

**Research Poster from the
Linking Environment and Agriculture Research Network (LEARN)
*Enabling Research for a Competitive Agriculture***



Abstract LEARN-06

**An empirical examination of landowner characteristics, social capital,
and farmland rental rates in southern Ontario**

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Thirty-three percent of farmland in Ontario is rented. Conventionally rental rates are expected to vary across parcels depending on a host of factors – e.g., land quality, location, crop prices – that contribute to expected net-revenue associated with a parcels use. Recent literature suggests that variation in rental rates do not fully conform to the conventional economic approach. For this reason we set out to empirically examine two additional factors that may explain variation in rental rates: i.e., land owner category and the social relationship (social capital) between the landowner and the tenant. A survey of 240 farmers in southern and western Ontario was conducted during the months of June to August 2010. Our poster summarizes the data from this survey: e.g., rental rates, character of rental contracts, etc. In addition, we summarize variation in farmland ownership by landowner categories. Landowner categories include: active farmers, widow(er)s, retired farmers, individuals or families who use the land as a place of residence, private owner investors, investment companies, and governments (federal, provincial or municipal) The relationship (social capital) between farmland owners and renters is also examined as survey respondents provided information regarding their relationship to the farmland owner – e.g., family, close friends, friends and acquaintances. In the poster we provide additional results that assess the extent that rental rates differ across landowner categories and social capital.