



2020 DRAFT Annual General Meeting Resolutions

1. Dundas Delaying of Bylaw

Mover: Stephen Mellon
Secunder: Ryan DeVries

WHEREAS the Ontario Federation of Agriculture has held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) in person each year to hear from grassroots membership; and

WHEREAS an important bylaw change is to occur at this 2020 AGM regarding how this organizations President and Vice-Presidents will be elected; and

WHEREAS OFA board will be holding its 2020 AGM virtual this year due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and safety of membership; and

WHEREAS delegates may not have the technology, the know-how, to attend a virtual AGM; and

WHEREAS reliability of internet access in rural Ontario is challenging in staying connected, there are strong concerns with potential technology/program failure during a virtual AGM,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) delay the ratification of decision of bylaw change, under the Corporations Act until OFA delegates can meet in person at the Annual General Meeting to allow proper grassroots input.

2. Leeds Process for Election of Executive Members to OFA Board

Mover: Erica Miles
Secunder: Cornelia Danis

WHEREAS OFA members have repeatedly expressed a strong desire to elect the President and Vice-Presidents to the OFA Board every year at convention; and

WHEREAS during the design of the current board governance in 2008, and during every review since members have continued to consistently demand the opportunity to elect these executive positions every year; and

WHEREAS the Ontario government has indicated that OFA is not in compliance with the Business Corporations Act, specifically Section 289, and the government has indicated that OFA would not be eligible for government programs if it was not in compliance; and

WHEREAS Section 289 states that “a board shall elect a President or chair at its first meeting after the annual meeting and that it “may” elect other executive members”; and

WHEREAS in order to comply with Section 289 the board must choose a President, but has the option (may) to elect other executive members (vice-presidents and executive member),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) Board rescind the bylaw change which would require the board to elect all executive positions after the Annual General Meeting (AGM), and replace it with a bylaw change that allows the board to elect its President after the AGM, but allows members to elect the vice-presidents and the executive member at the AGM. This would allow OFA to be compliant with the Act and still allow members the democratic choice to elect the future executive team.

Background information:

Corporations Act Section 289

Officers, President

289 (1) The directors shall elect a president from among themselves.

Other Officers

(2) The directors shall appoint a secretary and may appoint one or more vice-presidents and other officers.

3. Elgin

Request for Modified CVOR for Transport of Farm Product from Field to Storage

Mover: Anne Devries

Secunder: Fons Vandenbroek

WHEREAS regulations require a Commercial vehicle operator's registration (CVOR) to insure and operate a highway tractor and trailer weighing more than 4,500 kg; and

WHEREAS this requirement is forcing farmers to sell their trucks and trailers and revert to tractors and wagons which could create safety hazards on steep hills and other road conditions; and

WHEREAS many farm operations require just one or two vehicles which stay within 30 km of their home base; and

WHEREAS border crossing regulations are not applicable to these farm businesses; and

WHEREAS passing of a CVOR requires a farmer to learn border crossing and other information that will not be relevant to the farm business which can result in a high fail rate and impose undue regulatory barriers and financial burden,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with related ministries to develop a modified Commercial vehicle operator's registration (CVOR) requirement or Agricultural Trucking Permit for farm operators whose trucks are not used for carrying payloads to end users but are strictly used as part of a harvest between farms only.

4. Perth Misuse of Minister's Zoning Orders

Mover: Sharon Weitzel
Secunder: Sara Wood

WHEREAS there has been a recent proliferation of Minister's Zoning Orders (MZOs) issued for municipalities with robust planning systems, Official Plans and Zoning By-laws that have negatively affected agricultural land; and

WHEREAS MZOs are being issued for municipalities with robust planning systems at a frequency never-before seen and this frequent use undermines Ontario's long-established system of land use planning under the Planning Act, Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), Provincial Plans and municipal Official Plans and Zoning By-laws; and

WHEREAS Ontario has a well-established system for amending municipal Official Plans and Zoning By-laws to accommodate population and employment growth, including a system for appeals *that incorporates the review of the PPS, the Nutrient Management Act , Agricultural Impact Assessments and Minimum Distance Separation formulas & guidelines*; and

WHEREAS the recent issuance of multiple MZOs short circuits Ontario's long-established planning principles and policies and is short sighted and this deprives citizens impacted by these MZOs the ability to be consulted on proposed amendments to municipal Official Plans and Zoning By-laws, or to appeal them; and

WHEREAS OFA wrote the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on August 10, 2020 to request that Ministerial Zoning Orders not be used in situations where municipalities have well-developed, Ministry-approved Official Plans and Zoning By-laws; and

WHEREAS Perth County Federation of Agriculture wrote the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on September 4, 2020 to express opposition to the use of Ministerial Zoning Orders for municipalities with well-developed, Ministry-approved Official Plans and Zoning By-Laws,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture encourage all local federations of agriculture to lobby the Ontario government to stop the use of Ministers Zoning Orders (MZO) when there are rigorous, well established, planning processes in place.

5. Russell Insurance Coverage for Straw

Mover: Michel Dignard
Seconded: Stéphane Wolfe

WHEREAS wheat is recommended by Certified Crop Advisors (CCA) in Ontario as a third crop in rotations with corn and soybeans to improve soil health and to increase subsequent yields in corn and soybeans; and

WHEREAS wheat does not produce profit returns to producers as much as other crops in rotations; and

WHEREAS wheat producers need the benefit of straw to make the difference between a break-even crop or a profit in many years, therefore creating a challenge to producers to include wheat as a third crop in their rotation; and

WHEREAS straw output is impacted by drought similarly as hay, but has no specific Production Insurance coverage,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby Agricorp to modify their existing Forage Plan to include straw from cereals using the same rainfall stations across Ontario, and offer coverage to producers.

6. Renfrew Local Abattoirs

Mover: Tyler Armstrong
Seconded: Maynard Vander Galien

WHEREAS the lack of local abattoirs has become a huge bottleneck to local farms marketing their meats directly to consumers across Ontario; and

WHEREAS the only abattoir in Renfrew County currently processing beef and lamb is currently booked more than 5 months in advance, in what is typically the slow season, resulting in local farms have to book their anticipated spaces at an abattoir before their animals are even born and in some cases before they are bred, for example, to ensure enough slaughter space for the 2021 season, spaces have had to be booked up to one year in advance; and

WHEREAS booking animals into the local abattoir has become an increasing problem over the past 2-3 years; and with the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic this spring, it has brought to light this already stretched portion of the supply chain with an increase in people wanting to grow their own food; and this has buckled our local abattoir's capacity resulting in a severe lack of capacity to have animals harvested both for those marketing direct to consumer or retailer as well as for farmers wanting their own meat for themselves; and

WHEREAS some of the reasons for the abattoir shortage include: very slim margins, massive upfront investment, a huge lack of skilled labour (meat cutters/butchers) and unequal regulations, with examples of various abattoir operators experiencing different interpretations of the same regulation depending on what inspector is present, week to week,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture pursue the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs to improve clarity and simplicity in the provincial regulations made under the *Food Safety and Quality Act, 2001*, and create opportunities for local abattoirs, who are a very important part of a local food supply chain, to be able to help Ontario's best in class local food, meet the demands of its customers while strengthening a very important local food system.

7. Frontenac Commercial Vehicle Registration

Mover: John Williamson
Secunder: Victoria Tolls

WHEREAS many Ontario Farmers have trucks and/or trailers to deliver their commodity to market; and

WHEREAS many are required to register for a Commercial Vehicle Operator's Registration Certificate (CVOR); and

WHEREAS the reason it is required is because of weight of vehicle and/or trailer and farm plates are classed as commercial; and

WHEREAS the fee has gone from no cost to \$50.00 annually; and

WHEREAS commercial vehicles are required to maintain a Driver's Daily Log and a Vehicle Daily Inspection report which is designed for trucks and heavy trailers and these books each cost about \$15.00 monthly; and

WHEREAS most are ½ ton or ¾ ton trucks and small trailers to haul their own product and not commercial trucking; and

WHEREAS the producer is paid for their product not their trucking; and

WHEREAS some municipality police forces as a cash grab are now checking for driver logs and inspection forms even for empty trucks since a plate check comes up as commercial: and

WHEREAS the Ford government is trying to push deregulation and food production; and

WHEREAS these are not required for the same truck pulling recreational trailers: and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the appropriate Minister/Ministry for the regulation to be amended and /or interpreted that if you are hauling your own produce/commodity that a CVOR Certificate not be required nor a drivers log or inspection report not be needed as you are not being compensated for trucking and hauling your own product and definitely not when used or could be used as a passenger vehicle.

8. East Nipissing/Parry Sound, West Nipissing/Sudbury East & Algoma Slow Moving Vehicle Signage

Mover: Michael Marchant
Seconder: Jason LeBlond

WHEREAS the Ontario Federation of Agriculture launched a Road Safety Campaign in 2019 to raise awareness for farm vehicles on the road and increase engagement and awareness; and

WHEREAS the OFA outlined the possibility of extending this campaign by encouraging municipal governments to install more 'slow moving vehicles travel this roadway' signage in local communities; and

WHEREAS the OFA further outlined the possibility of establishing partnerships with the MTO and other organizations to work together on road safety initiatives; and

WHEREAS local municipalities face barriers in establishing a Slow-Moving Vehicle safety programme, which is necessary to install signs identifying areas of slow-moving vehicles on local and on provincial highways; and

WHEREAS local federations are well positioned to work with their municipalities to enact strong, effective slow-moving vehicle safety programmes,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with the MTO, municipal governments and other relevant stakeholders to improve the viability of installing slow moving vehicles travel this roadway signage on local and provincial roads,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture develop and provide technical support/resources for use by interested local federations to help facilitate the implementation of slow-moving vehicle safety programmes and the installation of signs on local and provincial roads

9. Ottawa Wild/ Feral Pigs in Ontario

Mover: Paul Mussell
Seconder: John Williamson

WHEREAS wild pigs are an invasive species that can cause extensive crop damage and are a known disease carrier and killer of domestic livestock; and

WHEREAS they are a known potential carrier of 35 diseases including African Swine Fever and 40 parasites and like domestic pigs can have more than one litter per year and large litters; and

WHEREAS Ontario now has an established population of wild pigs and populations have rapidly expanded in Saskatchewan, Alberta and many U.S. states causing millions of dollars of agricultural losses; and

WHEREAS the various U.S. governments are now spending in excess of \$300 million on compensation and addressing the problem; and

WHEREAS the States of Colorado and New York are free of wild pigs because of a successful eradication program; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) lobby the Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs and the Ontario Government to implement programs to eradicate wild pigs and get Ontario to be a wild pig free province; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA encourage its members to report any sightings to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

10. Bruce Infrastructure Funding

Mover: John Gillespie

Secunder: Les Nichols

WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has estimated the annual infrastructure funding deficit for municipalities in Ontario is \$4.9 billion; and

WHEREAS farm taxes have increased yet the infrastructure funding deficit for many rural municipalities is much worse, for example Bruce county alone, not including its lower tiers had a \$12 million deficit according to it's 2016 asset management plan; and

WHEREAS farmers need access to a reliable network of roads and bridges to get their product to market; and

WHEREAS if municipalities cannot maintain rural roads and bridges, more farm vehicles will be diverted to high-traffic routes causing increased congestion and traffic safety concerns; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) has successfully worked with municipal stakeholders in the past on lobbying for infrastructure funding, such as having the Connecting Links program reinstated; and

WHEREAS the province of Ontario is in need of economic stimulus to recover from the COVID-19 crisis; and

WHEREAS according to the centre of special economics; investing in Infrastructure provides a GDP "return on investment" between \$2.46 and \$3.83 for every dollar invested in infrastructure; and

WHEREAS as Dr. David Freshwater presented at OFA's 2017 AGM, greater economic stimulus can be achieved by investing in under performing regions of the economy such as rural Ontario,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture collaborate with all relevant municipal stakeholders to jointly lobby the province for additional infrastructure funding targeted at rural municipalities.