



### Message from the President Marty Opsteen

As 2018 comes to a close, we reflect on our crop year. We saw a very good wheat crop, and better than expected corn and soybean yields. However, we also had many challenges, a very dry July, a cloudy wet harvest period and some fields of corn had high DON levels. And for supply management farmers having to cope with the effects of the new US-MCA deal.

I would also like to thank Marvin McComb, who retired from our Board, for all his years

of service. I also like to thank Ashley Greenley and Amy Petherick for all their contributions to our NFA and wish them well in their future endeavours.

We welcome our new Board members; Albert Botha, Ben Currelly and Steve Parr, who were elected at our October Annual Meeting. Also, Arlene Dorland was elected our new PAC member.

In 2019, we will continue communicating with our Federal and provincial Members of Parliament, County and Mu-

nicipal Councils, to advise them on positive solutions to our farming concerns.

Our monthly meetings are held at the Ontario Agri Food Venture Centre in Colborne the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. If you have any concerns please contact any of the NFA Directors or contact Lisa Meekes to get on the agenda.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and

A Happy Prosperous New Year!

*Marty*

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### Notes from OFA Ontario Federation of Agriculture

As Ontario's fall harvest continues, corn quality and the threat of moulds and mycotoxins have become a serious concern across the province. Elevated levels of vomitoxin (DON) in this year's corn crop has growers concerned about finding a market for their grain, and in some cases, figuring out how to safely dispose of crops that cannot be marketed.

Higher levels generally are being experienced in South Western Ontario but there are some hotspots with significant levels of DON in Areas east of 400 Hwy and generally closer to Lake Ontario

Mycotoxins and DON can cause serious health threats to livestock when ingested at concentrated levels. DON can also pose a serious health threat to farmers working with the infected grain if the mould is inhaled. Early field reports across the province are indicating higher than expected levels of DON and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) reminds all farmers to work safely during the busy harvest season, especially when dealing with DON-infected corn.

If corn contains low to moderate DON levels, grain cleaning with rotary screen type cleaners has been shown to be effective in reducing mycotoxin levels in the remaining grain.

### VOM in Corn Harvest

The resulting high-DON screenings will be lower volume and easier to deal with than the entire grain mass.

Storing grain until harvest is complete will allow the market to get a better picture of the entire 2018 harvest. Once pressure from harvest eases, it may be easier to assess marketing opportunities for lower-quality grain.

Any farmer who discovers DON in their crop is encouraged to call Agricorn as soon as possible at 1-877-424-1300. Agricorn can discuss the best practices for handling, sorting, and if necessary destroying high DON corn as well as review the coverage available to farmers experiencing losses due to DON. OFA will continue to work closely with Agricorn and GFO to assist farmers suffering losses from DON in any way we can.

Let's be conscious of the fact that high DOM corn is an insured peril under Agricorn. Let's also be aware that this is not province wide.

As harvest winds down I wish you a safe and Happy Holiday season.

**Bruce Buttar, OFA Provincial Director Zone 12**



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At this year's Annual General Meeting, we congratulated Pat Johnston and the late Carl Wilce on their induction into the Quinte Agricultural Wall of Fame. Congratulations to both on a well-deserved honour. We also acknowledged the long-time service of Director Marvin McComb, who retired from the board. Thank you Marvin, for all your years of service to the Board. We've appreciated all your ideas and input over the years. Thank you to all Directors who served in the past year and I look forward to working with the new Directors who signed on for the upcoming year. NFA is a great organization with great people sitting around the table and I love working with them!

## **OFA AGM**

OFA's AGM was held in November at the Hamilton Convention Centre. Keith Currie was acclaimed as President for another term, while Peggy Brekveld and Mark Reusser were re-elected as Vice Presidents. OFA welcomes a couple of new faces to the Board with Melissa Schneider representing Elgin/Oxford and Hugh Simpson as a new Director-at-Large. OFA awarded three bursaries of \$2000 each to three very deserving recipients in post-secondary studies, from across the province. Some highlights of OFA's Convention was a thought-provoking keynote address from community builder Doug Griffiths. Doug shared that we all have a role to play in the success of our small, rural communities. When making decisions, we must think about what will benefit the community as a whole.

## **Mental Health**

If you or someone you know is going through a rough time right now, I encourage you to reach out to that person and let them know they are supported. A new farmer-focused counseling service is available, based out of Lennox & Addington, called Cultivate Counseling Services [www.cultivatecounseling.com/](http://www.cultivatecounseling.com/) or call the Crisis Service Canada hotline at **1-833-456-4566**

## **OFA and The Cooperators Member ID Campaign**

OFA members are eligible for exclusive coverage and savings through The Co-operators on a wide range of insurance products. These advantages are available to OFA members who have notified The Co-operators of their OFA membership and provided The Co-operators with their FBR number. OFA members interested in completing the OFA Member Online Request Form must be logged in to the members-only section to access the form. Go to this web page for more details: [www.ofa.on.ca/benefit/co-operators/](http://www.ofa.on.ca/benefit/co-operators/)

## **FCC Ignite**

I recently attended FCC's Ignite event in Port Perry, a free day for young farmers. A few of my favourite take-home messages were

- "Silence is the great destroyer of family farms. Families, it's time to start talking about succession planning."
- The science of resilience: its about recharging your batteries, not enduring. Nourish your body by eating properly, resting, and doing something you enjoy.
- The power of conversation: how do you make someone feel when you talk to them? The better you make them feel, the more willing they are to work with you. Aim to make your conversations more meaningful.

**Merry Christmas & I hope to see you all in the new year at various farm shows, meetings, workshops!**

## **Be Social**

Like us on Facebook:  
[@OFAzone12](https://www.facebook.com/OFAzone12)

Find us on  
**Facebook**



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

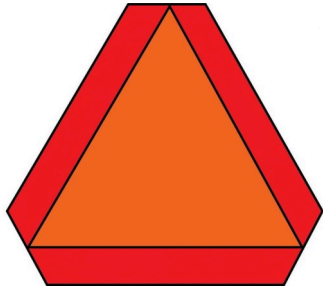
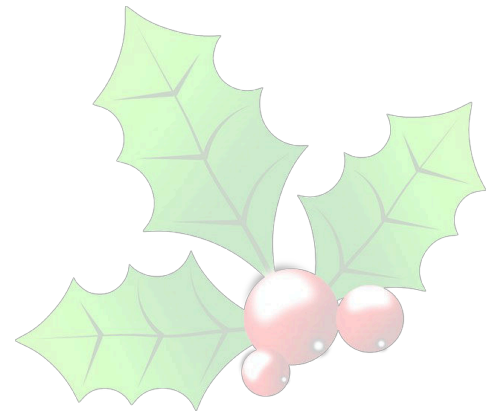
[www.FARM911.ca](http://www.FARM911.ca)

## Have You Considered a Farm 911 Sign?



It's been over a year now since the launch of The Farm 911 program and signs are going up. Alnwick-Haldimand was the first township to have a sign go up in Northumberland. Townships are ready for the requests to make the process simple, with a small fee to cover some of the costs. Inquiries have been coming in from as far as Sudbury and it will be great to see other municipalities following this.

The property identification can also be helpful with custom operators or deliveries to the field. Call your municipality and order a sign while Northumberland county is subsidizing some of the costs. <http://www.farm911.ca/>



40 km or SLOWER

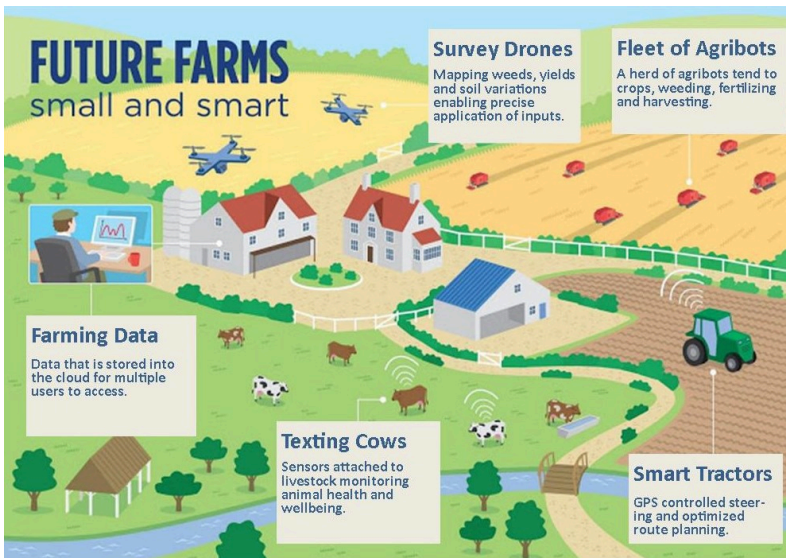
## Road Safety is a Shared Responsibility

Need a resource that is easy to find answers to your agriculture equipment on the road. Check out this [Farm Guide - Farm Equipment on the Highway](#). The Ministry of Transportation is currently working on an update to this publication and OFA is encouraging government to consult farm organizations through this process.

Every farm tractor or self-propelled implement travelling a roadway must display a Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) sign. But most motorists don't know what the sign means, or that the SMV sign identifies farm equipment that has an equal right to travel the roadway, at a maximum speed of 40 km/hr. OFA is asking the government to improve the awareness and understanding of SMV signs through driver education courses or general awareness campaigns. Know the rules, Follow the rules, Share the rules.

## The Importance Of The Internet

The info graphic below shows the use of technology on the farm and while the title is "Future Farms" much of what is pictured here is common on many farms in Northumberland County. *Smart Tractors* steer themselves. *Texting Cows* wear devices that monitor their health and movement. *Farm Data* is recorded & stored. *Drones* are looking at fields for problem areas. *Agribots* will not be far behind in the common scenery here. To stay competitive, follow industry traceability standards and fuel the local economy, we need reliable, secure, high speed internet service. All levels of government and internet service providers need to contribute to infrastructure investment for this county. Keep informing all of your government representatives that the deficit of service in Northumberland needs to be taken care of. Time is wasting.....



## OFA | CONNECT

Member Day  Zone 12

A networking day for Zone 12 to learn and connect with each other. Come join Hastings, Lennox & Addington, & Prince Edward Counties as Northumberland hosts the day.

**February 1, 2018**

**10:00am - 2:00pm**

**King Edward Park Arena Hall  
75 Elisabeth St. Brighton, ON**

### "Keeping your wheels on the road"

Peter Jeffrey

Senior Farm Policy Analyst, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

### "How to influence municipal politicians"

Suzanne Andrews

General Manager, Quinte West Chamber of Commerce

Lunch will be served for a cost of \$10.00

**RSVP by January 25**

[resi.walt@ofa.on.ca](mailto:resi.walt@ofa.on.ca) or [nfa.lisam@gmail.com](mailto:nfa.lisam@gmail.com)

All OFA members welcome





NORTHUMBERLAND  
FEDERATION OF  
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**HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE  
AND BEST WISHES  
FOR A SAFE & PROSPEROUS 2019**

*Lisa*



New municipal officials are ready to go for the next four years. Take some time to read the OFA document [Agriculture Matters - A guide for Municipal Councillors and Staff](#). It provides an overview of issues affecting farmers today and identifies opportunities for local communities to support this untapped, and sometimes undervalued, economic sector. It will help all to communicate with each other. Get to know the issues.



### ***Gadgets***

Digital resource that you may find useful.



**Farms.com  
Markets  
App**

The latest

Agricultural commodity prices with up to date quotes, futures contracts, charts & news on your mobile device from the CBOT, CME and other exchanges.



Ontario  
Federation of  
Agriculture

## **AGM - Hamilton**

I had the opportunity to represent this county at the OFA AGM in November along with four other directors from Northumberland. I don't know if OFA members realise how lucky they are to have such dedicated, intelligent representatives working hard to help the agriculture industry navigate the obstacles thrown in front of them. Trade Agreements, Vomitoxin, Protecting Farmland, Recycling and Highway Safety are a few of the current issues that directors are educating themselves about so that policies can be made to help all farmers produce a premium product sustainably. The workshops were informative, guest speakers were engaging and the exhibit displays had lots of reps to talk to for update info. The Silent Auction raised \$8024.00 to support next year's bursary contest for our youth, all donated by attendee's of the convention. Your membership dollars are working hard for this industry. Of special interest, our own Trissia Mellor, Northumberland County Ag Manager was asked to do a presentation about the Ontario AgriFood Venture Centre and it was very well attended.



If you have some time check out the webcast on the OFA website and listen to what the speakers had to say. I especially enjoyed Doug Griffiths presentation about building communities. Here are some links to get you to those webcasts.

Sign in with your member login.

<https://ofa.on.ca/login/>

Go to this link

<https://ofa.on.ca/community/annual-general-meeting/>

Find the web cast

<https://ofa.on.ca/agm-webcast/>

Check out the agenda items on the right side of the screen

Doug Griffith's speech on Day 1.....

Wow he is great to listen too.

