



NFA
Northumberland
Federation of Agriculture

News & Notes

Working for a Vibrant and Innovative Agriculture Industry



2021 ISSUE #1

Message from the President Sid Atkinson

Greetings everyone. I'm sure that if you are anything like me the pandemic, shutdown, lockdown, social distancing, mask wearing thing is getting very tiresome. Thankfully our county has been spared for the most part or not as badly affected as others whichever way that you want to look at it. However the added stress can be a challenge to our mental wellbeing which is where your Northumberland Federation of Agriculture can help with our farmer wellness program, check it out.

On a more encouraging note crop prices are making a terrific run, the opportunity to contract at a profit is there as a well-known grain business owner has been known to say "when they pass the cookies be sure to take some", very sage advice. For those that didn't sell last fall there has been a big reward deferring sales until now. On the other hand those of us who buy supplement for our herds those feed bills are getting very noticeable. Livestock farmers are nervously doing an inventory of their hay

supplies, hay is expensive and hard to find and with more profitable prospects for cash crops, fields that were growing hay could likely be growing cash crops this year which will add to scarcity of hay in a years' time. In my humble opinion if we are planning to succeed then we had better have a well thought out plan. Be sure to talk with all your crop and feed advisors at the end of the day their success depends on your success.

Sid

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Notes from OFA

Ontario
Federation of
Agriculture

Fuel & Farming

OFA is supporting a Lampton County resolution maintaining the continuance of **Enbridge Line 5** during tunnel construction and advocating on behalf of farmers in critical need of reliably sourced propane. This line delivers Western Canadian crude oil to Southwestern Ontario and Northern Michigan, where it supplies refineries producing gasoline, propane, diesel, jet fuel and other products. Line 5 delivers over half of Ontario's crude oil and about two-thirds consumed in Quebec, as well as one-half of Michigan's propane needs, which makes it an integral piece of the North American energy infrastructure. It has operated safely and reliably since the 1953 easement began, where it traverses the Strait of Mackinac in Northern Michigan.

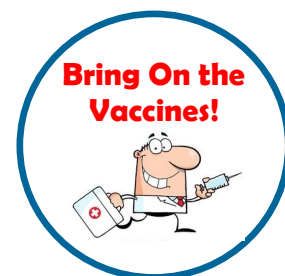
In November 2020, Michigan filed a legal action to force a Line 5 shutdown, giving Enbridge until May 2021 to arrange an orderly closure. Enbridge has filed a lawsuit challenging the order and are working on a long-term solution to add further protection at Lake Michigan, by building a tunnel to house Line 5 deep under the Straits of Mackinac. The regions affected in Canada and the U.S. would see a 14.7-million-US-gallons-per-day supply shortage of gas, diesel and jet fuel (about 45% of current supply).

OFA will continue to work with stakeholders and Enbridge, to ensure both levels of government, as well as the Canadian

Federation of Agriculture are aware of the importance of Line 5 to the Ontario and Quebec agricultural community as a source of propane for critical activities such as heating livestock, poultry and greenhouse operations, as well as irrigation and grain drying activities. To have this source of energy halted in May would put farm operations at risk.

Clean Fuel Standard - Some of the fears that have been generated by the proposed regulations for the **Clean Fuel Standards** have been alleviated by Environment and Climate Change's (ECCC) recognition that the criteria set out for the crop feedstocks by the US EPA for the US renewable fuel standard are stringent enough to comply with the Land Use Biodiversity (LUB) criteria. This will significantly enable Canadian farmers to be deemed eligible and under with the regulations. Ian Nokes, policy advisor at OFA confirmed that any land that had been cropped before July 2020 would be eligible to grow crops for Clean Fuel. OFA continues to work with the Ministry of Energy Environment and Climate Change, Grain Farmers of Ontario, and all affected stakeholders to come to a satisfactory outcome to the clean fuel standard.

Bruce Buttar OFA director Zone 12



NFA Directors 2021

President

Sid Atkinson - 705-924-2145
sid.atkinson0658@gmail.com

Past President

Brighton - Martin Opsteen
613-920-1170
martinopsteen@gmail.com

Vice President

Christie Prins - 613-849-5987
prymefarms@gmail.com

OFA Director

Bruce Buttar - 905-373-6175
Bruce.Buttar@ofa.on.ca

PAC Member

Arlene Dorland - 613-475-0891
dorlandab@xplornet.com

**Alnwick/Halldimand -
Allan Carruthers**
905-376-5049
carruthersallan@gmail.com

Cramahe - Doug Gray
905-344-1100
dbgray@xplornet.ca

Hamilton - Paul Burnham
905-372-8263
burnham.market@sympatico.ca

Port Hope - Ben Currelly
905-753-2239
ben@ganaraskagain.com

Quinte West - Brian Crews
613-391-8990
brian-crews@hotmail.com

Trent Hills - Terry Linton
705-924-2791
terrylinton@hotmail.com

Directors at Large

Ian Sculthorpe 905-377-5520
ian.sculthorpe@hotmail.com

Mark DeJong - 905-376-5570
dejong.mark1968@gmail.com

Albert Botha - 289-251-6872
ontariolamb@gmail.com

OFA Members Service Rep

Resi Walt 613-847-3037
Toll free: 877-277-3037
resi.walt@ofa.on.ca

Northumberland County Rep

Trissia Mellor, Ag Manager
905-372-3329 ext. 6492

Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

Farmer Wellness Program

Congratulations to Deb Vanberkel, winner of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's (CFA) national award, **The Brigid Rivoire Award for Champions of Agricultural Mental Health**. Deb received the award on February 17, 2021 during CFA's Annual General Meeting, held virtually for a national audience. The award recognizes a specific initiative that has made outstanding contributions in raising awareness, addressing stigma, and supporting mental health for farmers in their local community. Deb was selected for her work on the Farmer Wellness Program, a counselling service dedicated to the farming community.

Deborah Vanberkel initiated the Farmer Wellness Program and worked with the Lennox & Addington Federation of Agriculture (LAFA) as well as the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) to launch the program as a pilot in 2019, and which has now graduated to a permanent program administered by LAFA and has expanded into four other counties and counting.
farmerwellnessprogram.ca

Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2020

With the new Act in place, it's important for farmers to be aware of how they are protected under it, and to start familiarizing themselves with the language. Your farm is now considered an "animal protection zone" and signage is NOT required to inform the public of this – your farm is inherently protected under the Act. Signage is only required in very rare circumstances. Fines have been greatly increased under the new Act, and the statute of limitations has been increased to 2 years. If you do need to call the OPP to report trespassing, refer to the "Security from Trespass" legislation when you make the call. There's work to be done to make sure all OPP detachments are aware of this new protection for our farmers.

Bill C-206 OFA is pleased that Bill C-206, introduced by MP Philip Lawrence, passed its second reading on February 24, 2021. This Bill would amend the current wording in the **Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act** to include natural gas and propane as qualifying farming fuels that would be exempt from the federal fuel charge, also known as the Federal Carbon Tax. OFA supports broadening the agriculture exemption from the Federal Carbon Tax. The Bill now goes to a standing committee and OFA has requested to present to the committee to ensure that it meets the needs of farmers.



Making soup at OAFVC

I was happy to be invited to the Ontario Agri-Food Venture Centre back in February to help cook and package soup for a United Way program. We made potato leek soup and filled individual meal-sized packets – about 1000 units in 5 or so hours. It was very cool to see the process from start to finish and gave me a new appreciation for the food processing industry! The soup was delicious and hearty and will fill a lot of hungry bellies. Thank you Trissia Mellor for inviting me to experience the wonderful happenings of the OAFVC!

Carbon Tax Rebate Could be on It's Way Soon!

Way to go MP Philip Lawrence for getting your private members bill to the house of commons. On February 24th the bill won support to exempt all farmers from carbon tax on natural gas and propane. NFA met with MP Lawrence in Jan. 2020 to give him the farmers side of this issue and he took action. MPs from the Conservative, New Democrat, Bloc and Green parties voted in favour of Ontario MP Philip Lawrence's Bill C-206, sending it to the House of Commons agriculture committee with a 177 to 145 vote. Francis Drouin was the lone Liberal to support the bill. Check out this link to see how MP's vote. www.ourcommons.ca/members/en/votes/43/2/60

Rebates could be on their way soon according to the following article.

www.realagriculture.com/2021/02/

Be Social

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



The Agriculture and Agri-Food sector

GENERATES
1 in 8
JOBs in Ontario
EMPLOYING 807,000 PEOPLE

GENERATED
more than **\$37B**
for the **ONTARIO**
ECONOMY
(ALMOST 6% OF OUR GDP)

ONTARIO



leads the greenhouse vegetable sector
with 69% of total harvested area in Canada



has the 3rd largest food and beverage
manufacturing sector in North America
Provides 130K direct jobs, generates \$41B in
revenue and \$7.6B in exports/year



accounts for 24% of Canada's
agricultural exports at \$14.8B



Road Safety Review for Spring

Farmers will soon be back on the road again and sharing with the consumer. Here is a review of some of the safety rules of the road.

- Always drive on the road and not the shoulder which may not support the weight. Yield 1/2 of the roadway to oncoming vehicles
- Lights, head and tail, must be used 1/2 hour before sunset to 1/2 hour after sunrise. Farm vehicles wider than 2.6 meters(8.5') require special lighting and implements over 2.6 m(20') require side marker lights front and rear.
- Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) signs must be on all tractors or self propelled implement and should be centred 2' - 6' above the road. These vehicles **must** operate at 40km/h (25m/h) or less. Replace faded SMV signs so they are clearly visible from 150m (500'). When carrying a farm vehicle on a truck or trailer the SMV sign should be covered or removed. SMV should never be placed on a fixed object such as a gate post or mailbox.
- Farm wagons and implements require two separated means of attachment in case one fails. The safety chain must be able to withstand the weight of the towed implement plus it's load.
- Farmers are liable for mud left on the road and must take the necessary actions to ensure you keep clear the roads you travel on.
- Hand held devices are banned while driving on the road with farm tractors or self propelled implements.
- A driver's license is not required to drive a farm tractor or self-propelled implement on the road but you must be 16 years of age or older. Suspended licences holders are prohibited to drive farm machinery on the highway.

ofa.on.ca/resources/farm-implements/



Agriculture Census May 2021 How census data help Canadian farmers

With the pandemic continuing to influence how we shop and prepare meals for our families, national agriculture and sustainable local food supplies are top of mind for many of us. That's why it is important for our farmers to have access to critical information required to make informed decisions about their operations to help feed Canadians and to continue to be competitive and strong trading partners.

Statistics Canada's Census of Agriculture is an important tool that helps farmers see emerging trends in agricultural technologies and practices. Its results allow the industry and the public to get a snapshot of the state of agriculture in Canada, and the importance of this sector.

The census is the only source of community-level data that ensures that the unique perspectives of farmers, farm communities and agricultural operations are included when making decisions that affect them and their livelihood. The data are essential to defend the interests of farmers and the agriculture industry in trade disputes and to ensure market access. They provide fact-based evidence to inform government decisions regarding financial support programs for Canadian farmers. They also help to measure the impacts of disease outbreaks and climate change (such as fires, floods, droughts and storms).

The 2021 version of the census is almost here, and there are a few things Canadian farm operators should know. In early May, all Canadian farmers will receive an invitation letter with easy-to-follow instructions on how to complete the questionnaire online. To best support farmers at this busy time of year and to help reduce their reporting burden, concrete steps have been taken to make the 2021 questionnaire quicker and easier for them to respond. This means that only questions relevant to each operator's farm will be asked when filling out the census questionnaire online. It also means that selected questions may be replaced using high-quality alternative data sources when available.

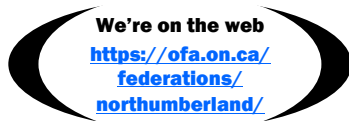
Find more information on the [census website](https://census.gc.ca).





**NORTHUMBERLAND
FEDERATION OF
AGRICULTURE**

Contact: **Lisa Meekes**
Secretary-Treasurer/Newsletter Editor
1246 Dingman Rd
Castleton, ON K0K1M0
Phone: 905.269.7419
Email: nfa.lisam@gmail.com



Gadgets
Digital resource that you may find useful.

ACA Agriculture Carbon Alliance

Was formed to work on carbon pricing & providing solutions-oriented feedback to legislators.
Follow them on twitter
[@cdnagalliance](https://twitter.com/cdnagalliance)

twitter

FARMER
wellness program

Professional counselling service for OFA members and their families in
Northumberland, Hastings, Prince Edward, Lennox and Addington

To book your appointment:
farmerwellnessprogram.ca

Farmers Mental Health

Great news for farmers of Northumberland, check out the brand new web site www.farmerwellnessprogram.ca/

Get familiar with it so you can share this important tool for OFA members. Farmers need not suffer in silence anymore. Your mental health is as important as your physical health so don't ignore it. Get help.



Have You Ever Visited the Resource Page on the OFA Web Site?
From factsheets on current issues and concerns, to webinars that keep your wheels on the road, there is much to access. Many issues that fall on this agriculture industry take so much time to digest that it sometimes becomes overwhelming. Having policy advisors who take the time to understand and produce valuable recourses from the farmers interest, is a valuable aspect of belonging to this farmer led organization from Ontario's farming community. Take a little time to check it out and see what benefits you and your farm business. ofa.on.ca

Lisa



Reminder to renew your OFA Membership by April 15th

- Directors, staff and volunteers working on your behalf to secure sound agricultural policy for Ontario
- Access to OFA Member Service Representatives
- Special discounts and promotions exclusive to OFA members
- Voting rights for OFA leadership
- Your OFA member card



NFA was able to donate \$5000 to Northumberland County FOOD 4 ALL so all county food banks can benefit and continue to make sure everyone in Northumberland has access to safe and healthy food.



Healthy Workplaces

10 HEALTHY HABITS for mental fitness

Effects of Mental Illness