activities that create strong rural communities in Ontario and open doors to rural economic development. Indigenous communities and organizations are eligible to apply. The Economic Diversification and Competitiveness Stream provides up to 50% of eligible project costs to a maximum of \$150,000. The Strategic Economic Infrastructure Stream provides up to 30% of eligible project costs to a maximum of \$250,000.

### Rural Innovation Initiative Eastern Ontario

The Regional Stream is non-repayable performance-based funding of \$100,000 to accelerate the growth of SMEs on the innovation track, with benefits to multiple communities within Eastern Ontario.

# Market Information

## BEEF MARKET WATCH

Prices are courtesy of the Beef Farmers of Ontario Weekly Market Information Report for the week ending Thursday August 8, 2019.

Changes here reflect the difference in prices from the week of June 6, 2019 to the week of August 8, 2019. Weekly reports provide prices on a per cwt basis for the week but do not include Friday sale results.

Rail grade steers are down \$13 while fed steers and heifers are off \$6 and \$5 respectively. These prices reflect current supply with current beef production for fed cattle up 8% compared to the same time in 2018.

Cull cows and bulls are up \$5 and \$9 due to seasonally fewer numbers available and greater demand for ground beef.

Stocker steers are variable with heavier weights at \$2 higher and lighter weights down \$13. Stocker heifers are up by \$20 for heavier weights and \$4 for lighter weight calves.

With poor crop yields anticipated in many areas of Ontario due to late planting or no planting, cattle feeders are considering available feed. This will decide the number, type and price they are willing to pay for feedlot replacements. Lighter weight stockers will take more feed to finish compared to heavier weights. In general steers finish to a heavier weight than heifers and consume more feed in the process. The stocker price is a large variable in the feeding budget and the one input cost with options. Calves or short-keeps, steers or heifers, weight, breeding etc. are considerations in turning a

profit.

For the cow-calf farmer it is critical to prepare the calf crop to meet buyer demands to achieve the top price possible on market day.

Category	Price Range \$	Ave Price	Top Price	Change
Rail Steers	237-240			-13
Fed steers	128-147	140	159	-5
Fed heifers	120-146	137	160	-6
Cows	64-93	77	115	+5
Bulls	91-119	104	151	+9
Stocker steers				
700 – 799	176-205	191	219	+2
600 – 699	171-222	198	236	-3
500 – 599	166-229	202	274	-13
Stocker heifers				
700 – 799	157-178	169	201	+20
600 – 699	149-186	175	204	+11
500 – 599	143-185	172	201	+4

All prices are on a hundred pound basis (cwt)

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## CROP MARKET

Adapted from Market Trends Commentary for August Sept. 2019 by Phillip Shaw GFO www.gfo.ca

**Corn** The USDA was beyond shocking for corn. The acres were lower than those recorded in June but not as much as was projected. However, raising yield to 169.5 bushels per acre versus 166 might've been a bigger part of it. There was also a loss of demand of approximately 125 million bushels among ethanol, exports and food and residual use.

You cannot discount the production problems in places like Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. There was also approximately 40 million corn acres planted in June. This has left parts of that area, with incredibly high basis levels for corn. As we go forward this will likely be sustained.

Seasonally corn prices tend to trade lower into October.

**Soybeans** Corn seemed to take all the oxygen out of the room on August 12 report today. That's deflected the fact that 76.7 million acres of soybeans

is a bullish acreage number. That is a cut from the 80 million acres reported in June. The 48.5-bushel per acre USDA figure is surely in flux, as we won't know until combines start to roll. Interestingly enough new crop ending stocks were at 755 million bushels, which in this new post China age, is almost considered bullish. In fact, if yield is cut further, that number might drop below half a billion. However, those stocks numbers are still overly bearish. It is August, and for soybeans, it's a critical weather production month.

Seasonally, soybeans tend to trade lower into early October.

**Wheat** It is hard to get excited about wheat at the best of times, but in the

August 12 USDA report, demand was improved although production has increased. Global ending stocks were also increased, which doesn't set any bullish tone. It also has the specter of lower corn prices, which will compete with wheat in some markets. Unfortunately, wheat futures are at historically cheap levels. In Ontario, the prospects of more wheat planted this fall are certainly in the cross hairs. This is despite a late spring, which may translate to late wheat plantings this October. Flat contract prices for wheat in the \$6-\$7 can spur plantings. However, it is no secret a wide-open fall, preferably better than last year, will be the greatest aid to increased Ontario wheat planting.

### Coming Events

**Sept 6-8 Six Nations Fall Fair**, Ohsweken

**Sept 17 IAPO Wiky Farmers Meeting**, Wikwemikong

**Sept 20-22 Mohawk Fall Fair**, Tyendinaga

**Sept 20-22 Wikwemikong Agricultural Fall Fair**, Wikwemikong

For more info, or if you have an event you would like listed, call 1-800-363-0329.



# Livestock Information

## PLAN NOW TO MARKET SPRING BORN CALVES

About now beef cow-calf farmers are looking ahead to fall calf sales and trying to anticipate prices. Regardless of the market conditions, it is important to maintain a strong calf marketing plan to maximize net income. A beef farmer can build a reputation for quality calves, packaged to meet market demand in strong price markets and weaker price markets. This encourages your top price in the market on sale day.

Packaging to market demand means starting by targeting a quality stocker sale. The Beef Farmers of Ontario website lists upcoming sales. Cookstown, Keady, Brussels, Kitchener, Hoards Station, Greeley, Woodville etc. plus the Northern Cattle Sales Network are examples. Marketing to do:

- Weaning at least 3 weeks and preferably 6 weeks before loading for market
- Castrating & Dehorning at least 3 weeks before loading and preferably at birth
- Vaccinating according to local vets recommendations at least 3 weeks before loading with modified live vaccine, no booster required
- Starting on hay and grain and drinking from trough or bowl
- RFID tag of course!
- Arrange for trucking

Keep up your reputation. Follow the plan. Buyers will be waiting at ringside for your calves.

## PROPER VACCINE STORAGE & HANDLING

*source: adapted from an article by Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University*

Each year livestock farmers spend thousands of dollars for vaccine products to immunize farm animals. Costly vaccines can be ineffective if not stored and handled properly before injection.

Read the label carefully for the recommended storage temperature range. If vaccines are not stored within this temperature range effectiveness will be reduced. Killed vaccines are especially susceptible to freezing temperatures. Freezing negatively affects the immune response to the antigen in the vaccine. Modified live viruses (MLV) are more stable but can be inactivated if they are repeatedly fluctuate outside required temperature range. Mixing is required with some vaccine combinations. With mixing MLV's effective life will be reduced to 1-2 hours and need to be maintained at the 35° to 45° F. Only mix the doses that you will use at that time and use a cooler to maintain temperature while working livestock.

Research shows that refrigerators can vary in ability to hold a constant temperature. Refrigerator location can also effect temperature. Refrigerators located in barns (35.6 °F) were

colder than in mud rooms (41.72 °F) and kitchens (40.82 °F). Temperature within a 24 hour period can also be highly variable for individual refrigerators.

Putting a thermometer inside the refrigerator works well to monitor temperature and to make adjustments as needed. Simple indoor-outdoor thermometers work well. The outdoor unit can be placed in the refrigerator while the LCD display can be hung with a magnet on the door. Many models will record the high and the low temperature in a 24 hour period so producers can adjust accordingly.

I have heard farmers question the effectiveness of the vaccination program with more than anticipated sick animals following injection. Perhaps improper vaccine storage and handling is the reason.

## HOW MUCH HAY DO I NEED?

In some parts of Ontario the hay crop was a disappointment. When hay is in short supply every mouthful is important.

If hay is stored inside or covered we need less hay because there is less waste. If we feed with a feeder we need less because there is less waste compared to feeding on the ground. 20% loss isn't uncommon for hay stored outside and fed in a feeder!

### For the cowherd:

A medium frame cow will likely need 40 lbs of hay per day to compensate for 20% waste. We will assume that the feeding period is from mid-October until mid-May. This is about 210 days. Some will feed hay much longer. Others will be able to graze later in the fall and may send cows to pasture before mid-May.

This amounts to 40 lbs/day x 210 days or 8,400 lbs of hay per cow. This is about 15 4' x 4' bales at 550 lbs per bale or 11 4' x 5' bales at 750 lbs per bale. A herd of 20 cows will need 300 smaller bales (4' x 4") or 220 larger bales. If you can reduce waste it will take less than this amount. Also hay disappears faster in colder winters.

### For the sheep flock and goat herd:



It is important to consider needs of a ewe at different stages of lambing and that there will be some waste. Grain supplementation is often necessary particularly after lambing to encourage milk flow and rebreeding.

Mature ewes require about 6 lbs of average quality hay per day to meet their winter needs for a spring lambing flock. They will need hay for at least 7 months or 210 days. Winter hay requirements are about 1,260 lbs or 36 small square bales weighing about 35 lbs. With 10% waste we have 1,386 lbs or almost 40 small bales. At about \$3 a bale this is \$120 to feed one ewe. With a small flock it is often less costly to buy feed than purchase, maintain and fuel machinery and equipment. Farm acres can be used for pasture.

A flock of 40 ewes will require about 25 tonnes or 1584 small bales or about 100 4x4 bales of hay to get through the winter.

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# Crop Information

## BEANS, BEANS, BEANS

source: <http://ontariobeans.on.ca/types-of-beans/https://www.aginnova tionontario.ca/en/ontario-co-op-worldwide-leader-edible-beans/http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/field/soybeans.html>

Following a tough wet spring across Ontario and with soybean prices under pressure due to the Chinese trade spat, it might be a good time to look for more profitable opportunities. For soybean producers, Identity Preserved (IP) soybeans and Edible Beans are worth considering as both offer premiums over traditional or “crusher” soybeans.

### Identity Preserved (IP) Soybeans

IP beans have long been a staple in many farms, however the number of acres across the province is still shy of their roundup ready counterpart. With a significant price premium per bushel at the elevator and a premium for on farm storage until August, the niche market for IP beans are worth considering especially if you have on farm bins.

With any increased benefit there is obviously an increased amount of risk. With each crop, different challenges may arise. Weeds can be one of the biggest barriers that farmers are apprehensive about. The pesticide applications on IP are detailed based in the contract that you are planning to fill. Without being able to rely on Glyphosate (i.e. Round Up) for post emergent weed control, good weed control in the year prior to planting IPs is a necessity. With IP soys, the best protection against weed escapes is quick emergence and rapid ground cover. Ideal planting conditions will help achieve this.

When selecting a variety of IP beans that could be suitable for your operation it is also important to know what elevator will accept that variety. Many beans have only two or three elevators that accept that variety and this could affect your overall profitability. Working with your local crop advisor is good idea when selecting a bean that yields well and has natural resistance to disease that are common in your climate and soil type.

The rules and guidelines for cross contamination are extremely strict and can be time consuming. This is an important factor to consider if you get custom combining done. Many farmers in southern Ontario plant only IP short day varieties. This allows for an intense cleaning of the combine after wheat and allows you to transition smoothly to your Roundup Ready varieties afterwards. If you plan on planting nothing but IP and have you own harvesting machine you will be a lot further ahead. Be sure to check with your local advisor to make sure you’re following the proper cleaning protocol. It can take only one or two Roundup ready beans to ruin the premium on an entire load.

When growing IP soybeans it is important to remember that you aren’t growing a commodity you’re growing a product. Many soybeans are used for human consumption and aren’t just crusher beans. With this knowledge it’s important to take full responsibility for the product that you market.

## Edible Beans

Edible beans might not be one of the largest crops in Ontario but it provides a rotation away from your standard Roundup Ready bean. With every different crop that you add to your rotation you are adding to your soil health, and resting your land from the typical bean, corn and wheat rotation. With each crop, there is a different approach for planting, harvesting, and weed control. By adding an edible bean to your rotation you are forcing yourself to create new alternatives to Round Up which can help in the battle against resistant weeds. There are currently eight different types of beans grown in Ontario that are separated into two separate classes for simplicity, colored beans and white beans.

Beans are a staple part of diets around the world and almost every single region has their own variety that is adapted to their climate. We currently ship 80-90% of edible beans that are grown in Ontario. There are currently 1200 farmers that are growing edible beans throughout Ontario. With an increased price per bushel, and the benefit of a different crop, considering edible beans in you operation could be a new path to increased profitability. Some edible beans are capable of being planted and harvested with commercial soybean equipment which would add no additional equipment cost. Consult your local agronomist to see if edible beans would be a good fit for your region.

## WINTER WHEAT

As the summer days slowly get shorter and shorter many people are prepping the planter for fall seeding. Winter wheat is a staple crop in Ontario agriculture and after last year’s poor winter survivability and the amount of unseeded acres, many farmers will have the opportunity to plant wheat earlier than ever. Although it could be tempting to drop the drill in the field, it is crucial to be mindful of local optimum planting dates. Later planting calls for an increase in seeding population, however early planting can call for a decrease in population. For more information on planting dates by region and suggested seeding rates check out the OMAFRA website: <http://www.omafra.on.ca/english/crops/field/news/croptalk/2018/ct-0918a1.htm>



Recommended Winter Wheat Planting Dates- OMAFRA

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# Other News

## START UP FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR 4H PROJECTS



4-H is a non-profit positive youth development organization that spans 70 countries across the world and 10 provinces across the country. For over a century, 4-H Ontario has been working to build youth as leaders within their communities and assets to the world. At 4-H youth learn about selected topics through fun hands-on activities and mentorship. There are also provincial camps, conferences, competitions and national and international travel opportunities available to further develop skills in leadership, business, self-confidence and more. 4-H provides youth with a place they can be involved, accepted, valued and heard; while developing:

- Positive values
- Responsibility
- Skill mastery
- Leadership development
- Planning and decision making
- A sense of purpose



4-H Ontario is currently offering grants of \$500.00 to cover the costs of running a project and there is no membership fee to participate. In addition, we are looking for leaders to run the programming. Leaders will be required to complete the 4-H Ontario volunteer training

and screening process as well as run all project activities. Each leader will be awarded an honorarium for their time and efforts upon the successful completion of a 4-H project. Some examples of popular projects we have available are gardening, chocolate making, farm machinery, woodworking, and maple syrup. For a full listing of project topics please visit <https://www.4-hontario.ca/youth/opportunities/club-projects/default.aspx>. Please note that you will not be restricted to these topics and are encouraged to explore anything that peaks your interest.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact:

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## GROWING GARLIC

*source: originally published Sept 2014 Native Agri Update*



Garlic will grow best in well drained soils including sand, sandy loam, loam, clay loam and clay. Good organic matter is key to obtaining good size and healthy plants. Add compost or well-rotted manure and work it evenly thoroughly into the garden plot at least 2wks before planting.

For the best results plant Garlic in the fall 3 weeks before the ground freezes. This gives the garlic a chance to develop roots but the tops should not break the surface before winter. It is critical to choose seed stock that is free from disease and insects. The day before planting break the bulbs apart into cloves. This is called 'cracking'. When you crack the bulb each clove should break away cleanly, and without damaging or bruising the other cloves. Cracking involves giving the woody stem a sharp rap on a hard surface which should begin to separate the cloves. Be sure to discard suspicious looking cloves that may carry disease or be susceptible to disease. Be careful not to damage the foot of the clove (root end). Always select good sized bulbs to gain good sized cloves. Avoid using small bulbs for planting stock unless you are prepared to have smaller garlic to harvest the following July/August.

Choosing a good variety for winter hardiness is important. The Porcelain variety is the hardiest and recommended for cold climates. Well proven names of Porcelain varieties are: Music, Leningrad, and Northern Quebec & Romanian Red. Other varieties to consider include: Marbled Purple Stripe, Purple Stripe, and Glazed Purple Stripe & Rocambole.

Garlic growing tips:

- Plant in fall
- Plant with pointed end up
- Choose winter hardy varieties
- Winter mulch in northern areas

You can plant garlic in single or double rows or in wide beds of four to six plants across. It is important to plant garlic with the top (pointed end) of the clove up, at least two inches below the surface. Make sure the cloves are completely covered with soil. Some Garlic growers cover the planted garlic with a layer of mulch. I have never applied mulch to my garden plot in southwestern Ontario but other grower like the idea of the mulch conserving moisture, moderating soil temperatures and inhibiting weeds. On the negative side mulching shelters rodents and attracts deer and wild turkeys. All these factors need to be considered in deciding whether or not to mulch. Garlic does not like repeated freezing and thawing. Frost heaves can tear the young roots from the cloves. In the North a thick layer of winter mulch is a good insurance against winter kill. Garlic does not like extreme heat either and mulch will moderate the daily fluctuations in summer soil temperatures.