

January 24, 2020

Hon Ernie Hardeman
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
11th Floor
77 Grenville St.
Toronto, ON
M5S 1B3

Dear Minister Hardeman,

RE: Agri-Recovery assistance assessment request

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) wishes to bring to your attention the disastrous situation in northwestern Ontario. The Kenora/Rainy River District has experienced extreme weather throughout the 2019 season and now faces a severe situation where affected farmers are incurring significant transportation expenses to bring in feed and straw for their livestock.

The area's 2019 growing season was characterized by a late spring, near drought, followed by excessive precipitation, and then an early winter. Local feed supplies are very tight. Not only did the excessive precipitation keep harvest equipment out of the field, access to some livestock pastures was also impeded, thus resulting in farmers having to feed more hay to their livestock.

As you know, under the federal-provincial-territorial Canadian Agricultural Partnership policy framework, the Agri-Recovery Framework is available to support farmers impacted by situations not fully addressed by assistance under other Business Risk Management programs such as Production Insurance and Agri-Stability. When a disastrous situation occurs, the provincial government can request a joint federal-provincial assessment be undertaken to determine whether further assistance is needed to help farmers deal with the extraordinary costs of recovery.

OFA requests that you ask for a joint federal-provincial Agri-Recovery assessment of the feed and straw shortage challenging northwestern Ontario farmers.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Keith Currie
President

cc: Greg Rickford, MPP, Rainy River
OFA Board of Directors