

October 19, 2022

Sent via email: kmerkies@uoguelph.ca

To Whom It May Concern;

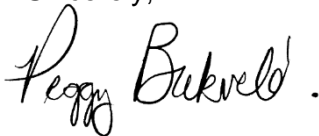
Re: Research Project: Understanding School Horse Care and Management in Canada

The OFA proudly represents more than 38,000 farm businesses across the province, supporting our members and the agriculture industry on issues, legislation and regulations governed by all levels of government. We are the leading agricultural advocate for Ontario farmers, their businesses and their communities.

OFA would like to express our support for Dr. Katrina Merkies' research project entitled "**Current state of lesson horse welfare in Canada and best practices for their management**". OFA firmly believes in and advocates for the humane treatment of all animals, including farmed livestock, poultry and equine. The health and welfare of these horses is crucial in ensuring the animals can continue to work, and the businesses remain operational, sustainable, and profitable.

OFA recognizes equines as a viable component of our provincial and national agricultural system, and their contribution to the rural economy. The project proposed by Dr. Merkies would allow a better understanding of current lesson horse management practices nationwide and allow for targeted educational efforts to create and improve best management practices, bolstering the longevity and welfare for these horses.

Sincerely,



Peggy Brekveld
President