

## Food Regulations: Training for Small Business Operators

<b>Project Title:</b>	Food Regulations: Training for Small Business Owners
<b>Project Abbreviation:</b>	2013FoodReg
<b>Start Date:</b>	January 2013
<b>End Date:</b>	Ongoing
<b>Project Lead:</b>	County of Grey
<b>Project Sponsor:</b>	County of Grey, County of Bruce, Grey Bruce Public Health Unit, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Georgian College
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<b>Keywords:</b>	Food regulations, local food, small business development, training

### Theme and objective

Government policy states that it is the responsibility of business operators to know and comply with regulations that oversee their enterprises. Presently, regulations governing food and agriculture reach across three levels of government, involve over 30 regulatory agencies, 50 Acts of Parliament, hundreds of sets of regulations and thousands of pages of guidelines and policy interpretations. Vetting a business plan against such an array is intimidating, expensive and time consuming. Small business entrepreneurs need support to navigate this maze of regulations

### Timelines

*Winter 2013:* Freeman Boyd contracted by the County of Grey to develop Training Course outline.

*Spring 2013:* Project Advisory Committee (PAC) set up with representation from County of Grey, County of Bruce, GB Health Unit, OMAF, CFIA. Chaired by Freeman Boyd. Course outline reviewed and refined.

*Summer 2013:* Georgian College approached about delivering the course. GC, already increasing food and agriculture programming, drafted a proposal to develop and deliver the training course.

*Fall 2013:* PAC to meet with GC to forward project.

*2014:* Deliver training course to Grey Bruce small businesses as a pilot. We believe this course is much needed and will be in demand in all regions of the Province. Funding will need to be sourced to offer course at low cost.