

Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance

*Research Excellence
for Ontario's Agri-Food Sector*



Established for agri-food business success.

The partnership between Ontario's agri-food industry and the University of Guelph is a globally recognized success, with the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance at its core.

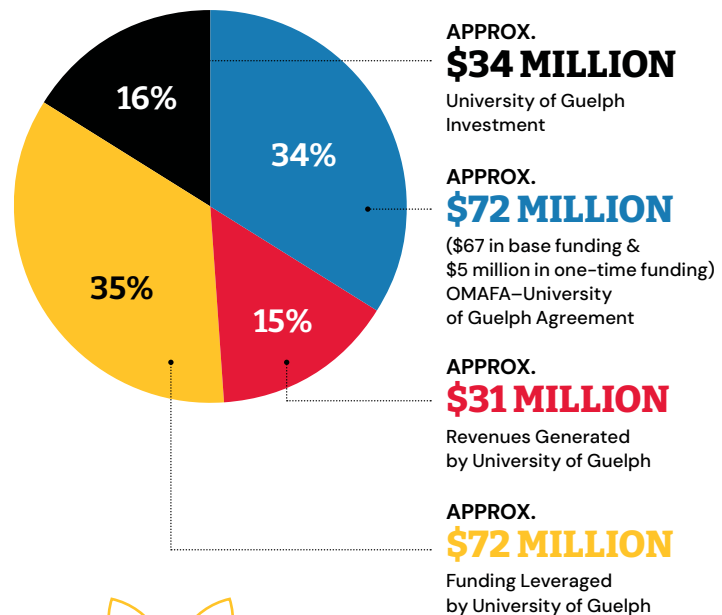
The Alliance receives approximately \$67 million in base funding annually via the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA)–University of Guelph Agreement. This recurring five-year agreement has cultivated a critical mass of expertise, led to the development of modern research farms, and driven cutting-edge research and innovation for the sector.

A commitment amplified by the University of Guelph.

Annually, over \$200 million is committed to support Ontario's agri-food sector. The University of Guelph contributes two-thirds of this total, with the remaining one-third coming from the OMAFA–University of Guelph Agreement.

This means that for every dollar OMAFA invests in the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance, the university doubles that commitment by providing an additional \$1.91, bringing its contribution to more than \$130 million every year.

Investment in Agri-Food Research: Sources of Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance Funding 2024/2025



Matching the industry's potential.

A key partner to the agri-food industry, the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance drives innovation by facilitating access to diverse intellectual capacity. In 2025, over 400 University of Guelph faculty experts are conducting research in areas that support OMAFA's priorities with 240 directly engaged in Alliance-funded projects.



400

university faculty engage in research that supports the agri-food sector.

The Alliance's six programs directly contribute to the province's \$51-billion agri-food sector.

A SKILLED AGRI-FOOD WORKFORCE

Over 1,100 students and post-doctoral scholars receive training annually, ensuring a continuous pipeline of talent and future leaders for the industry.

SAFE, HEALTHY, LOCAL FOOD

More than 2.3 million tests are conducted each year, 1.3 million from milk alone, providing critical protection for both food safety and animal health. Additionally, the Alliance forecasts, prevents, and responds to threats like avian flu through monitoring and surveillance, vaccine development, AI-powered prediction, and frontline testing.

A STRONG AGRI-FOOD ECONOMY

Providing significant economic value by contributing \$1.4 billion annually to Ontario's economy. Over the past five years, Alliance research has been supported by \$304 million in partner research investments and generated \$7.4 million in commercialization revenue from licenses.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR ONTARIO FARMERS

Delivering cutting-edge solutions to farmers, from cybersecurity tools to active research on over 20 crop varieties and seven livestock species. The Alliance operates and maintains 13 world-class research facilities across the province including the newly built Ontario Swine Research Centre, Ontario Dairy Research Centre, Ontario Beef Research Centre, and the Precision Feed Facility.

To remain responsive and scalable to industry needs, the Alliance is organized into six core programs:

- ✓ **Research & Innovation:** delivers impactful research on sector priorities and shares results.
- ✓ **Agriculture & Food Lab:** handles agricultural and milk regulatory testing.
- ✓ **Property Management:** manages 13 research locations across the province, owned by Agricultural Research and Innovation Ontario (ARIO).
- ✓ **Veterinary Capacity Program:** trains veterinarians to protect Ontario's farms and food.
- ✓ **Animal Health Laboratory:** conducts provincial animal disease diagnostic testing and surveillance.
- ✓ **Regulatory Training:** offers training, certification, and licensing for the agri-food sector.

Highlighting results that drive agri-food business success.



For 150 years, the University of Guelph and Ontario's agri-food sector have grown together. From family farms to food innovators, this industry is powered by people, and we are here to match their passion and potential with research and innovation that keeps Ontario a world leader."

— DR. REBECCA HALLETT
PRESIDENT | UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

Learn more about the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance:

Dr. Rebecca Hallett
Interim Associate Vice President Research (Agri-Food Partnership)
Office of Research | University of Guelph

EMAIL rhallett@uoguelph.ca
PHONE (519) 824-4120 ext. 54488