UNDERSTANDING THE BARRIERS TO LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN THE CLAYBELT REGION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO

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RESEARCH TEAM

- Joint project between the University of Guelph and Hearst University
- Wayne Caldwell (Guelph) and Sophie Dallaire (Hearst) are project leads
- Additional research assistants from each institution
- Community Advisory Board
- This project has been funded through the New Directions program
• Abundance of under- or unutilized agricultural land within the Clay Belt
• Agricultural expansion is slowly occurring but research is often focused on the consumer
• Limited understanding of the economic, social and environmental barriers to livestock production
1- Hearst
2- Kapuskasing
3- Timmins
4- Cochrane
5- Iroquois Falls

Need to understand the economic, social and environmental barriers to livestock production in the Claybelt Region

How do these barriers impact youth retention, new farmer attraction, and farm expansion?
RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

- Business sector
- Education sector
- Farm organizations
- Farmers (existing)
- Prospective farmers
- Students
- Health Sector
- First Nations
- Mennonites
- Municipalities
ECONOMIC BARRIERS

- Profits
- Land clearing
- Tile drainage
- Cost of supplies
- Access to equipment
- Access to market
- Transportation
- Labour
- Access to services
- Availability of grants
SOCIAL BARRIERS

- Employment opportunities
- Opportunities for youth
- Sense of community
- French language barrier
- Lack of farming community
- Isolation/remoteness
- Access to health care
- Lack of mentorship
- Access to commercial businesses/services
- Youth retention
ENVIRONMENTAL BARRIERS

- Climate
- Soil quality
- Unpredictable weather
- Crop failure
- Inability to grow feed
- Predators
- Pests
- Weeds
- Impacts of extreme cold on livestock
- Limited crop diversity
FINDINGS

- Perception or reality?
- Economic barriers are a serious concern
- Social barriers are difficult to resolve
- Environmental barriers focused on climate and soil quality
- Significant variation by group
• Barriers and solutions report
• Share report with community advisory board for feedback
• Finalize report
• Share with all stakeholders
THANK YOU

• Questions?

• For more information on this research:
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