



Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Ontario AgriCentre

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January 2, 2020

Dr Adam Gillespie
Assistant Professor
School of Environmental Sciences
University of Guelph

Sent via e-mail: agilles@uoguelph.ca

Re: Research Project: Soil N mineralization and thermal cracking

Dear Prof. Gillespie,

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is pleased to provide our support for your proposed **“A fundamentally new approach to determining soil N (Nitrogen) mineralization potential through pyrolysis-based thermal cracking”** research project.

OFA is Canada’s largest voluntary general farm organization, representing more than 38,000 farm family businesses across Ontario. These farm businesses form the backbone of a robust food system and rural communities with the potential to drive the Ontario economy forward.

OFA serves Ontario farmers by working with 52 county and regional federations to provide direct member service, research, education, member benefits, and farm advocacy services to members. In addition, OFA is supported by 25 Ontario farm commodity organizations and other farm interest groups.

Your proposed project would evaluate the use of a new approach to soil N characterization that employs a physical and biochemical test based on thermal pyrolysis. This approach is expected to be an improvement over the current one-time-per-season soil chemical test because it considers the dynamic physical and biological availability of N. Providing a better estimate of N availability throughout the growing season would enable farmers to adjust their N application rates and perhaps reduce their fertilizer input purchases, while ensuring crop N requirements remain satisfied.

Thank you for the opportunity to learn about your research project proposal.

Sincerely,

Keith Currie
President