

2018 Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation

****Note: May 25, 2018 is the deadline***

I am writing to remind you and your colleagues of the May 25, 2018 application deadline for the Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence program and to encourage you to share this information.

The Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence program was created to recognize and foster the spirit of innovation that thrives in Ontario's agricultural sector. It encourages the development of rural communities, farms, agri-food processors and agri-food organizations by adding value to existing products, creating jobs and driving economic growth.

Each year the program recognizes up to 45 innovations across the province. Award recipients will receive \$5,000, a plaque, gate sign and various promotional materials. In addition, there will be a Premier's Award valued at \$75,000, a Minister's Award valued at \$50,000 and three Leaders in Innovation Awards valued at \$25,000 each.

Primary producers, processors and agri-food organizations are invited to submit applications. Details on eligibility, innovation categories, assessment criteria, and the application and selection process can be found in the 2018 Program Guidebook and Application Form at: www.ontario.ca/agrifoodinnovation.

Your support in encouraging outstanding agriculture and agri-food innovators to submit an application by the deadline of **11:59 p.m. on May 25, 2018** is appreciated. Questions can be directed to the Agricultural Information Contact Centre (AICC) at 1-877-424-1300 or ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca.

A description of the award winning innovations by year (2006 through 2017) can be viewed at www.ontario.ca/agrifoodinnovation.

Respectfully yours,

George Borovilos
Director
Regional Economic Development Branch
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs