

# AG 4.0

THE NEXT BIG THING

NOVEMBER 2-3 2016

MEAFORD HALL  
GREY COUNTY, ONTARIO

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## 'APPS FOR AG' COMPETITION

### Apps for Ag Tech Competition

During the lead-up to the Ag 4.0 Summit and Innovation Tour, Grey County is pleased to invite interested individuals and teams to participate in its first ever 'Apps for Ag' Tech Competition. \$1000 in prize money is available and expert mentors from AgNition (Guelph), Incubator North/Palmer Andersen (Thornbury), and Georgian College will be working with participants and evaluating submissions. The winning products will be announced at the Ag 4.0 Summit on November 2, 2016 at Meaford Hall.

The competition timelines are as follows:

- October 1: Hackathon/Workshop at Georgian College, Owen Sound
- October 21: Project outlines due via Eventbrite
- October 26: Project pitches to expert mentors (Barrie/Owen Sound)
- November 2: Top four submissions invited to workshop at Ag 4.0 Summit
- November 2: Results announced
- December 8: Winners featured at Georgian College Innovation Showcase

# Producer Challenges

We have gathered five challenges which we believe could yield three solid opportunities. Here they are:

## CHALLENGE 1

One sheep farmer would like a low-cost phone-based RFID scanner that would send the tag numbers to standard spreadsheets or tracking software so she can manage her breeding stock information – the cost of RFT scanners is prohibitive for small producers and they are tired of manually entering numbers into their tracking documents.

## CHALLENGE 2

Another needs “a simple system to scan RFID tags so we can email them to a home computer to compile an E-bill of lading as the new shipping rules are coming in for livestock shortly. We have system now but are not easy to work with and I don’t understand why there isn’t an app for phones that can be used to scan the radio frequency ear tags then share with a computer.”

*\*\*\* NB: these first two may be able to be solved with the same app but we will want to check for the specific information requirements from both producers.*

## CHALLENGE 3

A third sheep farmer has asked for "face recognition software that recognizes when a sheep starts the birthing process. Should be one or two webcams. No computer should be located within the barn - it would just get dusty. There are typical movement patterns of a sheep, so it is fairly easy to recognize. BENEFIT: Small farmers, who do not permanently have staff looking through the flock, could sleep well and get alarmed on their phone if a ewe gives birth.” *\*\*\* NB: currently small flock owners regularly install both webcams and baby monitors but it is the alarm that is the special ask*



## CHALLENGE 4

An apple producer wants something that will track:

- Date
- GPS Location (to accommodate different areas on farm / multiple orchards owned by same farm)
- Precipitation – pulled in from open data
- Temperature – pulled in from open data
- **Apple diameter – this is the main data needed - will need to be input**
- Apple ripeness – not vital but possibly could be tied to colour or some other attribute

With output to spreadsheet to track year-over-year growth patterns.

## CHALLENGE 5

A food security organization would like to make it easy for farmers and processors to share extra / unsold crops and products with food banks and other organizations that could use the food. There are several apps like this in the market already, but they have recently undertaken an asset mapping project using Grey County's GIS and wondered if the two could be married somehow.