



making our mark

NIAGARA

OFFICIAL PLAN

The Agricultural System

Presentation to APAC

February 26. 2021



Basis

- The *Agricultural System* contains an agricultural land base and the *agri-food network* that enables the agri-food sector to thrive.
- There are natural heritage features located throughout the agricultural land base, and farm stewardship facilitates both environmental benefits and agricultural protection.
- The agricultural land base is comprised of *prime agricultural areas*, including *specialty crop areas*, and *rural lands*. The *agri-food network* includes *infrastructure*, services and assets important to the viability of the agri-food sector.
- The Region's Agricultural System, including the natural environment system, will provide a significant contribution to the Region's resilience and our ability to adapt to climate change.
- The agricultural land base will be protected for the provision of healthy, local food for future generations. Farming will be productive, diverse, and sustainable.



Objectives

- To protect the Region's agricultural land base.
- To support a thriving agri-food sector and rural economy that:
 - Adapts to new and changing agricultural markets;
 - Takes advantage of new agricultural opportunities;
 - Diversifies agricultural economic activities and adds value to primary agricultural products; and
 - Improves the understanding of agriculture by the general public.
- To provide an efficient and orderly pattern of land uses in the *Agricultural System*, which:
 - Conserve and enhance the agricultural and natural environment systems;
 - Preserve capabilities for natural resource extraction;
 - Protect the watersheds; and
 - Adapt and develop resiliency to climate change.
- To protect normal farm practices by minimizing the potential for conflicts between farm and non-farm uses.
- To encourage *agriculture-related uses* and *on-farm diversified uses* that:
 - Support the *Agricultural System*;
 - Are at an appropriate location and scale suitable to the agricultural area; and
 - Contribute to profitable, economical, resilient, and environmentally sustainable agriculture.
- To provide for a limited amount of non-agricultural uses on *rural lands*.



Policy Areas

- Policies for the Agricultural System
- Specialty Crop Area Policies
- Prime Agricultural Area Policies
- Farm Diversification Policies
- Rural Land Policies
- Non-Farm Residential Development in Rural Lands
- Existing Use Policies
- Definitions



Initiatives

- Existing Uses
- Indigenous Agriculture



Next Steps

- Seek Feedback on Draft Policies through July 2, 2021
- Finalize Agricultural Land Base Mapping with Local Municipalities & Release for Consultation
- Prepare Draft Plan for Consultation Q1, 2022
- Target Official Plan Adoption Date of June, 2022

