



NFA
Northumberland
Federation of Agriculture

News & Notes

Working for a Vibrant and Innovative Agriculture Industry



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Allan

Message from the President Allan Carruthers

Northumberland county federation members have had a relatively mild winter with not a lot of snow and not a lot of minus 20 Celsius temperatures. This winter has seen some early tapping of maple trees with hopes for a decent maple syrup yield.

Winter meetings have been plentiful with more to come. NFA directors have been engaging our provincial and federal politicians and some

municipal councillors with issues such as Cobourg's concerning storm water management fees, carbon taxes affecting our agricultural enterprises, Europe's agricultural unrest and our digital infrastructure problems. Our federal and provincial members of parliament have been given the local agriculture industry's concerns and hopefully will act on some favourable resolution's. If

you have any questions, concerns or any issues that are affecting your rural community please reach out one of the NFA directors listed and pass on your items and we can try to get a resolution.

Planting season is coming up, please work and stay safe and be profitable. Always remember to take time for you and your family.

Notes from OFA

Ontario
Federation of
Agriculture

During the last week of February, about 15 directors and a few OFA staff members attended the Canadian Federation of Agriculture in Ottawa. There were 55 resolutions presented that become the standing policy and ultimately guide the CFA's lobby efforts. By far, the majority of the resolutions were carried, with a few minor amendments. Those resolutions originally saw the light of day, when they were presented at provincial general meetings held across the country. At your OFA AGM last November, there were about 30 resolutions that were presented, debated, amended with some carried and others defeated. From that group, your provincial board chooses a few that would be better dealt with at the federal level and sends them up. Any member may, at any time, submit a resolution to the provincial board.

The Path of Resolutions

Additionally, and equally as important, your NFA engages with local municipal politicians. We do that locally in the summer with our popular PoliAg tour and throughout the year by attending ag advisory committee and council meetings. In spite of our efforts, we are surprised to find that things happen at council meetings that are negative to agriculture and rural residents. While I am grateful that all the 15 seats are full on the NFA board, there simply aren't enough to be in all the places we should be. There are 772 OFA members in Northumberland county. That means 772 ambassadors for agriculture. We have the ability to have an advocate for agriculture at every council if we all pitch in.

Brian Crews OFA director Zone 12

NFA Directors 2024

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Northumberland County Rep

Trissia Mellor, Ag Manager
905-372-3329 ext. 6492

Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

Members of NFA's board of directors have done a great job coming together to work on a solution to the new stormwater management user fees in Cobourg. The directors are dedicated to advocating on behalf of members and farmland owners affected by this by-law, and I want to commend NFA for their dedication and hard work on this important issue affecting farmers.

OFA Connect

We're excited to bring this event back for the first time since the pandemic. It's a great opportunity to network with fellow farmers, learn some new things, and eat yummy food! Join us Thursday, March 28 at 10 AM in Belleville at the Westminster United Church. All members in Northumberland, Hastings, Prince Edward, Lennox and Addington are welcome to attend.



OFA CONNECT
Member Day Zone 12

March 28 | 10 AM
Westminster United Church
1199 Wallbridge Loyalist Rd. Belleville
Just 1 min north of the 401

Jim McComb, The Farmer's Edge Agri-Coaching
Close Neighbours: Rules about Distance from Farms to Housing

Ian Nokes, Policy Analyst, OFA
Local impacts of Battery Energy Storage Systems

Mike Robinson, Fire Chief, Township of Hamilton

The meeting concludes with a complementary hot lunch at noon catered by Flossie's

Contact: Resi Walt, OFA | resi.walt@ofa.on.ca

AgriMentor Program

OFA is proud to support and promote this new entrepreneurial mentoring service offered by AgriMentor, which enables female farmers to connect with an experienced agricultural mentor. It is a free service offered across Canada, in both French and English. The mentorship program allows for new and experienced farmers to connect and share knowledge and experience in a meaningful way. The program is looking for both mentors and mentees to sign up, for a 6-month commitment that consists of one-hour monthly virtual meetings. See the link for more info.

<https://ucfo.ca/agrimentor-individual-mentoring/>

Webinars

OFA's collection of webinars can be found at this link ofa.on.ca/resources/?xfilter=webinars. The most recent topics include help understanding tax filing updates, the AgriMentor Program, and cyber security for your farm.

Resi Walt Member Service Representative
Hastings, Lennox and Addington, Northumberland, Prince Edward

Tap Into Some Funding

Agri-Tech Innovation Initiative is supporting the Grow Ontario Strategy to increase the production and consumption of food grown and prepared in the province by 30 per cent by 2032 and boost food and beverage manufacturing GDP by 10 per cent.

The intake for the \$25 million **Agri-Tech Innovation Initiative** is delivered through Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (**Sustainable CAP**), providing financial support to eligible agriculture and food businesses so they can purchase tools and technology that increase production and enhance operations.

This program is open to both farmers and food processors. Check it out.

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1003847/governments-driving-innovation-in-food-production>

Skills Development Fund Training Stream can help you with employee training and retention.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/skills-development-fund>

Farmers Market Funding - Applications Start in April

Under the new program, funding will be available for marketing and awareness projects to promote and support local farmers who are participating at farmers' markets. Individual farmers' markets can apply to Farmers Market Ontario for up to 50% of their total project costs to a maximum of \$2,500 in grant funding. The program will be administered by FMO.

<https://ofa.on.ca/newsroom/new-funding-program-to-promote-ontario-farmers-farmers-markets/>

Be Social

Like us on Facebook:
@OFAzone12

Find us on
Facebook

YOU ARE
WHAT YOU
TWEET

Follow on
Twitter:
@ResiWalt



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



Municipal Government May Be Forcing Ag land Out of Production Locally

A new Storm Water Management fee bylaw was passed in June 2022 in the municipality of Cobourg. With a population of 20,519, taken from the 2021 census, it has grown just under 1% per year from the last two census data. NFA was made aware of the newly created storm water management fee being placed on all properties within the municipality of Cobourg, the last week of November 2023 and the fees were due the end of December of that year. There is approximately 600 acres of productive farmland that has been affected by the charge of \$160 per acre for this new fee which will be invoiced annually. NFA has submitted a letter of concern to the municipality, presented at the Jan. council meeting and met with local and provincial politicians advocating for the members affected by this new fee.

Our concerns for farmers:

- Charging this annual fee to property where no service is provided makes it economically impossible to farm or even own this property and forces it out of production.
- Farms bordering the municipal line are very concerned they could be next if the district expands in the future.
- There is an inequity in fees between residential and agricultural landowners from the perception that the latter are more financially capable due to the higher value of their assets.

Voice these concerns to your local politicians to support agriculture in Northumberland.



**GUARDIAN
Network**

Workshop April 4th Cold Springs

A Guardian is an individual, over the age of 18, who is likely to be in contact with farmers through their work, volunteer activities, or their place in their community and has successfully completed The Guardian Network training program.

Guardians are equipped with strategies and tools to identify when someone is struggling with their mental health or having thoughts of suicide; have constructive conversations about their struggles and open up the discussion around mental health; and connect individuals with appropriate mental health and crisis resources.

<https://www.guardiannetwork.ca/>

Please contact nfa.lisam@gmail.com if you are interested in completing this workshop

Mental Health Moment

As farmers get their equipment ready for spring don't forget to take care of your mental health before the stress of the growing season happens.

Michael and Candace 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.mdoriscounselling.com

Candice

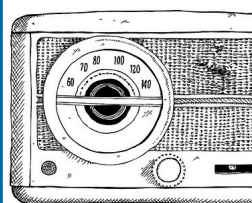


(416) 655-4285

www.candicebeach.com/


FARMER
wellness program

NORTHUMBERLAND



A Little Care Can Make an Accident Rare!

Listen for the radio campaign to keep our roads safe. Respect on the roads for all traffic, including agriculture equipment, is a high priority and we hope this campaign will help with awareness.

Tune in for the month of April to Classic Rock 107.9



**NORTHUMBERLAND
FEDERATION OF
AGRICULTURE**

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We're on the web

<https://ofa.on.ca/federations/northumberland/>

Gadgets

Digital resource that you may find useful.

A place to find land to farm.
Check it out.



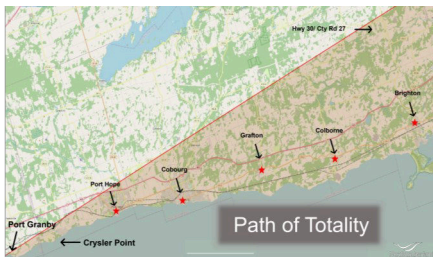
<https://findfarmland.ca/>

Solar Eclipse April 8th

Times for totality are as follows:

Port Hope 15:20:59
Cobourg 15:20:26
Grafton 15:21:00
Colborne 15:21:02
Brighton 15:21:10

Be safe and do not look at sun without specific eye ware. Check out the county page for more info.
<https://www.northumberland.ca/en/living-here/2024-total-solar-eclipse>



Social Media Farmer Wellness

Program

Like and Share

www.facebook.com/FarmerWellnessProgram



NFA was able to donate \$1000 in December to Northumberland County **FOOD 4 ALL** so all county food banks can benefit and continue to make sure everyone in Northumberland has access to safe and healthy food.



FOOD 4 ALL



Soon the equipment will be on the roads. Be safe out there and listen for our radio ad to make all aware to respect farmers doing their jobs.

Lisa



Ontario
Federation of
Agriculture

Renew your membership!

The OFA is involved in every aspect of farm business and rural life as the voice of Ontario's farmers.

- ⇒ Provides 51 localized County Federations of Agriculture for strong leadership and local representation
- ⇒ Includes 31 organizational members and affiliates representing a majority of Ontario's commodities
- ⇒ Is the only accredited farm organization to provide you with 20 trained Member Service Representatives (MSRs) in 15 geographical areas to provide you with front-line service in your area



The rise in prices for wheat-based food products, 2023

The food supply chain consists of many essential steps that move products from producers to consumers. Since March 2022, some costs along the supply chain have been falling, while others have remained high. Prices for bread, pasta and cereal at the grocery store continued to increase in 2023 but at a slower pace than in 2022.

Some costs along the food supply chain fell year over year

Production

Canadian farmers felt some relief from lower input costs, which contributed to a **26.5% drop** in the price of the wheat they produced (June 2023).

Inputs	
Pesticides	+9.5% (Q2 2023)
Fertilizer	-21.1% (Q2 2023)
Machinery fuel	-32.8% (Q2 2023)
Agricultural wages	+12.9% (Oct. 2023)

Processing and packaging

While food manufacturers paid **16.2% less** for raw wheat (Sept. 2023), producer prices for some wheat-based products increased.

Inputs	
Paperboard containers	+14.1% (Sept. 2023)
Manufacturing wages	+6.9% (Oct. 2023)

Wheat-based products (Sept. 2023)	
Bread, rolls and flatbreads	+10.3%
Flour mixes, dough and dry pasta	+0.4%
Breakfast cereal and other cereal products	-2.7%

Transportation

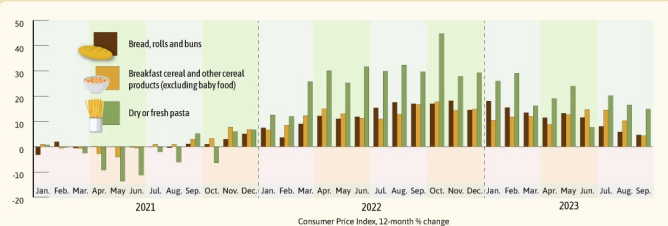
Inputs	
Diesel fuel	-4.9% (Sept. 2023)
Truck transportation	-7.5% (June 2023)
Freight rail (grain and fertilizer)	+2.3% (Oct. 2023)

Wholesale and retail

Inputs	
Wholesale food margins	+7.5% (Q2 2023)
Retail grocery store margins	+9.9% (Q2 2023)
Wholesale and retail trade wages	+4.7% (Oct. 2023)

Consumer prices

Although prices fell for some inputs, prices for wheat-based food products at the grocery store continued to rise, though at a slower pace year over year.



External factors

Weather

Extreme weather events have become more and more frequent and severe over the past few years, impacting global wheat supply and production. Reduced supply amid ongoing demand results in higher prices for consumers.



Russia's invasion of Ukraine

With both countries being major wheat producers, this conflict continues to create uncertainty in the global wheat market.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Employee wages by industry (average hourly wage rate), Farm Product Price Index, Retail Input Price Index, Industrial Product Price Index, Raw Materials Price Index, Wholesale Services Price Index, Retail Services Price Index, For-Hire Motor Carrier Freight Services Price Index, Freight Rail Services Price Index, and the Consumer Price Index.

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Statistics
Canada

www.statcan.gc.ca

Canada