

July 13, 2020

Public Input Coordinator
Fish and Wildlife Policy Branch
Wildlife Section
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
300 Water Street
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7

To Whom it may concern,

RE: ERO #019-1985 Proposal to open fall wild turkey hunting seasons in Wildlife Management Units 72 and 95 beginning in 2020

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (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.

Ontario's reintroduction of wild turkeys to the Southern Ontario landscape has been a success. Wild turkeys are found throughout Southern and Central Ontario and into parts of Northern Ontario. Success from the perspective of ample, self-sustaining populations can come with some negative consequences. From an agricultural perspective, ample, self-sustaining populations of wild turkeys brings crop yield losses due to turkeys feeding on standing and stored crops. Facilitating more opportunities for hunting wild turkeys will reduce standing and stored crop losses. OFA wholeheartedly supports the proposed open fall wild turkey hunting seasons in Wildlife Management Units 72 and 95, beginning in 2020.

OFA welcomes the opportunity to present an agricultural-based perspective on additional wild turkey hunting opportunities.

Sincerely,



Keith Currie
President

KC/pj

cc: The Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
OFA Board of Directors