

August 23, 2021

Josh Mosiondz
Provincial Minor Use Coordinator
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
1 Stone Road West, 1st Floor NW
Guelph, ON
N1G 4Y2
Sent via email: joshua.mosiondz@ontario.ca

Dear Josh Mosiondz,

Re: Letter of support regarding emergency use status in Ontario for Avipel Dry Hopper Powder in for treatment of corn seed as a bird repellent

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is the largest general farm organization in Ontario, proudly representing more than 38,000 farm family members across the province. OFA has a strong voice for our members and the agri-food industry on issues, legislation and regulations governed by all levels of government. We are passionate and dedicated to ensuring the agri-food sector and our rural communities are included, consulted and considered in any new and changing legislation that impacts the sustainability and growth of our farm businesses.

Ontario's diverse and innovative agri-food sector is a powerhouse for the province – growing and producing more than 200 farm and food products, fuelling our rural communities and driving the provincial economy by generating more than 860,000 jobs and contributing over \$47 billion to Ontario's annual GDP. We are the leading agricultural advocate for Ontario farmers, their businesses and their communities.

OFA supports obtaining emergency use status in Ontario for Avipel Dry Hopper Powder for treatment of corn seed as a bird repellent. Damage to crops by birds is a serious problem for many Ontario farmers. Birds are known to destroy hundreds of acres of field and sweet corn before it has had a chance to emerge and mature. Sandhill cranes are a common nuisance bird that damage corn crops in Ontario, causing significant crop damage and yield loss.

OFA recently conducted research that found that the economic damage caused by wildlife to Ontario crop producers was nearly \$215 million in 2019. Sandhill Cranes, Canada geese, and other non-migratory birds were found to be responsible for much of this damage.

OFA understands that Avipel is approved for use as a seed treatment in the United States. Many of the areas in the United States where Avipel is approved border the Great Lakes and have agroclimatic conditions similar to Ontario. Emergency use status of Avipel Dry Hopper Power would allow for farmers to use the product as an additional tool to deter birds from damaging corn crops in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Brekveld". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Peggy Brekveld
President

cc: Eric Smith, Research Coordinator, Chatham Biotec
OFA Board of Directors