AGGREGATES & AGRICULTURE: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACTS OF AGGREGATE PRODUCTION ON AGRICULTURE AND MITIGATING STRATEGIES

Presented By: Jeff Reichheld (PhD Candidate) & Emily Hehl (MSc. Candidate)

Supervisor: Dr. Wayne Caldwell

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BACKGROUND

- Aggregate (sand, gravel, hard rock) is necessary for *all* construction
- Aggregate extraction usually occurs on or beside prime agricultural land
- Legislation regulating extraction is only recent
  - Aggregate Resources Act, 1990 (incl. MAAP)
  - Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, 1973
- Most literature examines *public* response to aggregate development
  - 974 hectare proposed Melancthon quarry widely reported
PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

Research question(s):

What are farmers’ attitudes toward local aggregate operations?

How do farmers perceive aggregate operations’ effects on their farming business?

Main objective:

To understand the broad impacts of aggregate operations on local agriculture
METHODS

- Literature review & Jurisdictional Scan
  - Social, economic, environmental, and land use planning considerations

- Case studies
  - 5-8 Counties/Regions, 8-10 aggregate operations

- Survey of aggregate operators & farm operators

- Interviews
  - Aggregate & Farm Operators
  - Municipal, OMAFRA, MNRF Staff
IDENTIFYING CASE STUDIES

- Currently in the process of selecting case studies

- 5-8 Counties/Regions, 8-10 aggregate operations
  - Further examined for proximity to agriculture
  - Other filters and considerations...

- Dataset created to compare total aggregate sites against agricultural values
Currently missing data: Haldimand-Norfolk, Leeds & Grenville, Prescott & Russell, Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry
Screen-shot of Ontario’s ‘Find Pits & Quarries’ Map for Wellington County

Screen-shot of exported aggregate data for Wellington County
SITE EXAMPLES

Large site in the Niagara Region

Small site in Wellington County
INTENDED OUTCOMES — TOOL KIT DEVELOPMENT

- Goals:
  - Identify social, economic, and environmental impacts
  - Identify best practices
  - Contribute to an understanding of appropriate content for agricultural impact studies

- Tool Kit:
  - Recommendations/best practices for agriculture/aggregate coexistence
CONCLUSIONS & MOVING FORWARD...

- We are very early in the research process with still more questions than answers.
- We invite your input for case study and site selection:
  - Jeff Reichheld: jreichhe@uoguelph.ca
  - Emily Hehl: ehehl@uoguelph.ca