

News & Notes

Working for a Vibrant and Innovative Agriculture Industry



2020 ISSUE #1

Message from the President Sid Atkinson

As your new chair of the Northumberland Federation of Agriculture welcome to my first chair's address. Firstly we need to thank **Marty Opsteen** for his leadership as chair for the past 2 years and I would like to introduce you to your directors: Albert Botha, Allan Carruthers, Christie Prins, Doug Gray, Gord Sharpe, Ian Sculthorpe, Mark DeJong, Marty Opsteen, Paul Burnham, Terry Linton, Ben Currelly, Arlene Dorland PAC rep, Bruce Buttar OFA Zone 12 board member, and Trissia Mellor our Northumberland County Ag Rep. Mention of our committee is not complete without recognition of Lisa Meekes as sec/treas. and Resi Walt our MSR. They are a very necessary resource to keep things organized. Let me assure you that with this dedicated group of very

active farmers you are well represented where ever we go.

A question that I'm asked regularly by my wife and others is why do you put yourself out there, why go to all these meetings, take all those calls from folks when they are stressed? A question that all your directors ask themselves regularly no doubt. The answer is quite simply that we care; we care about our communities, our neighbours, the markets, trade deals, the weather and the mental health of our friends, family and neighbours. Weather gets talked about a lot; no one has come up with a quick fix for it. There are so many new policies, new taxes and regulations that are facing the farm community and it's a challenge coming up with a plan of action, whether it is lobbying

our politicians or communicating with groups like the Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority. Speaking of politicians we do appreciate the access given to us by MP Phillip Lawrence, MPP David Piccini and all local county and municipal level friends, this is a trust built on open and frank dialogue.

I look forward to this coming year. There will be new challenges no doubt but we will adapt, we will innovate, we will roll with the punches and come up swinging. We have the most important job in the world, providing food for a population that seems to take their food for granted..... that sounds like a topic for the next newsletter chair address.

Sid

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Notes from OFA

Ontario
Federation of
Agriculture

The OFA has initiated a series of meetings across the province titled Forecast. To date there have been three meetings scattered across the Province aimed at engaging federation members about County Federations' abilities (skills/resources) to effectively plan and execute ideas for membership engagement. While these meetings haven't attracted a large participation some good and innovative ideas have come from them. I think its incumbent upon us to reach out to our members such that they can feel firsthand what the organization is doing on their behalf.

Not all counties are in the same league when it comes to member engagement and I think Northumberland does a pretty good job based on, attendance at the AGM, Field to Food, municipal bus trip, etc. The general mood was that we as local federations need to be doing a better job at engaging with our local members.

Some suggestions that surfaced are:

- The OFA AGM is full of active farmers who are engaged in the issues, and can at times be frustrated by a sense of

Member Engagement

helplessness. This is an excellent venue to host an event to make them feel more engaged.

- Working together more often with commodities, other federations, etc.
- There is some confusion at the member level between OFA and its work and county federations and its work. How can the two entities help better define each of their activities?
- How do you acknowledge or support members if you don't know who they are? We need creative ways to identify who they are and how to help them.

As was stated at the start of these meetings this is only the start of the conversation on member engagement and it will be ongoing with the end goal to improving all member engagement. Stay tuned for more information on this initiative.

Bruce Buttar OFA director Zone 12

NFA Directors 2020

President

Sid Atkinson - 705-924-2145
sid.atkinson0658@gmail.com

Past President

Brighton - Martin Opsteen
613-920-1170
martinopsteen@gmail.com

Vice President

Christie Prins 613-849-5987
prymefarms@gmail.com

OFA Director

Bruce Buttar - 905-342-2019
Bruce.Buttar@ofa.on.ca

PAC Member

Arlene Dorland - 613-475-0891
dorlandab@xplornet.com

Alnwick/Halifax

Allan Carruthers
905-376-5049
carruthersallan@gmail.com

Cramahe - Doug Gray

905-344-1100
dbgray@xplornet.ca

Hamilton - Paul Burnham

905-372-8263
burnham.market@sympatico.ca

Port Hope - Ben Currelly

905-753-2239
ben@ganaraskagrains.com

Quinte West - Gord Sharpe

613-848-1632
gsharpe@xplornet.com

Trent Hills - Terry Linton

705-924-2791
terrylinton@hotmail.com

Directors at Large

Ian Sculthorpe 905-377-5520

ian.sculthorpe@hotmail.com

Mark DeJong - 905-376-5570

dejong.mark1968@gmail.com

Albert Botha - 289-251-6872

ontariolamb@gmail.com

OFA Members Service Rep

Resi Walt 613-847-3037
resi.walt@ofa.on.ca

Northumberland County Rep

Trissia Mellor, Ag Manager
905-372-3329 ext. 6492
mellort@northumberlandcounty.ca

Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

Over the winter, NFA initiated a meeting with Lower Trent Conservation Authority as an effort to better inform our organization of what role the CA's play in our community. We also wanted to share with them all the ways the agricultural industry cares for the environment and the practices we employ to protect land and water. The ultimate goal is to relationship-build and information-share with an important organization in our community. We all share the goal of clean water and a healthy environment. NFA will continue to meet with Lower Trent CA in the coming months to establish a better working relationship. We will share the information we learn with our fellow members. In the meantime, take some time to check out their website www.ltc.on.ca

Enter to win a 2020 Honda Pioneer Side-by-Side 700M2DLX

All you need to enter is your FBR# closes October 30, 2020 ofa.on.ca/hondadraw

Grow an AgSafe Canada

Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) supported by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) delivers Canadian Agricultural Safety Week March 15-21, 2020. For information and resources, please visit www.agsafetyweek.ca

Consider a donation to the agricultural industry in Australia

NFA is donating \$200 to the [Australia Farming Relief Fund](http://www.australiafarmingrelief.org). Alltech is matching funds raised (up to \$25,000) and money goes towards sourcing much-needed supplies, including hay, finished feed, feed supplements, silage, water troughs, fencing and non-perishable items. Alltech is providing trucks and drivers to deliver these supplies directly to farmers in Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales (NSW) and Queensland — areas devastated by the bushfires.

Here is a link to the fund: www.alltech.com/australia-farming-relief-fund

Farmer's Livestock Trailers Towed by a Pickup..... Exempt or Not from Annual Inspections?



Annual safety inspections are required for trucks and trailers, alone or in combination, that have a total gross weight, registered gross weight or manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of more than 4,500 kg (9920 lbs.). In the case of a farm pickup and livestock trailer, if their combined weight (weight of truck plus load plus weight of trailer plus load) is more than 4,500 kg, then both truck and trailer require an annual safety inspection.

Last July, MTO announced that pickup trucks and trailers, used only for personal use, were exempt from the requirements for an annual safety inspection; both the vehicle inspection and the proof of inspection, i.e. the yellow sticker. The key here is personal use. MTO defines personal use as a truck and trailer that is used for personal use without compensation and the pickup and trailer are not carrying commercial cargo or tools or equipment normally used for commercial purposes. Carrying farm-related cargo, tools or equipment would disqualify the truck or truck and trailer as "personal use".

SO, IS A FARMER'S LIVESTOCK TRAILER TOWED BY A PICKUP EXEMPT FROM AN ANNUAL SAFETY INSPECTION?

The answer is, it depends on what you're carrying in the livestock trailer and where you're going. If you're carrying cattle, sheep, goats, swine etc. to a sales barn, abattoir, etc., then the answer is **NO**. Transporting cattle, sheep, goats, swine etc. to a sales barn, abattoir, etc., is a commercial (farm business-type activity), and your truck and livestock trailer are both required to undergo an annual safety inspection and display proof of inspection, i.e. the yellow sticker. However, if you ride a horse for recreational purposes (e.g. trail ride) then this activity would be a "personal use" activity, and the truck would not require an annual safety inspection and display proof of inspection.

If you use your pickup for both commercial-farm business activities and for personal use activities, and they require an annual safety inspection as commercial-farm business vehicles, then you can tow the recreational horse trailer and the horse trailer itself does not inspection and the proof of inspection.

Here is a link to a **Commercial vehicle safety requirements** information sheet on MTO's website: <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/trucks/commercial-vehicle-safety-requirements.shtml#pickup>

There are a series of Q&As on pages 6 & 7 of the information sheet that focus on personal use pickups.

Be Social

Like us on Facebook:
@OFAzone12



Follow on
Twitter:
@ResiWalt

www.FARM911.ca

Natural Heritage System for Northumberland

Northumberland County is developing a Natural Heritage System Plan to manage community growth in a way that preserves and enhances our natural environment for future generations. Required by the province, this plan may include areas such as wetlands, woodlands and watercourses that have been identified as significant natural features that we must protect and enhance. The process began in 2014 when the province required a Natural Heritage System within the Official Plan.

The Northumberland County Natural System Plan Background Report was published July 2018 and is available on line. <https://www.northumberland.ca/en/business-and-development/resources/documents/NHS-Background-Report.pdf>

This report reviews existing policy as well as best practises for preservation of natural heritage ecology. The goal is to protect, enhance and restore the county's natural heritage.

Three public information sessions were held across the county in Nov. & Dec. 2019 and in Jan. 2020 an online interactive map was released for feedback. Check out the project update report. <https://www.northumberland.ca/en/business-and-development/resources/Documents/NHS-Plan-Update-and-FAQs.pdf>

Next steps will be preparing the final report and recommendations for county council. Then council will authorize staff to amend the official plan which will be sent to the province for approval.

OFA published a land use policy fact sheet in Sept. 2018. This link takes you there. <https://ofa.on.ca/resources/ofa-consolidated-land-use-policy/>



We All Want Clean Water and A Healthy Environment

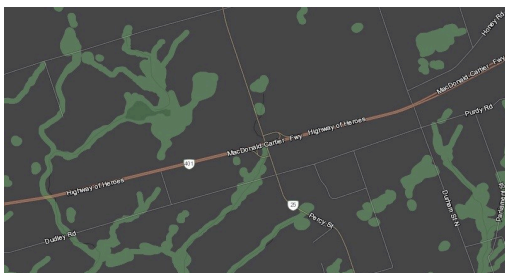
This is a great read on conservation authority issues from OFA director Steve Brackenridge. It has a link for our input to the provincial government, asking you which programs conservation authorities should be delivering. This article also includes highlights of OFA's submissions to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks multi-stakeholder consultations. Have your say and get informed about the issues.

<https://ofa.on.ca/stream/commentaries/>

Have you checked your farm on the conservation authority map?

Check out the map viewer on this page: <http://www.ltc.on.ca/planning/mv/>
Locate your property on the map and find the green zones to know where the conservation authorities have jurisdiction and a permit is required in order to do any of the following works:

- Construction, reconstruction or placing of a building/structure of any kind;
- Any change to a building/structure that would alter the use, size or number of dwelling units
- Site grading
- Temporary or permanent placing or removal of any material originating from the site
- Straightening, changing, diverting or interfering in any way with a watercourse, shoreline or wetland

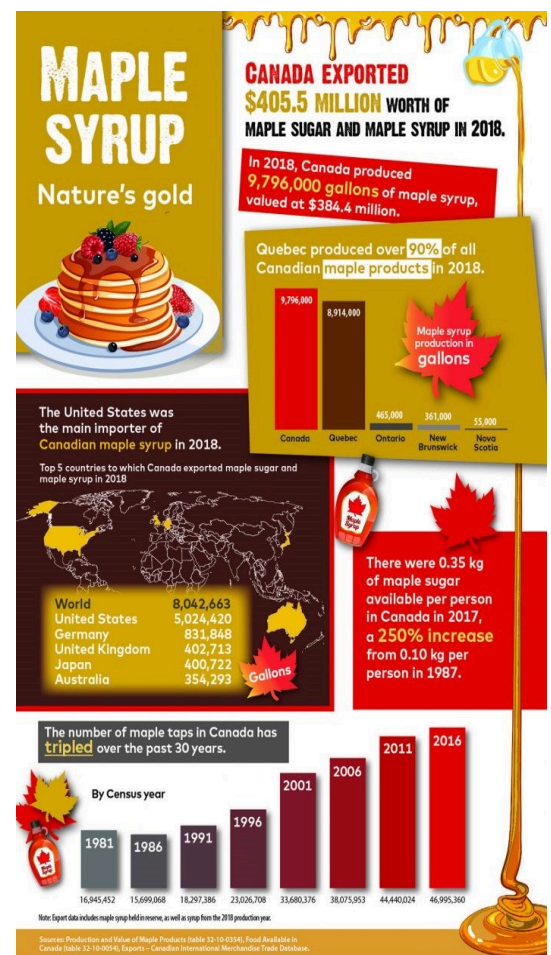


You should not act, or refrain from acting, based upon information shown on the maps without verifying the information with conservation staff and, as necessary, obtaining professional advice regarding your particular facts and circumstances.

2020-2021 Species at Risk Stewardship Program

For 2020-2021, the SARSP is accepting multi-year applications (spanning 1-3 fiscal years) that support stewardship initiatives and contribute to the protection and recovery of species at risk in Ontario until March 25, 2020. All project activities must begin no earlier than April 1, 2020 and finish no later than March 1 for each fiscal year of the project. Check online for details and application form.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/species-risk-stewardship-program-application-guidelines>





NORTHUMBERLAND
FEDERATION OF
AGRICULTURE

Contact: Lisa Meekes
Secretary-Treasurer/Newsletter Editor
1246 Dingman Rd
Castleton, ON
K0K1M0
Phone: 905-344-7419
E-mail: nfa.lisam@gmail.com



@NorthumberlandFed-
erationofAgriculture



#northumberlandag

We're on the web

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

Gadgets

Digital resource that you
may find useful.

Check out this page:

[https://www.farms.com/ag-
industry-news/](https://www.farms.com/ag-industry-news/)

- A list of Ag stories to watch in 2020
- Canadian farm channels to watch on YouTube
- 9 Ontario Roadside Ag Attractions

Food Freedom Day



In 2020, **February 8th** was the calendar date for when the average Canadian has earned enough income to pay his/her grocery bill for the year, coined by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture as Food Freedom Day! Canadians spent 10.9% of their disposable income on food in 2019, which is slightly lower than 11% in 2018. To see how Food Freedom Day is calculated go to:

[https://www.cfa-fca.ca/wp-
content/uploads/2020/02/FFD-
Calculation-Rationale_2020.pdf](https://www.cfa-fca.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/FFD-Calculation-Rationale_2020.pdf)

Food Literacy: What's On Your Plate?

March 1st to 31st is...

AgScape is running an essay contest to invite Ontario students in Grades 7 – 12 to submit a written or video essay in English or French based on the topic: "Food Literacy - What's On Your Plate?" The essay contest deadline is April 5, 2020. More information is available at: <https://agscape.ca/event/calm-essay-contest>

Lisa



Enter OFA's Farm Safety Photo Contest

Submit a photo showcasing safety on your farm
ofa.on.ca/photocontest

Calling All Photographers!



Enter OFA's farm safety photo contest.
Deadline July 31, 2020

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

7 Strategies For Talking With Consumers

All of a sudden you find yourself in a conversation about farming with someone who's not a farmer – perhaps at a party or a community event. Will you be prepared?

Your approach matters! Having some strategies on hand to have a meaningful discussion will make a big difference. Think of it as getting to know one of your customers.

Here are some things to keep in mind:

- **Go in with a positive attitude.** Most people like farmers and won't disagree with how you farm. Research shows that, in general, consumers believe that farmers are credible sources of information. And they also want to know more about farming and how their food is produced. You are their conduit to learning more about agriculture.
- **Establish rapport.** Start a genuine give-and-take dialogue. Introduce yourself and tell them a bit about what you do. Ask them about themselves. Find common ground, whether that's where you live, that you are both Saskatchewan Roughriders fans, or have kids the same age.
- **Be respectful and reserve your judgements.** Remember that this person doesn't come from a farming background. Their perspectives and opinions are bound to be different from yours and may very well be influenced by their peers and/or social media. They believe what they believe for a reason. Here's a chance to find out why and have an honest discussion about it.
- **Make it personal.** Share your story. Most farmers farm because they love it. It's a passion and a lifestyle, not just a job. Let them know about your family, your farm and why farming is important to you.
- **It's about engaging, not educating.** This isn't an opportunity to set someone straight. No one likes to be lectured. Welcome their questions and answer as genuinely as you can. They'll appreciate that you are taking the time talk with them and will look to you for more information because of your knowledge and experience.
- **Be conscious of the language you use.** Words you may use every day as someone in the agriculture industry may mean nothing to a non-farming audience. We may take terms like tillage, heifer and crop rotation for granted, but they might not have a clue what you're talking about. Invite them to let you know if they don't understand.
- **It's more important to ask questions than provide answers.** Find out what they really want to know. Probe for more information by asking questions. Establish what they are really asking, to zero in on what they have questions or concerns about and why. Perhaps it's not really GMOs they are concerned about, but the pesticides associated with GMO crops. Learn to listen and be patient.

Most of all, it's the conversation that's important, not necessarily the outcome or whether or not you agree. You've helped someone connect the dots between what it is you do and the food that's on their table every day – which benefits us all.

 **Agriculture**
more than ever