

News & Notes

Working for a Vibrant and Innovative Agriculture Industry



Message from the President Mark DeJong

Greetings

As I look back at our summer it seemed as if it went by so quickly, with the many things that we have been doing at the Federation. Several Municipal planning meetings, Northumberland county meetings, we hosted a migrant workers barbeque in Cobourg with 80+ attendees from various farms throughout Northumberland. Also our annual county political and municipal bus tour that was a huge success, touring the new Tri County Agro mart facility in Colborne, then to Burnham farms for a field demonstration and Visual learning, and then off to Ian Sculthorpe's to explain their family grass fed beef operation.

For those who may or may not have heard on the radio 107.9 FM we sponsored a radio ad to draw attention to the Farmland crisis.

This was the ad :

During COVID, FARMERS were still able to put food on our tables and keep CANADA fed.

Now they need your HELP!

ONTARIO is losing 319 acres of farmland every day!

Help Protect Local, Fresh, Homegrown Food made right here in Ontario, before it's Too Late!

Read more about this Disturbing TREND, And ADD your NAME to the PETITION at

Homegrown.ofa.on.ca

A Special Tribute to our Farming families from the Northumberland Federation of Agriculture.

A big thank you to all those who participated in these events, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the annual banquet on October 15 in Alderville.

Mark

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Notes from OFA

Ontario
Federation of
Agriculture

Municipal elections are critical for farmland preservation

When it comes to preserving Ontario farmland, October 24th is a key date. That is the day voters in municipalities across the province head to polls to elect their mayors and local councillors. Those political bodies – regional, county, city, town and township councils – hold great sway over the fate of land use in Ontario. While there are processes that can involve upper levels of government, land-use planning is first and foremost a municipal responsibility. They are the governments tasked with developing official plans and setting urban boundaries and determining where development is best suited and how it should occur. That also makes them the first defenders of farmland.

The preservation of farmland is a very critical issue in Ontario. According to figures from the Census of Agriculture released in the spring, Ontario is losing 319 acres of productive farmland every day. That's the equivalent of 58 city blocks, nearly 800 hockey rinks or 4,785 tennis courts. In terms of food, that is enough acreage to produce more than 23.5 million apples, 1.2 million bottles of Ontario VQA wine or 75.6 million carrots. For voters who care about preserving farmland in Ontario, this fall's municipal elections are critically important."

While the OFA does not endorse candidates, it does encourage voters to closely examine the platforms of the candidates in their area, pay attention to what they say during election events and ask them

questions if they come knocking on the door to see where they stand on issues that impact land use.

For voters who care about farmland preservation, the OFA suggests asking the following questions to assess candidates:

- Where do you stand on the use of Minister's Zoning Orders?
- What do you believe to be the purpose of the urban boundary?
- What does your platform say about public transit?
- What incentives do you support to bring new development to our community?
- What is your future vision for our community?

OFA recognizes and understands that the vast majority of Ontarians do not come from a farming background, "It is easy to take our farmland for granted, but voters should remember that farmland is a finite resource."

Once that farm is turned into a shopping centre or subdivision, that land is gone forever. We understand that cities and towns need to grow, but we believe it should be smart growth that protects and preserves the land that feeds us.

"When you cast a ballot on October 24th, we kindly ask that you cast it well-informed of where your candidates stand on preserving farmland.

**Have a
safe
Harvest**



Bruce Buttar, OFA director Zone 12



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905-372-3329 ext. 6492



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

Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

Municipal Elections

New census data released this past spring indicates Ontario is losing 319 acres of farmland per day. It is more important than ever that municipal councils make sounding planning decisions when it comes to keeping development off prime agricultural land. We will continue to face increased development pressure and councillor's must be aware that arable land needs protection. It is up to us farmers to engage our municipal councillors on this issue. This election cycle, make a point of asking candidates in your riding, how they plan to support agriculture.

<https://ofa.on.ca/newsroom/ontario-farmland-under-intense-pressure/>

OFA's position on:

Fertilizer Emissions Reduction Target

- The approach to emissions reduction **must not** lead to regulations or policies that result in a mandatory reduction in fertilizer use. A mandatory cap would pose extreme risk to food security at a time when Canadian agricultural products are needed more than ever to feed the world.
- Measurement of emissions to achieve the target reduction must be intensity-based, relating to crop production, rather than based on fertilizer use. An emissions-intensity approach balances environmental performance with continued economic growth. An emissions-intensity approach may also provide better estimations of non-application-based emissions reductions, providing a more accurate accounting of the agriculture sectors' attempts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with agricultural production.
- The role of soil health in reducing emissions cannot be undervalued, and the approach to emissions reduction must recognize the work already completed and currently underway in Ontario to improve soil health, as well as existing initiatives that help reduce fertilizer emissions. This includes overarching work like the Ontario Soil Health Strategy and the National Soil Study proposed by Senator Rob Black, as well as more specific initiatives like 4R Nutrient Stewardship and OMAFRA's AgriSuite tools.

To read more of OFA's position, or our submission to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, visit

<https://ofa.on.ca/resources/fertilizer-emissions-reduction-target-frequently-asked-questions/>

Replacement OFA signs

If you're looking for an OFA sign for your driveway, get in touch with me! I am happy to send it to you or come put it up.

resi.walt@ofa.on.ca

Be Social

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



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

www.FARM911.ca



Northumberland Farmers Inducted to Wall of Fame

On Sept. 18th at Farmtown Park in Sterling, Codrington farmers **Betty and Mike Clitherow** were inducted to the Quinte Agriculture Wall of Fame. This honour is given to individuals in the Quinte area who have made an outstanding contribution to the agriculture and food industry at the local, provincial and/or national level.

Take some time and visit the wall and see all the people in this area who have made a difference to our industry. If you can't go in person check out the digital version.

<https://agheritage.ca/quinte-agricultural-hall-of-fame/2006-2012>

Hey Teachers!

Do you know any teachers looking for some inspiration this 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>



Municipal Elections Monday October 24th

Now is the time to choose wisely as we navigate through the list of candidates running for municipal government. These are the people who will be making policy that will affect us locally and make an impact on our farm businesses. Asking the questions to see what their knowledge base is on the agriculture and food industry can show that farmers are engaged with the policy making process and reveal their individual perspectives.

OFA has produced a detailed guide which provides an overview of issues affecting farm businesses.

Agriculture Matters: A Guide for Municipal Councillors and Staff can be found digitally at this link ofa.on.ca/GrowAg/. It is a detailed document divided into the following categories:

- Land Use Planning and Economic Development
- Municipal Finance
- Environment and Animal Welfare
- Energy and Waste
- Infrastructure and Social Services

Agribusiness issues are found under these five sections with a breakdown answering “What’s the issue for municipalities?”, “Why does it matter to farmers?” and “How can you help?”

Take a look at the guide and see where it could be helpful engaging candidate on the issues that affect us all locally. Do your homework before you vote.



Happy
Thanksgiving

Have you signed the homegrown campaign take action?

<https://homegrown.ofa.on.ca/>



NFA Hosts Migrant Worker BBQ

In July NFA got the BBQs fired up and hosted approximately 80 migrant workers from Northumberland county farms. It was an effort to thank them for their hard

work helping to produce food and to make them feel appreciated. They are a long way away from family and friends working in the elements and helping farmers fill the employee void many suffer.

Smiles and laughter filled the evening and the chatter of other languages surrounded the pavilion on the Cobourg beach location, as hot dogs and hamburgers were cooked on the BBQ and hand scooped ice cream was enjoyed.

The success of this event told NFA directors it should become an annual occurrence, so look for it to happen again in 2023.



FARMER

wellness program

NORTHUMBERLAND

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

www.farmerwellnessprogram.ca

Candice or Michael would
be happy to hear from you

Mental Health Moment

Have you heard about the
two great councillors
working for the Farmer
Wellness Program?

They are here to help you
take care of your mental
health. Take advantage of
this members benefit of four
free sessions.



Michael
(705) 999-7916
www.mdoriscounsellingservices.com

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(416) 655-4285
www.candicebeac.com/





NORTHUMBERLAND FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

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@NorthumberlandFederationofAgriculture



#northumberlandag

We're on the web

www.ofa.on.ca/about/county-federation-sites/northumberland.aspx

Gadgets

Digital resource that you may find useful.

Trends in Agriculture Apps

Check out this article about the trend to simplify and partner apps so you don't need to have an app for every individual thing.

www.croplife.com/editorial/best-agriculture-apps/#slide=889158161134

Frames by Agworld is proposing to be "connect the industry". It would be great to have one that does all app.

www.agworld.com/ca/new/frames-by-agworld/

The NFA Annual Banquet

Will be held on Friday, October 15, 2022 @ 7pm

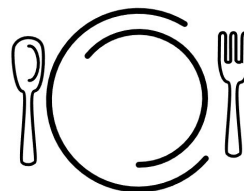
Dinner will be at Alderville Community Center,

8913 Hwy. #45, Roseneath, ON

Cost is \$25.00 per person.

Keynote speaker this year is Canadian Federation of Agriculture Vice President Keith Currie.

Please contact your local director to get your tickets



Save
the date!
October 15th!

Lisa



Crop use signs were spread around Northumberland again this year. Did you see them? There was also a mini version on display at Warkworth fair. This info is worth spreading around.



Poli-Ag Tour 2022 for Northumberland

In August the NFA hosted a tour for councillors and staff for all of the municipalities of Northumberland. The day started with the state of the art TCO facility north of Colborne and all learned the complexities of inputs for farmers; seed, crop protection and fertilizer. Regulations, rising costs and availability were subjects of the presentation.

We then moved on to Burnham Farms and got to see up close and personal field equipment. Size of equipment and the importance of timing, helped to show how sharing the road is so important.

Lunch time enabled one on one conversations to share concerns and knowledge from both perspectives.

The Sculthorpe beef operation showed all examples of innovation and change in the beef industry.

This day is so important to keep communication open between the policy makers and the agriculture industry, to foster team work for the future in Northumberland.

