



Message from the President Sid Atkinson

All through December and the Christmas season I was amazed at how many folks added a very heartfelt Happy New Year to their usual season greetings. I think it was about January 3rd that my niece posted on Facebook how she felt so let down because nothing had changed, my guess is that she expressed what a lot of us are feeling. The isolation, travel restrictions and lockdowns can be another challenge to our mental health, your Northumberland

Federation of Agriculture knows this and wants to help. We have an arrangement with a counselor that provides up to 4 sessions at no charge to OFA members, there will be a number to call in this news letter. My experience tells me that the virus will run its course and will fade when that will happens is the million dollar question, in the meantime be careful out there.

Crop prices have made an incredible run in the last month and a half, with not a

lot of old crop left unsold my guess is that we haven't hit the ceiling yet. I don't pretend to be a marketing expert but this looks like an exciting time to be in the crop business. As someone that does understand the markets often says "when they pass the cookie plate around make sure you take some" or "you can't go broke selling at a profit". Sounds like good advice to me.

Sid

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Notes from OFA

Ontario
Federation of
Agriculture

The Conservation Authorities act as you all know has come under review. OFA believes this review is needed and long overdue. The following is part of the submission OFA made to the committee on the CA review.

OFA emphasizes that the principle resource-based land use within the areas of Ontario where conservation authorities operate is agriculture. Provincially, the protection of Ontario's prime agricultural areas for their long-term agricultural use is a key objective.

Municipal councillors appointed: OFA believes that conservation authorities benefit from having board representation that is not limited to municipal councillors, but reflective of the broader interests of the watershed. We recommend that the current system of appointments to the authority board by whomever council chooses as its municipal appointment to the authority be retained.

Section 14(4): Member from the agriculture sector appointed: A further amendment to section 14(4) authorizes the Minister to appoint a "representative of the agricultural sector" to the authority board. The "representative of the agricultural sector" addresses a long-standing OFA ask; a change to the Conservation Authorities Act we welcome. However, in light of the proposed amendments to section 14.1 on the duties of members to their respective municipalities, we question what the role of the representative of the agricultural sector will be, how they will be chosen, to whom they will be accountable to and will they be a voting member? OFA recommends that the role of the agricultural representative on the board be defined, and that conservation authorities work with their agricultural community

to determine how best to ensure an agricultural representative is respected by their peers in the community.

Finally, we recommend that the representative of the agricultural sector be a member of an accredited general farm organization. OFA recommends that the agricultural sector representative be a full voting member of the conservation authority's board.

Currently, the objects of a conservation authority in section 20 are, "to provide, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, programs and services designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, oil, coal and minerals."

OFA recommends that the definition of mandatory programs and services be combined with a provincial commitment that ensures all thirty-six conservation authorities have the financial resources to fully deliver the provincially mandated programs and services.

OFA recommends that agricultural stewardship programs be included among an authority's mandatory programs and services to be determined under section 21.1.

As of January 7th, OFA is compiling a list of creditable members from the agricultural community to sit on CA boards to effectively address agriculture's concerns at the board level.



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Northumberland County Rep

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905-372-3329 ext. 6492

Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

Farmer Wellness Program

Congratulations to NFA on launching the Farmer Wellness Program in Northumberland. This mental health service is available to all OFA members in Northumberland County. It includes access to four counseling sessions at no charge. 100% confidential. I encourage you to reach out to Michael Doris Counseling Service and see if counseling is the right fit for you **(705) 999-7916**

Bill 156 Proclaimed

Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2020 came into effect on December 5, 2020. This long-awaited piece of legislation will protect Ontario's food supply chain, from farm to table, without infringing on the right to peacefully protest and, in conjunction with the *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act (PAWS), 2019*, ensures animals are protected and cared for properly. Now begins the work of enforcement and NFA was proactive on this by meeting with a representative from the OPP earlier this fall. Directors were able to emphasize the importance of protecting our farm properties and the need for swift OPP response should there be an issue of trespassing. NFA will continue the conversation with local OPP in the new year.

OFA Submission on Conservation Authorities Act

The provincial government introduced Bill 229 on November 5. Schedule 6 of Bill 229 proposes to amend the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Since 2017, Bill 229 is the third statute to propose amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. And before that, the government held two rounds of consultations on a review of conservation authorities in 2015 and 2016.

Find OFA's submission here: <https://ofa.on.ca/resources/ofa-submission-regarding-schedule-6-of-bill-229-amendments-to-the-conservation-authorities-act/>

Merged Property Titles

In 2019, the Honourable Doug Downey (MPP for Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte) introduced Bill 88 to amend the Planning Act. His Bill would allow the original lot fabric to be kept in the case of properties that merged due to the death of an abutting joint owner. Bill 88 was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs but that is where it sits. OFA encourages all Ontario farmers to write the Clerk of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs to request that the Committee hold public hearings on Bill 88 as soon as possible, so that Bill 88 can proceed to Third Reading and is hopefully passed into law. Letters can be directed to:

Julia Douglas Clerk – Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
99 Wellesley Street West Room 1405 Queen's Park Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A2
Email: comm-financeaffairs@ola.org
Fax: 1-416-325-3505

New OFA President Peggy Brekveld elected

A farewell and thank you to Keith Currie for his 4 years as President leading the organization through many challenges, and welcome to Peggy Brekveld as she takes over for Keith.

For the first time in OFA history, the executive committee was elected by the board of directors following a bylaw ratification that was voted on by the delegates during the annual meeting. The change to the organization's governance model came as a result of the implementation of bylaw 20-1. The new bylaw has fundamentally changed the way OFA elects its President and two Vice President positions.

Peggy is a northern Ontario farmer and has previously held the position of Vice President of OFA for six years. Along with her presidency, Peggy will also hold the position of OFA's Director-at-Large. Apart from her role at OFA, Peggy serves as Vice President of the Agricultural Adaptation Council. Recently recognized as one of the six 2020 Influential Women in Canadian Agriculture, Peggy and her family own and operate Woodstar Farm, a 75-cow dairy operation near Thunder Bay. She is known as an advocate for diversity in the agriculture sector and will prove to be a strong female role model for the organization.

OFA launches Focus on Food and Focus on Livestock video series

OFA is proud to launch a series of training videos through the Feeding Your Future project that highlights Ontario producers with farmer-to-farmer advice as well as career options for those exploring job opportunities. The *Focus on Food* and *Focus on Livestock* videos were developed with local commodity groups, including: Beef Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Apple Growers, Ontario Berry Growers, Ontario Pork, Grain Farmers of Ontario and South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation. These videos discuss practical methods on crop and livestock operations that can improve economic efficiency on Ontario farms. Resource recommendations are also provided as well as advice from industry experts. To learn more about the Feeding Your Future initiative and the Focus on Food and Focus on Livestock video series, visit feedingyourfuture.ca.



Be Social

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Twitter:
@ResiWalt

www.FARM911.ca

Resi Walt

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

NORTHUMBERLAND FARMER WELLNESS PROGRAM



The launch of the Farmers Wellness Program in Northumberland is pretty big news. Counselling by someone skilled and experienced who has an agriculture background and can accommodate farmer's unique schedules promises to be a great tool for mental health in the Northumberland agriculture community. As an OFA member you get four sessions at no cost. You are essential and you feed the population, you need to take care of your mental health just as much as your physical health. Reach out to Michael Doris Counselling for support. 705-999-7916

New Programs For Financial Assistance

OFA published an extensive list of Federal and Provincial financial assistance programs for individuals and businesses, including farm business in response to the COVID pandemic. As we spend more time in our office this winter planning and preparing for the 2021 season, take some time to go through the list to see what your operation is eligible for.

<https://ofa.on.ca/resources/summary-of-government-financial-assistance-for-ontario-farm-businesses/>

Here are a few on the list:

- Canadian United Small Business Relief Fund (CUSBRF)
- Ontario-Canada's Emergency On-Farm Support Fund
- Ontario's support in lockdown areas
- Ontario Main Street Relief Grant: PPE support
- Ontario Agri-Food Workplace Protection Program
- Canada's Agriculture and Food Business Solution Fund
- Canada's Regional Relief and Recovery Fund
- Canada's \$5 billion increase to Farm Credit Canada's lending
- Canada's Income Tax Payment Deferral

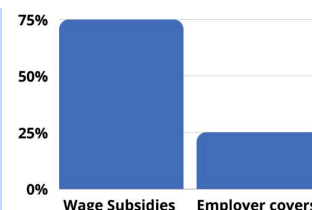
Hire an Intern !

The Community Training and Development Centre is looking for employers to hire an intern. Have you ever thought about hiring someone to help you with your technology, marketing something you produce on your farm, or redesigning your existing space? Give them a call and have a conversation about what your needs could be and where funding could be available for you. The Ag industry is struggling to have bodies to help and these places are trying to help with that need with people who have skills that could be useful to you.

The Community Training and Development Centre
ctdclearningplace@outlook.com
905-396-9967

Register at swpp.magnet.today

Eligible Employers can access up to **75%** of intern wages up to **\$7500** per student intern!



Food Freedom Day *Canada!* February 9th, 2021

Do you know about food freedom day? It's the date that a Canadian household of average income will have earned enough to pay their entire year's grocery bill. Canadians spent 11% of their disposable income on food in 2020. When talking to consumers let them know farmers receive a small percentage of the total price they pay for food. Keep the conversations going.

<https://www.cfa-fca.ca/programs-and-projects/food-freedom-day/>

These countries spend the least on food

Percent of consumer expenditure spent on food that was consumed at home, by selected countries, 2015



Source: ERS, USDA calculations based on data from Euromonitor International



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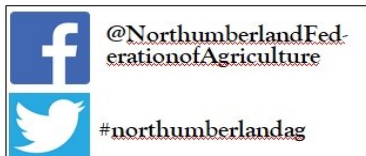
Source: ERS, USDA calculations based on data from Euromonitor International





**NORTHUMBERLAND
FEDERATION OF
AGRICULTURE**

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Gadgets

Digital resource that you may find useful.



**Ottawa Valley
Smart Farms**

Agricultural technology is dominated by large manufacturers who care more about their bottom line than your specific needs. We believe technology should serve and benefit the farmer and not the company providing it. Check them out.

<https://news.valley.farm/>

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE AND BEST WISHES
FOR A
SAFE & PROSPEROUS 2021**

Lisa

NAVIGATING
our road to
RECOVERY
2020 Virtual Annual General Meeting

November 23rd NFA delegates participated in the virtual OFA AGM. A very different experience than being there in person and networking with farmer delegates across the province. You realize what is missing when you have to do things differently and see the benefit of face to face contact.

Here is a link to the digital book for the AGM with the presidents report and general manager report.

https://www.flipsnack.com/audra2noble/ofa2020_agmnew4/full-view.html

As a member you can see all the work these dedicated people do for the Agriculture industry. Here is a year in review for OFA and watch for a few Northumberland people in the clip.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvynvsDdh5E&feature=emb_logo&ab_channel=OntarioFarms



Do you know someone who wants to learn how to cook?

OFA's Six by Sixteen program gets kids in the kitchen to plan and prepare six healthy, nutritious meals by the time they are sixteen.

Getting people more involved with their food and where it comes from, gives them lifelong skills that support local farmers, food processors and our economy. These brand new videos can inspire a lifetime love for cooking.

Check out this list of how to.

<http://www.sixbysixteen.me/learn.htm>

You don't have to be a kid to learn something new.



**FEB 23
2021**



Farm Credit Canada

FCC has some interesting online events. I just watched "How to Digitize your Farm with Jesse Hirsh" and it is amazing what farmers are doing around the world. Want to be inspired and informed? Check out this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNMrvm4EdAA&ab_channel=FarmCreditCanada

Go to FCC knowledge section and see if there are any virtual events that interest you. Winter is learning time for farmers so pull up a chair and absorb.

<https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/knowledge/events.html>

WELCOME

**New NFA director
Brian Crews
has joined the
team. He is
replacing outgoing
director Gord
Sharpe. Thank you
Gord for your time
at NFA.**