

From: Dianne McCollum [<mailto:dianne.mccollum@outlook.com>]

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:51 PM

To: Information

Subject: Just a suggestion

Dear ARC panel,

I read with interest the report for the last meeting held march 5th.

I applaud your decision to take closure of one or more schools off the table.

BUT I think you are passing up a chance to improve the lives of hundreds of students well into the future.

What we in Haldimand lack is a really good technical skills school where graduating students would be qualified for jobs right from the get go. I'm talking an E.L. Crossley X Ag Tech Training School. with up to date equipment all in one school.

It would teach technical stuff you can't learn at university (the government sprayer & fertilizer licence coarses)(how to operate a computerized milk parlour)(how to manage a multi-faceted farm operation)(how to drive a semi & get licensed) and open the students up to many agricultural jobs that could take them around the world to work.

The jobs are there....check out ag jobs advertised in The Western Producer & The Ontario Farmer as well ag job banks across Canada. These are jobs that pay a living wage and have a future. Most pay \$50,000/year and up and include living accommodations.

The January edition of Better Farming had an amazing story 'Hands on Ag Tech Training that Works'

It pointed out that many of the worlds farmers are over the age of 55.

Not everyone is destined to go to college or university, this would allow those students to gain experience that could make their lives meaningful and give them a good living, economically.

If you are interested in the article I think you could access it by going to the website www.betterfarming.com or contact me and I will forward a copy to you.

Thanks for listening,

Dianne McCollum