An aerial photograph showing a dense green forest in the upper half and a winding asphalt road with white lane markings in the lower half. The road curves from the bottom left towards the top right. The text is overlaid on a white rectangular background in the center.

AGGREGATES AND AGRICULTURE

Cultivating neighbourly relations, stories from across Ontario

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INTRODUCTION

Aggregates and agriculture

- Approx 164 million tonnes of aggregate are used in Ontario each year
- Being close to urban centers is important because it reduces cost and environmental impact associated with shipping heavy aggregates
- The proximity to urban centers is also important for the agricultural sector
- These industries compete for the same land base and their operations have the potential to negatively impact each other

RESEARCH NEEDED

Addressing a gap

Main objective:

- To understand the relationship between aggregate extraction and agricultural production

Research questions:

1. What are farmers' attitudes toward local aggregate operations?
2. How do farmers perceive aggregate operations' effects on their farming business?
3. What best practices exist to limit the impact of aggregates on agriculture?

Who we're talking to...

- Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)
- Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (OSSGA)
- The Ontario Aggregate Resource Corporation (TOARC)
- Consultants (e.g., MHBC)
- Municipal planning staff
- OMAFRA

In your opinion, how has your farm been affected by activities occurring on the aggregate production site? (n=234, 7 nonresponse for one of the two questions)

Please indicate any positive impacts that neighbouring aggregate extraction operations have had on your farm (select all that apply) (n=241)

Please indicate any negative impacts that neighbouring aggregate extraction operations have had on your farm
(select all that apply) (n=241)

**In your opinion, what is the nature of your relationship with neighbouring aggregate producers?
(n=234, 7 nonresponse for one of the two questions)**

NEXT STEPS

Implications for rural Ontario

1. Analyze survey results
2. Secure increased participation from aggregate operators
3. Identify interview participants
4. Identify key themes
5. Prepare the final report and tool kit
6. Focus group with key stakeholders

An aerial photograph showing a dark asphalt road with white dashed lines curving through a dense green forest. Below the road, there is a field with distinct horizontal rows of green and brown vegetation, possibly a crop field or a managed pasture. The lighting suggests a sunny day with some shadows.

KEY TAKEAWAY

The oversimplification of the relationship between aggregates and agriculture makes it challenging to identify key issues.

Thank you

We would like to thank OMAFRA for supporting this project and providing the opportunity for students to learn by doing.

Additionally, we would like to thank our industry collaborators OFA and OSSGA, and the many farmers who took time to complete our survey. Thank you for sharing your knowledge and experiences with us.

To learn more or continue the discussion contact Wayne Caldwell: wcaldwel@uoguelph.ca