

**Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs**

Office of the Minister

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December 21, 2021

Peggy Brekveld
President
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
peggy.brekveld@ofa.on.ca

Dear Mrs. Brekveld:

We are reaching out to express our appreciation for the input you provided regarding proposed Open for Business changes to O. Reg 267/03 under the Nutrient Management Act and also to inform you that the decision notice has been posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario.

The Ontario Government is moving forward with amendments to the Nutrient Management Act as part of our ongoing commitment to reducing red tape and regulatory burden to lower business operating costs. These changes will also improve Ontario's competitiveness while maintaining environmental protections to help keep the province and its people safe and healthy. We are pleased to provide you with an overview of these changes.

OMAFRA and MECP have removed the automatic five-year expiry of agricultural operation planning certificates, a change that will maintain environmental protections while saving farmers and farm businesses both time and money. Once certified, producers will be able to continue to prepare and update their Nutrient Management Strategies and Plans without having to recertify every five years. You can find more information on this at <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-3849>.

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We also undertook housekeeping amendments to the Regulation and Nutrient Management Protocol to simplify rules and add clarity. These amendments would reduce burden for farm owners and operators while maintaining [environmental protection standards](#).

Farmers are still required to review and update their Nutrient Management Strategies annually to ensure safeguards are in place to protect the environment and human health. OMAFRA will maintain availability of the certification training materials for farm operators who wish to update their training at any time. [Resources are available online](#) for farmers who wish to update their knowledge on NMS and NMP preparation.


Your participation in this process is vital to keeping Ontario's agri-food sector strong and sustainable. Thank you for your support to make these necessary changes.

Please accept our best wishes.

Sincerely,



Lisa M. Thompson
Minister of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs



Dave Piccini
Minister of the Environment
Conservation and Parks

COVID-19 Reminders

- For vaccination booking details visit: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>
- Follow your local public health/safety measures: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/zones-and-restrictions>
- Practice physical distancing – stay 2 metres away from others in public
- Get the facts - www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-stop-spread