



President's Message– Chris Hamilton

I hope that everyone has had a productive year. It always seems to me like some days take forever but the years fly by. It was challenging for many in agriculture this year due to weather and industry changes and I hope that we can all take the opportunity to help out our fellow farmers.

I was happy to participate in the Niagara Farmers Day event in the spring as a joint event with the Niagara North Federation of Agriculture. The event was a great success and will be held again on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at the West Niagara Agriculture, Livestock and Richardson Building. I encourage all to attend as every good farmer can always learn something new.

As the winter season is upon us I ask that each member take the time to reflect on the previous year to the gains and hardships they have faced. I ask that you present these issues to the NSFA as well as any local council that will listen. I hope that with more community engagement we can make the agriculture sector stronger overall.

Your Board of Directors

Chris Hamilton– President
 Roger Miller—Past President
 Cam Prentice—Vice President
 Ted Hessels– Vice President
 John Dekker– Executive Member
 Rosemarie Haegens
 Yvonne Hessels
 Murray Bering
 Joe Kita
 Joyce Sonneveld– Administrator

~~~~ A Project we are working on ~~~~

Farm 911—The Emily Project

The inspiration behind our project is little Emily, who was lost in a farm accident. One of the factors in the accident was first responders lost time finding Emily due to the absence of a civic address for that farm property. FARM 911 is an awareness campaign encouraging farmers to order civic addresses for your farm field entrances. We believe that having your farm in the emergency response system, will speed up the time it takes first responders to find you in the case of an accident. The emergency response system is based off of civic addresses, not GPS. Contact your municipality about a sign and they will start the process with you. Please be advised there may be a fee, but this is money well spent. If your municipality does not have an application process already in place, we encourage you to work with your municipality to implement one. This project is making its way across the province, with municipalities in Oxford, Northumberland, Hastings, Renfrew, Prescott & Russell already participating. For more information, go to www.FARM911.ca



By Resi Walt –OFA MSR



Niagara South Federation of Agriculture

Niagara Christian Gleaners using Surplus Niagara Produce to Feed the Hungry

Niagara Christian Gleaners (NCG) is a not-for-profit charitable organization located in the heart of Niagara. Our Smithville facility is a state of the art food plant that is taking surplus produce from the marketplace and processing it into a nutritional soup mix. This will then be distributed to needy, hungry people worldwide at no cost to the recipient. NCG's mandate in many ways is threefold. First we desire to intercept food that otherwise would be wasted. Often this food has nothing wrong with it nutritionally but the producers and distributors are unable to sell because the product may have been graded down, or the market has too much to bear, or other reasons. Second we are purposefully reliant on a community of volunteers, many of them seniors, to help out daily in our plant. We want to create an atmosphere of belonging where our volunteers feel valued. Finally we want to share our surplus food, much of it coming from right here in Niagara, and meet the need of hungry people worldwide. We are partnering with established, reputable organizations that are at work in some of the most desperate situations imaginable across the globe. You can learn more about us by visiting our website:

www.niagaragleaners.org. By Pete Wierenga GM Niagara Christian Gleaners



Website Resources for DON outbreak in Corn

We are facing one of the most severe outbreaks of DON in corn that we have ever seen, and some areas of the province are being hit especially hard. **Grain Farmers of Ontario** is at work on your behalf, and we want you to know what we are doing.

Visit their website at gfo.ca/DON

Agricorp continues to work with industry, field experts, government and customers affected by DON. The majority of affected customers are in western and southwestern Ontario. As harvest progresses, Agricorp is receiving more information about DON levels, markets and quantities of unaffected corn.

Agricorp's main priority has been making sure customers understand how their coverage works in their individual circumstances so that they can make the best decisions for their farm businesses.

<http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/News/2018/Pages/PI-DON-LatestUpdateOnClaims.aspx>

~~~~ Welcome to our new Directors! ~~~~

Joe Kita—I live in the Town of Pelham and reside on the small farm that my family purchased back in 1952. In my off farm life, I work as a salesperson in the healthcare industry. Over the years, on my farm, I have been involved in raising a variety of livestock including Belgian Draft horses, pigs and laying hens. My land is currently being used for cash cropping soybean and wheat.

John Dekker—Owner/Operator- Van Doorn Farms since 1974. Married 43 years to Ann (Van Doorn). 4 grown children, 9 grand-children. Specialized in raising Weaner-pigs(25yrs) and Mink(43yrs). Served 22 yrs.as Trustee for Welland County and Niagara Catholic District School Board. Currently serve on board of directors for Bertie and Clinton Mutual Insurance Company and Jericho House: a youth leadership, justice and spirituality centre on Rathfon Road, Wainfleet.

OFA Member Service Report Henry Swierenga

Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) members from across the province met recently to discuss the agri-food sector's potential for growth, vote for leadership of the organization and address related challenges facing the industry.

More than 350 agricultural representatives, including delegates from Niagara South Federation, met in Hamilton at the OFA annual general meeting (AGM) November 19-20. [Keith Currie](#), OFA's 31st president, was acclaimed for his third one-year term. Voting delegates re-elected [Peggy Brekvelde](#) and [Mark Reusser](#) to the vice president positions. Glanbrook farmer [Drew Spoelstra](#), was elected by the board as the fourth executive member. OFA's Board of Directors is made up of 18 positions representing regions across Ontario.

"We're proud to be a grassroots organization, and OFA's annual meeting is the best demonstration of our strength in numbers, dedication to the industry and commitment to making the agri-food sector as successful and prosperous as it can be," says Keith Currie, OFA president.

This year's conference theme, *Prosperity Grows Here*, led the discussions, speakers and workshop topics for the event. Conference attendees also voted on resolutions to address business and industry concerns. Delegates were also addressed by Ernie Hardeman, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and Andrea Horwath, leader of the official opposition at Queens Park.

As OFA pushes for continuous improvements within our rural communities, the event's [keynote speaker Doug Griffiths](#) gave an honest and engaging presentation entitled "13 Ways to Kill Your Community". I certainly enjoyed listening to Doug Griffiths as he provided an interesting approach on what not to do as a reminder of how to actually improve our communities from within. I am sure a lot of delegates were thinking that Mr. Griffiths must have been talking about their hometown.

And finally, a project that I am personally proud of, was also recognized. To celebrate the pride we all share in our farms, our families and our communities, OFA launched its new Proud to Farm photo contest in 2018. Thank you to the OFA members across the province who submitted over 450 entries. The photograph featured below, as chosen by you, our member, is our Farmers' Choice Award winner, Morgan Murphy of Lambton County. For a complete list of winners and photographs, check out our website at <https://ofa.on.ca/photocontest/>



Learn more about the issues impacting Ontario's 37,000 farm businesses. **OFA** continues to support farmers on issues such as Farm Property, Farm Labour and Safety, Soil Health, Taxation, Farm Animal Care and more. Visit <https://ofa.on.ca/issues/>

~~~~~ **Contact Information** ~~~~~

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**Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!**

