



Science and Innovation



Guelph Food Research Centre

Guelph, Ontario

The Guelph Food Research Centre (GFRC) is one of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's network of 19 research centres. Located in Guelph, Ontario, the Centre specializes in food safety, quality and nutrition, and is committed to ensuring that food produced in Canada continues to be among the safest and of the highest quality in the world.

Research covers all aspects of food production, from the field to the fork. In addition to its focus on food quality and safety, much of the Centre's work is to explore the potential for conventional foods to offer nutritional and other therapeutic benefits. Scientists also develop innovative methods to reduce food-borne biological and chemical hazards that may be present in farm commodities, fresh market and processed foods.

The GFRC partners in many collaborative projects with industry, farm groups and the University of Guelph in the areas of product development, packaging, shelf life, food safety and the improvement of food quality and productivity.

Areas of Research

The GFRC specializes in studies on food safety and quality and the development of functional foods that contain health-giving properties. Researchers are also studying ways to help the agri-food industry reduce processing costs and add value to agricultural commodities for both food and non-food uses.

New Opportunities from Bioresources

- Conducting research on novel bioprocesses for separating and modifying agricultural and agri-food products that will have enhanced properties and commercial potential
- Characterizing and identifying agricultural bioproducts for human, animal and industrial applications

Safety of Food for Canadians

- Methods for preventing food-borne hazards through the use of innovative natural controls and strategies
- Exploring technologies to control toxins in foods and livestock feeds
- Finding ways to preserve safety, quality and nutrition of processed and packaged foods
- Identifying food-borne bacteria and viruses that cause illness in humans and animals

Health and Wellness through Innovation

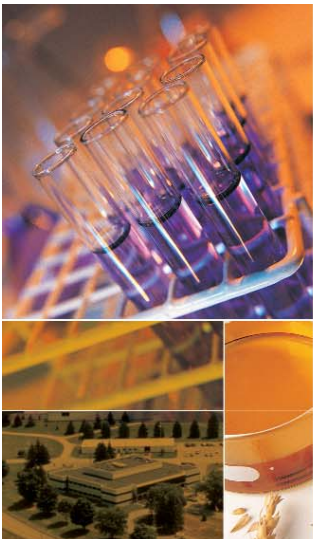
- Preserving the functional and nutraceutical properties of foods before, during and after processing
- Investigating the potential of natural antioxidants and other health enhancing nutrients as anti-cancer agents
- Conducting research on bioactive elements and the bio-availabilities of phytochemicals (plant chemicals with potential disease-preventing compounds) and natural health products from Canadian crops and plants

Facts Figures and Facilities

- 20 research scientists and a total staff of 56
- Includes a specialized Molecular Biology Research Unit with equipment and expertise for studying food DNA, and the monitoring and tracking of harmful food-borne bacteria
- A food processing pilot plant with traditional and novel processing equipment (high pressure, temperature, ultraviolet, ozone) used to study food processing and product safety
- Located adjacent to:
 - University of Guelph Research Park
 - Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs headquarters
 - Public Health Agency of Canada - Zoonoses Laboratories
 - Many Canadian and provincial head offices of producer groups and agri-food industry partners

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