



**NFA**  
 Northumberland  
 Federation of Agriculture



2025 ISSUE #1

**News & Notes**  
*Working for a Vibrant and Innovative Agriculture Industry*

**Message from the President Allan Carruthers**

We have had an old fashioned winter with lots of snow and cold temperatures. Our local roads departments had their challenges keeping our roads open and safe a great job well done! Late winter early spring meetings are being organized and well attended by our local members. Your NFA board

is busy planning and organizing upcoming meetings so please support the efforts. OFA connect on **March 27th** is a chance to gather info and network with farmers in zone 12. We have organized a meeting with David Piccini at the Codrington community centre on **April 4th**. Plan on attending and having a

discussion with David, especially with the possibility of pending USA tariffs that would make our 2025 year a challenging one. Please contact your NFA board members if you have any questions or concerns that you want help with. Have a safe and productive spring and think positive!

*Allan*

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**Notes from OFA** Ontario Federation of Agriculture

**Working for farmers**



Trump, tariffs, counter tariffs, NATO, Ukraine war, Russian influence, Carbon tax, Interprovincial trade, Provincial and Federal elections. Mention anyone of those words and immediately ones attention is turned to thoughts that the peace, security and orderly trade that we have enjoyed in North America for some 80 years is gone. Any one of those issues in isolation is worthy of considerable concern, however due to reasons many of us do not understand, we have all of those issues and more, at the same time.

At OFA we have excellent staff that try to keep us up to date, but things are changing so fast, what may be news in the morning, has been replaced by another in the afternoon. What is going on? What can we do? While it is impossible to accurately predict what may be coming next, there are a few strategies that many already know and are practicing. Here at NFA, your local board has worked hard to build and maintain relationships with politicians at all 3 levels of government. I can tell you with certainty that both our Federal and Provincial

members are often visible at agriculture events throughout Northumberland meeting and listening to local farmers. Farmers have a message. We are important to the provincial economy. The agriculture GDP is right around 50 billion dollars, right on par with the auto sector. Nearly 900,000 jobs in the province are in primary Ag and Ag business.

We need you to be part of that message. On April 4, in Codrington, NFA will be hosting a very informal coffee time meet and greet with our provincial Member of Parliament MPP David Piccini. Now, like never before, it is important for all of us, across the country, to stand together, be united and be organized and prepared to meet challenges coming our way. Building on the success of this event, we plan to host similar activities as we prepare for a Federal election in the coming months. This is important folks. NFA needs your help. Let's fill the room so next time we need to look for a bigger hall.

**Brian Crews OFA director Zone 12**

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

## Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

### Recent OFA Webinars

Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/@ontariofarms>

- Financial Literacy and Farm Succession Planning
- Results of the Farm Business Confidence Survey
- Economic Impact Report
- Hiring Students for Farm Jobs
- Training Youth for Success on the Farm

### Ready to RideON

This is Ontario's first online ATV training course designed for riders aged 12-15, as well as new riders of any age. The program provides a solid foundation in all aspects of ATV operation—from understanding the parts and functions of a machine to riding responsibly on Ontario's trails. The goal is to ensure that youth and new riders have the confidence and practical knowledge to start their ATV adventure safely. For more information: [ofatv.org/ready-to-rideon](https://ofatv.org/ready-to-rideon)

### Provincial RMP Funding Announcement

(Announced January 28, 2025) Over the next three years, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness is phasing-in a \$100 million increase to the Risk Management Program (RMP) for beef, pork, sheep, veal and grain farmers and the Self-Directed Risk Management Program (SDRM) for fruit and vegetable growers. RMP and SDRM help provide financial protection for farmers against unprecedented challenges beyond their control, including inflation, supply chain disruptions, market downturns and climate risks.

Increased funding for risk management has long been a key advocacy priority for the OFA, and it was one of the organization's top three budget asks of the provincial government for 2025. This ask also supported efforts by the Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition (OASC), who have long been urging the province to enhance its investment into RMP and SDRM.

### OFA Connect

You're invited to OFA Connect! Check out the flier for this year's guest speakers. Come and enjoy a complimentary lunch and network with fellow members from the four counties in our zone. RSVP to [resi.walt@ofa.on.ca](mailto:resi.walt@ofa.on.ca)

**Resi Walt**  
Member Service Representative  
Hastings, Lennox and Addington,  
Northumberland, Prince Edward



## Be Social

Like us on Facebook:  
[@OFAzone12](https://www.facebook.com/OFAzone12)



[www.FARM911.ca](http://www.FARM911.ca)



## March 27, 2025

Westminster United Church  
1199 Wallbridge Loyalist Rd. Belleville  
10 AM start

**Peter Doris, Environmental Specialist, OMAFA**  
Drainage best practices: building good neighbour relations

**Ian Nokes, Policy Analyst, OFA**  
Renewable energy agreements: considerations for farm businesses

**Jennifer Wright, Executive Director, Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council**  
Hiring for the farm: students, full-time and TFWs

Our annual forum for OFA members to connect on current topics. Concludes with a complimentary hot lunch sponsored by the Northumberland, Hastings, Prince Edward, and Lennox & Addington Federations of Agriculture. Doors open at 9:30 AM. Please RSVP.



Lunch catered by Flossie's



RSVP: Resi Walt, OFA | 613.847.3037 | [resi.walt@ofa.on.ca](mailto:resi.walt@ofa.on.ca)

## Agriculture Townhall with MPP David Piccini



Friday, April 4 at 9 AM  
Codrington Community Centre

Join us for productive discussion on the future of agriculture in our province. We want to hear your ideas, concerns and suggestions to ensure agriculture continues to thrive and evolve.

Refreshments will be served.

RSVP to Lisa Meekes  
nfa.lisam@gmail.com  
905-269-7419



## What did the Farmer's Almanac Say?

November 2024 to October 2025  
for Southern Ontario

Winter will be colder than normal, with above-average precipitation. Snowfall will be below average in the east and above average in the west. The coldest periods will be in early December, early and late January, and late February. The snowiest periods will be in early November, early and late December, much of January and February, and early March. April and May will be warmer and drier in the north, with near-normal temperatures and wetter-than-normal conditions in the south. Summer will be warmer and wetter than normal. The hottest periods will be in much of June and July and mid- to late August. September and October will be cooler than normal, with precipitation greater than normal in the north and less than normal in the south.

This sounds pretty close to the winter we had and a good growing season ahead. Planting may be a challenge but predicting a wetter than normal summer. Grow!



Did you know that in 2021 Canadian bee keepers grew the number of colonies to a record high of over 810,000



### YOUR GUIDE TO FOOD & FARMING IN CANADA

Have you checked out the latest edition of "The Real Dirt on Farming"?

The print or online edition gives consumers and producers a valuable resource to communicate about the Agriculture industry. Issues are addressed. Career profiles are showcased. Quick facts are presented. Take some time to look through this publication and share with your friends and family. [publuu.com/flip-book](http://publuu.com/flip-book)

### Let OFA Help You to Stay Informed

When was the last time you looked at the resource page of the OFA web site? There is a lot of information there and well worth visiting regularly. From Starting & Growing your farm to Succession Planning or keeping up to date on the new Pest Management Regulatory Agency proposed changes there is much to keep track of in our businesses. The research and advisory team at OFA are working hard to keep on top of the multitude of changes affecting our industry and in today's atmosphere that is a big job. Take some time to look at what is listed as it changes almost daily. Let OFA help you to stay informed.

<https://ofa.on.ca/resources/>

### Mental Health Moment

As farmers get their equipment ready for spring don't forget to take care of your mental health before the stress of the growing season happens. Take extra care of yourself with all of the global pressures happening right now and keep an eye on your loved ones. Visit the new web site and get yourself familiar with what is available. You never know who it can help.

Access free unlimited counselling

1-866-267-6255

24 hours a day 7 days a week

[farmerwellnessinitiative.ca](http://farmerwellnessinitiative.ca)

FARMER  
WELLNESS  
INITIATIVE

Agriculture  
Wellness  
Ontario





# NFA

NORTHUMBERLAND  
FEDERATION OF  
AGRICULTURE

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@NorthumberlandFederationofAgriculture

#northumberlandag

**We're on the web**  
<https://ofa.on.ca/federations/northumberland/>

**Gadgets**  
 Digital resource that you may find useful.

Check the Label  
 Proudly Made in Canada by PUNCHCARD

Here is a handy little app for your phone to help with the Buy Canada movement. Make sure your products come up as Canadian

## Renew your membership!

The OFA is involved in every aspect of farm business and rural life as the voice of Ontario's farmers.

- ⇒ Provides 51 localized County Federations of Agriculture for strong leadership and local representation
- ⇒ Includes 31 organizational members and affiliates representing a majority of Ontario's commodities
- ⇒ Is the only accredited farm organization to provide you with 20 trained Member Service Representatives (MSRs) in 15 geographical areas to provide you with front-line service in your area



The sap is starting to run so spring is around the corner. Equipment will be rolling on the roads once again for the 2025 crop year.

Be safe out there .

*Lisa*

## Buy Canadian

With all the tariff talk there has been a huge push on "Buy Canadian". Stores are sticking maple leaves on the shelves beside many of the products to help consumers. This is something the Agriculture sector has been promoting for years so it's wonderful to see the consumer catch up to us. The Homegrown web site can help everyone with this task of ensuring we support Ontario and Canadian food including local communities and businesses keeping our economy strong at a time when it's really needed.



<https://homegrownofa.ca/support-ontario-farmers-by-buying-local/>

Share this info to all of your network of people and with any luck new pattern can be established that we can hold on too in the future.



"Join In Northumberland" is a tool that expands the ways in which Northumberland County engages with the community. In addition to other online and in-person consultation opportunities, "Join In Northumberland" is a virtual public space where you can share your input to help shape County-led programs, policies and services.

[joinin.northumberland.ca](http://joinin.northumberland.ca)

PORT HOPE AND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

# BURSARY PROGRAM

Are you passionate about agriculture and pursuing a program at a Canadian University or College? The Port Hope Agricultural Society Bursary could be yours!

We're offering a \$500 bursary to help support your education in any agricultural program. It's an easy way to get extra funding for tuition, books, or other school expenses.

Apply now for your chance to receive this financial boost and invest in your future in agriculture!

Don't miss out — this could be the support you need to grow your dreams!

**APPLICATION CRITERIA**

- ✔ Going to School for Agriculture
- ✔ Going to a Canadian University/College
- ✔ You are 25 or Under
- ✔ A Resident of Northumberland

TO APPLY OR FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

[porthopefair.com](http://porthopefair.com) [Secretary@PortHopeFair.com](mailto:Secretary@PortHopeFair.com)