

June 6, 2024

The Honourable Lisa Thompson
Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs
11th Floor, 77 Grenville St.
Toronto, ON
M5S 1B3

Submitted via email and online through Ontario's Regulatory Registry website.

Dear Minister Thompson,

Re: Proposed change to the AgrilInsurance Program - Designation of Agricultural Products (Ontario's Regulatory Registry #24-OMAFRA013)

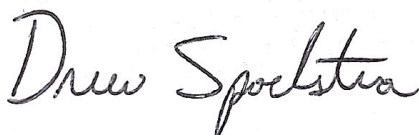
The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) strongly supports the proposed amendment to O. Reg. 267/15 under the Agricultural Products Insurance Act to include fall rye as a designated agricultural product. This proposal, which allows for the development and offering of Production Insurance contracts for fall rye, represents a significant step forward for Ontario's rye producers.

OFA has long advocated for the inclusion of fall rye in the Production Insurance program. As highlighted in our previous communications with your Ministry and Agricorp. There is a clear need for winter rye insurance coverage to support producers in managing the financial risks associated with crop losses and yield reductions caused by natural hazards. The development of a Production Insurance plan for fall rye responds to the growing demand within the industry.

We are pleased to see that the proposed regulatory amendment will provide rye producers with the opportunity to insure their crops, thereby mitigating the financial impact of adverse weather conditions such as drought, excessive moisture, and frost. This initiative not only supports individual producers but also enhances the overall resilience and sustainability of Ontario's agricultural industry. We appreciate the government's responsiveness to stakeholder feedback and its commitment to meeting industry needs.

Thank you for your continued support of Ontario's agriculture sector. We look forward to seeing the successful implementation of fall rye in the Production Insurance program.

Sincerely,



Drew Spoelstra
President

cc: OFA Board of Directors
Michel Dignard, President Russell County Federation of Agriculture
Reg Presley, President Prescott County Federation of Agriculture