2018 AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD STRATEGY

UPDATE TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Jonathan Wheatle, Manager, Strategic Economic Initiatives
May 9, 2019
• Provide an update on the implementation of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Strategy

• Seek Council approval of the Terms of Reference for the Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee
AGENDA

1. Agriculture and Agri-Food in the Region
2. Agriculture and Agri-Food Strategy and Accomplishments
3. Review Terms of Reference for the York Region Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee
4. Looking Ahead
AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD SECTOR IN YORK REGION

- 700+ farm-based operations
- 270 food and beverage manufacturers and distributors
- 57,000 direct jobs in agri-food
- $2.7 billion agri-food sector GDP
- #1 gross farm receipts per acre compared to surrounding regions
- 140,000+ acres of farmland

Source: 2016 Census of Agriculture
COMMITMENT TO AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD SECTOR

• Council has long recognized the importance of agriculture

• Vibrant and sustainable agri-food sector
  • Vision 2051
  • Regional Official Plan
  • Strategic Plan
  • Economic Development Action Plan

• Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee

• In 2016 Council directed staff to develop an Agriculture and Agri-food Strategy

• Collaborative effort with local municipalities
• Understand the economic impact of the agriculture and agri-food sector

• Identify gaps and key areas of focus

• Recommend actions for the Region, local municipalities and stakeholders

• Support and grow York Region’s agricultural and agri-food sector

www.York.ca/agrifood
FIVE STRATEGIC GOAL AREAS

1. Strengthen communication and collaboration between York Region, local municipalities and stakeholders

2. Support the agri-food sector through integrated land use planning and economic development

3. Support increased capacity for value added processing and support services

4. Leverage the Region’s location within the Greater Toronto Area through direct farm marketing to meet demand for local food production

5. Provide support for business retention and expansion of primary agricultural production

5 STRATEGIC GOALS WITH 45 ACTION ITEMS
ALIGNMENT WITH LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES
31 out of 45 action items have been initiated or planned
4 short term activities have been completed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiated/Underway</th>
<th>Planned</th>
<th>New</th>
<th>Completed</th>
<th>Total Action Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Short-term items completed

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Business Specialist
- Strategic communications plan
- Consultations on the Provincial Agricultural Systems review
- Revitalized York Farm Fresh and collaborated on the development of the annual York Farm Fresh Guide Map
AGRI-FOOD EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Agri-Food Stakeholders Outreach

• Hosted or participated in over 25 workshops, events and meetings engaging 300 stakeholders

Four Education Workshops for Agri-food Industry

• Succession Planning Workshops
• Business Waste Reduction Forum
• Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance – Asset Mapping Workshop
TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW
• Purpose: To provide advice on agriculture, agri-food and rural matters in York Region

• Governed by Terms of Reference (ToR)
  ➢ Reviewed every four years with new term of Council

2019-2023 Membership

• Council-appointed representatives
  ➢ Councillor Avia Eek, King Township
  ➢ Councillor Hugo Kroon, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
Proposed changes to Terms of Reference

• Reflect the connection with the Strategy
  ➢ Name change: “Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee”
  ➢ Expand membership: Added agri-food presence to reflect representation across the value chain

• Ensure consistency with other advisory committees
LOOKING AHEAD

• Selection of Agriculture Advisory Committee members
• Continued education and outreach
• Showcase and support agricultural innovators/champions
• Farming community business directory
• Local food awareness education campaign
• Holland Marsh Economic Impact Study
• Council receive the 2018 Agriculture and Agri-Food Strategy update for information

• Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee (Attachment 1)

• This report be circulated by the Regional Clerk to the Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and local municipalities