



Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Ontario AgriCentre

100 Stone Road West, Suite 206, Guelph, Ontario N1G 5L3
Tel: (519) 821-8883 • Fax: (519) 821-8810 • www.ofa.on.ca

August 12, 2016

Hon. Glen R. Murray
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Ferguson Block
11th Floor, 77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON
M7A 2T5

Dear Minister Murray,

Re: Extension request of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Course at no cost

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is Canada's largest voluntary general farm organization, representing 36,000 family farm businesses across Ontario. These farm businesses form the backbone of our robust food system and rural communities with the potential to drive the Ontario economy forward.

OFA appreciated the opportunity to provide advice during the 2015 Pollinator Health consultations and the Pollinator Health Action Plan consultations earlier this year. In these consultations, OFA pointed out the opportunity for the use of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to address seed treatment impact.

OFA continues to support the IPM concept and believes that IPM education has an important role in any Pollinator Health Strategy. We firmly believe that the development and testing of a practical IPM system is the best way to achieve the desired outcome of reduced pesticide usage.

Offering IPM training at no cost has benefited farm operations. However due to logistics, we know not all farm operations will be in a position to have completed this training by August 31, 2016.

Therefore, OFA requests that the current IPM course for corn and soybeans continue to be offered free of charge to growers using neonicotinoid treated seed until at least March 31, 2017.

OFA believes such an extension would be appropriate to give equal opportunity to all 27,000 Ontario growers, who may require access to Class 12 treated seeds, to become certified before 2017 spring planting.



OFA is committed to working with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to ensure a healthy environment for our pollinators, our farms, and ourselves. As you know, OFA remains committed to finding the best means to both achieve environmental goals and support our farm sector.

We look forward to your response to our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don McCabe', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Don McCabe
President

cc: Hon. Jeff Leal, Minister, OMAFRA
Dr. Deb Stark, Deputy Minister, OMAFRA
OFA Board of Directors