



Food & Farming: An Action Plan 2021

Golden Horseshoe Food & Farming Action Plan Released

Vineland, ON, March 2, 2012 – The official Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Action Plan released today calls for a more integrated and coordinated approach to food and farming in the area to ensure the growth of this vital economic cluster – the second largest food and farming clusters in North America.

Food and Farming: An Action Plan 2021, launched by the Greater Toronto Area Agricultural Action Committee (GTA AAC) and its partners, the City of Hamilton and the Region of Niagara, provides five broad strategies and numerous specific actions to revitalize the area's food and farming cluster which contributes \$12.3 billion to the provincial economy.

The Action Plan outlines the 10-year vision for the Golden Horseshoe food and farming cluster and addresses the serious challenges impeding its growth, including multiple and conflicting government policies and regulations, rising fuel costs, a lack of integration, urbanization, competition for land, gaps in infrastructure and traffic congestion.

The Golden Horseshoe feeds millions of people in Ontario, across Canada and around the world and provides hundreds of thousands of jobs for Ontarians," said Nick Ferri, Chair of the GTA AAC. "Strong industry leadership, progressive and integrated government policies, together with shared action among all stakeholders is fundamental for the successful implementation of the Action Plan"

"A healthy and vibrant food and farm cluster is critical for the economic and social wellbeing of local communities and the quality of life of all Ontarians," Bill Hodgson, Mayor of the Town of Lincoln told guests at the launch held at the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre.

The Action Plan and supporting background reports were prepared by Planscape Inc. on behalf of the GTA AAC and its partners. It is a blueprint for supporting and growing a thriving and integrated economic cluster by focusing on enhancing competitiveness, promoting sustainability and removing barriers to growth. It has been officially endorsed by the Regional municipalities of York, Durham, Peel, Niagara, City of Hamilton and Halton.

The Action Plan is the result of extensive consultations, including input from producers, industry and government representatives, the academic community and not-for-profit organizations. Background reports to the Action Plan include wide-ranging research into best practices around the world and a detailed economic analysis of the area's food and farming cluster.

"In this day, when food production is a serious concern around the world, we owe it to future generations to ensure the Golden Horseshoe retains and expands its role as a leading food and farming cluster," said Peter Lambrick, Chair of the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Action Plan Steering Committee.

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