

Supporting Local Food in Northern Ontario

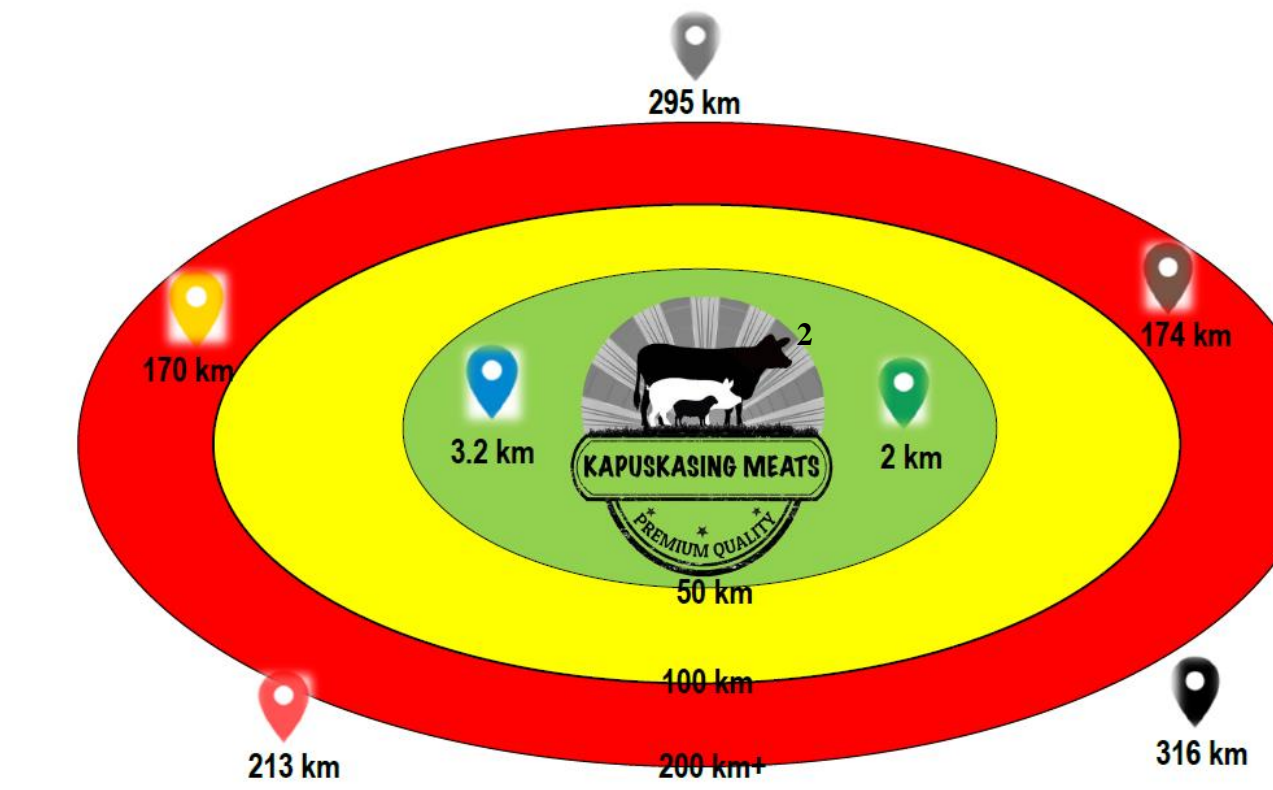
Katherine Howes^a

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Research Motivation and Goals

- In attempting to understand the challenges faced by Northern Ontario with regards to locally produced food, this research focuses on inventorying the existing production and distribution services available to farmers in Northern Ontario.
- This research attempts to link not only producers and distributors but also various communities through a networked approach.

Identified Barrier: Distance to Farm Services

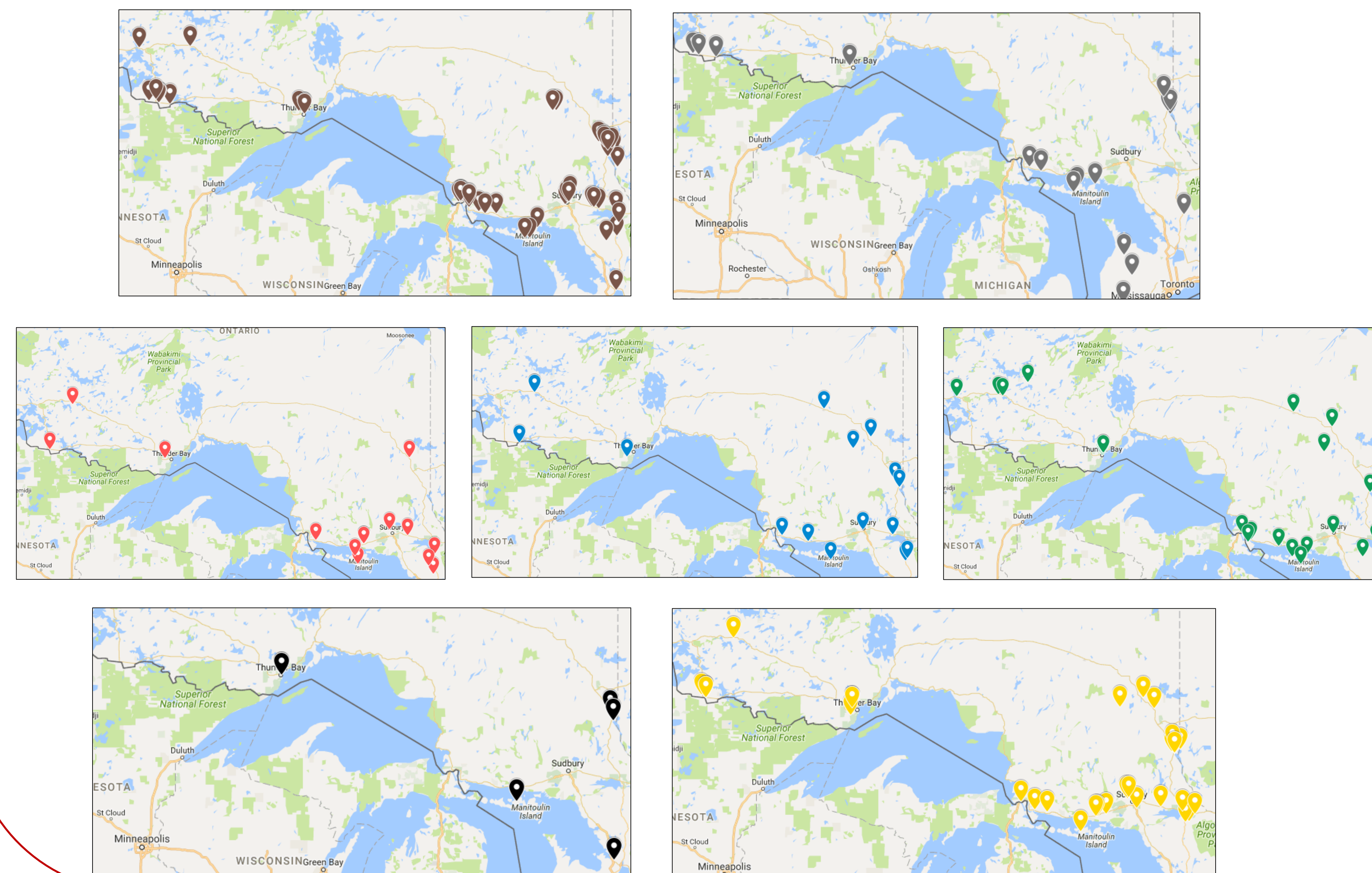


- This diagram depicts the distances to farm services for a producer located in Kapuskasing. What is notable is the distance to the nearest abattoir, farm equipment dealer and certified crop advisor.

Farm Services

- 📍 Abattoir
- 📍 Veterinarian
- 📍 Farmer's Market
- 📍 Farm Equipment Sales/Services
- 📍 Feed & Seed
- 📍 Certified Crop Advisor
- 📍 Livestock Transport & Sales

Distribution of Existing Farm Services



- This preliminary scan of the agricultural services in Northern Ontario provides insight into the lack of certain farm services including: Certified Crop Advisors, Abattoirs, Livestock Transport and Auction services.



Geography of Northern Ontario¹

- The existing services appear to cluster around the areas of Sudbury, Temiskaming Shores, Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie. This has serious implications for those farmers who are located outside of these hubs.

Special thanks to:



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Figures

¹Northern Ontario Plant Database (2017). Geographic area covered by the NOPD. Accessed from: <http://www.northernontarioflora.ca/geographicarea.cfm>

²Kapuskasing Meats (2017). From the North for the North. Accessed from: <http://kapuskasingmeats.ca/about/>

Summary of Research Objectives and Anticipated Outcomes

- Understanding the current agricultural system and the experiences of new farmers in Northern Ontario will enable us to provide best practices for the expansion of the Northern agricultural field.
- A strong agricultural industry can improve food sovereignty, food security and provide local healthful food to Northern residents.

Next Step: Focus groups and key informant interviews in April 2017