Overview

• Importance of research to OMAFRA
• OMAFRA’s Research Focus
• Food for Health Research Theme
• Research Outcomes
Importance of Research to OMAFRA

Research is…

- An enabler of government programs and policy initiatives
- Supportive of healthy people, animals and environment
- The driver of innovation leading to transformation of agriculture, food and rural sectors
- Essential to the economic progress of the agri-food sector and rural communities

*Research pays! Benefit / cost ratio of 20:1 (Deloitte 2007)*
OMAFRA’s Research Focus

• Supporting research for ready receptors in policy, programs or the marketplace

• $10M annually in project funding, and another $50M supporting faculty, scientific/technical staff, and research station staffing, operation and maintenance

• Funding delivered through the OMAFRA/UofG Partnership, and open competitive research programs

• Funding allocated in seven research theme areas:
  – Agricultural and Rural Policy
  – Bioeconomy – Industrial Uses
  – Emergency Management
  – Environmental Sustainability
  – **Food for Health**
  – Product Development and Enhancement through Value Chains
  – Production Systems
OMAFRA/University of Guelph Partnership

**Vision:** World renowned model of government-university collaboration that is instrumental to success in Ontario’s agriculture, food and bioproduct sectors, to the vibrancy of its rural communities, and to the health and well-being of the province, its environment and its citizens.

**Elements of the model:**
- Funding: $350M over 5 years
- Major programs:
  - Research ($50M annually) in seven theme areas
  - Animal Health Laboratory
  - Agri-Food Laboratory
  - Veterinary Clinical Education

1874 - Provincial School of Agriculture
1964 - UofG established
1997 - Partnership formalized
Other Research Funding & Partnerships

• Open, competitive research programs:
  – Food Safety Research Program
  – New Directions Research Program

• Other Partnerships:
  – Trent University (biomaterials lab, dairy goat research centre)

• Growing Forward (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada):
  – Vineland Research & Innovation Centre
  – Agri-Tech Commercialization Centre
Food for Health Research Theme

- There is a considerable opportunity for the agriculture and food industries to contribute positively to the health of society. These opportunities are increasing as knowledge related to the potential health impacts of food grows.

- The Food for Health theme is intended to support research to address the significant potential to improve health through food.

- In addition to impacting health, a successful research program can provide economic opportunities and competitive advantages for Ontario agri-food companies and producers.

- The investment can help position Ontario as a leader in Food for Health research.
Partnership Food for Health Theme Funding

Where is the funding going?

- Bioactives, functional foods and new healthy food products, $1,784,304
- Consumers and Healthy Choices, $638,913
- Understanding linkages between food and health, $787,107
- Policy, Regulations, Investment, and the Economy, $222,315
- Agriculture and Food for Health, $900,004
- Bioactives, functional foods and new healthy food products, $1,784,304
Ongoing Outcomes of Research

Knowledge Translation and Transfer:
• Inform policy decisions and regulatory systems
• Industry and rural community development
• New tools and processes in agriculture
• Product innovation and commercialization
• Environmental and public health solutions
• Talent pool development
• Helps ministry fulfill public good mandate

U of G Researcher Prof. Brian McBride led the team that developed Dairy Oh!
Resources

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OMAFRA Research & Innovation Website:
http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/research/

OMAFRA/UofG Partnership Website (UofG site):
http://www.uoguelph.ca/research/omafra/index.shtml