



Working for Northumberland in Hamilton at AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting for OFA was held in Hamilton November 18th & 19th. Delegates elected to go were, Martin Opsteen, Christie Prins & Lisa Meekes. Arlene Dorland is our Policy Advisory rep and Sid Atkinson wore two



hats, one for Dairy Farmers of Ontario and Northumberland Federation director. Resolutions to better improve how OFA works for farmers were presented and voted on. Elections for a director at large position, vice president and president, had delegates listening to how the candidates

plan on serving the farmers of Ontario. We are fortunate to have many good people willing to spend their time to represent Ontario agriculture. This job is becoming more important as time goes on and as the general public and

those in policy making positions are farther removed from the process of producing food for Canadians. Farmers are small in number but our voice needs to be heard so policies enhance the agriculture industry for producers and consumers.

Workshops made available to delegates covered topics of mental health, farm succession, farm security and influencing municipal politicians. All of these were specific to the agriculture industry targeting unique situations and circumstances that farms and farmers are exposed too. Great tools to have

for the toolbox.

The professional line up of speakers included the following: David Phillips, Senior Climatologist, Environment & Climate Change Canada; Mary Robinson, President, Canada Federation of Agriculture; John Vanthof, MPP; Joe Gray, Agri-Skills Abroad; Geri Kamenz, The Co-operators; Ernie Hardeman, Minister OMAFRA; Andrea Horwath, Leader of Opposition; Hon. Rob Black, Senator; John Stackhouse, Senior Vice-President RBC. Check out the link on the OFA web site to listen to any of their presentations. Listen to what David Phillips has to say about the weather and John Stackhouse spoke about optimism for the future of agriculture and the involvement of youth and technology. These and more are worth the time to listen.

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

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Notes from OFA Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Bill 156 has been introduced in the Legislature it pertains to Security from Trespass and Protecting food security.

OFA is launching a new advocacy campaign through Act Now to encourage farmers and those directly involved in Ontario's agri-food sector to send a letter to their MPP, Premier Ford, Minister Hardeman, Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General, Doug Downey, Attorney General and other elected officials voicing their support for this new legislation.

Bill 156 - Trespassing

The campaign is officially live at actnow.ofa.on.ca. This new legislation is important to the industry to protect farmers, livestock and our food supply chain and we want to ensure the government knows how much we support and appreciate the introduction of Bill 156 – Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2019.

Please take time to let your MPP now how important this Bill is to Ontario Agriculture.

Bruce Buttar, OFA Provincial Director Zone 12

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Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

Thank you!

To our President Marty Opsteen who has finished his term – thank you for doing such a wonderful job leading our Board of Directors. You've represented Northumberland so well at all our events and meetings the past few years. Thank you, Marty!

Glyphosate/Round Up Issue

Kudos to NFA for being a huge part of Northumberland County Council's decision to continue the use of glyphosate for spraying noxious weeds. NFA presented twice to County Council and also wrote letters. NFA has done a huge service to agriculture by ensuring our industry was represented during these deliberations.

Mental Health First Aid Course

This is a great opportunity to develop a new skill for your personal toolbox. Please consider participating in this course and being a part of a network of people who are providing a huge support system for fellow farmers.

OFA Connect

This event is designed to bring OFA members together for a morning of learning and fellowship. This year, I hope NFA members will make the drive to Prince Edward County. It will be time well spent networking and breaking up the winter blues!

Road Safety

The numbers are in and Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) fatalities are up this year. Note that farmers, operating an ORV on the roads for farming purposes must wear an approved helmet. In addition to wearing an approved helmet, farmers on the roads with an ATV/ORV must insure their machine under an auto policy, the driver must be licensed (minimum G2/M2), the machine must have an Off-Road Vehicle plate, a SMV sign and, if the machine has seat belts, you must use them.

FARM 911

With farm work a bit slower in the winter, consider it a good time to get your applications in to your municipality for FARM 911 signs.

Act Now on Bill 156 Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act

Please visit the link below and send a letter to your elected officials asking them to support Bill 156. We need the farm voice to be louder than the activists voice!
<https://actnow.ofa.on.ca/issues/support-for-bill-156/>

Northumberland Sponsors Julie Milne to Ontario Young Farmers Forum

Julie Milne had the privilege of attending the Ontario Young Farmers Forum held in November. The youth of this province gathered together representing their counties and interacting with others, to hear outstanding speakers and participate in workshops targeted to their stage in life in the farm industry. They get to sit in on part of the OFA AGM to see how the process works and interact with their county directors. This networking opportunity helps build future leaders in agriculture and NFA was happy to sponsor someone from Northumberland. Way to go Julie.

Be Social

Like us on Facebook:
@OFAzone12



Follow on
Twitter:
@ResiWalt

www.FARM911.ca

OFA CONNECT

Member Day Zone 12

Prince Edward County Hosts
January 24, 2020

"Protecting Your Farm" Kelly
Daynard, Executive Director, Farm
& Food Care

"The Carbon Tax & Exemption
Issues" Ian Nokes, Farm Policy
Analyst, Ontario Federation of
Agriculture

Stay tuned for location

Canadians purchased
3.3 million
whole turkeys
during the 2015 holiday season,
equal to almost half
of all whole turkeys
sold over the year.

Source: Turkey Farmers of Canada

Agriculture
and Agri-Food Canada

Created December 2016

Ontario Wild Pig Reporting ~ Report your Sightings!

Wild pigs are not native to Ontario and can have a negative impact on Ontario's native wildlife populations and ecosystems through predation, competition, grazing, and rooting.

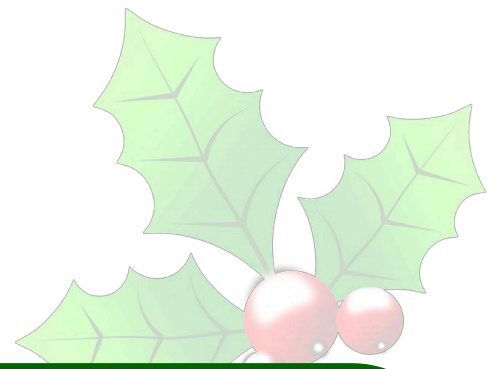
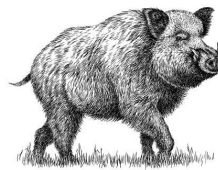
The term "wild pig" encompasses any pig outside of a fence, including domestic pigs that have become wild (or 'feral') and ownership cannot be determined, Eurasian wild boar, and hybrids of domestic pigs and Eurasian wild boar.

In Ontario, wild boar are imported and raised as alternative livestock on farms for meat. While farmers are required to prevent wild boar (and other native or non-native farmed wildlife) from escaping, they may occasionally escape or be illegally released into the wild. When that happens, the wild boar must be retrieved because they pose risks to the environment and the agriculture industry.

Domestic pigs are also raised in Ontario and may occasionally escape. Domestic pigs have been known to look more like their wild boar ancestors when living in the wild and can interact and breed with other escaped pigs (including wild boar) to create hybrids.

You can help the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry document wild pig occurrence trends and distribution by reporting your sightings. If you have seen a wild pig or have information on a wild pig sighting, please report it on this iNaturalist page. Please include the date and time of the sighting, a detailed description of the location, the number of animals seen, and if available, include any photographs to assist in identification.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/ontario-wild-pig-reporting> Check out this online map of sightings.



Northumberland County will use Glyphosate

Northumberland County has resumed the use of glyphosate to kill weeds along roadside safety rails and Northumberland Forest trails. The trial of using mechanical means this past summer at an increased cost of \$70,000 was a failure according to staff.

NFA directors Doug Grey, Paul Burnham & Marty Opsteen were on board to do a presentation and talk to concerns that municipal leaders in the county had. Five of the seven municipal leaders voted to resume the use of glyphosate for 2020 with the suggestion to staff that they keep looking for other cost-effective options. Counties are required to stay in compliance with the Provincial Government vegetation maintenance standard.

Canadian Centre for Food Integrity New Report

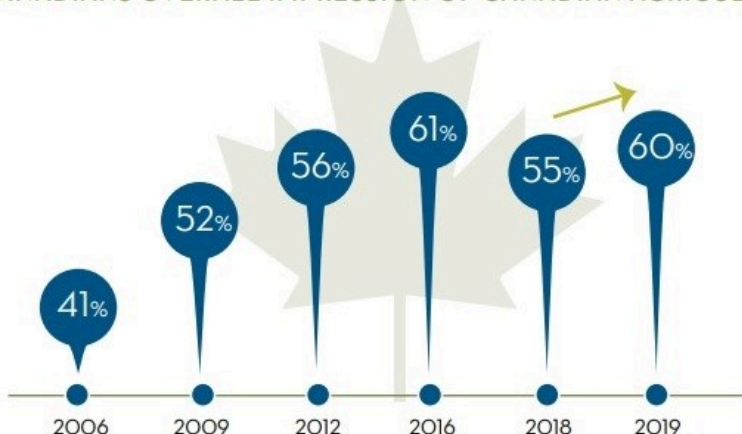
Check out the newly released 2019 Public Trust Research report posted by the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity with this link. <https://www.foodintegrity.ca/> Sometimes we as farmers need to take some time to see what people outside of our industry think.



Quoted from their site:

*Approximately three in five Canadians view agriculture in Canada **positively**. While there has been a significant reduction in the proportion who view the industry **negatively**, this movement has coincided with an increase in the number of Canadians who report **not knowing enough** to offer an informed opinion.*

CANADIANS OVERALL IMPRESSION OF CANADIAN AGRICULTURE



% = Very Positive/Positive

Arrow indicates significant change compared to last year.

Internet in Northumberland Take the Test

Northumberland County is taking action to gather data about the state of local internet access, as we continue to look for opportunities to improve local broadband. Help us get accurate internet speed data by taking the internet speed test linked below.

This information can be used to:

Assist interested internet service providers as they plan deployments in Northumberland

Inform Northumberland County as we aim to address unserved or underserved areas

Please note that you will be asked to provide the following information:

- A valid email address for follow-up purposes if confirmation of speed test results are required – under no circumstances will your email address be used for marketing or solicitation purposes.
- Your postal code and the civic number of your address to pinpoint the location of your service
- The download and upload speeds as promised by your internet service provider, as well as the name of the service provider

Thank you for participating in this data gathering exercise.

<https://www.northumberland.ca/en/living-here/smartnorthumberland.aspx/#speedtest>



NORTHUMBERLAND
FEDERATION OF
AGRICULTURE

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@NorthumberlandFed-
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#northumberlandag

We're on the web

[www.ofa.on.ca/about-
county-federation-sites/
northumberland.aspx](http://www.ofa.on.ca/about-county-federation-sites/northumberland.aspx)

Gadgets

Digital resource that you
may find useful.



There are many farmers doing
their part to share what its like
to be on a farm and YouTube
is a great place to see these
stories. A forum for farmers
to share their ideas across the
world. Check it out. This
link gives you the top
YouTube channels in Ag.
[https://blog.feedspotter.com/agricultu-
re-youtube-channels/](https://blog.feedspotter.com/agriculture-youtube-channels/)



HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE
AND BEST WISHES FOR A
SAFE & PROSPEROUS 2020

Lisa



Comments from last year's participants of the Mental Health First Aid Course

- ◆ So thankful I fit this into my schedule
- ◆ Good mix of videos, interactive activities and use of slide shows. Instructor was perfect.
- ◆ I completed this mental health first aid course this week. I was a little apprehensive in the beginning but was completely overwhelmed with the quality of the teacher and the information that was provided that we all may require some time throughout our lives to assist in this illness
- ◆ Thank you again to everyone who brought this course to Northumberland County. The Mental Health First Aid Certificate course is an awesome opportunity! As mental health is a growing and prevalent concern, it's important that we are equipped to help. We learned so many things to put in our tool boxes to understand and support people within and outside our agri-community. It helps to better understand the stigmas, symptoms and how to support and listen to our peers experiencing mental health issues. ALGEE is now an important item in my tool box! It is important to keep this knowledge about mental health growing, it will make our community stronger and healthier!

WHERE DO CHRISTMAS TREES COME FROM?

Fake Trees

Manufactured and shipped
from **factories** in China,
Taiwan and South Korea



Real Trees

Grown right here in Canada,
needing only **sunlight**,
rainfall and **soil**



WHAT HAPPENS TO OLD CHRISTMAS TREES?

Fake Trees

Cannot be recycled



Real Trees

Recyclable and biodegradable



THANKFULLY, CANADIANS SPEND MORE ON REAL TREES

Fake Trees

\$58.3 million
The total value of
artificial Christmas
trees imported to
Canada in 2014

Real Trees

\$64.4 million
The value of farm
cash receipts for
Christmas trees in
Canada in 2014

BECAUSE REAL TREES HELP US BREATHE EASIER AND GROW CANADA'S ECONOMY

Every acre of growing Christmas trees can produce
enough oxygen for 18 people a day



Save the Date!
March 16-17

Mental Health Course

Sign up for the **Mental Health First Aid Course** March 16-17 and help fight the stigma of mental illness. Learning about the ALGEE Assess, Listen, Give, Encourage, Encourage can help support someone suffering. Circulate the word to anyone you know who wants to have this tool in their toolbox as we increase awareness and spread the word for a better understanding.

Register for this two day course held in Cobourg; these spots will fill up fast so contact Lisa at nfa.lisam@gmail.com Lunch will be included and the total fee will be \$40

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=1Evwgu369Jw>

Mental Health
First Aid Canada



Random acts of kindness

