

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Agenda

June 18, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Electronic Meeting

Pages

1. Call to Order
2. Declaration of Interest
3. Delegations
4. Items For Direction or Discussion
 - 4.a Experimental Acres Program Update 2

Verbal update from Emily McKague, Grey Agricultural Services
 - 4.b Beaver and Coyote By-law

Verbal update from the Director of Planning
 - 4.c RALDS Niagara Escarpment Plan Amendment

Verbal update from the Director of Planning
 - 4.d International Plowing Match Planning

Verbal update from Economic Development Department
 - 4.e Wild Weather and Climate Action - Exhibit at Grey Roots

Verbal update from Economic Development Department

Local Stories: Changing Weather | Grey Roots Museum and Archives
5. Round Table Discussion
 - 5.a Sector Trends and Challenges
6. Correspondence
7. Other Business
8. Next Meeting Date

To be determined.
9. Adjournment

Experimental Acres

Grey County Projects 2026

Part of Grey County's Climate Action Plan

Grey County Experimental Acres projects are funded by Grey County as part of their Climate Action Plan. The program aligns with Action 3: *Capacity Building in Sustainable Agricultural Best Practices* and aims to support farmers in implementing new practices which can build soil health, potentially aid in carbon recapture and creating learnings that can be shared with farmers across Grey County.



The Experimental Acres program was developed as a part of Guelph-Wellington Our Food Future, a project funded by Infrastructure Canada. The County of Wellington facilitated the program in Wellington and Dufferin Counties in 2022, and Grey County joined in 2023. Since 2024 the program has been administered by Grey Ag Services. Contact 519-986-3756 or info@greyagservices.ca for more details.

Page 2 of 9



DRAFT - June 10, 2026



Andrew Riddell

Using brassica based crop as a tool for re-seeding pastures.

Establishing a no-till, brassica based crop in the fall to condition the ground and reduce tillage needed for re-seeding pasture the following spring, decreasing the timeframe for pasture renovation. The brassicas will be grazed before winter and become a feed source for cattle.

Questions:

- Can grass swards be renovated without losing production of forage or grazing?
- Can this process minimize heavy tillage and improve soil health?
- Can brassica based crops successfully replace traditional re-seeding practices?
- What impact do brassica based crops have on cattle grazing and forage yields?

Measurements

- Visual monitoring of crop establishment
- Yield monitoring and measuring of grazing and forage produced
- Compaction and infiltration monitoring
- Soil testing
- Visual monitoring of cattle & grazing performance

Project size: 10 acres



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Robert William Scriven

Fall cover crop mixes will be planted to compare their value for extended cattle grazing and soil protection.

Following short day soybeans, a cover crop will be planted and established for late fall, early winter cattle grazing. The field will be separated into two plots to establish testing for different types of cover crops. A cow herd will be grazed across the field in early winter, with the goal of discovering the feasibility of growing a forage source in the window between bean harvest and winter, and the crop's carrying capacity for cattle.

Questions:

- Which cover crops provide the most optimum results?
- Can improvements to soil health be observed where cover crops are grown?
- Which cover crops will thrive under conditions including cattle grazing?
- Will cash crop yields be increased?
- Can this increase beef producer's profitability?
- Can this process be used as a template at additional operations?

Measurements

- Visual monitoring of ground cover and comparisons between plots
- Cow herd health monitoring based on body condition score and supplemental feed amounts
- Tracking additional days of feed for herd and cost comparisons
- Tracking cash crop yields
- Soil testing and organic matter

Project size: 28 acres





Ken Roth

Comparing four methods of Jerusalem Artichoke establishment on an organic farm.

A new orchard consisting of Jerusalem Artichoke will be planted with alternating rows of black currant and hazelnut. Three no-till methods of establishing new perennial beds will be established. The control plot involves planting into a hay field that has been ploughed and maintaining a weed-free zone around the plants through mechanical cultivation. The three no-till methods involve mulching around the plants with old hay, wood chips and solid ground cover.

Questions:

- Has the yield and plant health improved?
- Can improvements to soil biology and yield be observed?
- Which method reduces fossil-fuel consumption and labour?
- Which method supports a positive environmental impact?

Measurements

- Visual monitoring of plants
- Tracking the harvest to planted, weight ratio per plot
- Tracking labour, soil compaction, fossil fuels, equipment use per plot
- Water infiltration rings will be evaluated
- Soil testing, organic matter changes

Project size: 30 acres





Ken Klages

Implementing intensive grazing with the use of virtual fencing for a cow herd .

In place of continuous grazing, multiple new intensive grazing pastures will be created with the use of a virtual fencing and precision grazing system for the cattle herd. Observations will be made regarding pasture and herd improvements.

Questions:

- What is the impact of intensive grazing on soil?
- Does the system help improve stocking rates?
- Can the system improve animal health, body condition and quality of beef?
- Is this practice more efficient in time, labour and manure distribution?
- Will this technique improve the farm and family's ability to remain as a generational operation?

Measurements

- Feasibility and ease of system implementation, effectiveness of herd management
- Monitoring to track cattle stocking rates
- Tracking livestock health, body condition score and weight gain
- Measuring/testing feed and feed quantities
- Soil testing and health, improvements in organic matter
- Tracking labour, fuel, equipment use

Project size: 70 acres



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Josh Bye

Planting varied combinations of cool and warm season annual mixes in separate grazing pastures.

Seeding annual forage crops outside of their normal window to compare performance for grazing cattle on two separate plots. On a third plot, no-till seeding annual forages into an existing, run-down pasture to test establishment and ability to stretch forage and add biomass.

Questions:

- Is the health of the soil improving?
- Are grazing days increased further into the fall?
- Is production improved on the land as a result?
- Which species of forage crops provide the most optimum results?

Measurements

- Evaluation of crop establishment
- Tracking number of grazing days in the fall
- Impact of allowing the perennial pastures to rest longer
- Soil health testing to compare changes from the baseline established last year

Project size: 25 acres



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Ford Cook

Underseeding wheat with a cover crop mix to graze in late fall with possible bale grazing.

40 acres of wheat will be underseeded with a cover crop. The cover crop is to be provided as grazing for cattle into early winter. Depending on the density of the cover crop catch, bale grazing, swath grazing and rotational grazing practices will also be attempted.

Questions:

- Which species of cover crops provide the most optimum results?
- Is there an increase in grazing/feed ?
- Which cover crops will thrive under conditions including cattle grazing ?
- What impact does bale, swath and rotational grazing have on treatment plots?

Measurements

- Tracking grazing time, and passes
- Evaluation of density of crop and seeding success
- Other monitoring of soil health indicators (eg. infiltration rate)
- Measure impact of bale, swath and rotational grazing
- Comparison of soil sample and organic matter testing before and after the season

Project size: 40 acres



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Gillian Griffin

Establishing perennial shrubs and flowers.

Establishing perennial flower and shrub varieties on a flower farm as an addition to annual cut flower production. Organic management practices are in place. Test the viability of plants for commercial production and economic feasibility. Compare plant performance and changes in soil health between annual/perennial areas in future years.

Questions:

- Do the perennial plants produce commercially viable cut stems?
- Does the establishment of permanent root systems improve soil organic matter?
- Are there improvements in soil health, biodiversity and biomass?
- Can a model be implemented for a climate-resilient cut flower farming operation?
- Is there a noticeable impact on pollinator activity?

Measurements

- Plant establishment, performance and yield
- Soil testing and monitoring prior to planting and annual comparisons thereafter
- Economic evaluation for market acceptance, sales and revenue
- Track climate-resilience and sustainability

Project size: 1 acre



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