



News & Notes
Working for a Vibrant and Innovative Agriculture Industry

Message from the President Mark DeJong

Greetings from your Northumberland Federation of Agriculture board.

With a fabulous spring planting season behind us, and the provincial election complete, we look forward to watching the crops grow. The appointments to the Conservation boards are completed. I have now been appointed to the Lower Trent Conservation Authority, and Bruce Butters to the Ganaraska Region Conservation in our area. We are looking forward to adding our farming back-

ground common sense to these boards.

You may be taking notice of some different crop signs throughout the county, posted at corners and /or intersections near chip trucks and locations that people stop and linger at. The signs are to help people understand that these crops are used for more than just food or livestock feed, but in everyday life items.

Now that most COVID-19 protocols are nearly over with, we are planning our

County municipal bus tour once again for this summer. This gives us the opportunity to explain and show our different farming operations, and further demonstrate the needs of farmers in our county to the decision makers around us.

If anyone would like to attend our meetings we meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm. You may contact Lisa Meekes for the summer locations as they will be outdoor meetings.

Mark

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Farm Vehicle License Plate Review

OFA is recommending you take a look at how your pickup is licensed.

Your pickup is licensed to farm, but are the benefits worth the price to plate? "We recommend that our members – and all farmers – really look at what they use their truck for."

If the trucks are more for personal use than farm functions, it might be wise to transfer them to a passenger vehicle registry and save the \$157 farm plate cost.

When there was very little difference between farm plated vehicles and passenger vehicle validation costs, farmers just went for the slam dunk, because the benefits outweighed the cost.

In February, the Ontario government announced it would eliminate passenger vehicle and light-duty truck

license plate fees and issue refunds for 2020 and 2021. Commercial or farm-plated vehicles were not included in that change.

Light-duty pickups under 3,000 kilograms are exempt, but those same trucks with farm plates are automatically placed in the next weight class (3,001-3,500 kg) to qualify for the commercial plate.

If your farm truck is used to ship inputs to the farm or inputs between the farm and different lots of acreage, or production to market, that's all commercial activity. If not it might be worth considering changing it back to a light duty truck plate.

Bruce Buttar, OFA Director Zone 12

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Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

OFA's Bursary Program

OFA is expanding our Bursary Program for 2022. Along with offering three bursaries in the amount of \$2,000 each to students in an undergraduate program, we are also offering a \$2,000 bursary to a person completing an apprenticeship, as well as a \$2,000 bursary for a person completing a post-graduate or leadership development program. Bursary recipients will be selected from applicants who are OFA members, a child of, or employee of an OFA member and are residents of Ontario. Applicants should be able to demonstrate industry related accomplishments, an interest in agriculture and rural issues, and community involvement. The deadline to submit an application is August 31, 2022. <https://ofa.on.ca/community/bursary-program/>

Farm Plates

If you received a letter in the mail from MTO regarding farm plate fees that left you confused, consider reading OFA's updated factsheet, as we have tried to clarify the changes. <https://ofa.on.ca/resources/benefits-farm-plates/> We often get asked, what are the benefits of farm plates? 1. Lower annual plate cost, 2. Option to drive a D truck with a Class G Driver's License, and 3. Limited dangerous goods exemptions. It may be worth looking into whether farm plates are still serving the needs of your farm business. If you need a more direct way of getting in touch with MTO, try using this phone number for Service Ontario's Driver and Vehicle Contact Centre (416) 235-2999; toll free in Canada at 1-800-387-3445.

Recent Ag Census Data

The latest Census of Agriculture data released by Statistics Canada shows the following national trends:

- Almost 65% of farms across Canada reported using sustainable farming practices like rotational and winter grazing, planting cover crops and using shelterbelts and windbreaks, up from 53.7% in the previous Census five years ago. As well, farmers are turning to more drought-tolerant crops, like barley, which saw an increase of almost 25%.
- Over twice as many farms report they're producing renewable energy production compared to the last Census. Solar energy leads the way, showing an increase of 66.5% from 2016 to 2021.
- Farmers are using technology like automated guidance steering systems and high-tech mapping to increase production and stay competitive in the global market.

Overall, the industry showed resilience in the face of COVID-19 by maintaining, or even growing production in some sectors despite pandemic and labour challenges.

Be Social

Like us on Facebook:
@OFAzone12



Follow on
Twitter:
@ResiWalt

www.FARM911.ca

Resi Walt

Scale It Up! Food Development in Canada



Check the May/June issue of the Country Guide. Page 18 has an article about Canada's food development centres and Northumberland's very own Ontario Agri Food Venture Centre (OAFVC) in Colborne is featured. Take a field trip and learn what these centres do for food production and what foods are trending at this time. Many farmers have used this facility to produce a value added product from their farms. We are fortunate in this county to have this gem so close to us and it is nice to see the media attention Country Guide has given to show off it's value. Read all about it!



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

The **Northumberland County Official Plan** is getting updated to guide growth and development in Northumberland over the next 30 years. These updates align with Provincial legislation that requires municipalities to review and update their Official Plan every few years.

Current Provincial forecasts indicate that the population for Northumberland County will grow to 122,000 people and 44,000 jobs by the year 2051. As part of the Official Plan update, we will be reviewing the maps and policies in the current Official Plan, and will undertake a series of amendments to update the Plan to ensure that the County and its member municipalities are prepared for the forecasted growth. To be informed and have your opinion heard plan on attending one of these three consultations meetings.

1) **Campbellford - June 27th, 4-7 p.m.** 2) **Colborne - June 29th, 4-7 p.m.** 3) **Port Hope - July 14, 4-7 p.m**
 Also check out the online information at this site: joinin.northumberland.ca/northumberland-next-official-plan-update
 Hit the subscribe button and you will receive the updated information as it evolves.





Annual Beef Day

Thursday July 7th, 2022
 Trade Show @ 4:00pm
 Beef BBQ @ 6:00pm
 Adults \$20
 Kids 6-12 \$10 Under 6 free
 Hosted by:

Windale Farms, Russell & Chris Taylor,
 12697 2nd Line Roseneath
 705-875-1028

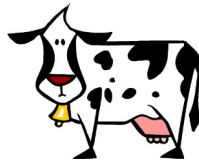
Northumberland Holstein Club Family Night/Twilight Meeting

Combview Farms

103 Comb View Rd, Cramahe, ON
 Wed., July 13, 2022 @ 5-7 pm

Tickets can be purchased from directors of the Northumberland Holstein Club as well as the

McComb family.
 \$20 - Adults
 \$15 - Kids 10 and under



Members, print your new digital 15% off discount card once you have logged in.

ofa.on.ca/benefit

Mental Health Moment

The growing season has begun and along with it, many things out of our control. Weather can cause a lot of stress to farmers.

Crops showing drought stress, too much rain causing yellowing, too windy to spray. Working late to beat the rain then it doesn't rain and you keep working, exhausted. And always wondering each day how this will affect the end yield.

While the Farmer Wellness Program (705) 999-7916 can't do anything to control the weather, it is available to members at no cost to help deal with the stress of growing food.

Check yourself, and make sure you have good coping mechanisms to help with growing season stress. Reach out for a little support so your body can handle the added stress of the season.

Other options for you are:
 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

Asking for help is a strength.
 Take care of yourself so you can continue doing what you do.

Support each other and keep talking.

Students look.....Bursaries!!!!



The Port Hope Agriculture Society is pleased to offer financial support to an eligible student to assist in the achievement of their academic success. This support is in the form of a \$500 bursary for a student who is enrolling (or is already enrolled) in an agriculture-related field, and can be obtained by those in degree, diploma, or certificate programs at a recognized post-secondary institution in Canada. Full details can be found on their web site

www.porthopefair.com/bursary

Or contact secretary@porthopefair.com

Deadline is July 31st



Ontario Federation of Agriculture

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is expanding our bursary program for 2022. Along with offering three bursaries in the amount of \$2,000 each to students in an

undergraduate program, we are also offering a \$2,000 bursary to a person completing an apprenticeship, as well as a \$2,000 bursary for a person completing a post-graduate or leadership development program.

Bursary recipients will be selected from applicants who are OFA members, a child of, or an employee of an OFA member and are residents of Ontario. Applicants should be able to demonstrate volunteer and industry-related accomplishments, an interest in agriculture and rural issues, and community involvement.

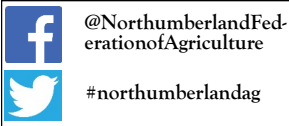
The selected recipients will be announced at OFA's 2022 Annual General Meeting.

Don't miss out on this opportunity - the deadline to submit an application for the bursary program is August 31, 2022.



**NORTHUMBERLAND
FEDERATION OF
AGRICULTURE**

Contact: **Lisa Meekes**
Secretary-Treasurer/Newsletter Editor
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Phone: 905-269-7419
Email: nfa.lisam@gmail.com



We're on the web

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

Gadgets

Digital resource that you may find useful.



Mix My Sprayer

An app to aid in quick, accurate calculations of product mixes for spraying applications. Custom lists can be created. Check it out!



Welcome Candice

We now have two therapists to help Northumberland farmers with their mental health. Welcome **Candice Beach** and check out her bio on the Farmer Wellness Program site or here. candicebeach.com



The struggle is real and farmers are at the mercy of the weather to produce food. Remember to manage your stress level and talk to someone about it You are not alone.



Lisa



NORTHUMBERLAND

Don't struggle talk to someone. It's free!

Farmerwellnessprogram.ca

705-999-7916

Northumberland Federation Scholarship



NFA is currently accepting application for the 2022 Scholarship Application Program.

Qualifications are as follows:

- The applicant must be a member or related to a member of the OFA within the boundaries of Northumberland County. An affiliation with a Northumberland OFA member **may** be considered based on a written description (by the member) of the applicant's involvement on the member's farm. Example: A neighbouring student that has helped on the farm and has demonstrated a passion and future interest in agriculture.
- The applicant must submit a detailed essay listing the relationship to the OFA member, his/her activities on the farm, associated memberships (4H, etc.), volunteer work, detail their course studies, and there future goals.
- The applicant must be entering the second year or greater of an accredited post-secondary diploma or degree program.
- A late application will disqualify the applicant for consideration. The applicant may reapply for consideration in the next subsequent year.
- Unsuccessful applicants may reapply
- A maximum of three scholarships will be awarded.
- A recipient may only be awarded once
- A maximum of \$3000.00 will be awarded in any one year.
- \$1000.00 will be awarded to each successful applicant.

Deadline for receipt of applications is **August 1, 2022**. The Scholarship committee will need time to read and consider all the forms and essays and make their final decision well in advance of the AGM and banquet. Please do not forget to include all the requested information and use a separate sheet to tell us about your farming connections and your community interests. Fill out an application form and include a separate sheet for additional info.

Mail to:

Lisa Meekes
1246 Dingman Rd.
Castleton, ON.
K0K1M0

or

Email to:

nfa.lisam@gmail.com



Name: _____

Phone # _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Township/Municipality: _____

Name of OFA membership or Affiliate: _____

OFA Farm Registration # _____

Home Address: _____

Student Address: _____

Student ID#: _____ College or University Attended: _____

Address of School: _____

(Agricultural) Course Enrolled In: _____

(Agricultural Diploma or Degree being sought: _____

Average Mark Attained: _____ Year(s) of Study Completed: _____