



Native Agri Update

No. 405 June 2024

FNAFO SUMMER STUDENT POSITION OPEN

Business Administrative Summer Intern

First Nations Agriculture & Finance Ontario (FNAFO) is a non-profit Indigenous Financial Institution providing farm, agribusiness and small business financing to First Nations entrepreneurs in Ontario. For the summer of 2024, FNAFO is looking to hire a summer intern to support ongoing and new business activities. This position will be of particular interest for those looking to develop a career in business, business administration or accounting.

The Position

The Summer Intern will perform a variety of clerical, word processing and financial administrative duties related to providing support for staff within the office. The incumbent interacts with staff and clients in person, by telephone, and all other forms of communication. In addition, the Summer Intern provides support to staff involved in delivering and completing a wide variety of applications and forms for various bookkeeping and accounting programs.

Qualifications

Education and Experience

High School Diploma or equivalent
Currently enrolled in post-secondary school education with studies relevant to accounting and business management, or equivalent education and/or previous office experience. Ability to use computers programs including - Microsoft Word, Excel and accounting software applications.
- Knowledge of accounting and bookkeeping practices and principles.
- Demonstrated communication and interpersonal skills
- Effective organizational and planning skills.

Specialized Skills

Awareness of First Nation's Culture, as well as, understanding of First Nation's business and economic challenges.
Familiarity with Ontario agriculture and farming

This position is out of FNAFO's Stirling office. This is a paid summer position offering \$18.00 per hour and will be for a minimum of 10 weeks. Expected start date – July 1st, flexible.

Please forward your resume and cover letter or for full job description or more information contact:

info@firstnationsag.ca
1-800-363-0329

Note: Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

2024-2025 BEGINNING FARMERS PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE

The Beginning Farmers Program (BFP) is a multiyear program designed to support new beginning First Nations farmers between the ages of 16 and 40 through all stages of their farm business startup. BFP will support the creation, development and investment in new farm businesses.

Potential applicants are encouraged to contact FNAFO to discuss their new farm business idea.

- Workshops and Training
- Startup Financing up to \$50,000
- Grants—30% up to a maximum of \$15,000

Successful applicants will take part in an evaluation to establish current business and skill levels. This information, in conjunction with formal training and support, will be used by the participants to create and support of their multi-year business plan.

Applications must be submitted to FNAFO by August 30, 2024

Contact FNAFO at 1-800-363-0329 or info@firstnationsag.ca



Indigenous Economic Development Fund

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www.firstnationsag.ca

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Agribusiness

CAM & GIL'S TRAVELLING ROAD SHOW: MANITOULIN ISLAND



Cam and Gil drove out to Manitoulin Island in May for a spring visit. For Camden it was nothing new to go to Manitoulin as he has visited this captivating island innumerable times in the past 7 years. But for me it was a revelation as it was my first visit. It was amazing. I saw a spectacular island with a gorgeous landscape a rich tapestry of First Nations cultures and the wonderful and native Sandhill Cranes.

We began our visit by crossing the one lane Swing Bridge, the only **land** access to the island for its 13,000 + inhabitants and estimated 200,000 annual visitors! A former train bridge built in 1912, it serves to remind you that not only are you entering a place where the rich tapestry of First Nations cultures comes to life but also, it's a step back in time to a place where things slow down to the pace of the island.

The main reason we went to Manitoulin was to make presentations to the Wikwemikong First Nation. Following that we were there to meet as many local First Nations people as possible. Wikwemikong Unceded Territory - Presentation at Council offices. Three presentations were made as follows:

Agricultural Funding Opportunities - Camden
Empowering Indigenous Farmers - Gil
Beef Market Outlook- Camden

Camden gave his two reports and Gil followed. The event was well attended with approximately 25 attendees of all ages. Lots of questions came up too!

We visited the Teaching Farm with Annette Peltier who is helping young people get exposure to what being in the Cattle/ farm business is all really about. Presently the teaching farm is raising a small herd of cattle and making raised bed gardens to distribute to the community. We also had time to drop in with Jim Naokwegijig at his cattle ranch. We saw his large herd. They looked great in their fields. Finally, we had a freshly made lunch with community members in the Reflections Equine Assisted Learning Centre. It's a very heartwarming place to visit and see some of the cultural creations at hand. We toured all around the community and observed that the area is very well organized.

Next, we went to the [Sheshegwaning First Nation](#) where



Deanna the executive assistant introduced us to The Executive Director Joan Sheppard, and the Economic Development Officer –April Folz in the Band office board room. Sheshegwaning First Nation has a few unique opportunities under way. They have a hydroponic

container farm and the First Nation's Odawa Island Farm has signed a new partnership with Cedar Crest Farms/SpringHill Fish for an advanced rainbow trout open water pen system facility. Both these facilities are well under way and have proven to be working and beneficial to the community.



Finally, we squeezed in time for the smaller Zhiibaahaasing First Nation where we met the very dedicated Council Member Bobbi-Sue Kells-Riberdy. She told us about some of the projects that might be considered for assistance, in particular some shared community gardens. This was important because there are more members moving back to the community.

There are a total of 7 First Nations on Manitoulin. Perhaps we will catch the remaining 4 on our next trips up.

Manitoulin Island is more than just a scenic destination; it is a place where the rich tapestry of First Nations cultures comes to life. Each community offers a unique perspective and experience, inviting visitors to learn, explore, and connect. As you traverse the island, you'll see the true beauty of Manitoulin lies not only in its landscapes but in the warm hospitality and enduring spirit of its people.

Pack your bags, set your sights on Manitoulin Island, and embark on an unforgettable journey through the heart of Ontario's Indigenous heritage. And, when its time to go home, take the wonderful ferry from South Bay!

GL

Coming Events

Small Flock Ontario Workshop—Northern Poultry Tour
July 23 Taykwa Tagamou First Nation
July 24 Apitipi First Nation
July 26 Wikwemikong

For more information or to register visit:
smallflockontario.ca

To keep up to date with all coming events and workshops hosted by FNAFO, visit our website and Facebook page at
firstnationsag.ca / facebook.com/FirstNationsAg

Market Information

BEEF MARKET WATCH

Prices are courtesy of the Beef Farmers of Ontario Weekly Market Information Report for the week ending Friday, June 21, 2024. Changes in this chart reflect the difference in prices from the week of April 15th, 2024, to the week of June 17th, 2024. Weekly reports provide prices on a per cwt basis for the week but do not include Friday sale results. Retail steers pricing as of May 31, 2024.

Fed steers and heifers sold through auction markets this week at 165 head were down 609 head from the previous week and 256 head smaller than the same time last year. Fed steers sold from \$218.54-\$229.54/cwt averaging \$223.91, down \$7.35 cwt from the previous week's trade and \$18.27 below year ago prices. Fed heifers sold from \$223.58-\$241.31 averaging \$233.31 cwt, down \$5.30 from last week and \$7.35 lower than last year. Auction markets reported fed steers and heifers sold \$10.00/cwt lower last week. On Tuesday June 18th, fed steers and heifers sold on an easier market with Holstein selling steadily. Fed cattle traded easier with a small offering of mostly good. Fed steers and heifers sold at barely steady prices. In Ontario, numbers have been varying but there have been reports 50+ loads of fed cattle per week are going to Alberta for processing. As the Cargill strike showed no signs of resolution last week, carcass weights may remain heavy. For the week ending June 8th, Eastern Canadian steer carcass weights averaged 998 lbs, this matches the previous record high set back in May 2021. Cull cow receipts sold

through auction markets this week were 1,689 head, down 292 head from last week and down 406 head from last year. Cows were selling from \$128.87-\$171.76/cwt averaging \$149.21/cwt, down \$1.10/cwt from last week but up \$22.12 from last year. Auction markets reported cows sold steadily. On June 18th, cows sold actively at higher prices which is \$3.00-\$5.00 higher.

Category	Price Range \$	Ave Price	Top Price	% Change
Rail Steers	407			
Fed steers	219-230	224	241	- 6.3
Fed heifers	224-241	233	227	- 1.3
Cows	129-172	149	219	+ 4.9
Bulls	175-211	197	245	+ 11.9
Stocker steers				
700 – 799	305-382	354	455	+1.1
600 – 699	326-412	373	473	- 2.4
500 – 599	326-458	401	521	0
Stocker heifers				
700 – 799	258-328	305	384	- 0.3
600 – 699	287-361	332	390	- 1.5
500 – 599	313-380	353	413	+ 0.6

All prices are on a hundred pound basis (cwt)

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CROP MARKET

Adapted from Market Trends Report June & July 2024 by Phillip Shaw GFO www.gfo.ca

Corn

It is historically the selling time in corn with June 18, being the proverbial date where good new crop prices could be had. However, even though that is the truth, we do not make the crop in June it is made more in July when "hot and dry" can be a real thing.

As per usual this time of year the focus is on the USDA report coming out June 30 to see how many corn acres were lost to soybeans and the stocks numbers which are always important. Aside from the acreage switches the stocks numbers might give us clues on price direction as we head into hotter weather. If the stocks are down for corn that will give impetus to end users to cover their positions. Needless to say, the USDA data dump on June 30 will be significant for futures price direction.

The Dec. 2024 corn contract is currently priced at 11 cents below the Mar. 2025 contract which is a bearish indication of new crop corn demand. Seasonally, we know that corn prices tend to peak in early June and bottom out in early Oct. The Dec. 2024 futures contract is at the 34th percentile of the past five-year price distribution

range.

Soybeans

Will the 86.5 million acres of soybeans predicted earlier for the US come to fruition? We certainly shall see in the June 30 USDA report which will have significant impact on price direction going forward. Also, we are not in a weather market now for soybeans but keep in mind it is that time of year where the trading algorithms have it all dialed in for hot and dry. That may impact soybean prices to some extent, but the main weather market for soybeans will come in August.

China might still have an insatiable appetite for soybeans, but it's mainly or only from Brazil. There are geopolitical reasons for this we have discussed ad nauseam. However, it is challenging for the Brazilians to keep doing this and we may see China come in to buy American soybeans. We have almost become accustomed to them not doing that. If it happens, in any significant way it will be bullish for soybean futures prices. Needless to say, as we move ahead having puts in place in this market can help us for any unforeseen downward price movement.

The Nov. 2024 soybean contract is currently priced 13.5 cents below the Mar. 2025 contract which is considered bearish for new crop beans. Seasonally, soybean

prices tend to peak in early July and bottom out in early Oct. The Nov. 2024 soybean contract is currently at the 42nd percentile of the past 5-year price distribution range.

Wheat

Wheat prices are down from a month ago and this is largely because wheat just comes out of the woodwork, like it always does. Earlier we had rallied particularly because of the problems in the Black Sea. Russian and Ukrainian wheat was not getting good weather, and this lowered expectations for a good crop. However, since then the Ukrainian estimates have actually gone up which is hard to believe especially in an area where war is ongoing. Russia still has their weather problems, but their wheat is rising in price and becoming uncompetitive in some markets in Egypt and North Africa.

The Ontario wheat crop is ahead of schedule versus last years it should soon be coming off in Essex County come the first week in July. Generally speaking, it is a week to two weeks ahead of normal. Ontario farmers had the chance to contract this wheat for \$8.50 a bushel last month before the erosion in wheat prices. Needless to say, the Canadian dollar is still a stimulus to Ontario cash wheat prices.

Cattle Information

STORING LARGE ROUND BALES

University of Tennessee animal scientists conducted a trial to compare different methods of storing large round bales of grass hay. The hay was cut and baled in June in Moore County, Tennessee. The bales were weighed at the time of harvest and storage. Then they were weighed again the following January at the time of winter feeding. The following table lists the type of storage and the resulting percentage hay loss per storage method.

Table 1. Losses of Hay Stored using Six Methods of Storage

Type of Storage	Percentage (%) Hay Loss
On ground, no cover	37%
On tires, no cover	29%
On ground, covered	29%
On tires, covered	8%
Net wrap on ground	19%
In barn	6%

Obviously, it would be ideal to store the hay inside, but that will not often be practical. The next best option is when the hay is stored on something that gets the hay up off the ground under some rain proof cover. Think about your storage options and the effect it has on your valuable hay crop.

POST CALVING NUTRITION OF THE COW

There are many important considerations in planning any feeding program. Inventorying of feed, corrections for stage of production, age of the animal, condition and health of the animal, frame type and body weight, breed, weather, feeding systems and conditions, and specific regional nutrient deficiencies are variables used in diet formulation.

Specifically, post calving demands for energy and protein increase by up to 80% and 120% respectively. Lactation demands are even greater for cows with superior milking ability and certainly for first calving heifers. Mineral requirements? Typical lactation period intake can be upwards of 4 ounces. We must correct for these increased nutrient demands because the cow has multiple nutrient demands: Maintaining a high level of calf growth, repair her reproductive tract and return to estrous, rebreed and conceive! Since energy is priority allocated as follows: 1) Maintenance, 2) Milk yields 3) Reproduction; a deficiency will result in loss of reproductive efficiency.

Typical "365" day Beef cow year

Calving — Day 1
 Period 1 — 80 Days (Post Calving)
 Period 2 — 120 Days (Pregnant and Lactating)
 Period 3 — 105 Days (Mid-Gestation)
 Period 4 — 60 Days (Pre-Calving)

The following table shows the nutrient requirements for a 550-kg beef cow:

1996 NRC Requirements

	PERIOD 1	PERIOD 2	PERIOD 3	PERIOD 4
TDN (kgs/day)	5.5 - 7.5	5 - 6	4	4 - 5
Protein (kgs/day)	1.25	.9	.45	.5
Calcium (g/day)	45	30	15	15
Phosphorus (g/day)	35	25	15	15

Use your best-stored feed during this crucial period 1 and feed thin cows and first calving heifers separately. Forage analysis is crucial in the preparation of a good feeding program. The Beef Research Council has a great spreadsheet to quickly identify feed nutrient shortfalls. Call for an evaluation.



4-H: FIRST NATION AGRICULTURE & FINANCE ONTARIO SCHOLARSHIP

FNAFO is pleased to offer a scholarship to First Nations youth who are engaged in the 4-H program in their communities. This \$1,000 scholarship is intended to support and inspire the next generation of First Nations farmers in Ontario. It will be

awarded each September to a youth who intends to continue building their knowledge and skills for a career in the agricultural sector through studies at college or university.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Identifies as a member of a First Nations community in Ontario.
2. Must be enrolled in a University, College or Trade program. Proof of acceptance or enrollment into college, university or trade program will be required.
3. Has been participating in (or been a member of 4-H) for a minimum of two years.
4. Applicants must be interested in pursuing a career in Agriculture.

Applications due September 1, 2024. Award to be given out by September 21, 2024

For an application form visit:

[4-H Ontario Scholarships - 4-H Ontario](#)

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Crop Information

TAR SPOT IN CORN

With excerpts from *Better Farming*—June/July 2024 Article by Emily Croft

One of the most recent fungal diseases that affects corn in Ontario is Tar Spot. It was first identified in the United States in 2015 and was found in Ontario in 2020. It can be a huge yield robber if left unchecked by reducing the photosynthetic process of the corn plant. This is the process where plants convert carbon dioxide to usable energy by utilizing the energy of the sun, and the fungal disease called *Phyllachora maydis* or Tar Spot as it is commonly known can significantly hamper the corn plant's ability to do this.



Picture from <https://www.syngenta.ca/pests/disease/tar-spot/corn>

The Tar Spot fungus produces black, tar-like spores on the leaves of the corn plant. "It is identified by small raised black, circular spots that resemble specks of tar on the leaf surface. These black spots are called stromata and are embedded in the leaf and cannot be removed by rubbing" Dr. David Hooker. *U of G Ridgetown*. Often times, Tar Spot can be mistaken for dirt on the leaves, but if you rub the leaf surface and the black lesion doesn't rub out, most likely you have Tar Spot in your corn.

Tar Spot can be a significant yield robber. In some fields that were sprayed with a fungicide versus an untreated check, yield losses ranged between 30-50 bushels per acre. According to Dr. Hooker, "Tar spot has reduced yields by up to 70 bushels per acre in fields that were infected early around silking, followed by favourable conditions through grain-fill." In 2023, it was found that Tar spot was the number one fungal disease in Ontario, causing losses of almost 4 million bushels across the province.

Tar Spot spores can overwinter on residue from the previous corn crop, or can be blown in from the United States on storm fronts. The ideal conditions for infection are cool temperatures

with high humidity. Due to the mild winter experienced in 2023/2024, questions are being raised about how it will affect the spread of Tar Spot through this growing season. Heavier than normal infection may be an issue because of the overwintering of the Tar Spot spores both in Ontario and in the U.S.

The part of the province that is at greatest risk is in the southwest, in Essex, Lambton, and Chatham-Kent counties. It has now been found as far east as Toronto and continues to move eastward towards Quebec. Because of the continued spread and increased pressure, corn growers need to be vigilant in their approach to scouting for this disease. The time to start scouting is in the first few weeks of July. According to Albert Tenuta, Crop Pathologist with OMAFRA, Tar Spot has been found in the first week of July. The first three weeks of July are critically important, as it gives an indication of Tar Spot levels beginning to ramp up. "In areas with a history of tar spot it takes six weeks for the initial spores to germinate and build up to levels where it can be seen. In areas where tar spot is not as common, spores will be coming from other fields and the tar spot will appear on the upper leaves of the plant."

Managing Tar Spot is continuing to develop and being refined. In the event that the weather conditions are ideal, or the disease is present in the field, a fungicide application may be warranted. Using a fungicide that either has control or suppression properties for Tar Spot, application at the right timing will be very beneficial in providing 2 to 3 weeks of Tar Spot control. The preferred timing is when the corn is beginning to tassel to the time when the silks are drying up on the cobs. There are two fungicides registered for control, and one registered for tar spot suppression. The benefit of applying a fungicide at this time is that additional control to ear moulds that produce vomitoxins in corn. Ear mould infection generally occurs when the corn plant is pollinating. If the conditions are moist during pollination, chances are that there will be potential for ear mould infection as well as Tar Spot infection.

Work on developing resistant hybrids is also on going, with about 100 commercial hybrids being tested at a Tar Spot nursery near Rodney. Hybrid tolerance shows through in this controlled environment, where ratings are applied based on how susceptible a hybrid is. Some hybrids show excellent tolerance, while others show that they are quite susceptible.

The key takeaways are that Tar Spot is a disease that can be devastating to a corn crop. It is essential to scout your fields for infection, and to start scouting sooner than later. There are websites that the Crop Protection Network (a joint US and Ontario extension network) has developed like Corn ipmPIPE which shows historical locations of Tar Spot infections as well as current Tar Spot infection in Canada and the US. In the event that Tar Spot is found, it might be advantageous to spray a fungicide that is registered for Tar Spot control to protect the crop. When purchasing your corn seed, pay attention to the Tar Spot ratings of commercial hybrids, especially when you have a high risk of infection.

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Other News

KLAWS BY KRISTA—NAIL SALON SUCCESS



In the bustling heart of downtown Peterborough, a small but thriving business is making waves in the beauty industry. Klaw's by Krista, a nail salon owned and operated by seasoned nail technician Krista, has been a staple in the community for over two years. With almost 10 years of experience in the industry, Krista decided to take her passion to the next level and start her own salon 2.5 years ago. Specializing in a range of nail services including manicures, pedicures, gel nails, acrylic and nail art, Klaw's by Krista has quickly become a go-to destination for those looking to pamper themselves and enhance their nail game.

Krista's journey as a business owner began with a dream and a vision to create a space where clients could relax, unwind, and leave feeling beautiful and confident. However, like many entrepreneurs, she faced challenges along the way. It was at this critical juncture that Krista found support and guidance through the First Nations Women Entrepreneurs (FNWE) program.

The FNWE program proved to be a game-changer for Krista and her business. The program provided her with access to valuable resources, networking opportunities, and most importantly, business coaching. With the help of Jackie Stott, a dedicated Business Coach, Krista was able to navigate the complexities of running a business, develop a solid business plan, and strategize for growth.

"The FNWE program really helped me navigate the challenges of starting and running my own business," Krista shared. "The Business Coach provided me with valuable advice and guidance that has been crucial to my success."

Since joining the FNWE program, Klaw's by Krista has experienced remarkable growth. The salon has expanded its services, hired additional staff, and built a loyal clientele base. Krista's dedication to excellence and commitment to providing top-notch services have set her salon apart in a competitive industry.

When asked if she would recommend the FNWE program to other First Nations women, Krista's answer was "Absolutely". "The support and resources provided by the program are invaluable for anyone looking to start or grow their own business. I would encourage any First Nations woman with an entrepreneur-

ial spirit to take advantage of this opportunity."

As Klaw's by Krista continues to flourish and make its mark in the beauty industry, Krista remains grateful for the support and guidance she received through the FNWE program. With a bright future ahead, Krista's dedication, passion, and entrepreneurial spirit serve as an inspiration to aspiring business owners everywhere.

For those looking to indulge in a little self-care and treat themselves to a luxurious nail experience, Klaw's by Krista offers a welcoming and stylish environment where clients can unwind and leave feeling fabulous. With Krista's expertise and commitment to excellence, every visit to the salon is a pampering experience like no other.

As Klaw's by Krista continues to thrive and grow, Krista's journey serves as a testament to the power of determination, hard work, and a supportive community. With a strong foundation built on passion and perseverance, Klaw's by Krista is not just a nail salon—it's a symbol of empowerment and success in the heart of downtown Peterborough.

For more information about Klaw's by Krista and to book an appointment, visit their Instagram: @klaws_by_krista or stop by their salon at 378 Aylmer Street, Unit 6 in downtown Peterborough. Experience the magic of Klaw's by Krista and treat yourself to a luxurious nail experience today.

FIRST NATIONS WOMENS ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

First Nations Agriculture & Finance Ontario (FNAFO) is pleased to offer two exclusive programs tailored for First Nations women aged 18 and above. Our First Nations Women's Entrepreneurship Program offers a combination of micro-loans and grants of up to \$20,000 for eligible farm, agribusiness and business activities. Your venture can be either full time, part time or a side hustle. Participants will also benefit from comprehensive training workshops and personalized business coaching.

FNAFO is also proud to offer our Grant and Mentorship program, designed to pair eligible candidates with accomplished First Nations women entrepreneurs for a 6-month mentorship. Mentees will receive financial support of up to \$3,000 for eligible business expenses.

For further details or to access an application, please visit our website at www.firstnationsag.ca. Alternatively, you can reach out to us via email at fnwe@FirstNationsAg.ca or by calling 1.800.363.0329.

Take advantage of these valuable opportunities to advance your business endeavors.

FNWE

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