

2023-2024
**Resolutions
Activity
Report**



2023-2024 Resolutions Activity Report Contents

FEDERATION		ISSUE	PAGE
1	Prescott	Winter Rye	3
2	Rainy River	Black Ash	3
3	Oxford	Drainage Act	4
4	Cochrane	Increased funding to the Vet Assistance Program	4
5	Wellington	Conservation Authorities	5
6	Oxford	Railway Companies	6
7	Arnprior	Hybrid Meetings	7
8	Elgin	AGM Resolutions	8
9	Oxford	CP Railway Company	8
10	Elgin	Finalization Draft Agricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) Guidance Document	9
11	Elgin	Strengthening the Protection of Agricultural Lands	10
12	Huron	Battery Energy Storage Systems	10
13	Lambton	Truck Drivers	11
14	Leeds	Simplifying Dealing with Specified Risk Materials (SRM)	11
15	Grey	Lyme Disease	12
16	Leeds	OMAFRA Support is Needed for All College Agriculture Programs	13
17	Huron	Groceries	13
18	Peel	Stormwater Management Charges	14
19	Larry Davis	Early Adopter/Adapter Rewards for Innovative Soil Management	15
20	Wellington & Perth	Minimum Distance Separation	16
21	Lambton	York Environmental Waste Solutions Landfill and Recycling Facility	17
22	Wellington	Measures of Sustainability	18
23	Wellington	Prevention of Farmland Grabbing in Ontario	18
24	Wellington	Job Protected Leave	19
25	Kent	Applicability of Ontario Drainage Act to Federally Regulated Railways	20
26	Southwest Members	Annual Compensation to Farms – Continuous Injurious Affection	21
27	Kent	Hydro One Powerlines	22
28	Wellington	Homesteader Education	22
29	Wellington	Topics for Conversation with Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)	23

December 2018

① 18-12-02
Prescott
Winter Rye

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby Agricorp to add winter rye as a crop covered under the Production Insurance program.

CARRIED 

ACTIVITY:

- [Letter from Minister Lisa Thompson – May 2024.pdf](#)

In May of 2024, OFA received correspondence from then Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs Lisa Thompson “I am pleased to share some exciting news: because of your advocacy, Agricorp will begin developing an Agri Insurance plan for fall rye. I appreciate that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture had written to share their support for taking this step. We are hoping to have the new plan in place beginning this fall, subject to federal government approval.”

July 2023

② 23-07-01
Rainy River
Black Ash

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) lobby the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to conduct an economic impact analysis on the effects the proposed Recovery Strategy recovery actions will have on Northwestern Ontario; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA work with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks on exemptions for agricultural lands that allow agricultural activities to continue where Black Ash is located.

CARRIED 

ACTIVITY:

- [Resolution Background information.pdf](#)
- [Emo Township Letter to Ontario Premier - August 2023.pdf](#)
- [OFA Letter to Rainy River Federation President August 30 2023.pdf](#)
- [OFA Follow-Up Letter to Rainy River Federation President - November 2023.pdf](#)
- [OFA submission regarding the development of the government response statement for Black Ash under the Endangered Species Act, 2007](#)
- [OFA submission regarding proposed regulations to protect Black Ash and its habitat](#)
- [OFA letter to Minister of Environment regarding their decision on the consultation for proposed regulation to protect Black Ash and its habitat](#)

OFA participated in a virtual focus group on Black Ash, held on October 5th, 2023, facilitated by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). OFA's agricultural perspective and member concerns were provided to the Ministry on the proposed policy and regulatory approaches for Black Ash under the Endangered Species Act, 2007, including the draft government response statement and proposed regulations on Black Ash.

On November 1st, 2023, OFA provided written comments to the MECP regarding the development of the government response statement for Black Ash under the Endangered Species Act, 2007, and regarding protecting Black Ash and Its Habitat Under the Endangered Species Act, 2007. In both submissions, OFA suggested that data collection should be improved in areas where data gaps exist, particularly in rural and northern regions of the province. Additionally, OFA recommended an economic impact analysis should be conducted on the effects of recovery actions on Northern Ontario, especially where data gaps exist on the location and health of Black Ash trees.

OFA will continue to advocate for the completion of an economic impact analysis of the effects the proposed Recovery Strategy as well as monitor the government's actions around Black Ash and other endangered species.

3 **23-07-02**
Oxford
Drainage Act

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby to have the Drainage Act wording changed to include any drain that crosses a property line.

LOST 

ACTIVITY:

- [OFA Letter to Oxford County President August 30 2023.pdf](#)
- [OFA Letter to Oxford County President - October 2023.pdf](#)

OFA recognizes that drainage is an important issue impacting its members, however this resolution was Lost. The concern with the proposed wording was that it would require all affected landowners to be included under the Drainage Act, even those who may have alternative agreements or do not view this approach as beneficial. While there was potential benefit to some members/landowners by the proposed wording change, there was also potential negative impact to other members/landowners.

4 **23-07-03**
Cochrane
Increased funding to the Vet Assistance Program

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the Ministry of Northern Development to increase the funding available to the Vet Assistance Program (VAP) to \$1.6 million, allowing the VAP to offset half the mileage rates by Ontario Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) and help existing veterinarians and entice future veterinarians to consider practicing large animal work in the VAP coverage area.

The \$1.6 million funding request (up from \$830,000) is based on an inflation calculator provided by the Bank of Canada (the equivalent of \$830,000 in 1990).

CARRIED

- [Northern Caucus Letter to Minister of Northern Development August 2023.pdf](#)
- [Response Letter to Northern Caucus from Minister of Northern Development August 2023.pdf](#)
- [OFA Letter to Northern Caucus September 2023.pdf](#)
- OFA submission to Standing Committee on Finance & Economic Affairs January 2024 <https://ofa.on.ca/resources/ofa-submission-to-the-standing-committee-on-finance-and-economic-affairs-regarding-ontarios-2024-budget/>
- [OFA Submission to Ministry of Northern Development on the Veterinary Assistance Program \(VAP\) Review \(May 3, 2024\)](#)

Veterinarians and veterinary services are limited in certain areas of Ontario, leaving livestock producers with limited access and increased costs for vital services. This leaves the health of livestock and the sustainability of the agri-food system in these communities at risk.

Timely access to appropriate veterinary care, services, and medications in rural and Northern Ontario is critical to the health and welfare of livestock, and contributes to food security, income generation, job creation, and economic growth. In order to support members in Northern and remote rural communities OFA continuously advocates for programs, and resources to improve access to veterinarians in rural and northern parts of Ontario.

In consultation with Northern Federations and members, OFA participated in an engagement session in April 2024 for the upcoming review of the Veterinary Assistance Program (VAP), providing recommendations to improve the program's effectiveness. Most recently, OFA provided comments to the Ministry of Northern Development on the VAP, recommending an increase in funding to the program, and other crucial modernizations that would support veterinary practices in underservice areas of the province.

Improved access to veterinarian care in rural and Northern Ontario was included as a priority component of OFA's 2024 pre-budget submission to Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy, outlining five key areas in rural Ontario where the province can stimulate the economy and formed one of the key messages that directors took to meetings with MPP's at our Queen's Park Advocacy Day in April, 2024. OFA alongside livestock commodity partners will continue to advocate for a comprehensive approach to ensure the availability of veterinary care in rural Ontario.

August 2023

- ⑤ **23-08-01**
Wellington
Conservation Authorities

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to fill the remaining vacant appointments.

CARRIED

- [OFA Letter to Wellington Federation President September 2023.pdf](#)
- [OFA Letter to Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry September 2023.pdf](#)
- [OFA Letter to Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry July 2024.pdf](#)

This file has become a long-term priority, and OFA continues to push for agricultural representation on Conservation Authorities. In addition to formal letter writing documenting our support and pressure to escalate this priority, OFA has had an opportunity to bring the importance of these appointments to Minister Graydon's personal attention at our Queen's Park Day in April of 2024, and at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference in January, 2024 as well as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference in August of 2024. Again recently, in raising concerns with Minister Smith about the wetland mapping project in Eastern Ontario, the issue of the importance of these appointments was part of the discussion. In a recent meeting with OFA following the July correspondence, Minister Smith indicated that vacancies would be filled by the end of 2024. OFA has offered its expertise and support to complete these appointments.

October 2023

6 23-10-01 Oxford Railway Companies

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) lobby Transport Canada's Minister to advise the Federal Railway company that they should not require a new agreement from landowners,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that OFA write a letter to help support Oxford County MP Khanna when approaching the Transport Minister with this concern.

AMENDED & CARRIED 

ACTIVITY:

- [OFA Letter to Minister of Transportation - October 2023.pdf](#)
- Meeting with Arpan Khanna (October 2023)
- [OFA resolution to CFA regarding Federal Railway Company \(Feb 2024\)](#)
- Meeting with Arpan Khanna (Feb 2024)
- OFA meeting with Minister of Transport staff August, 2024
- [OFA Letter to Oxford Federation – Sept 2024](#)
- [OFA ViewPoint - Farmers in urgent need of action: 'Unacceptable' for railways to download costs onto farmers, rural landowners - October 2024](#)
- [OFA Letter to CFA – October 2024](#)
- OFA meeting with Minister of Transport staff November 2024
- OFA's Presentation to Federal AGRI standing Committee November 2024
<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/AGRI/Meetings>



OFA has been very engaged on railway issues and has continued to work with the CFA to raise this issue within both the federal Transportation and Agriculture departments and across federal parties. In February 2024, OFA submitted to CFA's Annual General meeting requesting that they lobby Transport Canada to advise and direct the Federal Railway companies that they should not require a new agreement from landowners. This resolution was carried at CFA. Since then, OFA and CFA have also held meetings with Senior Policy staff at Transport Canada, reinforcing the concerns of members raised in these letters, urging the Minister of Transport to take action and direct railways to abide by existing agreements, cease removing crossings, and assume full responsibility for costs for both upgrades and ongoing maintenance.

CFA held its lobby day on October 22, 2024, where they raised this issue as one of their key messages in their meetings with all parties. OFA was represented by five Directors at these sessions and had an opportunity to raise member issues with railway crossings with both the Government and Opposition parties. A meeting with staff of Minister of Transport Anita Anand was held on November 6th and the OFA further presented on railway issues at the federal AGRI committee on November 7, 2024.

OFA recognizes the significant impact railway issues will have on its members and continue to work directly with federal decision-makers as well as with our federal counterparts to find urgent resolve to this issue.

November 2023

7 23-11-01 Arnprior Hybrid Meetings

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture offers a hybrid meeting model for all of its key meetings; annual general meeting, Policy Advisory Council and other committee meetings; Included in this change would be the ability to Vote if the meeting presented such opportunity.

CARRIED at AGM / LOST at BOARD OF DIRECTORS ❌

While this resolution was Lost as worded at the annual general meeting, the **Board of Directors adopted the following resolution re: hybrid model:**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that OFA offer a hybrid meeting model as a pilot project for its 2024 AGM, and

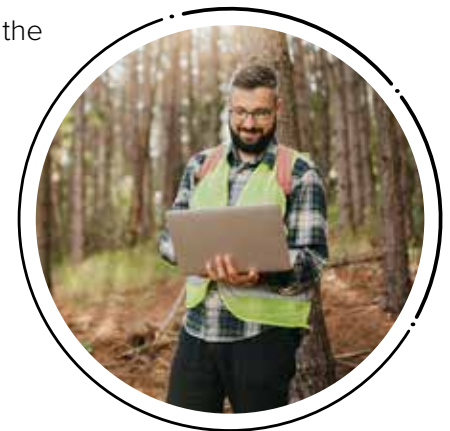
FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that OFA, in preparation for the pilot develop protocols and policies and a cost estimate for the pilot."

CARRIED ✅

ACTIVITY:

- [Letter sent to Arnprior Federation](#)

In 2024, OFA hosted key member and stakeholder meetings in a hybrid model, including Federation Forum, the Policy Advisory Council and offering a hybrid option for the Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting will allow for online voting in the business portion of the meeting, on resolutions and At-Large director elections. This pilot project including cost, benefit and member feedback will be reviewed by the board early in the new year.



8 **23-11-02**
Elgin
AGM Resolutions

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture will modify the annual agenda to prioritize the discussion and votes on resolutions, including increasing the time allotment.

CARRIED at AGM / CARRIED at BOARD OF DIRECTORS 

ACTIVITY:

- [Letter sent to Elgin Federation](#)

OFA prioritizes the resolution process along with the orders of the day and other business functions of the AGM. In planning the AGM agenda, OFA holds space for resolution discussions while also preparing alternative elements of the program to include depending on the quantity and depth of the resolutions that will be submitted. OFA will continue to strive to balance the timing of the agenda while waiting for resolutions to be submitted following the regional meetings taking place during the planning period which spans early August to early November.

9 **23-11-03**
Oxford
CP Railway Company

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture ask Canadian Federation of Agriculture to lobby Transport Canada's Minister to advise the Federal Railway company that they should not require a new agreement from landowners.

CARRIED at AGM / CARRIED at BOARD OF DIRECTORS 

ACTIVITY:

- [Letter sent to Oxford Federation – July 2024](#)
- [OFA resolution to CFA regarding Federal Railway Company \(Feb 2024\)](#)
- OFA sent a [letter to CN Rail](#) regarding the upcoming requirements for upgrades to existing private railway crossings (August 2024)
- [CFA letter to Minister of Transportation and the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food](#) regarding the implementation of grade crossings regulations and existing railway obligations. (September 6, 2024)
- [OFA ViewPoint - Farmers in urgent need of action: 'Unacceptable' for railways to download costs onto farmers, rural landowners - October 2024](#)
- [OFA Letter to CFA – October 2024](#)
- OFA meeting with Minister of Transport staff November 2024
- OFA's presentation to federal AGRI standing Committee November 8, 2024 <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/AGRI/Meetings>

OFA has been very engaged on the railway issue and has continued to work with the CFA to raise our concerns. In February 2024, OFA submitted a resolution to CFA's Annual General meeting requesting that they lobby Transport Canada to advise the Federal Railway company that they should not require a new agreement from landowners. Since then, OFA and CFA have also held meetings with Senior Policy staff at Transport Canada, reinforcing the concerns of members, raised in these letters, urging the Minister of Transport to take action and direct railways to abide by existing agreements, cease removing crossings, and assume full responsibility for costs for both upgrades and ongoing maintenance.

CFA held its lobby day on October 22, 2024, where they raised this issue as one of their key messages in their meetings with all parties. OFA was represented by five Directors at these sessions and had an opportunity to raise member issues with railway crossings with both the Government and Opposition parties. A meeting with staff of Minister of Transport Anita Anand was held on November 6th and the OFA further presented on the issue at the federal AGRI committee on November 7, 2024.

OFA recognizes the significant impact railway issues have on members and will continue to work directly with federal decision-makers as well as with our federal counterparts to find urgent resolve to these issues.

10 23-11-04

Elgin

Finalization Draft Agricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) Guidance Document

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby for the revision, strengthening, and finalization of the Draft Agricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) Guidance Document, March 2018.

CARRIED at AGM / CARRIED at BOARD OF DIRECTORS 

ACTIVITY:

- [Letter to Elgin Federation – July 2024](#)
- [Letter to Ministers of MMAH and OMAFRA regarding Agricultural System Approach and Agricultural Impact Assessments \(Oct 2023\)](#)
- [OFA submission to the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the proposed policies for a new provincial planning policy instrument \(May 2024\)](#)
- Letter to Independent Electricity System Operator from Minister of Energy and Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (June 2024) - Letter attached at end of [this letter](#)
- [OFA Submission regarding the Consideration of transition of land use planning matters to facilitate the introduction of a new policy statement issued under the Planning Act](#)

OFA continues to advocate and urge the provincial government to prioritize the finalization of the Draft AIA Guidance Document. Most recently, the importance of this guidance document was raised in our May 10, 2024, submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the proposed policies for a new provincial planning policy instrument.

Minister of Agriculture, Food & Agri-Business Rob Flack has reached out to OFA and commodity organizations for input on the draft AIA Guidance documents seeking input into how to make it an effective tool to balance the protection of farmland and community growth and development needs.

OFA will continue to provide OMAFA with our AIA recommendations while the draft AIA guidance document is being finalized. We anticipate the provincial government will release of the final AIA guidance document in the coming months.

11 23-11-05

**Elgin
Strengthening the Protection of Agricultural Lands**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) lobby to participate as part of the comprehensive review process with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for the completion of the 2023 Provincial Planning Statement (PPS), and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA lobby for changes to Section 2.3 of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) 2020 to strengthen the language used in the planning process to protect agricultural areas; Specifically, using words like ‘shall’ should be prioritized over ‘encouraged’, to ensure the protection of farmland and arable land.

CARRIED at AGM / CARRIED at BOARD OF DIRECTORS 

ACTIVITY:

- [Letter to Elgin Federation July 2024](#)
- [OFA submission to the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the proposed policies for a new provincial planning policy instrument \(May 2024\)](#)
- [OFA Submission regarding the Consideration of transition of land use planning matters to facilitate the introduction of a new policy statement issued under the Planning Act October 2024](#)

As directed by this resolution, OFA’s May 10, 2024, submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the proposed policies for a new provincial planning policy instrument included specific wording recommendations to strengthen the language with respect to protecting farmland.

Protection of agricultural lands and practices is an OFA advocacy priority, and we will continue to engage with the provincial government and relevant stakeholders to advocate on behalf of the agricultural community. OFA Directors have met with the Honourable Paul Calandra, as the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to discuss both the PPS review process and how the Ontario government can better protect agricultural lands and operations. Additional conversations have taken place with Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Electrification as well as Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Food & Agri-Business, and Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs.

OFA will continue to advocate for the protection of farmland and arable land.

12 23-11-06

**Huron
Battery Energy Storage Systems**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the provincial government to develop rules and regulations to govern the planning of the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) sites.

CARRIED at AGM / CARRIED at BOARD OF DIRECTORS 

ACTIVITY:

- [OFA Letter to Huron County President November 2024](#)
- [Meeting with Minister Todd Smith \(February 2023\)](#)
- [OFA submission to IESO Resources Adequacy and Long-Term 2 Request for Proposal \(January 2024\)](#)
- [OFA Battery Energy Storage System Recommendations](#)
- Letter to Independent Electricity System Operator from Minister of Energy and Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (June 2024) - Letter attached at end of [this letter](#)
- [OFA Fact Sheet on Agreements for Renewable Energy Installations on Your Land \(updated Oct 2024\)](#)

In January 2024, OFA provided recommendations for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in its submission to IESO regarding Resource Adequacy and Long-Term and copied to then Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Chair of the IESO Board of Directors, and the Acting Chair of the Ontario Energy Board. Through these recommendations, OFA emphasized the importance of both safety requirements and the protection of farmlands.

Throughout 2024, OFA has continued to engage in advocacy work and have had discussions with the provincial government, including Energy Ministers Smith and Lecce, regarding energy issues such as BESS.

13 **23-11-07**
Lambton
Truck Drivers

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the government to create a program to offset the risk for insurance companies to allow new qualified truck drivers to be insured.

CARRIED at AGM / CARRIED at BOARD OF DIRECTORS 

ACTIVITY:

- [OFA Letter to Lambton Federation President – Feb 2024](#)

OFA has engaged in discussions with representatives from Cooperators as well as Ontario Mutual Insurance Association raising concerns of members regarding the insurability of new qualified truck drivers in Ontario. This is a concern shared across farm and commodity organizations and was raised in an industry roundtable held November 8 with Minister of Agriculture, Food & Agri-Business Rob Flack and Parliamentary Assistant John Jordan. OFA will continue to bring this issue forward and seek solutions with partners.

14 **23-11-08**
Leeds
Simplifying Dealing with Specified Risk Materials (SRM)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, along with Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO), lobby the Federal and Ontario governments to eliminate Specified Risk Materials (SRM) separation and transportation requirements imposed on small abattoirs; This would be in keeping with the provincial government wanting to keep the cost of food down.

CARRIED at AGM / CARRIED at BOARD OF DIRECTORS 

ACTIVITY:

- [OFA Letter to Leeds County President - January 2024.pdf](#)
- [OFA resolution to CFA regarding SRM Removal Requirements \(Feb 2024\)](#)

OFA has engaged in discussions with Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) on how to approach the Federal and Provincial governments to eliminate SRM separation and transportation requirements imposed on small abattoirs. As the resolution also calls for federal regulatory changes, OFA board proposed a further resolution at the CFA Annual General Meeting in February 2024, requesting CFA to lobby the federal government for regulatory changes and the harmonization on standards regarding SRM Removal Requirements. That resolution was Carried. OFA is pleased to share that while there is no clear resolution at this time, the issue was on the agenda for discussion between provincial and federal agriculture ministers at the Federal/Provincial/Territorial minister's meeting held in the Yukon in July of 2024.

Beef Farmers of Ontario has taken the lead in advocacy on this issue and shared efforts in this regard have included motions and resolutions to the Canadian Cattle Association Board and Animal Health and Care Committee. Further, BFO shares that estimated costs of the Canadian SRM removal requirements have been updated as of 2020 to support advocacy efforts. The updated analysis found that on average, SRM disposal costs had increased from \$128/Mt, to \$167/Mt between 2009 and 2020, that total costs for animals under thirty months of age had increased from \$4.52 to \$5.88 per head, and finally, that costs for animals over thirty months of age was now costing industry approximately \$29 per head. Overall, the updated numbers demonstrated that current SRM removal practices cost industry, on average, approximately \$31 million per year in lost value. The results of this study were shared with decision-makers at both levels of government, and continue to be used in messaging with officials.

OFA will continue to stay engaged in this file and support Beef Farmers of Ontario in their advocacy efforts with Federal and Provincial government to reduce red tape and regulatory burden on small abattoirs, impacting viability and profitability of the sector.

15 23-11-09 Grey Lyme Disease

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the Ontario Government to direct the Ministry of Health to review current best practices available around the world for modern diagnosis and treatments for tick borne diseases and to take steps to publish / educate and promote options to the medical community for immediate improvements to existing outdated protocols.

CARRIED at AGM / CARRIED at BOARD OF DIRECTORS 

ACTIVITY:

- [Letter to Grey County President March 2024.pdf](#)
- On December 8, 2023, OFA had a virtual meeting with Parliamentary Assistant to Minister of Health, Dawn Murphy. Topics discussed included Lyme Disease and how to raise awareness of tick-borne diseases in both farm community and medical profession to ensure early diagnosis and treatment (as well as awareness for prevention.) and how can OFA and the Ministry of Health work together on this.
- [OFA Letter to Ministry of Health and Public Health May 2024.pdf](#)
- [Letter to Grey County – July 2024](#)

- In May 2024, OFA updated its online resources: [Tick Protection & Prevention Information](#) (in French and English) and shared on social media (May 24, 2024 - on Twitter/X - https://x.com/search?q=from%3AOntarioFarms%20lyme&src=typed_query&f=top)

The health and safety of Ontario farmers and farm workers is a top priority for the OFA and the threat of tick-borne diseases is a growing occupational hazard. OFA has been following the spread of Lyme disease in Ontario with interest since 2013. Through meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Health, OFA Directors have also discussed the importance raising of awareness of tch-borne disease. To ensure our membership has the information they need to take appropriate precautions, OFA regularly shares tick prevention information in our spring newsletters and social media to remind farmers about the risk of tick bites and the threat they can pose when working outside. Other commodities, such XXX, have also shared OFA posts to further the message.

16 23-11-10

Leeds

OMAFRA Support is Needed for All College Agriculture Programs

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby OMAFRA to provide financial resources for all College Business-Agriculture program.

CARRIED at AGM / LOST at BOARD OF DIRECTORS ❌

ACTIVITY:

- [OFA Letter to Leeds Federation President - January 2024.pdf](#)
- [OFA Letter to Leeds Federation President – Oct 2024](#)

In response to this resolution, OFA convened discussions with colleges (outside of the Guelph region) that host business/agriculture programs in Ontario. The discussion connected representatives from Algonquin College, Georgian College, and University of Windsor.

OFA encourages and supports agriculture programs across Ontario, however the process to secure financial resources requires that the College hosting the programs champions and leads in the requests for funding from OMAFA.

OFA encourages the colleges to initiate efforts to lobby for funding for Business Agriculture programs from OMAFA directly, and when/where appropriate OFA will support their efforts, but not lead them.



17 23-11-11

Huron

Groceries

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture lobby the Provincial Government and Federal Government in partnership with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to be included in conversations with regards to the impact the food chain infrastructure has on grocery prices.

CARRIED at AGM / CARRIED at BOARD OF DIRECTORS ✅

ACTIVITY:

- [OFA Letter to Huron Federation President](#) (January 2024)
- [OFA resolution to CFA regarding grocery prices](#) (Feb 2024)
- [OFA submission regarding the draft Grocery Industry Code of Conduct](#) (May 2023)
- July, 2024 - Announcement made in Whitehorse, Yukon all major retailers have agreed to join the Grocery Sector Code of Conduct including Loblaw, Sobeys, and Metro, Walmart and Costco. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2024/07/statement-from-federal-provincial-and-territorial-ministers-of-agriculture-on-the-grocery-sector-code-of-conduct.html>

OFA has supported efforts to establish a Grocery Code of Conduct to help to ensure fairness and accountability in commercial dealings between large grocery retailers and their suppliers, in the hopes that it will address some concerns about the significant market power of retailers over suppliers.

OFA submitted a resolution to CFA at their Annual General Meeting in February 2024 requesting that CFA lobby the Federal Government to be included in conversations regarding grocery prices and the impact the food chain infrastructure has on them. This resolution was Carried. CFA has confirmed that they have been actively engaged on Grocery pricing issue since February 2023. In September 2023, CFA wrote to the Prime Minister requesting that the Government of Canada ensure farmers are engaged in future discussions on this matter. At the time, CFA noted that CFA, as a lead organization involved in the development of a Grocery Code of Conduct, can provide a constructive and unified voice in this process. CFA also suggested that this engagement not focus on exploring the farmers’ role in food pricing and instead that farmers have an opportunity to share their unique perspective as suppliers to Canadian grocery supply chain to inform future actions and, critically, to avoid unintended negative impacts on the prices farmers receive for their products. In February 2024, the CFA appeared again as a witness at the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food (AGRI) on the topic of Efforts to Stabilize Food Prices. In July 2024, in concert with the Federal/Provincial Territorial meeting of agriculture ministers in Whitehorse, an announcement was made that all major retailers had signed on to a national Grocery Code of Conduct. All major retailers have agreed to join the Grocery Sector Code of Conduct. This includes Loblaw, Sobeys, and Metro, and most recently, Walmart and Costco. This is a positive step towards bringing more fairness, transparency, and predictability to Canada’s grocery supply chain and for consumers.

18 23-11-12

**Peel
Stormwater Management Charges**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) takes a proactive role to communicate our concerns with research-based material to municipalities throughout Ontario and to assist our members and local federations who are currently impacted, by providing science-based information in support of the elimination of unfair stormwater charges on farmland; and

FURTHER BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that OFA review the validity of storm water charges as they result in a manipulation of current taxation under the Farm Property Tax Rate,

FURTHER BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that OFA research and support alternative methods of stormwater retention in rural Ontario, with the objective of reducing instances of flooding in urban areas, thereby encouraging residential intensification and reducing urban sprawl.

CARRIED at AGM / CARRIED at BOARD OF DIRECTORS 

ACTIVITY:

- [OFA Letter to Peel County President - January 2024.pdf](#)
- [OFA policy on Stormwater Management Fees](#)

OFA is keenly aware of the escalating tension between municipalities and the farming community related to stormwater management fees and charges, as experienced in Peel Region through the City of Brampton and more recently in Hamilton and Cobourg, among other regions. This has been an issue discussed throughout the year, including at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference in January, and at the Policy Advisory Council in March.

OFA has adopted a policy on Stormwater Management fees which states that OFA believes that Stormwater Management Fees should not be applied to agricultural properties. These fees constitute an unfair tax on farms, while providing limited to no benefit to farm property owners.

OFA has been digging deep into the issue of Stormwater Management Fees in terms of the legislation and regulations that may apply and guide the municipalities. What is clear is that municipalities are legally permitted to charge stormwater management fees but what is lacking is provincial direction on how to go about assessing these fees leading to inconsistent approaches across the province.

OFA has been and will continue to work with local federations facing stormwater management fees and focus efforts on provincial avenues to provide guidance/direction to municipalities.

March 202419 **24-03-01****Larry Davis****Early Adopter/Adapter Rewards for Innovative Soil Management**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that OFA work with AAFC, OMAFRA, OSCIA, and Commodity Organizations to develop a system that rewards farmers who have been early adopter/adapters of soil health practices in the following ways:

- 1) Free soil grid sampling aligned with the criteria for OMAFRA's work on soil initiatives and programs, including building the Ontario Soils Resource Inventory
- 2) Grant a payment to farmers who are actively farming their land and manage soil in a manner that demonstrates behaviour change in soil health practices that can be measured

CARRIED **ACTIVITY:**

- [Letter to Larry Davis](#)

OFA has held several meetings with federal and provincial government, and program delivery staff, to discuss recognition of early adopters and ensure their ability to access program dollars to support efforts. Discussions with federal government staff centred around Ontario On-Farm Climate Action Fund programming and the potential to include a tiered approach to recognize early adopters with access to advanced soil sampling techniques.

There are several potential fits for early adopter recognition in provincial programming under Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership and OFA has explored those options with staff, managers and directors at OMAFA, including Farmland Health Check-up, Soil Health Check-up, Ontario On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF), Agricultural Stewardship Initiative, Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP).

OFA continues to advocate for early adopter recognition in a variety of programs and initiatives including Environmental Farm Plan, 4R Nutrient Stewardship and implementation of the Ontario Soil Health and Conservation Strategy.

As new environmental programs are developed, OFA reviews and requests that they include options to recognize the early stewardship activities of all farmers in Ontario and provide equitable access to cost-shared funding regardless of when those activities began.

20 24-03-02
Wellington & Perth
Minimum Distance Separation

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) address agriculture’s inability to appeal a minor variance with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH); and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture request to work with OMAFRA and MMAH to highlight the importance of MDS and to develop a set of criteria and guidelines to effectively define minor variance, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that OFA ask MMAH to strengthen the wording and necessity of municipalities communicating with one another, when planning in one municipality affects the land use, property value and/or future planning in another municipality.



CARRIED

ACTIVITY:

- [Letter to Wellington Federation and Perth Federation – August 2024](#)
- [OFA submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding new Minister’s permit and review powers under the Conservation Authorities Act \(May 2024\)](#)
- [OFA submission to the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the proposed policies for a new provincial planning policy instrument \(May 2024\)](#)
- [OFA submission to the Ontario Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs regarding consideration of Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 \(May 2024\)](#)
- [OFA submission to the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the review of A Place to Grow \(APTG\) and Provincial Policy Statement \(PPS\) \(December 2022\)](#)
- [OFA submission to Ontario’s Standing Committee regarding Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 \(November 2022\)](#)

OFA continues to advocate that the minimum distance separation formulae protect members from land use incompatibilities and vexatious complaints. In consultation with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), OFA advocated that the government adhere to MDS standards while guiding development in proximity to agriculture.

Ontario's diverse rural and agricultural communities do not conform well to a "one size fits all" planning approach, and so OFA will continue to take a considerate, site-specific approach to matters, such as spatial separation under MDS Formulae Guidelines, in an effort to avoid unintended consequences. OFA will continue to apply this resolution in consultation with the MMAH and assist local federations navigating inter-municipal planning.

Additionally, OFA opposed changes to the Planning Act under Bill 23 and Bill 185 that revoked third-party appeal rights for Official Plan Amendments, Zoning By-Law Amendments and Minor Variances, and Consent to sever, subdivide, or otherwise adjust property lot lines. OFA takes these matters seriously as these planning tools have the capacity to reduce the developable envelope of agricultural properties, restricting Ontario farmers' opportunities to grow or diversify their businesses and agricultural operations.

OFA will continue to advocate for the restoration of third-party appeal rights, the effective and accurate implementation of MDS, and to develop strategies to address and document these challenges through working with local federations, the MMAH, the MNRF, and the Ministries of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) and Rural Affairs (MRA). These positions are strongly supported as well by a number of our Agricultural and Commodity Organization Members.

After provincial guidance materials related to Agricultural Impact Assessments and the Agricultural Systems Approach are completed and released, OFA intends to request the development of minor variance MDS criteria and guidance materials.

OFA actively supports members that encounter challenges on this issue and is in regular contact with commodity and partners organizations as they have identified and communicated their concerns as well.

21 24-03-03

Lambton

York Environmental Waste Solutions Landfill and Recycling Facility

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture take a strong stand against the proposed York1 Environmental Waste Solutions Landfill and Recycling Facility.

LOST 

ACTIVITY:

- [OFA Letter to Lambton County President – November 2024](#)

While the resolution did not carry, the Board understands and appreciates the proposed re-establishment of the Dresden dump raises significant concerns for Lambton and Kent Federation members regarding environmental impacts, increased traffic, and road safety. The Board determined that the advocacy on this issue is better lead by the local Federations with support provided from the OFA's Member Service Team and Farm Policy Research Group. Further, it has been noted that the Minister of Environment, Conservation & Parks - Andrea Khanjin had committed to requiring this project proposal to complete a comprehensive environmental assessment under the Environmental Assessment Act which the OFA board strongly supports.

June 2024

22 **24-06-01**
Wellington
Measures of Sustainability

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA work with partner organizations in Ontario agriculture to standardize the economic measurement of beneficial management practices, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA work with its partnered organizations in Ontario agriculture to quantify the adoption of best management practices that are occurring on farms and the benefits that are occurring.

LOST 

ACTIVITY:

- [Letter to Wellington Federation – July 2024](#)

OFA agrees that the measurement and evaluation of beneficial management practices (BMPs) is an important part of proving to government and the public that farmers are doing their part to continuously improve environmental performance on agricultural lands. It is important that we are able to tell our environmental stewardship story and also have the evidence to back up our claims. However, accurately quantifying stewardship and BMP implementation is not easy given the high variability of landscapes, production methods and business structures across Ontario and one that is well outside the capacity of the OFA to accomplish on our own.

OFA has a long history of partnering with organizations to facilitate the adoption of BMPs across Ontario. From our collaboration with the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition (OFEC) that helped kick-start the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) 25 years ago to the 4R Steering Committee today, OFA has provided leadership and expertise to advance agri-environmental stewardship.

OFA is currently involved in a number of initiatives with the goal of harnessing and utilizing agri-environmental data to better measure and report on the good things farmers are doing on the land, and where there is room for improvement. Some of these initiatives include: National Index on Agri-food Performance, 4R Ontario Stewardship Steering Committee, Living Lab – Ontario, Greenbelt Foundation Soil Health Program, and ONFARM.

23 **24-06-02**
Wellington
Prevention of Farmland Grabbing in ON

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA work to create draft legislation restricting farmland ownership in the province to preserve farmland and limit farmland value inflation due to speculative investment, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED to lobby the Ontario Provincial government to adopt the draft legislation.

LOST 

ACTIVITY:

- [Letter sent to Wellington Federation – June 2024](#)

While OFA takes the issues of farmland preservation and affordability extremely seriously, it was decided after lengthy discussion, that what is proposed in this resolution would not be the appropriate way to advocate on these issues.

In 2020, OFA obtained data through the Freedom of Information Act that showed that in 2018 only 147 farm property transactions included a foreign party and in 2019 only 138 transactions included a foreign party.

Additionally, restricting ownership of farmland to Canadian citizens would potentially conflict with existing OFA policy. The Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program has provisions that limit access to the program to Canadian citizens and corporations where the majority of the shares are owned by Canadian citizens. OFA has long been lobbying to have this citizenship requirement removed because it excludes legitimate farm operations who have multiple layers of corporate ownership of farmland as part of their business structure.

24 **24-06-03**
Wellington
Job Protected Leave

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture work with our industry partners, other provincial agricultural associations, and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to seek federally regulated job protected leave for Canadian farm operators.

LOST 

ACTIVITY:

- [Letter to Wellington Federation – July 2024](#)

The health and safety of Ontario farmers and farm workers is a top priority for the OFA. OFA recognizes the significant challenges that balancing off-farm employment with the responsibilities of operating a farm can have on both mental and physical health.

OFA reviewed and discussed the current job-protected leaves of absence that are outlined under Part XIV Leave of Absence of the Ontario Employment Standards Act (ESA) and the 4 job protected leaves under the ESA covering a wide range of reasons, including family care leaves, organ donor leave, bereavement leaves, military service leave, critical illness and sick leave.

There was a sincere appreciation for the heavy workload and seasonal stress of managing a farm and working off-farm, especially for new and beginning farmers. However, it was deemed that expanding the list of job protected leaves to include farm operators was not within the strategic priorities and capacity of the OFA board and staff at this time.

25 **24-06-04**

Kent

Applicability of ON Drainage Act to Federally Regulated Railways

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) provide support through both OFA Directors and staff involvement to articulate the potential impact on farmers across Ontario if the Superior Court of Justice – Court of the Drainage Referee finds that the Drainage Act does not apply to federally regulated railways in Ontario,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that OFA seriously consider applying for Party Status to participate in the Superior Court of Justice – Court of the Drainage Referee case between the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company regarding jurisdictional questions of Ontario’s Drainage Act, and its applicability to federally regulated railways in Ontario.

CARRIED 

ACTIVITY:

- [Letter to Kent Federation – July 2024](#)
- [Farmtario News Coverage, July 2024](https://farmtario.com/news/railway-reluctance-on-drainage-costs-will-be-carried-downstream/)
- Presentation by Chatham-Kent legal counsel to OFA board of directors, August 2024
- [OFA ViewPoint - Farmers in urgent need of action: ‘Unacceptable’ for railways to download costs onto farmers, rural landowners - October 2024](#)
- OFA presentation to the federal AGRI Standing Committee <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/AGRI/Meetings> November 7, 2024

OFA recognizes the importance of this issue and its potential implications for province wide impact on our members. Both provincial directors and staff members have been involved in discussions with members, and with the municipality of Chatham-Kent. Further, OFA is engaged in discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness and the Ministry of Rural Affairs as well as Rural Ontario Municipalities Association, all of whom share our concerns.

In August 2024, OFA Board heard a presentation from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent legal counsel regarding their drainage dispute with CP Rail and the next steps. With support of legal counsel, OFA has identified amendments needed to the Canada Transportation Act to address this issue and has shared proposed legislation amendment with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture by way of a resolution.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Canadian Federation of Agriculture lobby Transport Canada to amend the Canada Transportation Act to add the following clauses:
2 Section 103.1

(1) Whenever by virtue of any Act of any province through which the railway runs, proceedings may be had or taken by any municipality or landowner for any drainage, or drainage works, upon and across the property of any other landowner in such province, the like proceedings



may, at the option of such municipality or landowner, be had or taken by such municipality or landowner for drainage, or drainage works, upon and across the railway and lands of the railway company in the place of the proceedings before the Agency provided in section 101 or 103.

(2) In case of any such proceedings, the drainage laws of the province, subject to any previous order or direction of the Agency made or given with respect to drainage of the same lands, apply to the lands of the railway company upon or across which such drainage is required, to the same extent as to the lands of any landowner of such province; but the railway company has the option of constructing the portion of any drain, or drainage work, required to be constructed upon, along, under or across its railway or lands.

The resolution submitted by OFA to the CFA was Carried.

Further, OFA has retained Stockwoods LLP, to apply for Intervenor Status and represent the interests of the OFA in the Ontario Court of Drainage Referee – Chatham-Kent v CPR – Court File No: CV-23-00001165-0000

August 2024

26

24-08-01

Southwest Members

Annual Compensation to Farms – Continuing Injurious Affection

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA engage in discussions with Ontario Hydro Networks Inc. to seek annual compensation for the continuing injurious affection arising from the construction of the new hydroelectrical lines, transformers, poles, easements and any other ancillary matters thereto recognizing an average value of \$30,000 per acre and applicable interest at 7% as adjusted for inflation and or interest every three years.

LOST 

ACTIVITY:

- [OFA Letter to Southwest Members – November 2024](#)

While this resolution was lost, OFA Board of Directors did carry a similar resolution which was submitted by the Kent Federation of Agriculture (24-08-02).

OFA will continue to work with Hydro One to ensure their land acquisition principles fairly compensate farming operations during all stages of utility projects impacting Ontario farmland and farm landowners. To fairly compensate landowners Injurious Affection valuation should be addressed at the onset of land access negotiations. However, while OFA does not feel it prudent to negotiate an annual income based on a specific land value and interest rate, OFA is committed to exploring compensation for the annual vegetation management as well as all production loss, interruption and damages related to the activities of Hydro One staff and contractors.

27 24-08-02

Kent

Hydro One Powerlines

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture join with the Kent Federation of Agriculture to advocate on behalf of federation members to the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Ontario Minister of Energy, and the Ontario Minister of Agriculture Food and Agribusinesses, to seek fair compensation including consideration for production interruption, production loss, and vegetation management, within hydro line corridor rights of way.

CARRIED



ACTIVITY:

- [OFA Letter to Kent County President – November 2024](#)
- [OFA submission regarding ERO-019-1371 proposed earlier access to land to conduct preliminary environmental studies for electricity transmission projects \(May 2020\)](#)
- [OFA Webinar Easements on Farm Properties \(April 2024\)](#)
- [OFA Fact Sheet on Cropland Out of Production in a Right-of-way, Lease or Easement Agreement \(May 2024\)](#)
- [OFA Fact Sheet on Land Easements and Acquisitions Under Infrastructure Projects \(updated July 2024\)](#)
- [OFA letter to the Attorney General of Ontario Doug Downey regarding the Ontario Expropriations Act \(August 2024\)](#)



OFA wrote to the Attorney General of Ontario regarding the Ontario Expropriations Act and requested that Agriculture Impact Assessments conducted prior to initiating an expropriation process in an agricultural farming area, to ensure the sustainability of Ontario’s individual farmers and agricultural sector, and to ensure impacts are mitigated. In addition to advocacy work, OFA has prepared and updated resources for members on this issue, including Fact Sheets and a webinar. OFA had an opportunity to escalate member concerns directly with the Director of Stakeholder Relations for the Attorney General in July.

OFA will continue to work with Hydro One to ensure their land acquisition principals fairly compensate farming operations during all stages of utility projects impacting Ontario farmland and farm landowners.

28 24-08-03

Wellington

Homesteader Education

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) develop an educational resource targeted at non-commercial livestock owners, such as homesteaders, outlining best practices, protocols and rules in place in Ontario and Canada to keep livestock healthy, owners and workers safe, and promote good biosecurity practices; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the OFA work with stakeholders, such as municipalities and relevant agricultural organizations and groups, to distribute said resource to non-commercial livestock owners

LOST 

ACTIVITY:

- [Letter to Wellington Federation – August 2024](#)

While OFA recognizes the value in developing educational resources for beginning, start up and homesteader type enterprises, it was felt that this work is largely commodity specific and currently well served. Upon review, OFA found quality educational materials are available and easily accessible for non-commercial livestock owners. Best management practices books are available to download at <http://www.ontario.ca/page/agricultural-best-management-practices>. Topics include Starting a Farm in Ontario, and Deadstock Disposal. Codes of Practice for the care and handling of livestock and poultry can be accessed through the National Farm Animal Care Council's website <https://www.nfacc.ca>.

Additionally, there are websites to educate individuals on owning backyard livestock and poultry, such as Small Flock Ontario <https://smallflockontario.ca>. Many of Ontario's commodity groups provide resources online on how to raise livestock and poultry in the province, such as Beef Farmers of Ontario's site Raising Cattle in Ontario, <https://ontbeef.ca/beef-farming/raising-cattle/> and Poultry Industry Council <https://www.poultryindustrycouncil.ca/education/raising-backyard-chickens>. Ontario Sheep also shares a good selection of resources on their website at <https://www.ontariosheep.org/resources> covering topics such as animal care, predation, marketing, biosecurity and specifically a New Producer Handbook.

29 24-08-04

Wellington

Topics for Conversation with Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) request that the MMAH not permit a municipality to approve a minor variance to reduce the Minimum Distance Separation I (MDS I) setback between a proposed new development and existing livestock facilities; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that OFA request that the MMAH direct municipalities to communicate with neighbouring municipalities regarding planning matters that may affect the land uses, property values and/or future planning options in a neighbouring municipality, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that OFA request that the MMAH direct municipalities to notify all landowners when their livestock operation has been used in determining the MDS setback, regardless of whether those landowners, their livestock, or their lands are located within and outside the municipalities boundaries, and to allow those landowners the opportunity to speak to the accuracy of the MDS setback calculation.



CARRIED 

ACTIVITY:

- [Letter to Wellington Federation – August 2024](#)
- [OFA submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding new Minister's permit and review powers under the Conservation Authorities Act \(May 2024\)](#)
- [OFA submission to the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the proposed policies for a new provincial planning policy instrument \(May 2024\)](#)
- [OFA submission to the Ontario Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs regarding consideration of Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 \(May 2024\)](#)
- [OFA submission to the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the review of A Place to Grow \(APTG\) and Provincial Policy Statement \(PPS\) \(December 2022\)](#)
- [OFA submission to Ontario's Standing Committee regarding Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 \(November 2022\)](#)

OFA continues to advocate that the minimum distance separation formulae protect members from land use incompatibilities and vexatious complaints. In consultation with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), OFA advocated that the government adhere to MDS standards while guiding development in proximity to agriculture.

Ontario's diverse rural and agricultural communities do not conform well to a "one size fits all" planning approach, and so OFA will continue to take a considerate, site-specific approach to matters, such as spatial separation under MDS Formulae Guidelines, in an effort to avoid unintended consequences. OFA will apply this resolution in consultation with the MMAH and assist local federations navigating inter-municipal planning.

Additionally, OFA opposed changes to the Planning Act under Bill 23 and Bill 185 that revoked third-party appeal rights for Official Plan Amendments, Zoning By-Law Amendments and Minor Variances, and Consent to sever, subdivide, or otherwise adjust property lot lines. Each one of these tools involves the MDS in different contexts but to similar effect. OFA takes these matters seriously as these planning tools have the capacity to reduce the 2 developable envelope of agricultural properties, restricting Ontario farmers' opportunities to grow or diversify their businesses and agricultural operations.

OFA has and will continue to advocate for the restoration of third-party appeal rights, the effective and accurate implementation of MDS, and to develop strategies to address and document these challenges through working with local federations, the MMAH, the MNRF, and the Ministries of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) and Rural Affairs (MRA). These positions are strongly supported as well by a number of our Agricultural and Commodity Organization Members.