

Lambton Federation of Agriculture
Agricultural Land Use Policy Statement

The Lambton Federation of Agriculture (LFA) believes that the preservation of agricultural land is vital to the future of not only the Agri-Food industry in Lambton, but also the entire Sarnia-Lambton area. The LFA believe that the best use of arable land is for agricultural production. This critical use ensures a safe, sustainable supply of food, fibre and fuel for Ontario, Canada and the World. Therefore, it is important that the LFA have a strong and proactive Land Use Policy.

The LFA considers all land within Lambton County to be Class 1, 2, 3 and 0. The LFA's position is that all class 1, 2 & 3 land be designated for agricultural use only.

Class 0 Land

Class 0 land deserves special treatment being organic soils capable of growing specialty crops. Class 0 lands within Lambton County include the marsh land in the Grand Bend - Thedford area, the Blackwell area in Sarnia and other smaller marsh lands within the county. LFA's position is that class 0 lands should never be designated for housing, industrial or any other type of development.

Class 1, 2 &3 Land

Although it is the position of LFA that no further development occurs on agricultural land in Lambton, we do understand that we cannot completely stop development. Therefore our position is that before any further Class 1, 2 or 3 land is designated for development we demand municipalities investigate and address the following four key issues.

1. Is the land needed for development;
2. What is the value of the development to the community;
3. Has all current available land within the municipality been developed;
4. Is the new development land adjacent to existing developed lands, i.e. do not leave a parcel of agricultural land undeveloped between two developments.

The LFA believes that all municipal by-laws should respect normal farm practices and municipal by-laws should never be used to regulate normal farm practices. Municipal by-laws should also recognize the validity and role of proactive management initiatives i.e. Nutrient Management Plans, Environmental Farm Plans and Grower Pesticide Certification.

LFA will be proactive in monitoring and obtaining information from the municipal level as it affects agricultural lands. We shall educate and develop awareness among the community, act as a liaison with the County and Townships and consult on matters as necessary.

LFA supports the Lambton County Agricultural Advisory Committee.

It is the intent of LFA that any specific motions on land use be attached to this policy.