



# 2021-2022 Resolutions Activity Report



La Fédération  
de l'agriculture  
de l'Ontario



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**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) continue to work with stakeholders, including commodity organizations and Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians (OAVT), the College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO), the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) and the Northern Producer Animal Health Network (NPAHN) to improve access to rural vet services and modernize the Veterinary Act if necessary; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the OFA and other stakeholders assess the benefits and implications of mechanisms (such as the expanded use of registered vet techs, the potential for nurse practitioners, entry requirements to large animal vet programs, etc.) to improve vet access in the short and long term.

CARRIED



### ACTIVITY

Follow up on this resolution has included correspondence to the Chief Veterinary Officer of Ontario, Dr. Cathy Furness, as well as Ministers Dunlop and Thompson, Dr. Lorie Gold of the College of Veterinarians and the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association.

In addition to correspondence, OFA directors and staff have had regular contact with many of these primary stakeholders to raise concerns of access to rural veterinarians as well as other issues related to farm animal health and welfare.

In early 2022, the Ontario government announced The Livestock Veterinary Innovation Initiative aimed at supporting innovative approaches to increase delivery options of veterinary care to livestock farmers, particularly in underserved areas to support animal health, the livestock agri-food sector and the strength of our food supply.

In July of 2022, OFA hosted federal Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau in Northern Ontario which included a visit with Dr. Olivia Stone at the Springer Animal Health vet clinic in Sturgeon Falls as well as President Peggy Brekveld and Madeleine Beaudry, President of West Nipissing Sudbury East Federation of Agriculture. This face-to-face meeting allowed for exchange of information about the real and unique barriers faced by Northern and rural communities as it relates to veterinary access.

In August 2022, OFA published a Viewpoint Exploring Impacts of Vet Shortage in Rural and Remote Communities Across Ontario, to further raise awareness about the current veterinary shortage and access to veterinary services. The Viewpoint shared the importance of access to vet services, and the need to find solutions. Also in August, OFA staff and Director Steve Brackenridge met with College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO) President Dr. Lorie Gold and Jan Robinson, Registrar and Chief Executive Officer. The issues regarding the expanded use of registered veterinary technicians, potential uses of nurse practitioners among other concerns were discussed to improve access to veterinarians.

At the October 2022 board meeting, the full board heard a presentation and had discussion with CVO President Dr. Lorie Gold and Jan Robinson around a number of veterinary issues including access to rural veterinarians, insurance and animal activism. A strong interest was expressed by both OFA and CVO to continue to work together on shared priorities including review and amendments of the Veterinarians Act to reduce and remove red tape and barriers.

In October of 2022, President Peggy Brekveld had a meeting and further discussion with the Northern Producer Animal Health Network.

[21-10-11 - Northern Caucus Rural Vet follow-up Mar 2022.pdf](#)

[21-10-11 - OFA Letter to Dr. Furness re Rural Vets.pdf](#)

[21-10-11 - OFA Letter to Minister Dunlop re Rural Vets.pdf](#)

[21-10-11 - OFA Letter to Minister Thompson re Rural Vets.pdf](#)

[21-10-11 - OFA Letter to Northern Caucus.pdf](#)

[21-10-11 - Response Letter from Minister of Colleges and Universities.pdf](#)

[21-10-11 - Response Letter from OMAFRA Minister.pdf](#)

[21-10-11 - OFA Viewpoint.pdf](#)

OFA also expressed concern regarding the shortage of rural veterinarians in our submission to the Food Safety and Environmental Policy Branch, Policy Divisions regarding the College of Veterinarians of Ontario accreditation model in Regulations 1903 under the Veterinarians Act:

<https://ofa.on.ca/resources/ofa-submission-to-the-food-safety-and-environmental-policy-branch-policy-division-regarding-the-college-of-veterinarians-of-ontario/>

OFA has also been engaged with livestock commodity groups regarding concern the shortage of rural veterinarians, including Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO). BFO was engaged with the OMAFRA-funded project, Investigating Veterinary Capacity in Underserved Areas of Rural Ontario. The project recently released their findings:

[Jurisdictional Scan on Veterinary Access](#)

[Examining Need, Capacity, and Barriers to Veterinary Access in Ontario](#)

OFA will continue outreach, discussions, and collaboration with stakeholders to improve access to veterinarians in the short and long term.

2

**21-10-12**

**Halton**

**Agricultural Systems Planning Tool**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby, jointly with the county / regional federations of agriculture with areas located in the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area, the Niagara Escarpment Commission to amend the policies in section 1.4 Escarpment Protection Area of the Niagara Escarpment Plan in order to permit on Farm Diversified Uses and Agriculture-Related Uses within the Escarpment Protection Area Rural areas so that these types of uses are not unduly restricted.

**CARRIED**



Follow up on this resolution included a letter to the Niagara Escarpment Commission as well as letters of support from area Federations of Agriculture (Bruce, Dufferin, Grey, Halton, Hamilton-Wentworth, Niagara, Peel and Simcoe) to amend policies in the Niagara Escarpment Plan to permit on farm diversified use and ensure these types of uses are not unduly restricted. To date the Niagara Escarpment Commission has not addressed these concerns and the OFA has reached out again to the Commission and included a copy of policy passed by the OFA board of directors at the August board meeting with respect to on farm diversified use. OFA has requested an opportunity to meeting with the NEC and discuss OFA's policy position and seek NEC support.

[21-10-12 - OFA letter to Niagara Escarpment Commission October 2021](#)

[21-10-12- OFA Letter to County Federations in the Niagara Escarpment November 2021](#)

[21-10-12 – Various County Federation Letters of Support](#)

[21-10-12 – OFA Letter to Niagara Escarpment Commission October 2022](#)

[21-10-12 – OFA Letter to Niagara Escarpment Enclosure 2](#)

### 3 21-11-13 Leeds OFA By-law Amendment to Designate an OFA Region

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) Board of Directors amend OFA's By-laws to allow an OFA Member the option to designate the OFA Region where they farm or carry on business, or the closest Region thereto, instead of remaining assigned to the Region in which they reside, and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the OFA Board of Directors enact an amended By-law to enable an OFA Member to designate their OFA Region before the Annual Regional meetings are held in 2022.

LOST 

#### ACTIVITY

[21-11-13 - OFA Letter to Leeds President.pdf](#)

### 4 NOVEMBER 2021 21-11-14 Leeds Business Risk Management

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) work with Beef Farmers of Ontario, Agricornp and the Minister to develop a multi-year approval process for agriculture support programmes, so that, year-over-year, coverage expectations are predictable and repeatable and on time.

LOST 



## ACTIVITY

As part of the deliberation process regarding this resolution, OFA engaged in conversation with Beef Farmers of Ontario on this resolution. Both parties recognized that there had been a significant delay in the delivery of payments in 2021 largely due to COVID and interruption of service delivery with government and Agricorp. It was agreed that a lobby focus would remain focussed on enhancements to Risk Management Program.

[21-11-14 - OFA response letter to Leeds County re BRM.pdf](#)

5

**21-11-15**

**Leeds**

**The Co-operators Dropping Coverage of Older Dairy Barns & Operations**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) demand that The Co-operators Insurance company reverse its decision to no longer insure dairy operations whose barns are older.

**LOST** 

## ACTIVITY

As part of the deliberation process regarding this resolution, OFA engaged in conversation with Co-operators insurance and determined that no policy decision or direction had been undertaken to back away from insuring dairy operations. As part of the discussion, it was determined that a webinar and resources for OFA members about the critical importance of reviewing and understanding insurance policies would be helpful. A webinar was coordinated by staff and held on February 22nd. The objective of the webinar was to assist farm business members in understanding what is happening within the farm insurance markets and help members understand insurance practices to assist them while making decisions about how to protect their business and operation. A record 315 individuals registered and attended this lunch and learn webinar.

A Viewpoint was prepared and distributed in February as well to ensure broad distribution of the information about the review farm insurance and ensuring accuracy of assets.

[21-11-15 - Response letter to Leeds County.pdf](#)

[21-11-15 - The Cooperators Response letter.pdf](#)

[21-11-15 – OFA21-11-15 - OFA Viewpoint on Farm Property Insurance.pdf](#)

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) lobby the Ontario Government, AMO, ROMA and Regional Warden's Councils to take a more proactive approach with their protocols to control wild parsnip and all noxious weeds on public lands, and along Provincial and Municipal roadsides and ditches, and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that OFA encourage appointed weed inspectors to facilitate the control of Wild Parsnip along Provincial and Municipal roadways, and on private properties.

**CARRIED** 

## ACTIVITY

In response to the resolution, OFA reached out to OMAFRA's Weed Specialist, and Chief Inspector under the Weed Control Act, Mike Cowbrough.

MTO is looking for guidance as to the best approach for managing wild parsnip along the roadways, and offered some land near Cornwall to demonstrate different approaches for the management of wild parsnip. OMAFRA has reached out to Lanark Federation to determine the possibility of duplicating work in the county. Herbicides were sprayed in May, with another application scheduled for September. Mowing has also taken place intermittently relative to treatments. After all treatments are completed, there is want to organize a field tour so that the municipality, MTO and any other interested parties can look at the different treatments. This site will be used to create reference materials (ie- best management practices booklet) so that decision makers and road crews are more comfortable with what resources are involved/needed.

OMAFRA's GIS unit has built a form so that the general public could report a noxious weed infestation that would be sent to the appropriate weed inspector. It is still currently in demo mode, but is being worked on for a more final version.

OMAFRA also reached out to a pesticide manufacturer who is willing to apply to Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) for a research permit to look at drone applications.

Some management work is in place this season so that different levels of government land ownership can get a comfort level as to what is effective so that they can scale up and deal with the issue more proactively.

[21-11-16 - OFA Board Memo re: Noxious Weeds](#)

[21-11-16 – OFA Letter to Lanark County President](#)

**7** 21-11-18  
York  
OFA Time Sensitive Response Policy & Procedure

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) develop a policy and procedure in order to facilitate a response to time sensitive issues of a scope or impact beyond a local county issue that does not meet the timeframe of regularly scheduled Board meetings to allow for an OFA Board position to be developed within a necessary time frame.

**LOST** 

**ACTIVITY**

This resolution while LOST, allowed the board of directors to review the existing policy/process for dealing with time sensitive issues as an organization. It was reviewed and confirmed that the possibility is already contemplated and addressed within OFA's existing bylaws by way of delegating to the Executive Committee for deliberation, discussion and decision making where necessary between meetings of the board. This allows for OFA to respond to urgent and time sensitive requests and no further policy or process needed to be developed.

[21-11-18 - OFA Letter to York Federation President.pdf](#)

**December 2021**

**8** 21-12-19  
Algoma  
Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act Enforcement

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and other commodity stakeholders reach out to their membership to assess whether there are issues related to Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) enforcement in other areas of the province; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture ensure that animal welfare inspectors receive adequate training to assess the welfare of livestock, ensuring they deliver competent and qualified assessments.

**CARRIED** 





## ACTIVITY

OFA has engaged with livestock commodity organizations several times since December 2021, to identify and document issues or concerns related to PAWS enforcement across the province. Additionally, OFA has explored the topic of how to address the training needs for PAWS inspectors with livestock commodity groups and external stakeholders. OFA continues to meet with livestock commodity groups monthly on issues affecting the welfare of Ontario's farm animals.

Most recently, OFA staff met with livestock commodity groups and Farm & Food Care Ontario on June 21, 2022, to discuss the current PAWS Act, the processes for livestock cases, as well as increased training/resources for PAWS enforcement officers. The meeting included discussion around shared interest in arranging a future group meeting with the Ministry of the Solicitor General and/or Chief Animal Welfare Inspector to discuss the PAWS Act, and any gaps in processes/inspector training that can be filled.

In September of 2022 a joint letter of OFA, CFFO, Beef Farmers of Ontario, Chicken Farmers of Ontario, Egg Farmers of Ontario, Dairy Farmers of Ontario, Broiler Hatching Egg & Chick Commission, Ontario Pork, Ontario Sheep Farmers, Ontario Turkey and Veal Farmers of Ontario was sent to the Attorney General Minister Kerzner requesting a meeting to discuss concerns as well as a review of the Act to allow evaluation of the current processes involved in investigations, training of inspectors, data collection and reporting in order to address any gaps in the process. A response has not yet been received but we will continue to follow up.

[21-12-19 – Joint Letter to Ministry of Solicitor General](#)

[21-12-19 – OFA Letter to Algoma Federation President](#)

## January 2022

9 22-01-01  
Lambton  
Loading Areas eligible for Canadian Agriculture Partnership  
(CAP) funding

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby provincial and federal governments to include loading areas to be eligible for CAP funding.

CARRIED



## ACTIVITY

The OFA will utilize this input from Lambton County as well as results from a Summer 2021 PAC session to provide feedback to both levels of government as the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership Programs and guidelines are developed in 2023.

[22-01-01 - OFA Letter to Lambton Federation President](#)



10

## February 2022

22-02-01

Leeds

### Expanded use of registered Veterinary Technicians



**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with Ontario Sheep Farmers, Ontario Goat and other relevant stakeholders to lobby for the expanded use of registered veterinary technicians to perform pregnancy checks on sheep, goats and other livestock.

CARRIED



#### ACTIVITY

OFA has engaged with Ontario Sheep Farmers and Ontario Goat regarding the resolution. It is currently standing policy to allow veterinarians, vet techs and people who are trained in pregnancy ultrasound, to provide this service. If not a veterinarian, this service is provided under a “veterinary delegation”. Veterinary delegation means that it’s the veterinarian’s responsibility to make sure that the person they delegate to provide the service is competent.

There is no restriction on who can do this, although the training must be provided by either a licensed veterinarian or their delegate, if done in Canada. The Small Ruminant Veterinarians of Ontario (SRVO) have invested in making sure people are available in Ontario to train those who are interested.

[22-02-01 – OFA Letter to Leeds Federation President October 2022](#)

11

22-02-02

Peterborough

### Veterinarians & Malpractice Insurance

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ontario Federation of Federation Board of Directors encourage the College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO) to make malpractice insurance coverage for livestock veterinarians mandatory.

CARRIED



#### ACTIVITY

OFA sent a letter to the College of Veterinarians (CVO) in June 2022 in follow up to this resolution which resulted in a great introduction and opportunity to discuss the issue with the President and CEO of the College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO). Further to that meeting the OFA Board invited Dr. Lorie Gold, President of CVO, and CEO Jan Robinson to attend the October board meeting to discuss the issue of malpractice insurance and other issues related to veterinary medicine. This is an ongoing file and OFA will continue to pursue next steps.

[22-02-02 - OFA Letter to Peterborough County President.pdf](#)

[22-02-02 - OFA Letter to the College of Veterinarians.pdf](#)

[22-02-02 – OFA Followup Letter to Peterborough President.pdf](#)

**12 22-02-03**  
**Huron & Perth**  
**Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) Assessments**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with the Western and Eastern Wardens Caucuses, Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) to have the MPAC assessments released in 2023 not 2024.

**CARRIED** 

**ACTIVITY**

Farm policy staff presented a delegation to the Western Ontario Warden Caucus in June to ask municipal support on this resolution. Follow up correspondence was sent to the Western Ontario Warden Caucus as well as to Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA). A follow up letter was sent to AMO and ROMA in October of 2022 to continue this discussion. OFA is pursuing a face-to-face meeting which both AMO and ROMA to keep dialogue ongoing.

[22-02-03 – OFA Letter to Perth and Huron County Presidents.pdf](#)

[22-02-03 – OFA Letter to Western Ontario Warden Caucus-June 2022](#)

[22-02-03 – OFA Letter to AMO & ROMA – October 2022](#)

**13 March 2022**  
**22-03-01**  
**Lambton**  
**Workplace Safety & Prevention Services**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture encourage Workplace Safety & Prevention Services (WSPS) to work with the general farm organizations and commodity groups to develop a year-round safety strategy for farm safety.

**CARRIED** 

**ACTIVITY**

OFA policy staff have connected with WSPS to discuss this resolution. WSPS has committed to increasing their communications to County Federations, Farm Safety groups and commodity organizations and create more targeted communications. WSPS and OFA have met to discuss opportunities to strengthen information distribution channels and a more fulsome Memorandum of Understanding was developed and signed by OFA and WSPS in this year with a goal to increase efforts and communications around safety strategies for on farm.

[22-03-01 - OFA Background Document.pdf](#)

[22-03-01 - OFA Follow up Letter to Lambton Federation President.pdf](#)

