



2021 Annual General Meeting Resolutions

1. Leeds

OFA By-law amendment to designate an OFA Region

Mover: Ryan Passey

Secunder: Cornelia Danis

WHEREAS the nature of land ownership and agriculture has evolved over the years and farmers potentially own land in several counties, it may be the case that principal residence and farm property are not in the same county anymore; and

WHEREAS Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) Regional and local federation meetings provide OFA Members with the opportunity to meet and connect with other OFA Members who farm in the area; and

WHEREAS OFA Members who do not reside within any OFA Region shall designate on their membership application the Region where they farm or carry-on business, or the closest Region thereto, as their voting Region, and they shall be entitled to attend and vote at that Annual Regional meeting; and

WHEREAS OFA Members designated or assigned to a Region are eligible to be elected by the Members in their Region for the position of Councillor and Delegate at the Annual Regional meeting; and

WHEREAS when the OFA Board of Directors has determined the geographical boundaries of each Zone, an OFA Member's designated or assigned Region has determined the Zone in which they are eligible to vote for, and stand for election as, an OFA Zone Director; and

WHEREAS the number of Members in each Region is used in the calculation of funding provided by OFA to the local federations of agriculture; and

WHEREAS OFA Members who do reside within an OFA Region may wish to also designate the Region where they farm,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) Board of Directors amend OFA's By-laws to allow an OFA Member the option to designate the

OFA Region where they farm or carry on business, or the closest Region thereto, instead of remaining assigned to the Region in which they reside, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA Board of Directors enact an amended By-law to enable an OFA Member to designate their OFA Region before the Annual Regional meetings are held in 2022.

2. Leeds Business Risk Management

Mover: Ryan Passey
Secunder: Eleanor Renaud

WHEREAS Business Risk Management programme details for the year are normally released early in the calendar year, with production coverage details and payment deadlines. In 2021, details for the Beef RMP program weren't released until July 23, 2021, which is months later than normal; and

WHEREAS reporting timelines on eligible livestock sales are now delayed and payment timelines are also delayed, by many months; and

WHEREAS given that RMP is intended to help offset losses (based on production coverage rate), then any changes in the timelines for RMP payments has an impact on the financial stability of the farming operation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) work with Beef Farmers of Ontario, Agricorp and the Minister to develop a multi-year approval process for agriculture support programmes, so that, year-over-year, coverage expectations are predictable and repeatable and on time.

3. Leeds The Co-operators Dropping Coverage of Older Dairy Barns & Operations

Mover: Eleanor Renaud
Secunder: Brenda Dunster

WHEREAS the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) was the major founding member of The Co-operators insurance in Ontario over 60 years ago; and

WHEREAS OFA continues to be the largest founding member share holder; and

WHEREAS older dairy barns are well maintained and cared for by farmers who may have never had a claim on the barn or anything else in the policy; and

WHEREAS Co-Operators has a practice of doing detailed inspections of dairy & livestock barns,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) demand that The Co-operators Insurance company reverse its decision to no longer insure dairy operations whose barns are older.

4. Lanark Wild Parsnip

Mover: Derek Oliver

Secunder: Ashley Knapton

WHEREAS Wild Parsnip is designated as a noxious weed that is harmful to humans and livestock, and outcompetes native plant species; and

WHEREAS the Province and municipalities put in place protocols that supported spray and cutting programs along highways, Municipal roads, and ditches to reduce the effects of Wild Parsnip on landowners and the public at large; and

WHEREAS recently the province and many municipalities have discontinued these programs and have resulted in a significant increase of the Wild Parsnip population in these areas, which have spread into farmland and private properties; and

WHEREAS appointed Weed Inspectors are not fully utilizing their authority under the Weed Control Act to facilitate the control of Wild Parsnip,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) lobby the Ontario Government and Regional Warden's Councils to take a more proactive approach with their protocols to control wild parsnip and other noxious weeds on public lands, and along Provincial and Municipal roadsides and ditches, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that OFA encourage appointed weed inspectors to facilitate the control of Wild Parsnip along Provincial and Municipal roadways, and on private properties.

5. Oxford Carbon Credit Program

Mover Dirk Boogerd

Secunder: Nicole Barnett

WHEREAS the agricultural community is paying carbon tax on an essential part of their business; and

WHEREAS field crops and farmland are continually sequestering carbon to benefit the environment,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the related ministries to implement a carbon credit payment program.

**6. York
OFA Time Sensitive Response Policy & Procedure**

Mover: Jordan Coates

Seconder: Kim Empringham

WHEREAS the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is the respected Provincial voice representing farmers in Ontario and OFA comment letters and submissions carry weight with provincial and municipal governments; and

WHEREAS some county issues that have a scope or impact well beyond the local county and would benefit from OFA comments; and

WHEREAS OFA policy limits staff commenting/letter writing to issues that the OFA Board has developed a position on; and

WHEREAS some issues are extremely time sensitive and cannot wait for a regularly scheduled OFA Board meeting; and

WHEREAS there are several virtual or electronic options now available that could facilitate OFA Board discussion and decisions between regularly scheduled Board meetings,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) develop a policy and procedure in order to facilitate a response to time sensitive issues of a scope or impact beyond a local county issue that does not meet the timeframe of regularly scheduled Board meetings to allow for an OFA Board position to be developed within a necessary time frame.

Background Information:

There are times when county issues arise that have a scope or impact well beyond the local county and would benefit from OFA comments. It is our understanding that current OFA policy limits staff commenting/letter writing to issues that the OFA Board has developed a position on, for many appropriate reasons. Consequently, issues that arise without Board policy would be included on the next OFA Board meeting agenda to establish a Board position. The gap in this process is that some of these issues are extremely time sensitive and do not fit within the time frame required to wait for a monthly OFA Board meeting. For example, many municipalities only release reports associated with their Council agenda items less than a week before the meeting which means there is less than a week to formulate and submit correspondence to the agenda items. Throughout the pandemic we have all seen the need to respond to a variety of circumstances quickly and the uptake of new technologies has allowed us to do that. There are now several virtual meeting platforms that can be used for impromptu meetings and many associations now also permit email voting on time sensitive issues between Board meetings. We are suggesting that policy and protocols should be developed to guide the OFA Board and Staff when presented with time sensitive county-initiated issues that require OFA input in-between Board meetings.