



**NFA**  
 Northumberland  
 Federation of Agriculture

## News & Notes

*Working for a Vibrant and Innovative Agriculture Industry*



2022 ISSUE #1

### Message from the President Mark DeJong

Greetings from your Northumberland Federation of agriculture board. Spring is fast approaching, it won't be long and you all will be on the fields once again. There is still time to get your 911 field entrance signs for safety and for helping your deliveries get to the right location more efficiently.

With the continued real estate pricing and housing shortage farmland is continually under attack. We've been to many municipal meetings for land use development issues.

As promised by our provincial government, applications have been completed for, agricultural representation to the conservation authorities throughout the province but we are still awaiting appointment to those boards. With the provincial election approaching us, we are meeting, and have been meeting with local candidates to educate them and to tell them our concerns and needs in our agricultural community.

We have been meeting virtually and highbred, which is a

combination of in person and virtual for the past two years and now are looking forward to fully in person meetings for the future. If anyone would like to attend our meetings, we meet the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 you may contact Lisa Meeke for locations for the summer as they will be outdoor meetings until August. Wishing everyone a safe and productive spring.

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*Mark*



### Notes from **OFA** Ontario Federation of Agriculture

### Slow Moving Vehicles Signs

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture is poised to Launch a SMV (slow moving vehicle) billboard campaign.

Farmers know that there is a lack of knowledge and awareness about slow moving vehicle signs and farm equipment. There is also a knowledge gap in understanding safe rules of the road when urban commuters approach slow moving farm equipment on the roadways.

OFA is the voice of Ontario farm families and farm businesses. These are our members, and we represent their interests and priorities. They need to feel safe travelling the roadways during busy farming seasons and we need to do our part to help educate and inform motorists on farm/road safety.

The purpose of the campaign is to develop, creative content for a billboard campaign aimed at raising awareness. This involves securing media locations in up to 100 locations throughout 51 county/regional federation zones. Possibly fewer county zones & several locations with higher traffic densities resulting in increased impression opportunities. Also duplicate creative design for use in promotional materials. There may be additional radio, and social media or digital based campaigns

The Strategy is to get urbanites that are commuting out of the city to better understand the rules of the road when driving past

(or alongside) large slow moving farming vehicles by alerting them of the potential hazards.

The one thing we want to leave our audience with is to **slow down, share the road** and adjust your driving habits accordingly to ensure you and every other driver sharing the road makes it home safe.

When you come across farm equipment on the roadways, we encourage all drivers to do the following:

- Take a deep breath.
- When the path is clear, make sure the driver can see you before you pass.
- Don't expect the vehicle to pull over on the shoulder - as this could be dangerous for a large piece of equipment.
- Slow down and share the road.

Everyone's safety is a priority. When driving the speed limit, you will overtake a slow-moving piece of farm equipment 8 times faster than another car. Ontario farmers are twice as likely to be in a collision per kilometer on the road, and the likelihood of a fatal collision is 3.8 times higher than the average driver.

The intent is to have billboards in place by harvest season.

Stay tuned.

**Bruce Buttar OFA director Zone 12**

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Miss any newsletters or want to find an old one? Try out this QR Code to take you right to the page

## Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

### Access the 2022 energy and fertilizer outlook report

Twice per year, Farms.com Risk Management Inc. offers OFA members exclusive access to energy and fertilizer outlook reports for 60 days. This report provides OFA members with insights on 2022 market prices, as well as market outlook information they can use in their farm businesses to aid in making farm input management decisions.

The first energy and fertilizer outlook report for 2022 is now available exclusively for OFA members. OFA members looking to access the report must be logged in to the members-only section. For more information about the energy and fertilizer outlook, visit [www.riskmanagement.farms.com](http://www.riskmanagement.farms.com)

### Upcoming elections

2022 is a big year with both the cycle for a provincial election and municipal election coinciding. OFA is hard at work creating opportunities to engage candidates on the issues that matter to Ontario farmers.

Our major areas of focus include: supply chain resiliency, labour shortage, farmland preservation and responsible land use planning, critical infrastructure investments.

We encourage farmers to take a moment, learn who the candidates are in their riding and then reach out to them about issues affecting your farm. We need the rural voice to be heard loud and clear. If you need assistance with resources, please don't hesitate to contact your MSR Resi Walt [resi.walt@ofa.on.ca](mailto:resi.walt@ofa.on.ca)

### Feeding Your Future

OFA's Feeding Your Future program is designed to help farm employers find skilled workers. Services offered include:

- Job matching: AgCareers employees will help post job ads for free on AgCareers.com
- Virtual career fairs: job seekers can visit employer booths and chat about opportunities
- Focus on Food: training videos for farm markets, beef, pork, berry, apple and grain operators
- Ontario Agriculture Worker Safety and Awareness Certificate

Check out the website to explore the resources available to you as an employer.

[www.feedingyourfuture.ca](http://www.feedingyourfuture.ca)

**Resi Walt** Member Service Representative

Hastings, Lennox and Addington, Northumberland, Prince Edward

## Northumberland Took the Challenge from Essex



Ontario farmers are doing their part to support Ukrainians who have been forced to flee their homeland, or are staying behind to defend it.

The fundraising effort started with a motion put forward by a director with the Essex County Federation of Agriculture (ECFA) to help support many local families with Ukrainian roots. As a result, ECFA committed \$500 to the Canadian Red Cross Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis Appeal and challenged other federations across the province to do the same. The Northumberland Federation of Agriculture carried a motion at their March monthly meeting to donate \$500 to ShelterBox Canada. To find out more information about this charity, visit [www.shelterboxcanada.org](http://www.shelterboxcanada.org) The OFA provincial Board of Directors voted in favour of matching funds raised up to \$20,000.

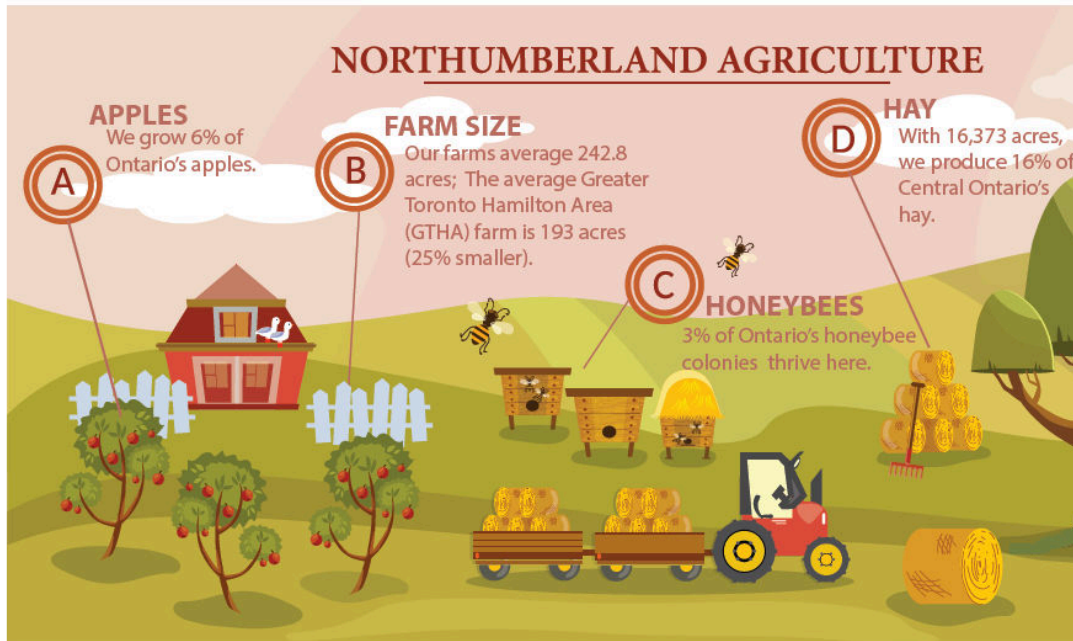


## Be Social

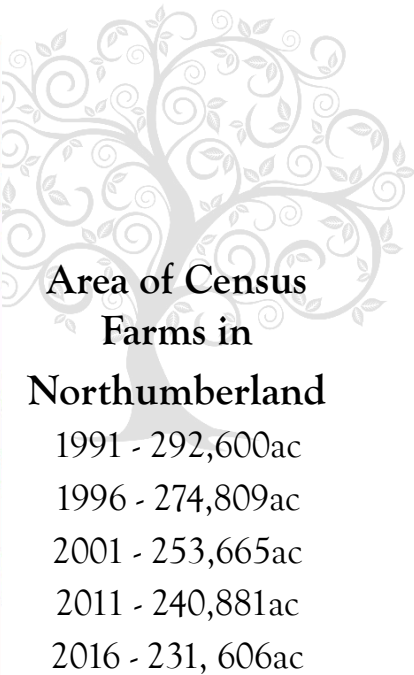
Like us on Facebook:  
[@OFAzone12](https://www.facebook.com/OFAzone12)



Follow on  
Twitter:  
[@ResiWalt](https://twitter.com/ResiWalt)



All data was retrieved from the 2016 Agriculture Census, sourced via OMAFRA's Northumberland County Ag Profile At A Glance, and Statistics Canada.



## 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 (25/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/](http://ofa.on.ca/resources/farm-implements/)



## Mental Health Moment

Spring is coming ..... have you thought about your mental health while planning the new growing season? With the stress of planting almost here, make sure your mental health is in shape to handle it. 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](http://www.domore.ag/talk-it-out)

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

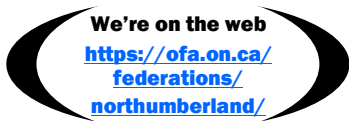
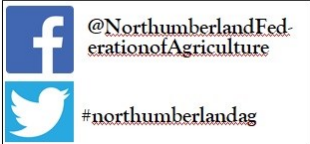
We can all work together to change the stigma and fight mental illness.

Support each other and keep talking.



**NORTHUMBERLAND  
FEDERATION OF  
AGRICULTURE**

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**Gadgets**

Digital resource that you may find useful.



Couldn't get to the Louisville Farm Show? Check out the 16 short

videos of the latest equipment covered by the RealAgriculture team.

[www.realagriculture.com/2022/02/farmshow](http://www.realagriculture.com/2022/02/farmshow)



It's great to see the support from the agriculture community to support in many ways the people in Ukraine.

*Lisa*



Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs

NFA Board members participated in a round table session with the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Lisa Thompson and MPP David Piccini who travelled to our area in mid March. Discussions about land use and municipal planning struggles, conservation authority concerns, processing facilities, carbon tax, global supply interruptions to name a few. It was great to see farm reps come together to help communicate the struggles of the agriculture industry and offer solutions to issues.

**An Ontario Election is Coming.**

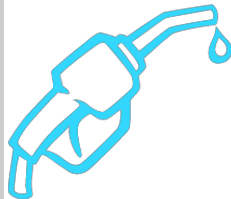
OFA has some great resources to help engage your local candidates to help them understand the needs for the agriculture industry as a whole and locally. Contact any NFA board member with your questions.

Make sure you engage your political candidates and don't forget to vote June 3rd, 2022

[ofa.on.ca/growag/](https://ofa.on.ca/growag/)



**Have you been paying the fuel charge in error?**



Since April 2019, the federal carbon pollution pricing system has added a fuel charge to fuel delivered in Ontario.

Farmers have been eligible to receive an exemption from the fuel charge for fuels (gasoline and light fuel oil) used in *eligible farming machinery*, by completing an exemption form (L402) available through Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

**Eligible farming machinery** is property that is primarily used for the purposes of farming and that is a farm truck or tractor, a vehicle not licensed to be operated on a public road, an industrial machine, or stationary or portable engine. The exemption form needs to be filled out and provided to your fuel distributor.

Access the form – [L402 – Fuel Charge Exemption Certificate](#).

**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](http://farmerwellnessprogram.ca)

Social Media Farmer Wellness Program

Like and Share



[www.facebook.com/FarmerWellnessProgram](https://www.facebook.com/FarmerWellnessProgram)

[www.instagram.com/farmer\\_wellness\\_program](https://www.instagram.com/farmer_wellness_program)



705.999.7916

Michael Doris is waiting to hear from you



**Reminder to Renew your OFA Membership**

- 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