Ontario Cider Explosion!
New Technologies to Ensure Industry Prosperity
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Introduction
Cider consumption has grown 22-fold over the past ten years in North America.

The market now demands specific cider apples not cultivated in Ontario.

Apple producers see the opportunity but require economic safety nets in the event of a market fad.

Addressing Industry Concerns
Four projects are underway to address the exponential cider industry growth:

The economic benefit of mechanical harvesting will be established.

New cider apple varieties are being bred for Ontario production.

Adding value through ice cider production will be established.

Traditional cider apple varieties will be tested for Ontario winter survival.

What We’ve Found
Mechanical harvesting offers a significant economic advantage over hand harvest for cider apple cultivation where fruit appearance is not of importance.

Newly developed varieties have drawn intense interest from local cider makers and initial fermentation trials have had extraordinary results.

Ice cider production is most definitely possible in Ontario although the colder apple growing regions are more suitable.

Many traditional cider apple varieties are able to withstand the cold temperatures of Ontario winters.

Take Home Message
There are many technologies to mitigate risks for Ontario cider apple production.

High density, new or traditional cider orchards, mechanical harvesting, and ice cider production are all tools to increase economic outlook.

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