



News & Notes

Working for a Vibrant and Innovative Agriculture Industry



Message from the President Allan Carruthers

Well folks 2022 is almost over! This year definitely had it's challenges in agriculture here in Northumberland. Most of the crop is harvested, yields were varied across the county. As this year comes to end I would like to thank our directors of NFA and especially the ones that have retired Mark Dejong, Terry Linton and Christie Prins. You have been great advocates

of agriculture and I wish you great things in your futures. I would like to welcome some new directors Reuben Dejong, Rod Dejong and Betty Jean Crews. Some fresh faces and idealism to match. Our new executive for NFA is myself as chair, Ben Currelly as first vice, Brian Crews as second vice, and our very important secretary treasurer Lisa Meekes, who will definitely

keep us organized. Lots of ag issues are still developing out there and we will keep you updated. If you have some issues please feel free to contact the directors listed on the next page to bring those issues to our monthly meetings. Merry Xmas everyone and safe and happy new year!

May 2023 be a great year.

Allan

Inside this issue:

Directors contact info	2
Resi's Report	2
A Year in Review	3
Environmental farm plan	3
OFA AGM	4
2023 Food Trends	4
Canada Ag Day Feb. 15th	4

Notes from OFA

Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Ontario Government Unveils Plan to Strengthen Food Supply Chain from Farm to Fork

The Grow Ontario Strategy is designed to increase production of food grown and consumed in the province with the release of the Grow Ontario Strategy. The strategy outlines the province's plan to strengthen the Agri-food sector, ensure an efficient, reliable, and responsive food supply and address ongoing vulnerabilities through new innovations. The sector's vulnerabilities include labour shortages, outdated supply chain infrastructure and declining processing capacity. The plan focuses on three key priorities.

1) Strengthen Agri-Food Supply Chain Stability:

Increase both the consumption and production of food grown and prepared in Ontario by 30per cent, increase Ontario's food and beverage manufacturing GDP by 10% and boost Ontario's Agri-food exports eight per cent annually by 2032. This includes opening applications for the \$10 million Food Security and Supply Chain Fund which will provide funding for projects such as updated inventory software, expanded warehousing to allow increased inventory levels or automation equipment to address labour gaps. The province is also strengthening its food processing capacity and food security to position the sector for growth through the \$25 million Strategic Agri-Food Processing Fund.

2) Increase Agri-food Technology and Adoption:

Boost research infrastructure, advance the uptake of new technologies, grow the market for Ontario innovative technologies domestically and globally, and grow the use of data to support efficiencies in the Agri-Food sector and value chain.

3) Attract and Grow Ontario's Agri-Food Talent :

The province aims to increase total Agri-Food sector employment by 10% by 2032, as well as increase awareness of modern, high-tech Agri-Food careers, opportunities for mentorship and hands-on job training, and support efforts to increase veterinary capacity in underserved areas of the province. This includes launching public consultations to explore opportunities to modernize the Veterinarians Act as part of the plan to increase access to veterinary care in Ontario.

The Grow Ontario Strategy is an important part of Less Red Tape, Stronger Ontario, our fall red tape reduction package to strengthen provincial supply chains and improve competitiveness.

Bruce Buttar, OFA Provincial Director Zone 12



Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

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Miss any newsletters or want to find an old one? Try out this QR Code to take you right to the page

A big **THANK YOU** to Mark DeJong, Terry Linton and Christie Prins for their many years of service on the NFA Board. Your time is much appreciated! We welcome some new faces to the board table and I look forward to working with NFA on new projects in 2023.

Bill 23 More Homes, Built Faster

The time allowed for public consultation on Bill 23 was very short, but OFA diligently worked to get submissions in on behalf of the membership. You can read all of OFA's submissions surrounding Bill 23 at our website here: <https://ofa.on.ca/resources/>

Save the date for OFA's webinar on Bill 23: January 12 at lunch time

OFA AGM & Convention

We were pleased to return to an in-person event and delegates gathered in London at RBC Place. 27 resolutions from the county federations were presented for voting delegates, the silent auction raised \$10, 618 in support of OFA's Student Bursary Program, and immediately following the AGM, the Board elected President Peggy Brekveld for another one-year term. Thank you to delegates from NFA who attended on behalf of Northumberland members.

In the Know Workshops

"In the Know" is a mental health literacy program designed specifically for farmers, their families and those who are involved and/or support the agriculture sector. Through this free, four-hour workshop, participants will cover the topics of stress, depression, anxiety, substance use and how to start a conversation around mental well-being. The workshops are facilitated by one of CMHA's mental health professionals using 'real-life' examples from agriculture.

<https://agriculturewellnessontario.ca/in-the-know/>

Ontario Agricultural Conference

#OAgC23 is excited to bring you the latest information for your farm operation in every format possible! Kicking off it's first-ever hybrid conference, attendees will be able to access the conference both virtually and in-person at 3 separate locations, Ridgetown, Waterloo, and Kemptville. With an amazing total of 50 sessions, TEC Talk Tuesdays and more, this conference has something for everyone. In-person events will be held on Wednesday January 4th, 2023 at all 3 locations, with a second day at Ridgetown January 5th, 2023. Virtual participants will be able to participate in the live days in the virtual format, just as they have been with the last two conferences. <https://ontarioagconference.ca/>

Merry Christmas and thanks for choosing OFA!

Resi Walt

Member Service Representative
 Hastings, Lennox and Addington, Northumberland,
 Prince Edward

Be Social

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YOU ARE WHAT YOU TWEET

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www.FARM911.ca

FOOD SECURITY



A Year in Review - 2022

As we transitioned from a pandemic to a new normal in 2022 NFA directors continued to advocate for the agriculture industry in Northumberland. Monthly board meetings moved from hybrid to outdoor and then back to the OAFVC.

The following is a list of things NFA has been working on for you!

- Directors set up individual mayor meetings around the county
- Three \$1000 scholarships were awarded to local youth
- Farmer Wellness Program promotion in the Better Farming magazine
- Active involvement in proposed development projects on farmland
- Shelter Box Canada donation of \$500 for the crisis in Ukraine
- Supported the Eastern Canada Farm Writers AGM held in Northumberland
- Loss of farmland awareness ad in the Agriculture edition of Watershed magazine
- Met with political candidates during campaigning time
- A second counselor joined the Farmer Wellness team
- Hosted a Migrant Workers of Northumberland BBQ in Cobourg
- Distributed the crop signs and their uses across the county for the second year
- The return of the Poli-Ag tour, connecting politicians with the local ag industry
- Attended Ag Mapping meetings held in the county
- Ran a local radio ad of awareness to the loss of farmland across the province
- Ongoing participation with the county Agriculture Advisory committee

When you get a chance thank this dynamic group of farmers who continue to volunteer their time to keep policies that affect agriculture in Northumberland “farmer friendly”.

Way to go NFA and keep up the good work for 2023.

The **Quinte Agricultural Wall of Fame** was established to recognize individuals and couples who have made very significant contributions to the agriculture industry, locally and beyond the county level.

Nominations can be made by individuals or more commonly by agricultural organizations in the 4 county Quinte area. For an application [click here](#) and to learn more check out the web site.

[Farmtown Park](#)



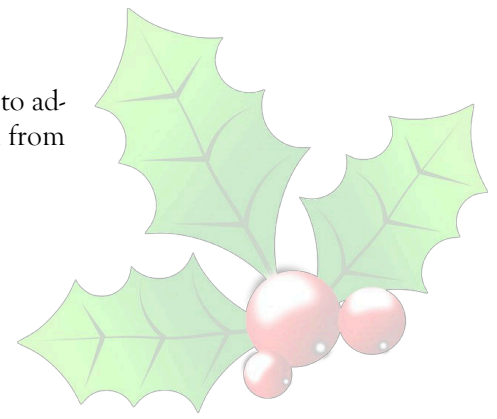
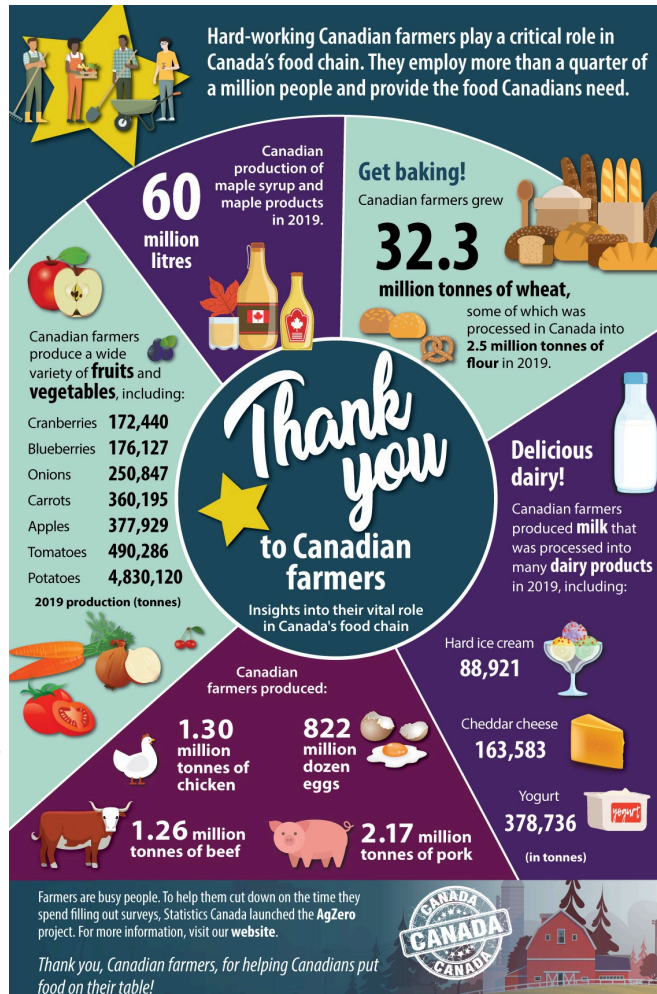
environmental farm plan

Is it time to update your plan?

The goal of the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is to help you see your farm in a new way. It asks you to think about your land, the buildings on your farm, the products you use, all from a new point of view. It asks you to rate how each of these things could affect the environment – the air, soil, wildlife, and water sources – around your farm.

Check out the website and find a workshop close to you.

<https://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/canada-ontario-environmental-farm-plan/>



FARMER wellness program

NORTHUMBERLAND

Don't struggle talk to someone. It's free!

www.farmerwellnessprogram.ca

Candice or Michael would be happy to hear from you

Mental Health Moment

Have you heard about the two great councillors working for the Farmer Wellness Program?

They are here to help you take care of your mental health. Take advantage of this members benefit of four free sessions.



Michael
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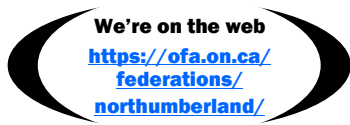
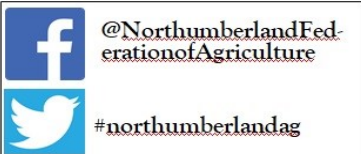


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media, messaging, and
marketplace. Discover and
share important topics
around farming and
growing agriculture.

Find it on



FEB 15, 2023



**CANADA'S
AGRICULTURE
DAY**

Start planning
how you are
going to
celebrate
Canadian
Agriculture



**HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE AND BEST WISHES
FOR A SAFE & PROSPEROUS 2023**

Lisa

AGM for OFA

Delegates elected at the regional meetings gathered in London on November 21st. Northumberland was well represented and spent time connecting with other counties addressing common and unique issues that affect the agriculture industry. A full agenda of speakers, points of business, workshops and resolutions kept the two day event moving quickly.

You can watch the "year in review" at this link.

<https://ofa.on.ca/2022-ofa-agm-final-day-recap/>

The work keeps being done to speak up for Agriculture in Ontario.



The 2023 Report delves into 9 key trends that will shape the Food, Beverage and Agriculture landscapes in 2023 and beyond.

The identified trends are:

- **The Rise of Reducatarianism:** Trading "either/or" for "everything, but less"
- **Good Eats, Better Sleeps:** The role of food as a sleep aid to promote overall well-being
- **This One's for the Ladies:** Female food is a missed opportunity we can no longer overlook
- **Food Without Borders:** Social media unites us globally so we can shop and cook together
- **Robots, AI, and Connected Kitchens:** The future of food automation finally arrives
- **Breaking the Chains:** Localized production offers an alternative to shaky global supply chains
- **Closing the Loop:** Self-contained food systems are the future
- **From Science Fiction to Science Farming:** Ag innovation sees exponential growth to meet environmental and market needs
- **Solidarity for Sustainability:** The future of eco-conscious agriculture is cooperative

To read the report click here www.nourish.marketing/trend-report

Social Media Farmer Wellness Program

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