

*For Immediate Release*

*Ontario farmers are encouraged to participate*

**2014 Ontario Pesticide Survey**

June 25, 2014 - Every Ontario farmer who grows any field crop, tender fruit, vegetable or other specialty crops is asked to fill out a confidential survey of crop protection products used during 2014. This confidential survey is being conducted by Farm & Food Care Ontario on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). This 2014 initiative is an extension of the 2013 survey.

Government, commodity boards and researchers use the information from the survey summary to help improve minor use pesticide registration lists, to work toward safer use of pesticides and to understand trends in use and the types of crop protection products used.

Surveys have been conducted every five years since 1973. OMAFRA relies on this data to identify and quantify pesticide usage in Ontario and to be able to better explain to the public how and why pesticides are used.

Those who contribute their data to the survey are helping to improve Ontario agriculture. It is in the interest of both farmers and the government to work together towards safer products for all farms, farmers, and the environment.

The survey is anonymous. Only a respondent's county, crop type, crop protection products used, acres applied and also acres where no pesticides are applied or organic practices are used are entered in the data base. You can fill in data periodically throughout the growing season as products are used on a field or enter data one time at the end of the season.

Craig Hunter, Expert Advisor with the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association, said "Ontario growers have shown leadership over the past 40 years by sharing their pesticide use records. These records have been put to great use to help justify such things as emergency uses, adding products to the GROU list for importation, and for pesticide pricing impacts." Hunter added, "I urge growers to once again share their data, in total confidentiality, to continue this valuable resource."

The 2014 survey template is available in an online format at [www.ontariopesticidesurvey.ca](http://www.ontariopesticidesurvey.ca). Farm & Food Care will also accept mail-in, fax or email returns of the survey.

Data collection will continue until February 13, 2015.

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Farm & Food Care Ontario is a coalition of farmers, agriculture and food partners proactively working together to ensure public trust and confidence in food and farming. Farm & Food Care provides a coordinated approach and credible information about food and farming in Ontario. For more information visit [www.farmfoodcare.org](http://www.farmfoodcare.org)

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