



President
Joe Wilson
519-533-7998
twinspruce1@gmail.com
<https://www.oxfordag.ca/>

Office Administrator
June Nussey
P.O. Box 14 Ingersoll ON N5C 3K1
519-964-8828
oxfordcountyg@gmail.com

February 11, 2026

Dear Members of Oxford County Council,

RE: Request for Implementation of the Optional Small-Scale On-Farm Business Subclass

The Oxford County Federation of Agriculture is a local, general farm organization affiliated with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), dedicated to uniting the farming community through grassroots leadership. We represent over 1,400 farmers and their families in Oxford County, working alongside local commodity groups, residents, and government staff to represent the agriculture community.

We are writing to request that Oxford County Council consider and implement the Optional Small-Scale On-Farm Business Subclass for Commercial and Industrial property classes.

Currently, farmers who attempt to diversify their operations through value-added activities—such as on-farm processing or retail—often face a significant tax barrier. These small-scale activities are frequently assessed at the full Commercial or Industrial tax rate, creating a disincentive for farm innovation.

Adopting this optional subclass would allow the first \$50,000-\$100,000 of assessed value on eligible on-farm business structures to be taxed at 25% of the local commercial or industrial tax rate.

Why this matters for Oxford County:

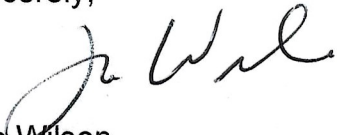
1. **Encouraging Diversification:** It reduces the initial overhead for farmers looking to process their own goods or sell directly to consumers, fostering a more resilient local food economy.
2. **Fairness for Small Business:** It recognizes that a small farm-gate stand should not necessarily face the same immediate tax burden as a large-scale commercial retailer.
3. **Long-Term Revenue Growth:** By lowering the barrier to entry for these businesses, the County encourages them to establish and grow. A successful on-farm business will eventually exceed the assessment caps, at which point the County benefits from the full commercial tax rate on the growth.

Farmers are a major economic driver in our community. When farmers diversify, they generate significant local spending on equipment, packaging, labour, and services. These dollars circulate locally, supporting small businesses and stabilizing the tax base.

By implementing this subclass, Oxford County would demonstrate a clear commitment to agricultural innovation and small business retention. It balances fiscal responsibility with a strategic investment in the future of our rural economy.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued stewardship of our county's financial health. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the specific parameters of this subclass with you further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joe" being more prominent than the last name "Wilson".

Joe Wilson
President
Oxford County Federation of Agriculture