



Message from the President Sid Atkinson

What a difference 3 months has made to our world, little did I know when I wrote the last chair's message what started as a sickness that seemed to be confined to an area in China would spread so quickly around the world and threaten so many people. My hope and prayer is that it disappears as quickly as it came, although that seems unlikely at this point. Your NFA has evolved to a new way of conducting our meetings and talking with our local, provincial and federal politicians bringing them updates of each sectors issues, our meetings still happen but we use zoom webinars. This is new to a lot of us but is proving to be a very useful tool and lets us connect from our own homes and perhaps more importantly gives a greater window of opportunity to meet with Philip Lawrence MP and David Piccini MPP, on our last zoom

meeting David was actually able to join from his car while commuting from Queens Park, he was a passenger, no worries I know what you were thinking. The issues we are bringing forward now are offshore labour and how our members that rely on these workers will be able find labour, the red meat sector and how shutdowns in processing from the virus delaying the flow of animals to harvest, the crop sector is hit hard by the reduced demand for ethanol as folks are driving less, dairy the new Fairlife milk plant in Peterborough can't get inspections and managers that it needs to properly start up.

Restaurant and hospitality businesses are trying to figure out what their new normal will be and we in our farm businesses have to find that new normal, and when we do get it figured out will it all

change back? My personal thought is that when it changes back it will be gradual. When you go through town you see a lot of folks wearing a mask, standing in line with a suspicious, fearful look in their eye. That will not change overnight, no matter what anyone says.

So my hopefully last comments on the virus; use common sense about social distancing, get tested if you've got symptoms, take a hard look at how your business can adjust to the new normal and don't forget about your neighbours, friends and family reach out and give them a call. Some aren't doing well with the isolation and need to know they aren't alone. Stay safe everyone.

Sid

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Proposed Bylaw Change and Election Process for OFA

To be in compliance with the Corporations Act, OFA's board of directors voted to implement a proposed bylaw change allowing the board to elect the executive committee. The proposed election process brings OFA into compliance with the Corporations Act. Legal advice and clarification was sought on the intent of the Corporations Act. The Proposed change is in accordance with the industry standards. Many Ontario organizations follow the same election process with their board of directors including Beef, Pork, Dairy, and Poultry, among others.

Proposed changes will not affect OFA members voting for their local representatives. Grassroots members will continue to vote for and elect 18 directors for the zones across the province.

Beginning in November 2020 the executive committee will be elected by the Board of Directors therefore

executive elections at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will not take place.

The decision has been made to hold the AGM this year 2020, virtually (Further information about this will follow). Delegates at the 2020 AGM will vote to approve the proposed bylaw change to come into effect immediately. OFA members will continue to vote for the director at large position at the AGM.

These proposed changes will be presented virtually at local county meetings by the zone directors and a member of the executive in the coming months.

For questions please contact:

Bruce Buttar, OFA Director Zone 12

Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

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 - 905-373-6175
Bruce.Buttar@ofa.on.ca

PAC Member

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

Alnwick/Halldimand

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

OFA website for COVID-19 updates

OFA's website is hub of information pertaining to COVID. This includes summaries of financial resources, HR information for employers, webinars, and correspondence from OFA to government. We hope this is a useful resource for your farm business. www.ofa.on.ca

Roundtable discussions with local politicians

NFA recently engaged in 3 virtual roundtable discussions with their MPP, MP, and with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture. Topics covered included the Business Risk Management Program, carbon tax, rural broadband issues, processor capacity, and labour shortages. These are very productive meeting that build relationships with our elected officials and we will continue to advocate on behalf of the membership.

OFA Student Bursary

\$2000 is up for grabs! OFA is now accepting applications until the end of August. If you know a post-secondary student who is in an OFA family, please share this with them. Application information is at www.ofa.on.ca/community/bursary-program/

Nomination period is open for OFA Director

Are you interested in joining OFA's Board of Directors but wonder what the role entails? **It's a chance to influence meaningful change at the provincial level by providing a voice for our 38,000 farm family members.** Fulfilling the role of a provincial Director offers the opportunity to influence policy development, advocate for Ontario's agriculture and food industry through government relations and communications, engage with grassroots members and industry stakeholders on the key issues and priorities impacting the agri-food sector, provide input on the strategic planning process for the organization and work in collaboration with energetic and enthusiastic board members and staff to positively impact Ontario's agriculture industry. On average, it's anticipated a board member will spend approximately 35 days per year on OFA business. All board members are provided per diems, expenses and mileage pertaining to OFA work.

Info on how to get nominated can be found at www.ofa.on.ca/nominations-open-for-zone-director/

OFA Honda Member Draw for 2020

OFA and Honda have teamed up to give members an opportunity to win a brand-new grand prize – a **2020 Honda Pioneer Side-by-Side 700M2DLX**. OFA members are invited to enter the draw for a chance to win with OFA and Honda

- **Grand Prize** – 2020 Honda Pioneer Side-by-Side 700M2DLX
- **2nd Prize** – Honda EU3000iS Electric Start Generator
- **3rd Prize** – Honda C435 GX35 VERSATTACH Power-head with Brush Cutter attachment

Go online to enter. <https://ofa.on.ca/hondadraw/>

Be Social

Like us on Facebook:
@OFAzone12

Find us on
Facebook

YOU ARE
WHAT YOU
TWEET

Follow on
Twitter:
@ResiWalt

www.FARM911.ca

Resi Walt

OFA Ontario
Federation of
Agriculture



OFA Sharing Commodity Impacts Across the Province:

- Ontario beef farmers are losing approximately \$2 million per week during this crisis
- Egg farmers have seen a 15% reduction in sales
- Ontario beekeepers are dealing with reduced revenue due to lost pollination contracts as growers have been forced to adjust their crop plans, loss of farmers' market access and decline in commercial sales
- Mushroom growers are facing a 30% loss of production
- The floriculture industry is expecting to endure a 40% reduction in sales
- Grape growers have been assessing and preparing for increased labour and production costs. According to a recent Grape Growers of Ontario survey, 15% of growers indicated that grape contracts have been cancelled and 36% report that contracts have been reduced
- Veal sector has dealt with declining market demand with approximately 70% of veal produced for the food service and hospitality industry and the remaining 30% for retail and specialty butcher shops
- Ontario fruit and vegetable growers are still facing major labour gaps as many do not have a full contingent of employees available to them, including seasonal and temporary workers
- Dairy farmers received a 2% cut in their quota and producers will share the cost of dumping excess milk
- 10,000 acres of ginseng to cover in a short time frame with a limited labour – if gardens are not properly covered it could impact not only this year's harvest, but the next four years' worth of harvests. With 10,000 acres under production, it amounts to more than \$700 million dollars of lost farm gate sales, leading to an economic impact of \$441 million annually or \$1.8 billion over the next four years



It's Time to Close the Digital Divide

Whether you're at home, at work, or on the road, your phone should be able to connect using LTE, you should have an Internet connection with access to broadband speeds of at least 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload and access to unlimited data. But many Canadians, particularly those in rural and remote areas, do not have adequate access to these services.

50/10 – unlimited coverage (% of households)

- Canada: 85.7%
- Rural communities: 40.8%

Mobile – LTE (% of the population covered)

- Canada : 99.3%
- Rural communities : 96.5%
- 87.2% major transport roads and highways are covered by LTE in Canada



Know what your speed is by doing the test:

https://performance.cira.ca/?fbclid=IwAR0BH3tjmHwB0mtaRH6f7MFqUvCgYedZFOGYCj0TcPnixqj6iuC1M_DnUP



"Consider This" Documentary

COVID-19 and how it affects Agriculture in Northumberland.

Listen to your NFA directors discuss how the ag industry is being affected.

<https://consider-this.ca/9011-2/>

Guide to Operating your Essential Farm Business during COVID-19

Here is a helpful guide published by OFA to help with the overwhelming protocols and procedures put in place to help with the fight against COVID-19. It's broken down in to segments to easily find what pertains to your business.

I. Facilitating Business Interactions on the Farm

- Planning for Essential Visitors
- Protocols During the Visit
- Availability of Washroom Facilities
- Guidance from Commodity/Industry Associations.

II. Responding to Exposure to COVID-19

- Reporting Exposure
- Implementing Self-Isolation
- Notifying of Personal Exposure.
- Notifying of Employee Exposure
- Disinfecting Your Workplace
- Managing Exposure to Animals

III. Managing Risk During Business Operations

- Communicating with your Workforce
- Implementing Physical Distancing
- Making Risk Management Plans
- Cleaning and Sanitizing.
- Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing

IV. Resources

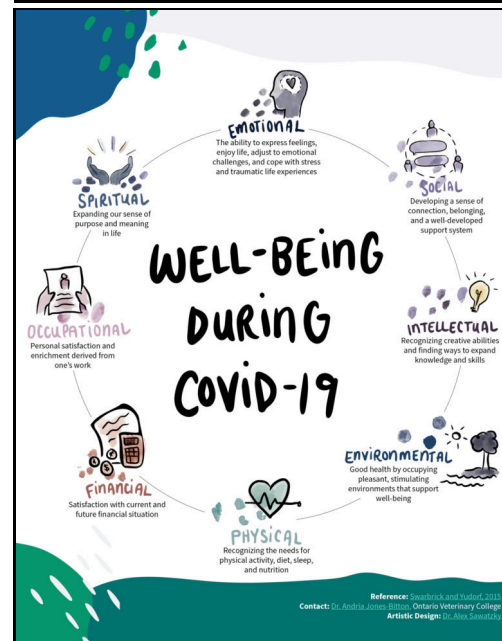
- General COVID-19 Industry Resources
- Commodity/Industry Specific Guidance for On-Farm Interactions

For the complete guide visit OFA web site and download a copy: ofa.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Guide-to-Operating-Your-Essential-Farm-Business-During-COVID-19-May-2020.pdf



Safety in Spill Containment - Do You Measure Up?

Spray season is upon us. Are you doing enough to practise safe procedures? Check out this video and see recommendations to keep staff and the environment safe. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgKD52hQPXc>



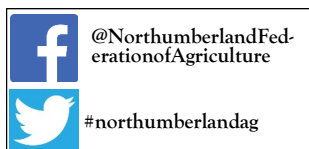
Great resource to stimulate ideas for well-being activities Check it out for you or for a friend.

<https://ofa.on.ca/resources/8-domains-of-well-being-covid-19-style/?fbclid=IwARIVGpuBrNMqUkNpqZR-oAMqs6mSGxssu2LVliBqNFrrE0ZWMAjFjeBrY>



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



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

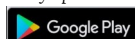
*Digital resource that you
may find useful.*



**CANADA's
Central
Resource of
COVID-19
Information.**

The Government of Canada
launched this app for the public to
access personalized, trusted, evidence-
based information about the
pandemic across Canada.

The latest updates, trusted resources,
can all be found on the app and it
also allows you to self-assess your
symptoms.



NFA has learned to pivot like everyone else in these unprecedented times. Our regular board meetings are still happening via Zoom. We are also continuing connections via virtual chats with MP Philip Lawrence and MPP David Piccini so they know what is happening on the farm in Northumberland and how they can help our industry.

Tractor parades were held April 18 & 25 to thank the first line workers and the turn out shows the farmers of Northumberland are grateful. Well done farmers! Please continue to follow medical health recommendations as they evolve with the changes of the COVID-19 pandemic to keep our fatalities as low as possible. Stay safe, continue to keep healthy distances and be supportive of each other to get through these stressful times.

Lisa



FARMERS PARADE

**SUPPORTING OUR
FRONT LINE
HEALTH CARE WORKERS**

Northumberland Federation Scholarship



NFA is currently accepting application for the 2020 Scholarship Application Program.

Qualifications are as follows:

- The applicant must be a member or related to a member of the OFA within the boundaries of Northumberland County. An affiliation with a Northumberland OFA member may be considered based on a written description (by the member) of the applicant's involvement on the member's farm. Example: A neighbouring student that has helped on the farm and has demonstrated a passion and future interest in agriculture.
- The applicant must submit a detailed essay listing the relationship to the OFA member, his/her activities on the farm, associated memberships (4H, etc.), volunteer work, detail their course studies, and their future goals.
- The applicant must be entering the second year or greater of an accredited post-secondary diploma or degree program.
- A late application will disqualify the applicant for consideration. The applicant may reapply for consideration in the next subsequent year.
- Unsuccessful applicants may reapply
- A maximum of three scholarships will be awarded.
- A recipient may only be awarded once
- A maximum of \$3000.00 will be awarded in any one year.
- \$1000.00 will be awarded to each successful applicant.

Deadline for receipt of applications is **August 1, 2020**. The Scholarship committee will need time to read and consider all the forms and essays and make their final decision well in advance of the AGM and banquet. Please do not forget to include all the requested information and use a separate sheet to tell us about your farming connections and your community interests. Fill out an application form and include a separate sheet for additional info.

Mail to:

Lisa Meekes
1246 Dingman Rd.
Castleton, ON.
K0K1M0

or

Email to:

nfa.lisam@gmail.com



Name: _____

Phone # _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Township/Municipality: _____

Name of OFA membership or Affiliate: _____

OFA Farm Registration # _____

Home Address: _____

Student Address: _____

Student ID#: _____ College or University Attended: _____

Address of School: _____

(Agricultural) Course Enrolled In: _____

(Agricultural Diploma or Degree being sought: _____

Average Mark Attained: _____ Year(s) of Study Completed: _____