

# 2018 AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD STRATEGY

UPDATE TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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May 9, 2019



# PURPOSE

- 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

 **57,000**  
direct jobs in  
agri-food

**#1** gross farm receipts  
per acre compared to  
surrounding regions

 **270**  
food and beverage  
manufacturers and  
distributors

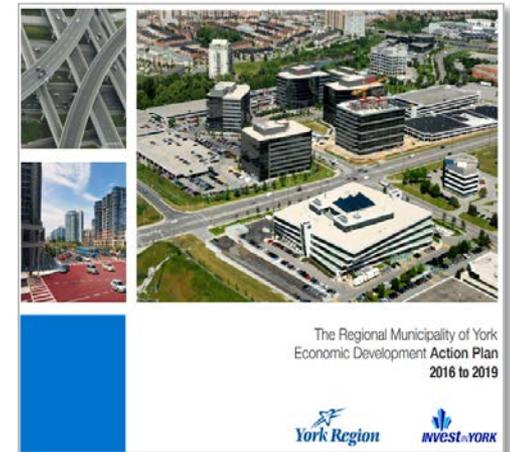
**\$2.7 billion**  
agri-food  
sector GDP

**140,000+**  
acres of farmland



# COMMITMENT TO AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD SECTOR

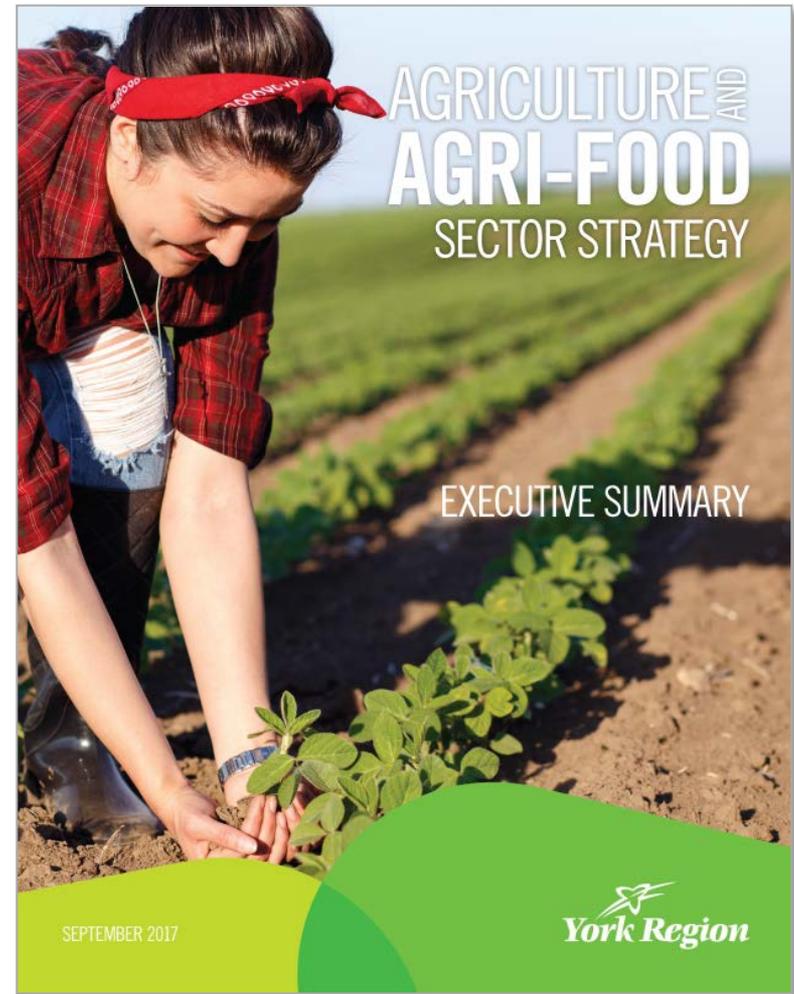
- Council has long recognized the importance of agriculture
- Vibrant and sustainable agri-food sector
  - Vision 2051
  - Regional Official Plan
  - Strategic Plan
  - Economic Development Action Plan
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee
- In 2016 Council directed staff to develop an Agriculture and Agri-food Strategy
- Collaborative effort with local municipalities



# STRATEGY UPDATE

# PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

- 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](http://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



# STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION IS ON TRACK

- 31 out of 45 action items have been initiated or planned
- 4 short term activities have been completed

Initiated/ Underway	Planned	New	Completed	Total Action Items
26	5	10	4	<b>45</b>

# STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION IS ON TRACK

## 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

# AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- 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



# RECOMMENDATIONS

- 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