

ConnectON Asset Mapping News

Summer 2023

Summer 2023 has brought a lot of warm weather and sun, and we trust that our users have embraced the summer sun. Speaking of sunnier updates, summer for **ConnectON** heralds the commencement of a series of enhancements to the **ConnectON** tool. These upgrades aim to elevate the user experience and offer an enriched dataset for Ontario. We're excited to unveil these changes and share the new possibilities with all of you.

"The asset mapping tool has provided Hamilton with a wealth of knowledge and visuals to help develop marketing materials, inform strategies and demonstrate supply chains in the agri-food industry to potential investors. A few practical examples of how Hamilton has used the tool to date include: building up a database of registered farms for our Eat Local campaign - Hamilton Farm Map & Directory; building our value proposition including targeted investment attraction proposals and collateral; visuals and data to help inform a feasibility study for a Full Service Food and Beverage Warehouse project; demonstrating capacity for specific raw material inputs for an investment inquiry; and to help inform Hamilton's new Food Strategy and consultation process. Hamilton sees many potential applications for the tool and will continue to use it to further our Economic Development Action Plan." **Brian Morris, Sr. Business Development Consultant, City of Hamilton**

Keep on reading to find out more!

2023 So far

Wellington County Mapping

The Wellington County Federation of Agriculture recently completed an Agri-food Systems Study to boost the local agri-food sector's growth. We collaborated with the County of Wellington Economic Development staff to provide **ConnectON** mapping data, resulting in over 20 specialized maps highlighting primary production, food processing, distribution, and more.

The study's insights are exciting, showcasing growth potential and innovation in the agri-food sector. Check out the full [Report](#) for details.

Food and Beverage Ontario

This summer has brought remarkable growth to **ConnectON**, as our user count reached 390 users across the province. We're thrilled to welcome Food and Beverage Ontario as a new addition to our user community. Working with Food and Beverage Ontario, we will be receiving data and have the opportunity to curate an exceptionally comprehensive dataset for the entire province by including food and beverage processing. Through this collaboration, **ConnectON** users will have a more detailed and insightful overview of food and beverage processing, manufacturing, and distribution throughout Ontario.

Toronto Global

We are very pleased to announce a new partnership with Toronto Global: the GTA Regional Investment Attraction agency. Toronto Global and the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance share a mutual interest in the development and economic growth of Ontario's key sectors. We are working together on a **ConnectON** project that will further promote collaboration between economic developers across the province and increase access to data through a public facing dashboard and enhanced website. A full system library update will set the framework for future improvements in functionality of the **ConnectON** platform. Current, reliable data will provide information for decision making and improve the ability to spot trends and gaps, inform Business Retention and Expansion and Foreign Direct Investment opportunities on a local, regional and provincial scale. This phase of project work will be completed by December 31, 2023

What's new with ConnectON

After our Spring update to the user count the **ConnectON** team is now focused on improving the user experience with a series of updates in development.

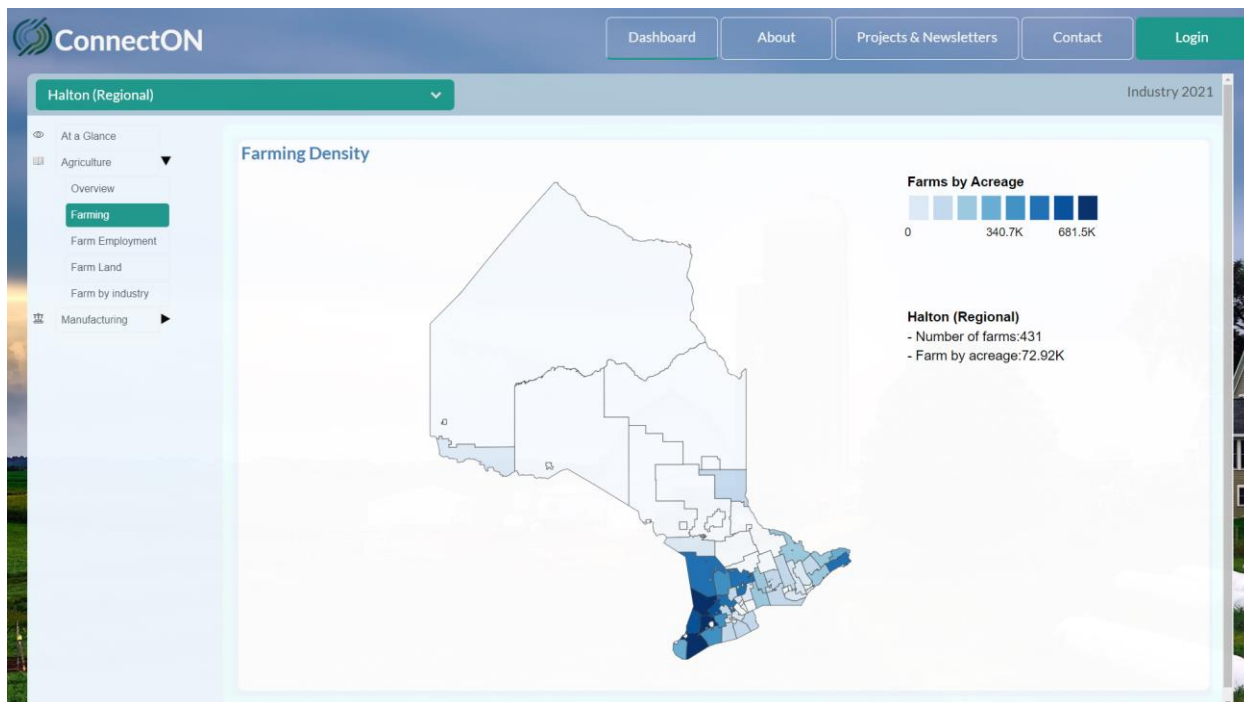
System Library Update

We're excited to share that the first functionality update to **ConnectON** is underway which will enhance the **ConnectON** platform through a comprehensive revision and technology upgrade. This upgrade includes the integration of PostgreSQL and GeoServer with the **ConnectON** mapping tool and leveraging the power of D3 and OpenLayers for web mapping display, along with Java Spring Framework and Security for robust functionality. This strategic approach not only boosts the platform's capabilities but also introduces the advanced analytics using the D3 JavaScript library, enriching the **ConnectON** experience for our users.

NAICS Code and Overlay Update

Based on feedback from our Steering committee members and users we are starting the process of updating the NAICS code list used to tag assets within the system and bring it in line with the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Canada 2022 Version 1.0. We have also been discussing updating the Overlay system within the **ConnectON** tool to provide more meaningful information to our users when conducting analysis. To support this process a survey will be sent out shortly to all our users to see which overlays should be retained within the system and if new overlays need to be added to provide a complete picture of infrastructure features across the province

Public Dashboard Update



Data from the Agriculture sector has been updated within the dashboard for all our partner municipalities with work on collecting advanced manufacturing data underway. We are excited to have the dashboard reviewed by our steering committee members and to incorporate their feedback and are looking forward to a release for our users in late fall before launching it to the public.

Training for Dashboard and System Libraries

To tie in with the release of the dashboard and system update, workshops and training sessions will be planned for fall. Workshops will be open to the **ConnectON** community, and we hope to see our new and old partners benefit from these training sessions.

Updated Data

Northern Ontario Data update

Ensuring data remains current is crucial for maintaining quality and delivering value to our users. The **ConnectON** team has collaborated with NPI to refresh Northern Ontario's data, resulting in updates to 4594 assets. This update saw 296 new assets being added, 3378 updates to existing ones, and identified 904 assets that have been reported as closed.

Farm Business Registry Data

Through our partnership with **OMAFRA**, the process of updating the Farm Business Registry data for 2022 is underway. This is part of our ongoing data updates and will result in over 45,000 farm business assets updated or added to the existing database. The **ConnectON** team looks forward to having this complete by late fall. This data set is unique to ConnectON and is a valuable resource to our all of our users. The update will provide a new snapshot of farming activities in the province.

Please contact Ahmad [at asukhera@foodandfarming.ca](mailto:asukhera@foodandfarming.ca) to get started on your data refresh!

ConnectON Website

A reminder that access to the login screen and mapping system can be found at connecton.ca. If in need of assistance with your login information, please contact us at support@connecton.ca. Please make sure that as per the Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) login credentials and access is restricted to the user issued the login details. This ensures that the DSA is followed and aids in our ongoing process of improving user analytics and user experience.

The site is a great resource to provide program background and information and is regularly updated with added resources and user examples. Be sure to check it out for information and ideas!

Contact Information

For help or further information please contact:

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