

News & Notes

Working for a Vibrant and Innovative Agriculture Industry



Message from the President Marty Opsteen

NFA has had a busy summer representing our members. David Piccini hosted a round table discussion with the Minister of Agriculture, Ernie Hardeman in Norwood on July 4th. Ben, Bruce, Mark, Sid and myself attended. Topics discussed were; reducing red tape, options for OMAFRA, safety on grain trucks, and a survey for Government programs you can do without. On Aug 6th an Animal Welfare Round Table was held by David Piccini with the Solicitor General Sylvia Jones in Port Hope. Doug and Albert attended and presented speaking points from BFO and DFO. New rules need to be established and enforced for

increased issues of people trespassing on farms. There also needs to be revisions to categorizing domestic animals and non-farm animals. Our 3rd Annual Summer Municipal Tour was held On August 13th. The NFA directors did an amazing job hosting Municipal Mayors, Councillors and County staff, having those important one on one conversations, and being great ambassadors for agriculture in Northumberland to these policy makers. On Aug 22-23 MSR Resi Walt ran a booth at the Hasting County Plowing Match with several NFA directors helping out. It was great to see so many members stop in.

I like to congratulate Shirley and Marvin McComb on being inducted in to the Quinte Wall of Fame. Both are former NFA presidents. I encourage all members to attend our Annual General Meeting on October 18th. The doors open at 6pm. At this time the candidates running for our Federal riding will be there to meet and discuss issues; with supper to follow at 7pm. Tickets are available from our directors.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and bountiful harvest.

Marty



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Notes from Ontario Federation of Agriculture

An inspiring final message from **Neil Currie**:

Hello all:

One last note from me to thank you all for your kind words on my retirement. And thanks so much for the generous gifts of "value-added agricultural products". They will all be enjoyed with family and friends. Special thanks to OFA for supplies to keep me busy at fishing and knife-making! I promise some products in return on silent auctions.

OFA has been a wonderful career for me and you all have contributed in so many ways to that experience. I have always told the uninitiated that a career in agriculture in any role (and there are many, as we know) is interesting, challenging, rewarding and fun.

When growing up, I had a few fundamental beliefs. I believed that Richard Nixon was a crook. I was correct. I believed that my mother should have let me hitchhike to Max Yasgur's farm to be at Woodstock. I am slowly coming around to grudgingly admitting that she was possibly correct in not letting me go.

I also believed that the only two honourable professions were teaching and farming. I have had the pleasure of experiencing both, as a college math teacher and as a wanna-be farmer and a farm association employee.

I am 50 years older, a lot more cynical and, dare I say, a little bit wiser (debatable) now than back then. In spite of the cynicism and because of the experience I still believe I was correct in 1969 – teaching and farming are the honourable professions. But there is

OFA GM Neil Currie Signing Off

a condition. In both cases, the job must be taken on with passion, pride and a sense of responsibility.

I am too far removed to address that condition for the modern profession of teaching, but I can say clearly, and without hesitation that the farmers and colleagues I have come to know and work with consistently meet and exceed all of the conditions. Those of you who work AS farmers and those of you who work WITH farmers are passionate and proud of what you do for your families, for the planet and for humanity. It has always impressed me how that sense of responsibility manifested in service above and beyond what many others in different walks of life would contribute.

I have been truly blessed to be a part of this industry and to have worked with such a group of dedicated people and true characters along the way.

What you do is important and will always be important – both farming and working for farmers. I take away very fond memories of the challenges, and laughter and wish you all the very best.

Keep up the good fight – it is an honourable pursuit.

Blessings, Neil

This is too good of a message not to share. Happy harvest to all members.

Bruce Buttar, OFA director Zone 12

Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

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See you at our Annual General Meeting

I'm looking forward to seeing you at NFA's AGM! It's a great time to catch up with your local branch of OFA and see what we've been up to all year. We have a dynamic agenda set for the meeting, and we look forward to hearing from our guest speaker. We will elect our new Board of Directors, as well as elect our representatives for OFA's AGM in November. See you there!

Hastings County Plowing Match

This year, we were in Centre Hastings at the farm of Brian and April Thompson. Congratulations to all the organizers, hosts, and vendors on another fabulous show. Thanks to everyone who stopped by the OFA tent. We were excited to give away several prizes to our membership, thanks to the generosity of OFA's Proud to Lead program, which Farm Credit Canada is a generous sponsor of. We were able to award a chainsaw, drill, socket set, farm safety basket, and a fire extinguisher to members in Hastings, L&A, Prince Edward, and Northumberland. Come see us at our booth next year for more great prizes! Congratulations to **Liz Carr** of Castleton for winning the grand prize: a Husqvarna chainsaw worth \$750.

Municipal Farm Tour

NFA always puts on an exceptional day of farm touring for their municipal politicians and this year was no different. A bus-full of councillors and mayors toured Scarlett Acres (Knights Appleden) and Watson's robotic dairy farm, then stopped for a catered lunch in Codrington. Thank you to the farms for being such willing hosts at such a busy time of year! It's so important to get our municipal politicians on farms so that they can fully appreciate what it takes to run our farm businesses.

What are the Benefits of Farm Plates?

1. Lower annual plate cost

FARM plates are reduced fee commercial plates for farmers with a valid Farm Business Registration (FBR) number. The fee differential between FARM and Commercial increases as vehicle weight rises

2. Drive a D truck

Farmers or their employees can drive a FARM-plated "D" truck (registered weight over 11,000 kg or 24,250 lbs.) with a G Driver's License if the truck is owned or leased by a farmer, and is used by the farmer for his or her personal transportation or the unpaid transportation of farm products, supplies or equipment to or from a farm. If the truck has air brakes, the driver must have an air brake (Z) endorsement on their license. You can hold a GZ Driver's License. Many community colleges offer the air brake course.

A G2 Driver can drive a Class D FARM-plated truck provided the truck does not have air brakes. G1 drivers cannot drive a Class D truck.

3. Limited dangerous goods exemptions

FARM-plated trucks transporting dangerous goods for farming purposes are exempt from the documentation, placarding and driver-training requirements for amounts totaling less than 1,500 kilograms (3,300 lbs.) and where the distance travelled is less than 100 km (62 mi). Qualifying dangerous goods do not include explosives, flammable gases, toxic gases, infectious substances or radioactive materials. Agricultural pesticides are also exempt where the volume in a single container is more than 450 L (99 gal.) but less than 6,000 L (1,320 gal.), and the distance travelled is less than 100 km.

Although gasoline and diesel fuel are dangerous goods, they can be transported in an open vehicle, such as a pickup truck, in a securely mounted, approved container. The total amount of gasoline or diesel fuel in all containers must be less than 2000 litres (440 gallons). Individual containers of gasoline and diesel fuel cannot exceed 454 litres (100 gallons).

NOTE: Only commercial motor vehicles (i.e. trucks) are eligible for FARM plates. Passenger vehicles, including SUVs and minivans, are not eligible for FARM plates.

FARM-plated trucks can transport farm products, equipment or supplies, year-round. Only during September, October or November you can be paid to transport farm products, equipment or supplies for other farmers. For the remaining months, transportation of farm products, equipment or supplies for other farmers must be free of charge. There are no distance limits for FARM plates.

FARM-plated trucks can also be used for personal transportation. Personal transportation includes transporting personal and household effects, farm building and maintenance items or recreational vehicles. FARM plated trucks cannot be used to transport logs, pulp wood, sand, gravel or stone.

Farm products exclude products preserved by freezing, pickling, cooking, and smoking or curing, other than cured tobacco leaves.

For more details check out this link <https://ofa.on.ca/resources/benefits-farm-plates/>

Be Social

Like us on Facebook:
@OFAzone12

Find us on
Facebook



Follow on
Twitter:
@ResiWalt

www.FARM911.ca



Give Agriculture a Voice ...

OFA 2019 Federal Election Campaign BACKGROUNDER



To operate sustainable farms in Ontario and Canada, farmers rely on services and support from government just like any other business and industry sector. But there are also unique needs for agricultural businesses and our rural communities that require all levels of government to step up with greater investments. Supporting our sector delivers very clear benefits of greater economic growth, a more competitive market and prosperity for all Ontarians. We need a coordinated commitment from all levels of government – including federal.

Here's what the agri-food sector and rural communities need from our next federal government.


1. Rural Ontario needs affordable energy.
2. Well maintained roads, bridges and drainage systems to keep our industry moving.
3. Access to reliable high-speed internet will support farms and rural communities.
4. Tapping into markets for our agri-food products depends on smart regulations, fair access to global markets and a skilled, local workforce.

Agriculture and our rural communities rarely make it to the top of the public agenda, although the agri-food sector is one of the key drivers of our provincial and federal economies.

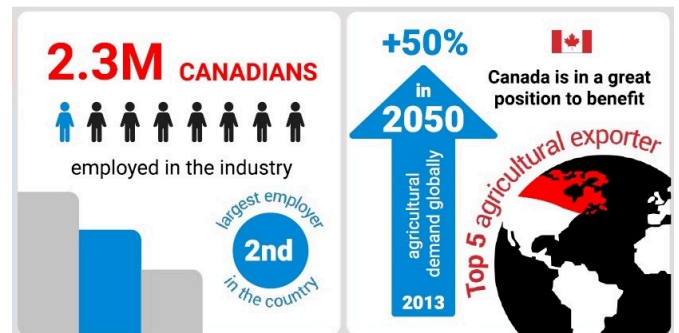
Investing in rural communities strengthens our agri-food sector here in Ontario and across the country. By supporting a strong domestic agri-food industry – and investing in infrastructure that promotes activity across the province – all Ontarians and Canadians will have access to safe, high-quality local food.

OFA strongly recommends the federal government adopt a new approach – a concerted effort to boost our agri-food sector and rural economy through a planned program of distributed economic development and investments. Economic growth throughout our country, including small towns and rural areas, will increase government tax revenue, reduce government dependency and benefit all Canadians.



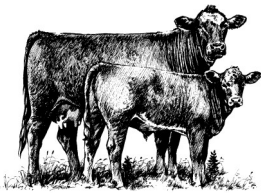
 **YouTube** Share these YouTube links with your candidates so they know what agriculture needs from them.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LG_yPKWebfc&feature=youtu.be
<https://youtu.be/xMpxSCscKn4>



Northumberland Cattlemen

25th Annual Steer Show



Sun. October 6th
At the Roseneath Fair Grounds
Viewing at 9:30am
Judging at 10:00am
Auction to follow

We hope to see you all there.

Thank you for your past and continued support.

Advance Polling Days

Vote at your assigned polling station from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on:

- Friday, October 11
- Saturday, October 12
- Sunday, October 13
- Monday, October 14

To find your advance polling station, check your voter information card when it arrives in the mail or the Voter Information Service after October 2.



Cramahe Farmers Inducted to Ag Wall of Fame

On September 15th at Farmtown Park in Stirling, Shirley & Marvin McComb were among the three inducted to The Quinte Agricultural Wall of Fame for 2019. Their dedication to agriculture and the community shines through the list of accomplishments in their history. Surrounded by family and friends they were presented with a copy of the plaque that will be hung on the wall in their honor. Check out the web site to see the list of inductees over the years.

<https://agheritage.ca/quinte-agricultural-wall-of-fame/about/>





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Gadgets

Digital resource that you
may find useful.

Let's Talk Podcasts

A digital audio file made available on
the Internet for downloading to a
computer or mobile device, typically
available as a series. Great to listen to
during those long hours in any cab.
These are symbols to look for to start
building a library.



Try searching for:

Wheat Pete's Word
and
Real Agriculture



The NFA Annual Banquet

Will be held on Friday, October 18, 2019 @ 7pm

Dinner will be at Alderville Community Center,
8913 Hwy. #45, Roseneath, ON

Cost is \$20.00 per person.

Please contact your local director to get your tickets so we can have an
accurate count for food preparation.



Come listen to **Wendy Gray**, National News Director Vista
Radio Ltd. and her topic,

**"From Field to Facebook; How to Tell your Story to
Mainstream Media"**



Arrive at 6:00 pm and have an hour before dinner to
mingle and chat with this year's federal candidates.
Get your questions answered.

Lisa



Harvest Time, Be Safe on The Roads

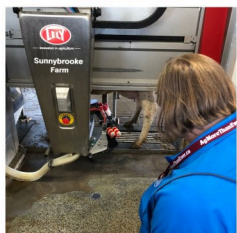
Northumberland County roads department wants farmers to know if they see
tree branches obstructing site lines on county road intersections they want to
know. Harvest equipment is a lot larger than it used to be and the county wants
everyone safe so if farmers see issues please call Denise Marshall, Manager of Pro-
ject Engineering, by emailing marshall.d@northumberlandcounty.ca or calling (905)-372-3329 ext. 2429

Remember as the days get shorter for harvest farmers need to get brighter. Make sure all lights are working and visible.
Keep SMV reflector emblem clean and replace it when it starts to fade. Check out the "Brighten Up" poster for agricul-
ture with this link. http://northumberland.safecommunities.parachutecanada.org/files/Brighten_Up_Posters_4_Agricultural-01.jpg



Be Bright - Be Seen - Be Safe

Municipal Leaders See Farming First Hand



NFA directors hosted another successful farm tour this past
August. Mayors, councillors, and county staff had the
opportunity to hop a bus and see firsthand how
infrastructure and policies make an impact on the
agriculture industry.

We toured Scarlette Acres, a local apple production
operation and 2015 Premier's Innovation award winner.
We then moved on to see artificial intelligence in the barn at
Sunnybrook Dairy Farm and watched as the robot milked
cows. While eating lunch at an outdoor shelter we listened
to Ben Currelly of Ganaraska Grain tell us about moving
grain along the digital superhighway. In between stops
directors had one on one conversations to answer questions
for a better understanding of agriculture in Northumberland
County.

This event gives local policy makers an opportunity to see
farms in their districts and witness the impact decisions they
make have on day to day life on the farm.