

Update on AGM 2020 Resolutions

20-11-03

Elgin

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

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.

Activity:

OFA contacted Andrew O'Connor from Ontario Ministry of Transportation requesting assistance in elevating a request to develop an agricultural-modified CVOR June 2021.

OFA engaged Ministry of Transportation (MTO) staff through spring 2021. The ministry responded this summer, that they are planning a review of the CVOR program's application process and assessment tools, of commercial vehicle requirements, knowledge, and best practices to ensure safe operation, and that the assessment is user-centric to meet the Ontario Digital Standard. This review will specifically consider the variety and type of operators in the CVOR program and how the Ministry may best manage that relationship.

Following up on the OFA resolution, and to ensure there is progress on conducting a balanced review, OFA has invited the Minister to discuss potential considerations. This is meant to ensure the ministry has the support of OFA in assessing the needs of Ontario farm-commercial vehicle operators and the safety of operators and others on our roadways.

[20-11-03 – OFA Letter to Elgin Federation President](#)

[20-11-03 -OFA Letter to MTO Minister CVOR Follow up request](#)

20-11-04

Perth

Misuse of Minister's Zoning Orders

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.

Activity:

As a result of the submitted resolution the OFA Board of Directors passed the following motion:

***“THAT OFA develop a resource guide for local federations to aid in their discussions with their respective municipalities regarding land use planning matters concerning agricultural land no matter how it is zoned; and
THAT OFA include in such a resource guide that a municipality should be encouraged to refrain from requesting that the Ontario government issue a Minister’s Zoning Orders (MZO) for zoning changes affecting agricultural land and farming communities and instead follow the municipality’s own planning processes.”***

OFA staff organized a meeting of the Policy Advisory Council to solicit feedback as to the kinds of information that could be contained within the Resource Guide that would be most useful to local federations to aid in their discussions with their local municipalities regarding land use planning matters. At the June OFA board meeting, approval was obtained to move forward with developing an updated Consolidated Land Use Policy, an updated Ag Matters Toolkit, and to start work on creating the resource guide based on input from the OFA board and Policy Advisory Council Meetings.

In April 2021, OFA published a Viewpoint article on the issue of Minister’s Zoning Orders (MZOs) and the threat to farmland in Ontario. President Peggy Brekveld penned an article which outlined our concerns with how this will impact the domestic food production. The Viewpoint was titled, *MZOs jeopardize long-term productivity and sustainability of Ontario’s farmland* – <https://ofa.on.ca/newsroom/mzos-jeopardize-long-term-productivity-and-sustainability-of-ontarios-farmland/>.

In response to the increased pressure on farmland caused by urban development and Minister’s Zoning Orders, OFA formulated a public awareness campaign focused on the importance of farmland preservation and protecting domestic food production – *Home Grown*. The initial launch of Home Grown (<https://homegrown.ofa.on.ca/>) was May 4, 2021, with the expectation that it would be a multi-year campaign. The ultimate goal of the campaign is to bring awareness of the rapid loss of Ontario farmland to urban audiences through targeted social media ads, microsite and an online petition. There also was an underlying political angle to our message that focused on the threat posed to productive farmland by urban development. Urban development and the use of Minister's Zoning Orders have been frequently used to by-pass longstanding land use policies.

Following the launch of the Home Grown campaign, we drafted and published a news release announcing the new campaign – <https://ofa.on.ca/newsroom/ofa-vows-to-protect-ontarios-farmland-with-new-advocacy-campaign/>.

Additionally, President Peggy Brekveld hosted two roundtable meetings with local federation leaders discussing a variety of topics including farmland preservation. A shared point of concern during these conversations focused on how to contain urban sprawl, Minister’s Zoning Orders (MZOs), resisting the pressure to develop farmland and the re-zoning/classification of agricultural land – <https://ofa.on.ca/newsroom/ofa-hosts-local-federation-leaders-across-ontario-for-an-open-roundtable-discussion/>.

OFA brought these important messages to the Rural Ontario Municipal Association meeting in January 2021, as well as at OFA's virtual lobby day in May 2021. Key messages and speaking notes were developed and shared with OFA board members and representatives prior to attending these meetings with elected officials and government policymakers. Several meetings were held over those two events which offered the opportunity to speak with government officials at both the municipal and provincial levels on the importance of protecting our natural resources. OFA representatives hosted virtual meetings with Minister Steve Clark and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) on multiple occasions voicing our concerns regarding Minister's Zoning Orders and the *Planning Act*. In addition, correspondence was to the Minister and MMAH in response to changes and provisions to the *Planning Act*.

OFA's Policy Advisory Council (PAC) provided feedback on the topics that could be contained within the Resource Guide that would be most useful to local federations to aid in their discussions with their local municipalities regarding land use planning matters. At the June 2021 board meeting, approval was obtained to move forward with developing an updated Consolidated Land Use Policy, an updated Ag Matters Toolkit, and to create the resource guide based on input from the OFA Board and PAC meetings. OFA staff will present a draft policy to the OFA Board for their consideration. The draft policy contains the natural heritage recommendations, economic and environmental benefits of preserving farmland, and a recommendations section at the bottom. Once the updated Consolidated Land Use Policy receives Board approval, the resource guide will be developed consistent with the approved content of the Consolidated Land Use Policy. OFA continues to provide advice and support to local federations navigating MZOs in their areas. Additional input will be sought to ensure a useful resource guide is developed. Once the resource guide is developed, it will be circulated to local federations to use as a reference in navigating MZOs, zoning by-laws and land use policies. OFA expects to release the guide in February 2022.

Significant digital and social media content was created, including a video highlighting the importance of preserving farmland. The video was narrated by President Peggy Brekveld – <https://youtu.be/nQwFnnobjTw>. In total, 17 posts were published across OFA's social media platforms on the topic of farmland preservation and MZOs. Additionally, the topic appeared 8 times in the OFA NewsWire (weekly newsletter) to members.

[20-11-04 – OFA Letter to Perth County President](#)

20-11-05

Russell

Insurance Coverage for Straw

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.

Activity:

OFA staff have had numerous communications with Agricorp staff regarding this issue. On May 26th OFA GM, Cathy Lennon wrote to the CEO of Agricorp. As a result of that letter, on June 25th Senior Policy Analyst Ben Le Fort, met with Agricorp staff to begin discussions exploring the feasibility of this proposal.

On May 26th OFA GM, Cathy Lennon wrote to the CEO of Agricorp. As a result of that letter, on June 25th Senior Policy Analyst Ben Le Fort, met with Agricorp and OMAFRA staff. Agricorp reported that this request has many design and implementation hurdles to overcome. This request has been identified as a low priority for Agricorp at this time. OFA staff recommends no further follow up as the likelihood of success is very low.

[20-11-05 – OFA Letter to Agricorp](#)

[20-11-05 – OFA Letter to Russell Federation President](#)

[20-11-05 – OFA Letter to Grain Farmers of Ontario](#)

[20-11-05 – Agricorp Response Letter](#)

20-11-06

Renfrew

Local Abattoirs

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.

Activity:

OFA President Peggy Brekveld has been participating in a Livestock Processing Capacity Working Group coordinated by OMAFRA. Several meetings have taken place over the past year with industry stakeholders including Meat & Poultry Ontario, livestock commodity representatives and the Minister of Agriculture. Conversation has included how to build on current livestock processing capacity, regulations that hold the industry back, and ways to address challenges such as labour shortages.

OFA President Peggy Brekveld and OFA Director Tracy Arts met with the Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction Nina Tangri on August 23, 2021. OFA noted that the Food

Safety and Quality Act, 2001 should be reviewed and also requested a review of the regulations to reduce the red tape for local abattoirs. OFA noted that depending on what inspector is present the interpretation can sometimes not be clear. Regulations might be interpreted differently by different people. There is a need for better clarity and simplicity.

OFA noted how during Covid-19 measures, processing capacity was shown to be inadequate. Provincially inspected abattoirs are essential to the marketing chain of Ontario's livestock and poultry production. Improving the clarity and simplicity in the provincial regulations made under the Food Safety and Quality Act, 2001 would help to create opportunities for local abattoirs. Associate Minister Tangri agreed to relay our concerns to the Ministry staff.

OFA has also requested suggestions from Renfrew County Federation of Agriculture (RCFA) on proposed regulatory amendments that would help improve clarity and simplicity in the regulations made under the Food Safety and Quality Act, 2001 and is waiting on their reply.

[20-11-06 – OFA Letter to Renfrew Federation President](#)

20-11-07

Frontenac

Commercial Vehicle Registration

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.

Activity:

OFA Board chose to not adopt this resolution.

[20-11-07 – OFA Letter to Frontenac Federation President](#)

20-11-08

East Nipissing Parry Sound/West Nipissing/Sudbury East & Algoma

Slow Moving Vehicle Signage

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with the Ministry of Transportation, 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.

Activity:

OFA Research Department has begun discussions with Communications Dept, MSR Department, OGRA, OPP, ROMA and local federations to develop an SMV Campaign including 1. Billboards, 2. MTO approved caution signage, 3. Social media campaign, 4. Education, public awareness, safety and correct farm vehicle SMV and lighting.

OFA helped to spread the importance of road safety and increase awareness of appropriately using Slow Moving Vehicle signs over the past 12 months through print ads, social media messages, Viewpoints, web content and repurposing videos.

On social media, OFA published 19 messages about road safety. These messages ranged from road safety reminders to our SMV video to retweets and comments on resources from OPP, media outlets and the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association.

OFA produced 2 Viewpoints on road safety in 2021, in April and September. Direct links to those are available here: <https://ofa.on.ca/newsroom/ofa-encourages-farmers-to-make-this-years-planting-season-safe-and-productive/> and <https://ofa.on.ca/newsroom/ofa-reminds-members-of-their-responsibility-for-a-safe-harvest-on-the-roads/>.

A road/farm safety message was shared and broadcast on the Grain Farmers of Ontario podcast – GrainTALK. It ran on the October 15 podcast – the 1-minute message was shared twice throughout the podcast.

Print ads were produced and published in the May issue and November issue of Better Farming magazine.

OFA responded to several media requests about the importance of making road sure everyone takes responsibility for road safety. Some of the media outlets OFA representatives spoke to include Farms.com, Globe and Mail, London Free Press etc.

Further, OFA contributed \$30,505, matched by a further \$30,505 from the County Federations through our Revive Fund in initiatives targeting Road Safety including the following examples:

County/Region	Topic
Algoma	wagon turning signs for farm laneways
Glengarry	Road Safety Radio campaign
Hastings	road safety signs
Huron	SMV Swap Program w local Grain Dryers

Leeds & Grenville	Updating Roadsigns - SMV, buggies
Prince Edward	Pass when safe' signs for wagons/buggies
West Nipissing	
Sudbury East	Road Safety Billboards
York	Pass when safe stickers

Starting in fall of 2020, with the support of Ontario livestock groups, OFA also undertook a letter-writing effort connecting local Federations to their police counterparts. While some Federations already had contact with local police, this created an introduction to those that had not. The letters offered insight into the type of farms and related activities active in the area. Key points raised included: Bill 156, rural crime, and road safety.

And new outreach tools were created such as this video with a farmer and OFA's Member Service Representative, Leah Emms

<https://twitter.com/OntarioFarms/status/1400101178084634627?s=19>

Approximately 20 Federations and Policing units have connected in various ways since this campaign began.

OFA has begun discussions with Ontario Good Roads Association, OPP, Rural Ontario Municipalities Association and local federations about a province-wide SMV Campaign.

OFA staff continue to engage OFA and county federation members, other stakeholders including Beef Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Provincial Police, Good Roads, Rural Ontario Municipalities Association and Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and Ministries of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs and Transportation regarding next steps in an ongoing action plan to be presented at the Feb, 2022 board meeting. This includes the awareness campaign, education, and support for farmers to ensure the proper use and installation of caution markers.

[20-11-08 – OFA Letter to County Federation Presidents](#)

20-11-09
Ottawa
Wild/Feral Pigs

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.

Activity:

Wild pig populations, if they become established, pose significant risks to the viability of agriculture, animal and human health, and the natural environment.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) believes that the negative impacts on agriculture, native wildlife, ecosystems, and biodiversity warrant the development and implementation of policies and programs to curtail the population growth and spread of wild pigs across Ontario. In response to the resolution, OFA has worked with government and key stakeholders to curtail the populations growth and spread of wild pigs in Ontario. In June 2021, OFA provided comments on the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)'s proposed strategy to address the threat of wild invasive pigs. OFA supported the proactive approach and core principles and commended the ministry on the collaborative nature of the strategy. OFA recognized the serious risk captive Eurasian wild boar, and their hybrids pose should they become established in the wild and supported the prohibition of live Eurasian wild boar in Ontario. In October 2021, the ministry finalized Ontario's Strategy to Address the Threat of Invasive Wild Pigs and set the proactive goal of preventing the establishment of invasive wild pigs in the province. To assist farmers and encourage faster transition from Eurasian wild boar farming, producers who agree to stop raising them within six months will be eligible for funding to shift to other forms of production such as heritage breeds of swine, other livestock or crop production. The ministry is also developing and sharing communications to encourage public reporting of wild pig sightings.

OFA supported adding wild pigs to the Invasive Species List under Ontario's *Invasive Species Act* in June 2021, as the negative impacts on native wildlife, ecosystems and biodiversity warrants the development and implementation of policies and programs to curtail the growth and spread of wild pigs across Ontario. Additionally, OFA supported prescribing the province as a control zone for pigs, and further supported prohibited the hunting of wild pigs in Ontario.

OFA has been active in communicating on the issue of wild pigs in Ontario, and the importance of sighting reports. OFA has created posts about wild pigs on our social media accounts in addition to sharing tweets from Ontario Pork which encourage members to report wild pig sightings. The issue was shared with members in the NewsWire, OFA's weekly newsletter multiple times.

OFA board and staff have, and will continue to engage regularly with key stakeholders to discuss important issues, share resources, and assist in communications with our membership on the topic of wild pigs, including the importance of reporting sightings. OFA will continue to advocate for policies and programs that ensure Ontario becomes and stays a wild pig-free province.

[20-11-09 – OFA Letter to Ottawa Federation President](#)

[OFA submission to Ontario MNRF regarding Invasive Wild Pigs](#)

[OFA submission to MNRF regarding the Invasive Species Act](#)

20-11-10

Bruce

Infrastructure Funding

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.

Activity:

OFA staff and board members had numerous discussions with Bruce County Federation of Agriculture (BCFA) on this issue. It was communicated to BCFA that OFA will continue to work with municipal stakeholders to lobby for increased funding for infrastructure in rural communities across Ontario.

[20-11-10 – OFA Letter to Bruce Federation President](#)