

Requests for Thoughts and Comments: Questions to Consider in Advance of PAC Meeting

The following list of questions has been developed to summarize the key segments of the [OFA Consolidated Land Use Policy](#) in order to get PAC members thinking about these topics to allow for a thorough discussion at the PAC meeting, which will help inform any revisions to the policy.

- **2016 Census data** on loss of Agricultural Land – would it be helpful for staff to update this section in future once 2021 census info becomes available?
- **Non-agricultural benefits or environmental goods and services** – financial incentives for carrying these ecological benefits have been discussed at CFA <https://www.cfa-fca.ca/issues/environmental-sustainability/> and in the UK through [DEFRA, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs](#). Is this something the OFA should consider advocating more strongly for? Why or why not?
- **Provincial Role:** has mandated protection of natural heritage features. Should OFA consider language re: the costs of carrying these features? Should these features be acknowledged as part of the farmland preservation argument with respect to the environmental benefits of ag lands? Why or why not?
- **Greenbelt plan:** OFA has argued for expanded use of AIA's outside of the greenbelt. We also argue for farmland preservation and fixed urban boundaries. How does your local federation feel about [expansion of the Greenbelt](#)? Any specifics you do or do not support?
- **Greenbelt Plan, Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, Niagara Escarpment Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Plan, Growth Plan for Northern Ontario.** Checking in. If you are farming in these areas, how well do you / your local federation board feel our current land use policy reflects your perspective?
- **Agricultural Land Protection:** Include position statement on MZO's which reads: OFA feels that enhanced MZO powers should be repealed or at least curtailed in areas where there is already a robust planning process in place. OFA views the frequent use of MZOs as a significant threat that will result in the permanent loss of farmland to development. Additional considerations?
- **Lot Creation in Prime Ag Areas:** huge topic lately and will be the focus of one of our breakout sessions. Does the current policy foster the kind of agriculture we want to see? Does it protect farm land for farm land? Does it ensure a healthy economy such that agricultural products have a market, exclude new farmers from entering the industry, favour one interest over another, or limit growth of farm operations? Is your area considering modifying lot creation policies? Why?
- **Natural Heritage and Prime Ag Land** - Consider adding that a significant percentage of these features that the province is protecting in the public interest fall on farmland. Costs of Preservation of these features carried by farmers includes mortgage, land tax, insurance, other? What are some Natural Heritage provisions that have been problematic, by municipality? This topic to be discussed at PAC during Breakout Session 1. Problematic NHS provisions identified at PAC to be considered for inclusion in the Consolidated Land Use Policy here.
- **Urban Expansion:** OFA supports fixed urban boundaries. Consider adding: The OFA believes that municipalities should be incentivized or mandated to curb sprawl around settlement areas by growing "inward and upward" with high-density, transit supportive intensification instead of outward into surrounding Ag lands. Do you agree? Why or why not?
- **Municipal Role:** Consider strengthening the language here to include language from the MZO submission: "OFA supports local municipal councils continuing to have the role of ensuring that

a development proposal fits in with the surrounding uses and minimizes any negative impacts.”
Any further input on the Municipal Role?

- **MDS, Right to Farm, Normal Farm Practices, Non-Ag uses of Land, Aggregates, Cemeteries, Waste Management / Landfills, Conservation Authorities, Municipal Agricultural Advisory Committees, Federal Role.** Please review these sections and let us know of any suggested modifications or improvements.

Thank you for considering these questions as we prepare for the upcoming PAC meeting. The goal of this document is to help generate discussion at PAC. If, however, these questions inspire you to reach out directly, please feel free to send answers to any or all these questions to:

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