

News & Notes

Working for a Vibrant and Innovative Agriculture Industry



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Message from the President Allan Carruthers

It's hard to believe that we are looking at the calendar and it's June already!!! Spring has almost past. We have had challenges with excessive rain and cool temps resulting in crop planting progress being slow across southern Ontario.

Two elections have happened since the last newsletter and that

brings new federal and provincial faces to hear our challenges of tariffs, fair trade, carbon tax extinction and also farm land preservation, to name a few.

From a long list of applicants we have hired a Social Media Strategist & Content Creator as a pilot project. Dani Vrana from Colborne will help

get our social messaging out there. Check out our Facebook and Instagram pages for some exciting posts.

As always if you have any issues or challenges please contact anyone of our NFA directors and bring it to our attention.

Allan



Working With The Politicians

I would like to thank the NFA members that attended our town hall style meeting in Codrington with our MPP David Piccini. The participation from the group and the dialogue back and forth was great. The ice storm and resulting power outages were top of mind for many. Members expressed concerns regarding lack of forestry control and slow hydro response. David assured that a thorough post event analysis would be conducted to identify where improvements could be made.

Locally your federation continues to advocate for land use planning with an eye to farmland preservation. We have not forgotten the Storm Water Management Fee fiasco in Cobourg and continue to press for provincial guidance and the exclusion of Agricultural lands from storm water fees, a position echoed by the OFA and endorsed by former Ag Ministers Thompson and Flack. The Lower Trent Conservation Authority is absent of an agricultural appointment on their local board. NFA continues to ask the Government to fill this position.

By invitation from my good friend, neighbour and President of Grain Farmers of Ontario Jeff Harrison, I spent half a day with MPP Tyler Allsopp. I can assure you that with both Jeff

and I holding Tyler captive in Jeff's truck, there were few local issues that were not discussed. I would like to recognize the work that Jeff has put in, making sure that all 3 levels of government are aware of the importance of the Picton Terminal to farmers in this part of the province.

The Temporary Foreign Workers program has been in the news lately. This program is vital, not only to primary agriculture but the processing sector as well. I will be conveying that importance to our local Federal MPs in the coming days.

The Northumberland Federation looks forward to hosting our annual PoliAg tour. We are thankful for the local politicians that give up a day in the summer to tour Northumberland County with us. Year after year the committee works hard to ensure its success.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you at the AGM in Roseneath in the fall.

Brian Crews, OFA Director Zone 12



NFA Directors 2025

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905-372-3329 ext. 6492



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

Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

Training Youth for Success on the Farm

With summer upon us, perhaps you have some extra hands helping around the farm.



Available on OFA's YouTube channel, this webinar, presented in partnership with CAHRC and CASA, will prepare young farm workers and their families for the realities of working on a farm.

Learn what to expect in terms of duties and work hours, key safety training for equipment and livestock, common hazards to watch for, and how to handle insurance and liability considerations. Farmers will also learn best practices for creating a culture of safety and ensuring young workers feel comfortable reporting concerns.

<https://www.youtube.com/@ontariofarms>

OFA's Comments on Bill 5

OFA provided a written submission to the Ontario Standing Committee on the Interior regarding Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025*. OFA comments related to schedules 2, 9 and 10 of the Bill. OFA urges the Ontario government to retain strong, science-driven species protections, and to ensure any reforms respect both ecological integrity and farming activities. OFA remains committed to supporting fair, transparent planning that fosters a sustainable agri-food system in Ontario.

Read OFA's submission here, posted May 28, 2025: <https://ofa.on.ca/resources/>

OFA Student Bursary Program

Now accepting applications until deadline of August 31, 2025



The bursary program is open to applicants who live in Ontario, are OFA members, or the child or employee of an OFA member. Applications are judged based on demonstrated leadership skills, involvement in the community, and varied accomplishments in both school and the agriculture industry. <https://ofa.on.ca/community/bursary-program/>

New Member Benefit Program partnership with Specsavers

Specsavers is an optometrist owned and led business that provides Canadians access to comprehensive eye exams with 75 locations across Ontario. As an OFA member, you qualify for 50% off lens upgrades on both prescription glasses and prescription safety glasses in addition to in-store offers. Visit one of their locations and present proof of membership with OFA (e.g member ID card) at all Specsavers locations in Ontario to receive these discounts.

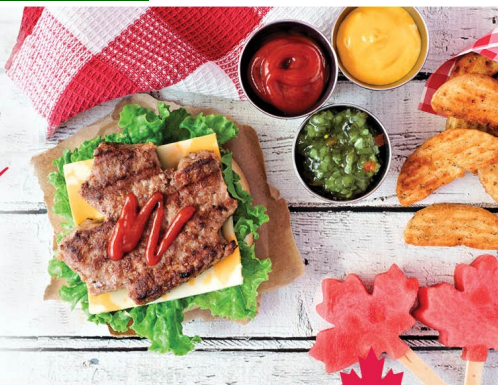


**Join this
dynamic team
and help us
influence the
policy makers.
Contact one of
the directors
and ask your
questions if you
think you want
to help us make
a difference for
our industry.**

**August 20th 12:00 - 21st
7:00pm**
George Burkitt and Family
1289 Harrington rd, Frankford

August 2, 2025

**HAPPY
Food Day
CANADA**



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada

Be Social

Like us on Facebook:
@OFAzone12



Follow on
Twitter:
@ResiWalt

www.FARM911.ca

Resi Walt



**Let's reduce spray
drift across Ontario**

Take the quiz

<https://bedriftaware.ca/>

Our New Ministers of Agriculture

MPP TREVOR JONES

Minister of Agriculture,
Food and Agribusiness
and represents the
riding of Chatham-
Kent Leamington



MP HEATH MACDONALD

Minister of Agriculture
and Agri-Food and
represents the riding of
Malpeque, Prince
Edward Island



We look forward to these minister supporting farm business competitiveness for Ontario and Canadian farmers and to protect our ability to grow food, fibre, fuel & flowers ensuring our national food security.

Broadband in Northumberland - Phase one, to deliver reliable internet access to 11,000 homes and businesses across the county is underway. There will be no cost to have the infrastructure installed for residents in **Phase two**. giving everyone the option to sign up for high-speed internet in the future. Check out the web site and stay informed on the progress with the link below. There is a map to follow completed and under construction areas. <https://www.northumberland.ca/en/living-here/broadband-in-northumberland.aspx>



Northumberland Holstein Club Family Night/Twilight Meeting

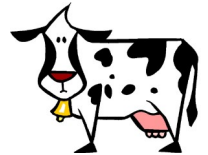
Almerson Farms Ltd.

1624 Petherick Rd., Campbellford, ON

Friday July 11, 2025 @ 5:00 - 8 pm

Advanced tickets can be purchased from the
host family or
directors of the
Northumberland Holstein Club

\$25 - Adults
\$15 - Kids 10 and under
At door sales will be \$5.00
more



Annual Beef Day

Thursday July 3th, 2024

Trade Show @ 4:00pm Beef BBQ @ 6:00pm

Adults \$25 - Kids 6-12 \$10 - Under 6 free

Hosted by:

Loyal Farms Scott & Sandra Honey

127 Honey Line, Warkworth



Students look.....Bursaries!!!!

The Port Hope Agriculture Society is pleased to offer financial support to an eligible student to assist in the achievement of their academic success. This support is in the form of a \$500 bursary for a student who is enrolling (or is already enrolled) in an agriculture related field, and can be obtained by those in degree, diploma, or certificate programs at a recognized post-secondary institution in Canada. Full details can be found on their web site www.porthopefair.com/bursary or contact secretary@porthopefair.com

Deadline is July 31st



Ontario
Federation of
Agriculture

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is offering six postsecondary bursaries in 2025. Along with offering three bursaries in the amount of \$2,000 each to students in an undergraduate program, OFA is also offering a \$2,000 bursary to a person completing an apprenticeship, as well as a \$2,000 bursary for a person completing a post-graduate or leadership development program. New this year is an added bursary for those participating in a veterinary program.

Bursary recipients will be selected from applicants who are OFA members, a child of, or employee of an OFA member and are residents of Ontario. Applications are judged based on demonstrated leadership skills, involvement in the community, and varied accomplishments in both school and the agriculture industry.

The deadline to submit an application for the bursary program is August 31, 2025.

ofa.on.ca/community/bursary-program

Mental Health Moment

The growing season is in full swing and farmers are nurturing the animals and plants in their care to be the best they can be. Take some time to check in on your mental health to be the best you can be.

Check out

"Grounded" on Spotify

for 5-Minute Farm Meditations

you can do anywhere
even in the tractor.
Pause, reconnect and
find a little stillness-even
in the busiest season.



open.spotify.com

Also have you checked out the Farmer
Wellness Initiative web site yet?

Access free unlimited counselling

1-866-267-6255

24 hours a day 7 days a week

farmerwellnessinitiative.ca

FARMER
WELLNESS
INITIATIVE

Agriculture
Wellness
Ontario



NORTHUMBERLAND
FEDERATION OF
AGRICULTURE

Contact: *Lisa Meekes*

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Email: nfa.lisam@gmail.com



@NorthumberlandFed-
erationofAgriculture

#northumberlandag

We're on the web

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

Gadgets

Digital resource that you
may find useful.

Keep track of all farm equipment
maintenance records, create



detailed
service
history,
schedule
service
alerts.

Check it out.

farmservicemanager.com



Spread the Word to Students

Do you know a young person in second year of post secondary that would like some funds for their schooling? There are several bursaries available to Northumberland students and I have included a few links in this issue. Pass this info along and let's get some money into their pockets.

Mark your calendars with the dates for the local dairy and beef social events and support their causes.

Have a happy growing season everyone.

Lisa

Don't forget to
do the OFA
Members' 2025
Farm Insurance
Survey by June
20th. Here is the
link:

[www.surveymonkey.com
/r/TXF2LHB](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TXF2LHB)

Northumberland Federation Scholarship



NFA is currently accepting application for the 2025 Scholarship Application Program.

Qualifications are as follows:

- The applicant must be a member or related to a member of the OFA within the boundaries of Northumberland County. An affiliation with a Northumberland OFA member **may** be considered based on a written description (by the member) of the applicant's involvement on the member's farm. Example: A neighbouring student that has helped on the farm and has demonstrated a passion and future interest in agriculture.
- The applicant must submit a detailed essay listing the relationship to the OFA member, his/her activities on the farm, associated memberships (4H, etc.), volunteer work, detail their course studies, and their future goals.
- The applicant must be entering the second year or greater of an accredited post-secondary diploma or degree program.
- A late application will disqualify the applicant for consideration. The applicant may reapply for consideration in the next subsequent year.
- Unsuccessful applicants may reapply
- A maximum of three scholarships will be awarded.
- A recipient may only be awarded once
- A maximum of \$3000.00 will be awarded in any one year.
- \$1000.00 will be awarded to each successful applicant.

Deadline for receipt of applications is **August 1, 2025**. The Scholarship committee will need time to read and consider all the forms and essays and make their final decision well in advance of the AGM and banquet. Please do not forget to include all the requested information and use a separate sheet to tell us about your farming connections and your community interests. Fill out an application form and include a separate sheet for additional info.

Mail to:

Lisa Meekes
1246 Dingman Rd.
Castleton, ON.
K0K1M0

or

Email to:

nfa.lisam@gmail.com



Name: _____

Phone # _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Township/Municipality: _____

Name of OFA membership or Affiliate: _____

OFA Farm Registration # _____

Home Address: _____

Student Address: _____

Student ID#: _____ College or University Attended: _____

Address of School: _____

(Agricultural) Course Enrolled In: _____

(Agricultural Diploma or Degree being sought: _____

Average Mark Attained: _____ Year(s) of Study Completed: _____