

- **No.1**
- **Spreading more than manure: farmer engagement with researchers**

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- **Abstract:**

- Creating a source of answers to applied agricultural research questions investigated by scientists based at the University of Guelph is a rich source of information on questions related to setting shared research agendas by civil society and research institutes. The University of Guelph is home to a research partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) in Central Canada. The process for generating research questions and for knowledge translation and transfer practices involves traditional and novel approaches to agricultural extension that engage farmers, producer groups, industry and community organizations involved in agri-food initiatives. The example of the Ontario Vegetable Crop Research Report Electronic Repository is a pilot collection designed to support the ongoing dialogue between agricultural, civil society and research sectors. The research project funded by the Ontario provincial government “Open Access and Copyright Issues Related to Knowledge Translation and Transfer for the OMAFRA-UofG Partnership” is designed to further deepen the relationship of researchers and producers and civil society by determining policy for licensing research reports and placing them in the public domain as part of the larger University of Guelph Libraries Atrium Electronic Repository. The birth of this research project underlines how ongoing events which bring together groups requiring research results, such as farmers, can be tied to research institutes, such as those geared to agricultural extension. Using participatory action research strategies, traditional extension methods and innovative social media such as facebook, twitter and SMS text messaging the dynamic which drives a partnership between producers and users of research is nurtured. The uptake and use of research reports used either directly by farmers or through various knowledge translation techniques model valuable lessons for researchers seeking to ensure value and use of research results.