

November 21, 2019

Grants Committee
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
1 Stone Rd W,
Guelph, ON
N1G 4Y2

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), please accept this letter of support for Dr. Nicolas Brunet and team's proposal to the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance Research Program, "Sustainable production systems in Ontario beef and dairy: understanding uptake of agri-environmental programs on-farm and identifying systemic barriers to adoption." We strongly support this grant application and the commitment to improve farmers' uptakes of resource conservation and environmental stewardship programs on farms to improve the sustainability of production in Ontario's dairy and cattle farming systems.

The OFA is Canada's largest voluntary general farm organization, representing more than 36,000 family farm businesses across Ontario. These farm businesses form the backbone of our robust food system and rural communities with the potential to drive the Ontario economy forward.

OFA is concerned about the limited uptake of biodiversity enhancement programs by farmers and we would like to have a better insight and understanding of why this is. We are confident in Dr. Brunet and his research team to investigate this issue and provide workable recommendations to help drive adoption. We look forward to receiving the results from this project and disseminating them to our members.

Sincerely,



Keith Currie
President