



Message from the President Sid Atkinson

Greetings everyone, this will be my final Chair's message as my term as your NFA Chairman is coming to a close. Being the Chairman for this group of professional farmers has been my honour. Like everything else in our lives COVID has changed the way we do things and not for the better in my opinion. I certainly miss the social events like fairs, farm shows, auction sales and getting our board together in the same room for a meeting and sharing a coffee after. My hope is that we can put this all

behind us and get back to life as we used to know it. However life has changed and maybe just maybe there are some things that we can carry on with when this is all over, more folks able to work from home with less commuting and the zoom meeting phenomenon does have an upside.

With harvest coming on fast we want everyone to keep safety top of mind. It's easy to take shortcuts to do things faster but not necessarily safer ask me I know and have paid

the price for more hurry less speed. Now it's a case of testing every foot step on a slippery surface and slowing down at the top of a hill to avoid using the brakes half way down.

From what I've seen so far it's going to be big yields with a good price, to quote Don Honey "every now and then you need to win an inning to stay in the game".

Play safe and farm on!

Sid

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Notes from OFA

Ontario
Federation of
Agriculture

New Government - Renewing Focus on Ag

OFA looks forward to collaborating and working together with the newly elected federal government to keep agriculture and rural priorities at the forefront of their political agenda. The agri-food sector and rural Ontario is full of economic growth opportunities and the organization intends to work collaboratively to unlock that potential.

"Minority governments offer further opportunities for collaboration across all political parties to strengthen the agri-food sector and rural communities across Canada and Ontario," said Peggy Brekveld, OFA President. "OFA will continue to bring the message to federal politicians that an investment in farm

businesses, rural communities and the future of agriculture is an investment that will pay benefit all Canadians."

In the coming weeks and months, OFA plans to renew its focus with government on the issues impacting farmers including environmental sustainability, a fair carbon pricing policy, revisions to business risk management programs and access to skilled labour. Ontario's agri-food industry contributes more than \$47 billion in GDP to Canada's economy, and supports over 860,400 jobs across the province.

Bruce Buttar, OFA director Zone 12



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Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

NFA was hard at work this summer, representing the membership in front of municipal council on a variety of land use issues, as well as taking the time to meet with all the Mayors from each of the municipalities. Ahead of the federal election, NFA also made a point of meeting with the candidates to ensure agricultural issues were brought to their attention. Many hands make light work and it truly is a great team of Directors that represent the membership. I wish to thank all of you for volunteering your time during an already busy season. I wish to specifically thank President Sid Atkinson for encouraging the Board to make these meetings a priority and his dedication to local issues.

Did you notice some new signs dotting the countryside? [This was a fun agricultural awareness project for NFA. A special thank you to all the farmers who hosted these signs on their fields.](#)

The three crop identifier signs for corn, wheat and soybeans inform those driving by what is being grown in the field and the many beneficial end uses the crop provides. The signs will be re-usable for each new crop season and will be displayed in high-traffic areas in the county. NFA believes in the importance of agricultural awareness and trying to find new ways of sharing agricultural information with the public. It's all about cultivating an appreciation for the land and all that it provides us with.



OFA is gearing up for our **Annual General Meeting** in November and we made the decision to host it virtually again. Hopefully we'll be back in-person again next year. We look forward to hearing from guest speaker Terry O'Reilly of CBC and CFA's Mary Robinson. Check out OFA's website in November for a link to watch live.

We've launched some new social media accounts for our mental health service, **Farmer Wellness Program**. We're hoping to spread the word about the importance of our mental health and that it's ok to reach out for help when you're feeling extra stressed or anxious.

Find the Farmer Wellness Program

on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FarmerWellnessProgram>

and Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/farmer_wellness_program/



OFA Supports 4-H Ontario



OFA is proud to support 4-H Ontario, who have played a key role in our rural communities across the province.

A silent action for a 2021 Honda Foreman TRX520 ATV from Kitchener Waterloo Honda donated by OFA will raise funds to run upcoming provincial programming. The bidding for the Honda ATV will begin at \$3500 on September 15th and conclude on October 12th at 7pm. Here is a link to participate and learn more.

<https://4hontario.ca/revving-to-go-presented-by-4-h-ontario/>

Support agriculture's next generation of leaders by participating in the auction.



Enter to Win!

**Northumberland County has declared
October 4-10th
Agriculture Week in
Northumberland**

Key Drivers to Consumer Acceptance of Ag and Food Technology

Webinar October 25th 2:00 - 3:00

Agriculture and food have a rich history of bringing innovative solutions to market. As those solutions integrate more technology, it's increasingly important to understand how to build support for continued innovation and to ensure the future of a safe, sustainable food supply.

What causes consumers to either accept or reject technology when it comes to food production?

New research from The Center for Food Integrity (CFI) identifies key drivers of acceptance and rejection, providing insights on how the broader food chain can earn trust in technology.

Join CFI CEO Charlie Arnot as he details the findings in a free one-hour webinar Key Drivers to Consumer Acceptance of Ag and Food Technology on Monday, October 25, 2 p.m.

In the study, conducted with support from the United Soybean Board (USB), CFI measured consumer attitudes regarding four agriculture and food technologies with the overarching goal to identify the drivers of public acceptance and rejection of technology as a whole.

Learn about the strong, consistent themes that emerged on what consumers want – what they don't – and how those in food and agriculture can best implement strategies that will earn trust.

<https://mailchi.mp/ac0359a01a37/illuminate-report-meet-the-consumers-most-concerned-about-antibiotic-resistance-7879265?e=d2c8c3bf41>




**Ontario
YOUNG
FARMERS
Forum**

In-Person Farm Tours
East Zone - Nov. 27th, 2021
West Zone - Nov 28th, 2021

Virtual Speaker Sessions
Nov. 4th, 10th, 15th & 23rd




Happy Thanksgiving



Farm Safety and Our Family

With the increased number of kids being home-schooled and Grandparents helping out, there may be extra bodies around your farm. This is an interesting video showing blind spots on farm machinery. We all

can take a moment or two to get a refresher of how to be safe.

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?extid=dlgnGv2HCk2jPFk4&ref=watch_permalink&v=884257635318321

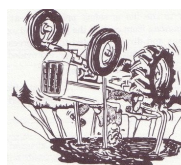
Tractor overturn/run overs are the number one cause of injury and death on the farm.

Here are some prevention tips:

- When given the option, drive tractors on the flattest possible land.
- Keep side mounted implements on the uphill side of the tractor.
- Avoid turning on slopes. Turn downhill, versus uphill, when turning is a necessity.
- Stay away from the edge of ditches and steep slopes.
- Attach hitches to the drawbar.
- Make sure tires are not frozen to the ground or stuck in mud before moving the tractor.
- Do not allow passengers on tractors.
- Check surroundings for individuals close by.

Did you know the rate of injury and death on the farm increases after the age of 70?

<https://www.casa-acsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/Summary-Report-Agricultural-Injuries-Deaths-Senior-Farmers-EN.pdf>



Mental Health Moment

How are we doing? With all this talk about mental health it may be time to ask ourselves this. What is the roadblock for farmers to seek help for their mental health? Is it money or stigma?

Addressing the financial barrier, the Farmer Wellness Program is available to members at no cost. (705) 999-7916

Another no fee option is the Northumberland Hills Hospital clinic which is covered by OHIP (905)-377-9891

Talk it Out can connect you via zoom to online support. www.domore.ag/talk-it-out

The stigma is something we are all working on by talking about it with each other. We can continue to let everyone know, asking for help is a strength.

There are several farmers on social media posting their mental health journey and it is a healthy way to know you are not alone. Check out and follow their daily stories of life on the farm and the stress that goes with that.

highheelsandcanolafields.com

@theg_mom

@sheepishlyme

We can all work together to change the stigma and fight mental illness.

Support each other and keep talking.



NORTHUMBERLAND
FEDERATION OF
AGRICULTURE

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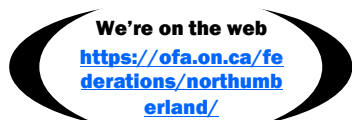
#northumberlandag

Save the date!

The NFA AGM- Again

This year the AGM will be held on Thursday, **October 7, 2021 @ noon** in a virtual format. You will be sent a link to join via email with voting instructions after you **register** (see below). OFA is not endorsing any none virtual regional meetings at this time. Take some time during the lunch hour to get updated on what the year has been like for your local Federation. Your directors continue to represent this industry well so we continue to have sustainable farms and a strong food chain for all.

Lisa



We're on the web

<https://ofa.on.ca/feederations/northumberland/>

Gadgets

Digital resource that you may find useful.

<https://headsugguys.org/>

Information and practical tips to manage and prevent depression in men. Try the "Self Check Tool" and pass it along to friends.



How To Participate In This Years AGM

OFA members **must register** by October 7th, 2021 to be eligible to vote.

Call Resi Walt 613-847-3037

or

Email Lisa Meekes nfa.lisam@gmail.com

Once you are registered you will be sent a link to view the virtual AGM, given instructions how to vote virtually and be sent the annual report.
Don't delay get registered.

Hey Teachers!



Do you know any teachers looking for some inspiration this difficult school year? How about some parents doing home schooling? AgScape provides factual, balanced, curriculum linked food literacy programs and resources for Ontario's educators and students. And if you aren't teaching any grade one to twelve kids, it is great to see what is available as a window to our agriculture food producing industry. Check them out!

<https://agscape.ca/resources>
<https://twitter.com/AgScapeON?s=20>



Social Media Farmer Wellness Program.

Check them out and share.

<https://www.facebook.com/FarmerWellnessProgram>

https://www.instagram.com/farmer_wellness_program/

