

AGENDA

9:45am - Registration

Tea / Coffee and Networking

10:15am - Welcome / Introduction to the event

By municipal officials

10:30am - Overview of Strategic Plan (2025-2030)

Learn how Agri-Food Initiatives relate to the Township of Bonfield's newly adopted Strategic Plan.

10:40pm - Planning & Development Update

Gain an overview of the proposed replacement Official Plan and Comprehensive Zoning By-law, and how they are intended to apply to agri-food initiatives.

10.50am - Introduction to the Business Retention + Expansion (BR+E) Initiative

Learn about the Township of Bonfield's ongoing [Business Retention + Expansion \(BR+E\) Initiative](#), referred to as: "[Growing Bonfield Together: Community Business Survey 2025](#)", and how you can influence the future business landscape in the Township of Bonfield.

11:00am – Break

11:20am - Agri-business Capacity Building Project.

Learn about the Township of Bonfield's participation in the "Agri-business Capacity Building Project"; and how the Township is engaging with regional municipalities to share information and learn about best practices in the agri-food sector.

11:30am - Nipissing University

Gain insights from researchers at Nipissing University on the environmental impacts of farming, and alternative / best practice farm management techniques, including reference to case studies. Understand how simple interventions can support enhanced biodiversity, reduced emissions, and decreased groundwater pollution.

NOON - Harvest Lunch

A proposed collaboration between local agri-food businesses. Stay tuned for further details.

1:00pm - Roundtable Session: "Realizing Bonfield's Potential"

A custom designed session, where participants are asked to spend >10 minutes per table having group discussions moderated by expert facilitators on topics including:

1. Energy (Traditional and renewable energy sources / the grid system).
2. Environmental Stewardship (Biodiversity, invasive species, irrigation, drainage, run-off, etc.)

Small Community, Big Heart



3. Farm-to-Table (Food and beverage handling, safety & prep, restaurant, retail, farmstands, etc.)
4. Future Planning (On-farm diversified uses, innovative practices, and succession planning).
5. Productivity (Machinery, equipment, efficiencies, margins and yields).
6. Resources (Staff, livestock, seed, specialty crops, feedstock and fertilizers, etc.)

2:00pm - Roundtable Summary

Shared feedback on the key issues, constraints, and opportunities identified within the six roundtables.

2:20pm - Break

Partner Presentations (precise running order TBC)

2:30pm - [NOFIA \(Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance\)](#)

Learn about the range of programs, services and research-led activities offered by the Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance (NOFIA) including potential opportunities to access grants, rebates, and other incentives to support local area farming, and agri-food businesses.

2:50pm - [Ontario Federation of Agriculture](#)

Learn about the programs and member-based services offered by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA); a producer-led organization that represents the diverse interests of Ontario's agri-food sector and rural communities with a focus on government relations, farm policy development, research, stakeholder and community engagement.

3:10pm - [Click Fork, Northern Ontario's Online Farmer's Market](#)

Discover how Click Fork is successfully building a regional agri-food supply chain which connects local area farmers to households, restaurants, and other paying customers. Learn about best practice ways to bring your products to market, and the range of support services available to assist your agri-food businesses' continued growth and development.

3:30pm - [Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agri-Business](#)

Learn more about the Provincial Ministries' role in supporting the development of the agricultural sector, and the resources available to support agri-food businesses and networks.

3:40pm - Panel Discussion - Comprising various delivery partners.

3:55pm - Wrap-up / networking

4:30pm - Venue Closes