

The Impacts of COVID-19 on Canadian Agriculture and the Agri-Food Sector

Supporting Rural Recovery & Resilience



SCHOOL OF
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Paper and Presentation by
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Outline

- 1) The Challenge
- 2) The Impacts
- 3) The Responses
- 4) Recommendations



Please see our Rural Insights Series document (1.9).

Available at <http://crrf.ca/ri-agrifood/>

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The Challenge



- Agriculture/agri-food is **diverse** and **operates as a system**
- Production, processing, distribution, and consumption
- Impacts to one component **sending rifts throughout** domestic and international supply and value chains
- COVID-19 highlights the challenges, opportunities, and **underappreciated strengths** in our food system

- Concerns over **labour shortages** in production and processing
- Changes and **disruptions to distribution** networks
 - Excess supply of perishable goods
- Subsequent **reallocation of supply**
 - Hospitality and tourism closures
 - Fears over shortages vs. disposing of excess
- Changing consumption patterns

The Impacts



The Response

Federal

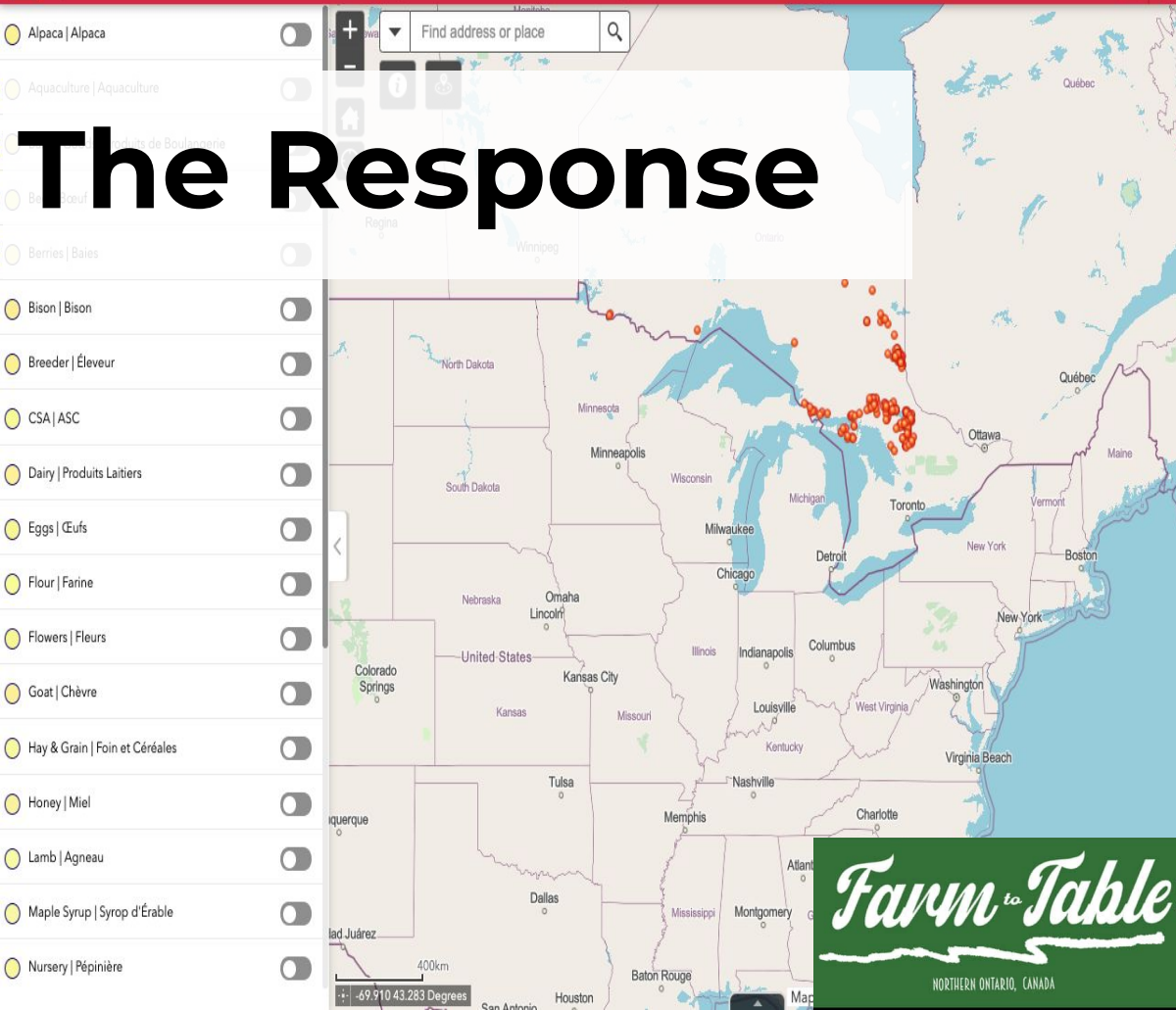
- Funding to support agricultural labour

Provincial

- Funding for e-business



The Response



Local

- Community driven initiatives to increase access to locally produced food

- Foster **collaboration** within government.
- **Support local government** and leadership.
- Encourage **open dialogue** and **learning** within the sector.
- Recognize that agriculture and agri-food is a **mosaic with a diversity of needs**.
- Recognize the **importance of jobs** in agriculture and agri-food, and;
- **Support education and training** for new workers in agriculture and agri-food.

Recommendations






Thank you!

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