



**WIKWEMKOONG  
KITIGAANI DIBINEWZIIWIN**  
Wiiqwemkoong Agricultural Resources



# Who Are We?

- Wiikwemkoong Kitigaani Dibinewziiwin is a food security initiative that was developed as a direct result of the pandemic.
- The initiative is administered by Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory Ontario Works Department.
- The project assists Wiikwemkoong community members who request help with their agricultural activities.



# The History of the Project

- The pandemic mobilized the community into action by developing their own food bank and encouraging local food production through agriculture.
- The Wikwemikong Ontario Works Gardening Program is the foundation of Wiikwemkoong Agricultural Resources.



## Community Interest in Agriculture

- The Wiikwemkoong Ontario Works Gardening Program had 30 participants in 2019. In the first year of the pandemic (2020), there were 174 program participants. In 2021, there were 403 participants.
- Participants receive services that support their personal agricultural activities to reduce their reliance on grocery stores.
- Livestock was incorporated into the programming in 2021 (chickens and cattle).



# How Much Meat Does Wiikwemkoong's Population of 3,500 Consume?

- 340 Cows
- 63,776 Broiler Chickens
- 1,804 Turkeys
- 1,246 Pigs



# Current Agricultural Assets

- There are only four beef producers based in Wiikwemkoong. All are Elderly and due to retire in the next few years.
- Gardening, livestock and beekeeping were practiced by only a few community members.



# Our Goal

Agriculture is an expensive undertaking when you are starting off with nothing. It is our goal to offer as much as we can to support families to produce their own food.

- Gardening Program
- Backyard Chicken Program
- Food Bank Garden and Greenhouse/Band Garden
- Beef Cattle Initiative





# GARDENING PROGRAM



# Services Offered by Wiikwemkoong Agricultural Resources

**Gardening Program –**  
Tractor Services (plowing, discing, tilling), hand tiller loans, water storage containers, raised bed gardens, topsoil, compost, seeds, live plants, water delivery in rural areas, gardening advice and food preserving workshops.



# WARNING

- Next pic might include offensive material

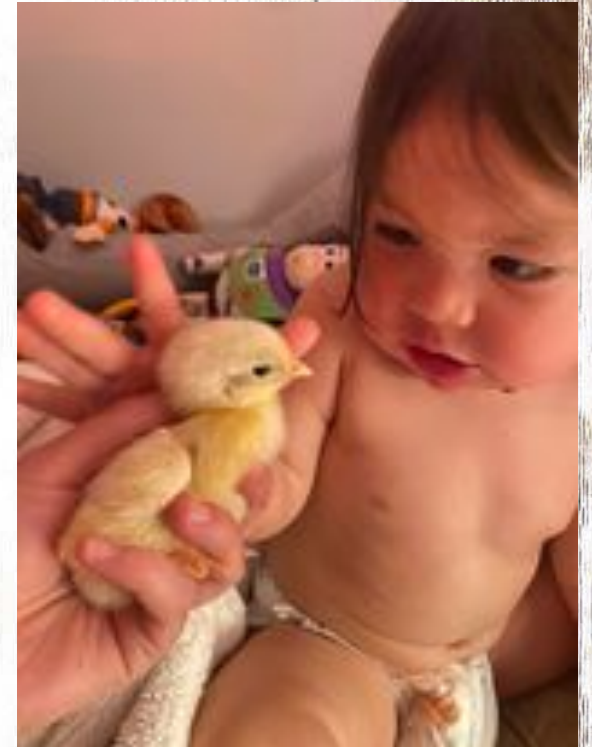




# BACKYARD CHICKEN PROGRAM

# Services Offered by Wiikwemkoong Agricultural Resources

**Backyard Poultry Program** – Day old chicks (egg, meat, dual purpose), brood lamps, chick feeders and waterers, chicken feeders and waterers, pine shavings for brooders, electric fencing supplies. We also supply slaughtering equipment such as kill cones, a dunker, plucking machine and assistance for inexperienced participants.





**COVID PROTOCOLS IN PLACE**  
MUST WEAR A MASK. MUST SANITIZE HANDS



Wiikwemkoong Agricultural Resources and Wiikwemkoong Ontario Works Presents

**DIG YOUR OWN**

**PINIIK**

**MONDAY & TUESDAY**

**OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2021 - 11am to 3pm**

Band Garden - Maiangowi Settlement Road (weather permitting)

**WIKWEMKOONG COMMUNITY MEMBERS:**

**EAT THEM NOW**

**STORE THEM FOR WINTER FOOD**

**PLANT THE SMALL ONES IN SPRING**



*Potatoes keep the longest when stored in a cold dry place*

**BRING YOUR OWN SHOVELS, BAGS, BINS, BOXES, ETC.**  
Potato weight must be recorded for funder reporting purposes.

**NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY**

Physical distancing of 2 meters applies

**Call Annette at (705) 348-1912 for more information**



**Wiikwemkoong**  
UNCEDED TERRITORY



**FOOD BANK GARDEN & GREENHOUSE/BAND GARDEN**

# Services Offered by Wiikwemkoong Agricultural Resources

## **Food Bank Garden & Greenhouse –**

Fresh produce will be grown and harvested for distribution through the food bank. We will also be experimenting with CSA (community supported agriculture) produce boxes.

**Band Garden** – A variety of produce will be grown and maintained by the program for “pick-your-own” harvest by community members. Produce grow will include yellowbeans, tomatoes, corn, carrots, rutabagas and potatoes.





BEEF CATTLE  
INITIATIVE

# Services Offered by Wiikwemkoong Agricultural Resources

**Beef Cattle Initiative** – 15 cattle were purchased last fall which will serve as breeding stock for the Wiikwemkoong Beef Cattle Herd. We intend to maintain the herd until it reaches a size of around 40 to 50 cows. Cattle will be culled as required with all meat being distributed through the food bank and offered for sale to community members.





## Beef Cattle Initiative (continued)

### What it Takes

By far the most time consuming of all of our programming, but also the most fulfilling. If you want to be a beef farmer, you also have to be;

- Veterinarian
- Woodworker
- Welder
- Dietitian
- Heavy Equipment Operator
- Safety Inspector
- Labourer

It can all be learned!



# FARMER SUPPORT



# Services Offered by Wiikwemkoong Agricultural Resources

**Farmer Support** – The existing beef cattle operators are Elderly and sometimes require labour support and equipment loans. They are also an important resource for our staff and trainees and have assisted the program with their knowledge and skills.



# Experienced Staff

- We have three staff members with extensive experience and/or education in a variety of agricultural areas, including livestock management, greenhouse vegetable production, and gardening



# Training

- At this time there are two trainees who will work in all program areas for the duration of their employment. Even if they chose a different career path, their training will enable them to become more successful in the event they chose to make their own gardens, get chickens or other livestock, etc.



# Children's Programming

- **4-H** –This is the first year for this programming. We will be offering a chicken club and gardening club. We will also be customizing the pledge and adding some culturally appropriate material to the project information.



# Youth Programming

- **Eshkiniigjig Ktigeniniisak** (Junior Farmers) – 6 summer students (high school and post secondary) will be hired and introduced to the livestock, greenhouse and garden where they will work for 6 to 8 weeks.



# Agriculture in the Schools

- **School Support** – Assist high school student to grow plants which are distributed for free through the gardening program. Introduce students to cattle. The students are incubating chickens this spring. This year they are also growing flowers and will be having a fundraiser plant sale in June.





# Resources

- Indian Agriculture Program of Ontario
- Ecological Farmer's Association of Ontario
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Union of Ontario Indians



# Chi Miigwech to Our Funders

- **NDN Collective** funded the Beef Cattle Initiative.
- **Local Food Infrastructure Fund** provided funding for the gardening program.





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