

October 7, 2019

Dr. Beverley Hale  
Associate VP Research  
Office of Research, Agri-Food Partnership  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, ON  
N1G 2W1

Dear Dr. Hale,

**RE: Letter of support for the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance Research Program – University of Guelph Research Program 2019/2020 “Biodegradable bale wraps for Ontario Agriculture – for reducing waste plastics”**

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is the largest voluntary, general farm organization in Canada, representing over 38,000 farm families across Ontario. As a dynamic farmer-led organization based in Guelph, Ontario, OFA works to represent and champion the interests of Ontario farmers through government relations, farm policy recommendations, lobby efforts, community representation, media relations and more. OFA is the leading advocate and voice for Ontario farmers.

OFA is pleased to provide its support for the “Biodegradable Bale wraps for Ontario Agriculture” project as submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs through the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance.

Plastic waste on farms is a major concern for farmers and OFA members want solutions developed to address this concern. In OFA’s April 19, 2019 submission to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, in response to ERO # 013-4689 (Reducing Litter and Waste in Our Communities Discussion Paper), OFA highlighted the need for research focused on producing compostable baling twine, netting, and films designed to withstand prolonged outside exposure, but able to decompose or be edible when shredded into livestock feed. Therefore, we are pleased to support this research project to develop of a biodegradable plastic bale wrap.

In Ontario, over 3,500 tonnes of plastic agricultural waste is generated each year including six million pounds coming from plastic bale wraps and silage<sup>1</sup>. Options for farmers to send agricultural plastic wastes for recycling are currently very limited. Most agricultural plastic wastes are either sent to municipal landfill sites or burned, stockpiled or buried on the farm. The cost of disposing of plastic bale wraps and other plastic products has increased causing an additional burden to farmers.

1. Ontario Agricultural Film Plastic Waste Characterization Study (Blacksheep Strategy).



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Through this research project, OFA will coordinate with Ontario farmers to reduce litter and waste. We estimate our in-kind contributions of \$5,000 per year for this 3-year project (totaling \$15,000) to assist in promoting this project and identifying farmers who would volunteer to use biodegradable plastic bale wraps on their farms.

OFA looks forward to working together on this integrative project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Keith Currie", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Keith Currie  
President

cc: OFA Board of Directors