



Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Ontario AgriCentre

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January 5, 2018

Roland Kroebel
Researcher
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
5403 - 1 Avenue South
Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J4B1
Sent via e-mail: roland.kroebel@agr.gc.ca

Re: AAFC proposal to investigate changing cropping and pest areas under Climate Change

Dear Mr. Kroebel,

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is pleased to provide our full support for your proposed investigation of how cropping and pest areas are going to change under Climate Change.

The degree to which Climate Change will impact our food system depends largely on the quality and scale of the adaptation measures taken. OFA remains an advocate for continued research for short and long-term adaptation solutions.

With warmer temperatures, Canadian agriculture will most likely be challenged by the introduction and/or proliferation of plant diseases and pests. There is no doubt that an estimate of how crop production areas may expand or contract for the major crops grown in Canada would help inform farm production decisions.

In a 2015 survey conducted by OFA¹, our members indicated that they are concerned not only about a potential increase in frequency of extreme weather events, but the shifts in weather patterns that can cause inconsistent growing seasons leading to changes in crop yields, quality, or ability to harvest. At that time, over two thirds of our members indicated that they implemented or have considered implementing changes to their operations that reduce the effects of extreme weather events. The most common changes identified were drainage improvements, different cropping practices, and increased coverage under crop insurance programs.

OFA believes that policies, programs and research initiatives must be developed to enable farmers to cope with the effects (adaptation) of climate change. OFA looks forward to working with AAFC to ensure the challenges posed by Climate Change are met.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Currie', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Keith Currie
President

¹ <https://ofa.on.ca/issues/additional-information/ofa-members-on-climate-change-infographic>