



2025 Yukon Election Background Document with Questions

Advancing Agriculture in Yukon: Long Term Goals

Purpose of This Document:

The Yukon Agricultural Association (YAA) is sharing this election backgrounder to highlight urgent and long-term priorities for agriculture in Yukon. The 2025 territorial election is a critical opportunity to advance agriculture in Yukon through policy and legislative commitments.

About the Yukon Agricultural Association:

At the Yukon Agricultural Association (YAA), our mission remains to foster and promote sustainable Yukon agriculture for the benefit of producers, consumers, and communities.

Yukon's farmers and food producers face ongoing challenges, from uncertain market conditions and infrastructure gaps to outdated legislation and land use pressures. These barriers hinder growth and threaten the territory's ability to build a self-sufficient food system. To ensure Yukon's agriculture sector can thrive, we are calling on all candidates and parties to support the following key priorities:

- 1. Closing the Local Food Procurement Gap**
- 2. Enacting Right to Repair Legislation**
- 3. Advancing the 2020 Agricultural Policy**
- 4. Protecting the Right to Farm**

This document outlines key agricultural issues for the 2025 Yukon territorial election and includes questions for candidates.

Issue 1: Closing the Local Food Procurement Gap



What's the Issue? Yukon Government purchase of locally grown food utilizes approximately 1% of its annual food budget. This level is far below what's achievable. Public sector procurement of local food can strengthen Yukon's food security, create stable markets for producers, and provide producers certainty to invest, expand and grow.

Underutilization of local food in government procurement limits growth and food security.

Why It Matters

- *Enhances* food security and local resilience
- *Supports* local producers, and processors
- *Retains* economic value within Yukon
- *Demonstrates* government leadership in sustainable agriculture

Long-Term Goal: Increase Yukon Government local food procurement to 5% by the end of 2025, 10% by 2026, and 15% by the end of 2027.

2025 Election Ask: Commit to immediate departmental action to meet a 5% local food procurement target by the end of 2025, *using and improving* the existing online food procurement system and addressing *current institutional barriers*.

Questions:

1. If elected, will you allocate annual targeted funds to departments specific towards the purchase of locally produced food?
2. If elected, will you establish an action plan to reduce the barriers in place preventing the procurement of local food to government departments?
3. If elected, how will your government ensure the online Yukon food procurement platform is used consistently and effectively across departments?
4. If elected, will your party commit to setting a public sector local food procurement target of at least 5% by the end of 2025, increasing to 15% by 2027?

2. Enacting Right to Repair Legislation



What's the Issue? Right to repair refers to policies and practices that allow individuals and businesses to repair products without undue barriers, either technical or legal, from manufacturers. Right now, this affects agricultural producers in Yukon who rely on equipment with limited local repair options, especially in relation to farm equipment who face barriers of digital locks, replacement parts, and further repairs without proprietary codes or tools.

Already Quebec, five US states and the EU have adopted legislation to ensure the right to repair for both consumers and independent repair shops.

Consumers and businesses in Yukon face legal and technical barriers to repairing products, especially farm equipment.

Why It Matters

- *Reduces* repair costs and wait times
- *Supports* local businesses and job creation in Yukon
- *Promotes* sustainability
- *Enables* farmers to repair equipment locally without voiding warranty

Long-Term Goal: Passed legislation that allows individuals and businesses to repair products without undue barriers, either technical or legal, from manufacturers.

2025 Election Ask: Commit to amending the Yukon's Consumers Protection Act, RSY 2002, c.40, to require that a manufacturer, at the request of a consumer or a repair business, provide to that consumer or business, within a reasonable time, the most recent version of the repair manual, replacement parts, software and other tools that the manufacturer uses for, or provides to others for the purposes of diagnosing, maintaining and/or repairing its products. The manufacturer must provide a refund or replacement of the product if they do not comply.

The manufacturer would be able to charge the consumer or repair business a "fair cost" for this. Furthermore, the manufacturer can require a person to sign a confidentiality agreement if a repair manual discloses a trade secret of the manufacturer. Ideally, the legislation would apply to all industries, but in particular farm equipment, consumer

Questions:

1. If elected, will your party commit to amending Yukon's *Consumers Protection Act* to include the Right to Repair?
2. If elected, how will you ensure that this legislation includes key sectors like agriculture, where repair access is critical?

3. Advancing the 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy



What's the Issue? The 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy outlines key goals for agricultural development, land access, sustainability, and regulation but, progress has been slow, hindered by a lack of cross-departmental coordination. Funding alone does not guarantee success without modernized policies, regulations, and meaningful sector engagement. Meaningful implementation requires modernized and stronger engagement with Yukon's agricultural sector in the development of frameworks affecting the industry.

Producers require modernization and action on policies, regulations and frameworks that support agriculture in Yukon.

Why It Matters

- *Supports* long-term food security and economic growth
- *Protects* and expands agricultural
- *Promotes* environmentally responsible farming
- *Builds* producer confidence through updated frameworks

Long-Term Goal: Achieving the set 7 targets identified in the 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy, by 2030.

2025 Election Ask: Commit to the one Government approach to achieving the targets set out by actively engaging across departments on their roles within the Yukon Agriculture Policy, and tasking each department with set goals to reach by 2030.

Questions:

1. If elected, what actions will your government take to ensure all departments actively fulfill their roles within the 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy?
2. If elected, will you commit to setting public timelines and departmental accountability measures to achieve the policy's seven targets by 2030?
3. If elected, will you establish a concrete plan to update outdated agricultural regulations and policies?
4. If elected, how will you ensure meaningful agricultural sector involvement in the development of future policies and regulations that directly or indirectly impact the industry?



4. Protecting the Right to Farm

What's the Issue? Yukon producers lack legislative protection from nuisance lawsuits and land-use conflicts. This undermines confidence and stability in the industry. Most Canadian jurisdictions already have Right to Farm laws. In the 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy it states the Government of Yukon is committed to supporting market development, infrastructure development, and economic diversification in the agricultural industry. Without legal protections, agricultural producers face increasing pressure from land use conflicts, development, and nuisance complaints. Without a Right to Farm Act, this policy commitment lacks the legal backbone needed to ensure farmers can operate with certainty and confidence in a growing and often competing landscape.

Yukon producers currently lack legal protections from nuisance lawsuits and land-use conflicts, undermining industry stability.

Why It Matters

- *Protects* farmers from nuisance complaints
- *Secures* agricultural land use rights
- *Ensures* long-term agricultural viability amid urban expansion
- *Supports* food security and economic diversification

Long-Term Goal: Passed legislation that protects farmers in Yukon from nuisance lawsuits, and restrictions on agricultural development provided they are using normal farm practices on land designated for agriculture.

2025 Election Ask: Commit to creating a Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act that shields farmers from nuisance complaints and unreasonable restrictions on normal farm practices on designated agricultural land. The Act should include a dispute resolution process and clearly protect agricultural development, aligning Yukon with other Canadian jurisdictions.

Questions:

1. If elected, will your party commit to introducing a Yukon Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act during your term in office?
2. If elected, how will you ensure that such legislation provides clear protections from nuisance lawsuits for farmers using accepted practices on agricultural land?
3. If elected, will your government establish a fair and transparent dispute resolution mechanism for agricultural land use conflicts as part of Right to Farm legislation?

Summary of Questions Asked:



Local Food Procurement

1. If elected, will you allocate annual targeted funds to departments specific towards the purchase of locally produced food?
2. If elected, will you establish an action plan to reduce the barriers in place preventing the procurement of local food to government departments?
3. If elected, how will your government ensure the online Yukon food procurement platform is used consistently and effectively across departments?
4. If elected, will your party commit to setting a public sector local food procurement target of at least 5% by the end of 2025, increasing to 15% by 2027?

Right to Repair

5. If elected, will your party commit to amending Yukon's *Consumers Protection Act* to include the Right to Repair?
6. If elected, how will you ensure that this legislation includes key sectors like agriculture, where repair access is critical?

2020 Agricultural Policy

7. If elected, what actions will your government take to ensure all departments actively fulfill their roles within the 2020 Yukon Agriculture Policy?
8. If elected, will you commit to setting public timelines and departmental accountability measures to achieve the policy's seven targets by 2030?
9. If elected, will you establish a concrete plan to update outdated agricultural regulations and policies?
10. If elected, how will you ensure meaningful agricultural sector involvement in the development of future policies and regulations that directly or indirectly impact the industry?

Right to Farm

11. If elected, will your party commit to introducing a Yukon Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act during your term in office?
12. If elected, how will you ensure that such legislation provides clear protections from nuisance lawsuits for farmers using accepted practices on agricultural land?
13. If elected, will your government establish a fair and transparent dispute resolution mechanism for agricultural land use conflicts as part of Right to Farm legislation?