



NFA

Northumberland
Federation of Agriculture

News & Notes

Working for a Vibrant and Innovative Agriculture Industry



2019 ISSUE #1

Message from the President Marty Opsteen

The days are getting longer and we have changed to daylight saving time. Farmers have been busy attending farm shows, getting seed and preparing their equipment for planting their crops in late April and early May if Mother Nature cooperates.

The NFA directors have also been busy meeting with various Level of government. An Ag Advisory group, made up of NFA directors and Northumberland County Staff, met with David Piccini to talk about

Property Tax Reform. On March 15 we had a breakfast meeting with MP Kim Rudd. Topics discussed were Carbon Tax (price on pollution), causing low commodity prices, National Food Strategy, natural gas and high speed internet.

We are meeting with MPP David Piccini later this month to get feedback from AG Advisory Committee meeting. Red Tape Issues, Natural Gas and High Speed Internet are some of the issues we will be discussing with him.

On April 1st the new federal fuel surcharge comes into effect in Ontario. It is part of the federal carbon pollution pricing system. Make sure you fill out a Fuel Charge Exemption Certificate for Farmers (L402E0) and give this to your fuel supplier. You can download this form from Canada Revenue Agency Website.

Please feel free to contact local directors with any concerns that affect agriculture in Northumberland County. Have a safe and productive spring.

Marty



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Notes from OFA Ontario Federation of Agriculture Reforming the Animal Welfare System

In a ruling brought down on January 2, 2019 an Ontario judge has found some of the enforcement powers held by the province's animal welfare agency (OSPCA) to be unconstitutional and says the government must rewrite related laws to remedy the situation.

The January 2 ruling of the Ontario Superior Court Justice states that "law enforcement bodies must be subject to reasonable standards of transparency and accountability" and private organizations "which are rarely transparent and have limited public accountability" should therefore not have policing powers. The ruling ultimately voids the sections of the OSPCA Act that give the OSPCA their policing authority.

The decision also acknowledges that animals would suffer if this decision took immediate effect and the provincial government has been given one year "to consider the range of possibilities or to start from scratch in making policy choices".

One year is a short time frame to reinvent the provincial animal welfare system.

The OFA has been advised that the government urgently needed input from OFA on the OSPCA situation. Minister Jones needs to announce new measures next week as OSPCA is not part of the equation as of April 1.

Let's not forget that we have a cohesive organization involving all livestock organizations that is tasked with dealing with animal welfare issues – Farm and Food Care.

OFA is currently working with Farm and Food Care in partnership with each of the livestock and poultry organizations in Ontario that are very concerned that the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) has indicated its intention to abdicate its role with respect to animal welfare enforcement. This decision leaves the province devoid of a means for investigating and enforcing livestock welfare concerns in the immediate future and yields long-term uncertainty with regards the enforcement model.

OFA and The livestock commodity organization members of Farm & Food Care Ontario recognize that the short and long term voids created by the OSPCA abdication must be filled and must be seen to be effective enforcement processes in the eyes of the public.

OFA is continuing to monitor this situation and is working in the best interests of its 37,000 members

Bruce Buttar OFA director Zone 12



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Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

I recently had the opportunity to participate in a **Mental Health First Aid Course**, thanks to NFA for coordinating, and sponsorship from the Do More Ag Foundation (www.domoreag.ca).

Through the course, we learned how to recognize the signs and symptoms of a mental health problem, discussed overcoming stigmas and discrimination, and first aid skills for suicidal behaviour, panic attacks, and psychotic episodes. I truly believe these are life skills that everyone should learn.

If you are interested in taking part in a course like this, head to www.mhfa.ca/ and find a course being offered near you.

Let's continue to work together to break down the stigma of getting help when we need it. We should all make a point of checking in on each other and asking the tough questions. Not just the standard questions of, "How are your animals?", or "How are the crops looking?", but "Are you doing okay? Do you need someone to talk to?" Most often, those suffering need a friend who is willing to just listen, someone they can trust, and to lean on.



Another new initiative this winter is the introduction of an annual Member Day for all counties in Zone 12. The inaugural event was hosted by NFA on February 1st in Brighton. NFA hosted two speakers, Peter Jeffrey (OFA) gave valuable information for farmers on the roads, and Suzanne Andrews (Chamber of Commerce) shared tips and tricks on how we can influence politicians on critical issues for the ag industry.

February 9, 2019, marked Canada's Food Freedom Day. This is the day that the average Canadian will have earned enough income to pay for their grocery bill for the entire year. It took 40 days into the year to reach this milestone. Food Freedom Day serves as an annual reminder that we are truly lucky to have access to an abundance of healthy, safe and affordable food choices. Thank-you members for all your hard work to make this a reality for Canadians!

In the world of policy, OFA recently submitted feedback on two EBR postings, one on the Endangered Species Act (013-4143) and on the Growth Plan (013-4504 to 013-4507). Members can always have a read through these by going to our website www.ofa.on.ca/resources/

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Twitter:
[@ResiWalt](https://twitter.com/ResiWalt)

www.FARM911.ca

Ontario Farmers: Act Now to be Exempt from Fuel Charge

The Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (GHGPPA) established a federal standard for reducing carbon pollution for provinces and territories without carbon pollution pricing systems that meet the federal standard.

The federal carbon pollution pricing system now applies in Ontario.

Starting in April 2019, the federal carbon pollution pricing system will add a charge to everyday fuels for fuel delivered in Ontario for Air, Marine, Rail and Road use.

Ontario farmers are eligible to receive an exemption from the fuel charge for fuels (gasoline and light fuel oil) used in tractors, trucks or other farm machinery, by completing an exemption form available through Canada's Revenue Agency (CRA).

Eligible farming machinery is property that is primarily used for the purposes of farming and that is a farm truck or tractor, a vehicle not licensed to be operated on a public road, or an industrial machine or stationary or portable engine.

Fill out the exemption form today, available online on the CRA website, and provide a copy to your fuel distributor. Keep an additional copy for your own farm records. Get form at this link:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/forms-publications/forms/1402.html>



Wins Brighton-Cramahe Chamber of Commerce Business Achievement Award for Local Impact



OAFVC Clients a Market for Local Growers

The Ontario Agri-Food Venture Centre (OAFVC) is looking for help connecting new food entrepreneurs with local growers able to supply ingredients for small batches of production this season. One challenge is in promoting what is available locally and finding ways to connect the growers and the entrepreneurs. Some food entrepreneurs are new to the industry and may not have the time or experience to have pre-negotiated supply contracts - but that doesn't mean our farmers have to miss out.

OAFVC clients typically process somewhere between 400-2000 units per visit – either in bottles of sauce, jars of jam, or packages for frozen food. This actually means that local sourcing can be relatively simple. Very few clients are looking for a *literal* ton of produce, rather they need quantities closer to the range of 20-80lbs. per ingredient, per production run.

Northumberland's local food-focused fruit and veg farmers generally operate smaller parcels than grain and livestock farmers. The nature of the niche and 'hand-crafted' processing that happens at the OAFVC is perfectly positioned to provide a boon to local growers – even when the growers themselves aren't focused on creating additional income from marketing their own value-added products.

Farmers who think they may have produce that OAFVC clients would be interested in purchasing (hot peppers, veggies, herbs, fruit, etc.) are encouraged to call 905-355-3680 or email: oafvc@NorthumberlandCounty.ca to let Centre staff know what will be available locally and when. Anyone with ideas to help, or who are interested in connecting food entrepreneurs with farmers are encouraged to reach out and join the conversation.

Trissia Mellor, Ag Manager, Northumberland County Economic Development.

Drainage Season

The *Drainage Act* establishes the process for one or more landowners to obtain an outlet for drainage waters, through the construction of a municipal drain. The ability to safely remove excess waters from one's fields enables farmers to achieve higher crop yields while also reducing rutting and soil compaction.

Municipal drains are communal projects, benefiting and paid for by those farmers and rural property owners whose lands are served by the drain. Farmers and rural property owners petition their municipality for a drain. Their municipality appoints an engineer who meets with the landowners to learn their drainage needs. The engineer then develops plans to address the drainage needs, including a schedule to assign initial construction costs, as well as future maintenance, to the benefiting landowners. For lands assessed as "agricultural" for property tax purpose, OMAFRA provides grants to offset some of the costs of construction and future maintenance; 1/3 in Southern Ontario and 2/3 in Northern Ontario.

For municipalities with at least 1 municipal drain, OMAFRA provides a grant to offset some of the municipality's costs in employing a Drainage Superintendent. The Drainage Superintendent is the municipal "manager" of the municipal drains, responsible for ensuring that they're kept in a good state of repair. Farmers noticing problems with a municipal drain must contact the Drainage Superintendent. Individual landowners are not authorized to undertake any maintenance or repair work on a municipal drain.



Ontario has two other drainage-related statutes, the *Tile Drainage Act* and the *Agricultural Tile Drainage Act*.

The *Tile Drainage Act* provides fixed rate loans to farmers, through their local municipality, for on-farm tile drainage works. The *Agricultural Tile Drainage Act* licenses the tile drainage contractors, their employees and their tiling equipment.

For more information, visit [OMAFRA's drainage webpage](#).



1 in 8 



Canadian jobs
are in **ag** and **agri-food**

 **Agriculture**
MORE THAN EVER



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FEDERATION OF
AGRICULTURE

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We're on the web
www.ofa.on.ca/about/county-federation-sites/northumberland.aspx

Mental Health Awareness should be on everyone's radar. NFA was able to host a Mental Health First Aid Certificate Course chosen and funded by Do More Ag as one of twelve locations in Canada. The information in this course was a valuable tool to have in anyone's tool box to fight the stigma of mental illness. Learning about the ALGEE Assess, Listen, Give, Encourage, Encourage can help support someone suffering. The difference between sympathy and empathy is also something that was fascinating for me.



We live in a great county with some truly amazing people so close to us that I'm sure if we keep this ball rolling we can all be support for all. NFA plans on bringing this course back to our area next spring so please consider signing up. In the mean time be on the lookout for mental health moments as we increase awareness and spread the word for a better understanding.

Lisa

Gadgets
Digital resource that you
may find useful



Canada's advanced speed performance test for your connection to the internet. Go to this web site and do the test and get your data recorded so an accurate map of rural speeds can be used to improve our infrastructure. You are able to see the slow and fast areas in all of Canada. Let's do our part to show how much this is needed in rural areas.

<https://cira.ca/better-online-canada/cira-internet-performance-test>



The questions, the stories, and the people behind where our food comes from and how it gets to our plate. A feature length documentary that tells the story of food production with the main character being the head chef of an up scaled restaurant in Toronto called Canoe. This chef follows the fine ingredients that he creates meals with, from the ground

up to his kitchen and asks questions about the production process that is involved along with showing the care he takes in creating delicious recipes for his customers. The artful display of food will appeal to the foodies and is trying to narrow the gap between food production and delicious Canadian fine dining.

The young producer studied Ag business at the University of Guelph and many of the farmers in the production are graduates. This film was submitted to the Toronto International Film Festival and premiered at the Toronto Isabel Bader Theatre in August 2018.

Every producer should take some time to watch this documentary. <https://www.beforetheplate.com/>

Mental Health Moment

This proud group of Mental Health First Aiders have taken time to become more aware of the many sides of mental health. Join them and increase awareness, increase confidence and reduce stigma to support your family, friends and neighbours. Go online and check out this link: <https://www.mhfa.ca/>

When you are online check out this clip talking about sympathy and empathy by Brene Brown. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ewgu369Jw>



Mental Health
First Aid Canada

Random acts of kindness

