

April 4, 2019

The Honourable Ernie Hardeman  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
77 Grenville Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1B3

Dear Minister Hardeman:

**Re: Crop Damage Caused by Ontario Wildlife**

The Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program (OWDCP) provides compensation to poultry and livestock producers for losses caused by Ontario wildlife. We thank you for listening to OFA and our livestock partners and for having made the necessary changes to that program. Our work continues with your Ministry to ensure the OWDCP meets the needs of poultry and livestock producers.

However, livestock producers are not the only farmers in Ontario experiencing production losses caused by Ontario wildlife. Crop producers also incur consistent losses each year caused by a variety of wildlife ranging from migratory birds to deer. Unfortunately, Ontario crop producers are not effectively compensated for losses caused by Ontario wildlife

As currently designed, available Production Insurance plans do not adequately address crop losses caused by wildlife. Claims under crop insurance are triggered when a producer's yield falls below their Average Farm Yield (AFY), which is calculated using up to 10 years of actual reported yields. Year after year crop damage caused by wildlife lowers a crop producer's AFY and so repetitive damage will not trigger a crop insurance claim in any given year.

Given, Ontario crop producers are not effectively compensated for losses caused by Ontario wildlife, OFA recommends that the Ontario government create a wildlife damage compensation program to compensate crop producers for the losses they experience due to Ontario wildlife.

Sincerely,



Keith Currie  
President

cc: OFA Board of Directors