



NFA
 Northumberland
 Federation of Agriculture



2025 ISSUE #3

News & Notes

Working for a Vibrant and Innovative Agriculture Industry

Message from the President Allan Carruthers

Where has the summer gone! Fall colours are starting, fall fairs are happening and fall harvest season is approaching fast. The past summer has been a hot one and a summer with a low amount of precipitation. As we prepare for harvest don't forget to work safely and be aware of employees, family and ourselves. Your NFA board has been working for you this summer hosting our Poli-Ag tour in August. The tour showcased the new barn at McComb's farm east of Castleton and also a large equipment awareness demo highlighting site lines at intersections and roadside brushing

concerns. From there we took the bus to Sandy Flats Sugarbush where they explained their syrup business and Agri-tourism addition. We attended the two day Hastings County Plowing match and engaged members and friends alike. Please plan on attending the upcoming fall fairs in your area and don't forget our annual **AGM at the Alderville Community Centre October 10th** tickets are available from your local directors listed in this newsletter.

Come celebrate Ag week with us!

Allan

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Notes from OFA

Ontario
 Federation of
 Agriculture

Great new tool from OFA

In OFA's second annual business confidence survey, over a thousand farmers identified municipal bylaws and policies as one of the top 4 challenges their farm will face going forward. As a result, OFA has developed a data base that will assist us in tracking municipal bylaws that may have an impact on your farm.

1. Development Charges
2. Storm Water Charges
3. Site alteration
4. Tree cutting
5. Livestock Guardian Dogs
6. Hoop house
7. Backyard chickens

By searching the data base we will quickly be able to see which municipalities have bylaws that are supportive of agriculture and which ones could use some improving. Our MSR will be able to flag bylaws that are coming up for renewal and advise the local

federation of municipalities in their county where advocacy efforts should be directed, to ensure a more ag supportive bylaw.

However, herein lies the problem. Neither your provincial director (me), your local MSR (Resi Walt) nor your local board has the capacity to advocate across the county at the municipal level. Perhaps you have a real penchant for searching a data base, advocating for Agriculture or delegating at local council meetings. We can assist you and provide you with all the support you need, but we can't do it all.

Come on out to the Northumberland AGM in Roseneath on October 10 where we will elect our delegates to go to the provincial AGM, elect our Policy Advisory Council member and of course there are always spots for new members on the local board. I will be happy to talk to you about this new OFA initiative.

Brian Crews, OFA director Zone 12



#ONTAgWeek

Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

Be Social

Like us on Facebook:
@OFAzone12



www.FARM911.ca

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

Be Grain Safe – safety information you can share with family members this harvest

[Safe at the grain bin: Farmers urged to be grain-safe this fall - Manitoba Co-operator](#)

5th Edition Environmental Farm Plan Workshops

The 5th edition EFP workbook has been updated to reflect regulatory changes, current industry priorities and best practices in agriculture. It also includes new content to increase awareness of species at risk and biodiversity, and to support adaptation to a changing climate. The EFP is a **confidential and voluntary environmental risk assessment tool** that helps the owners of all types of farms—large or small—take a whole-farm view and identify incremental improvements that support long-term sustainability, profitability and productivity. There is no cost to participate.

[Read the announcement here](#)

A day two-workshop has been scheduled at Codrington Community Centre Dec 3 & 10, 2025 Who should attend

- Producers new to EFP or updating from a 3rd/4th Edition
- Any operation wanting a practical, farm-specific Action Plan
- Those planning to apply to cost-share or other programs that require a current EFP (*Pre-registration required; seats are limited.*)

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/t6chpxsh>

FCC Young Farmer Summit

It's back – the FCC Young Farmer Summit series returns this fall! Sharpen your farm management skills and sign up for this free event designed for young farmers under 40. Learn from industry experts, connect with peers and gain the knowledge you need to take your farm game to the next level. Sign up early!

Nov 29/25 – Port Perry [Register now](#)

OFA, along with Ontario Sheep Farmers and Beef Farmers of Ontario provided comments to the Minister of Agriculture, Food & Agribusiness regarding improving the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program (OWDCP) Read here:

<https://ofa.on.ca/resources/joint-letter-to-the-ontario-ministry-of-agriculture-food-and-agribusiness-regarding-issues-with-the-ontario-wildlife-damage->

Biosecurity

On-farm biosecurity is critical in protecting the health of livestock, poultry, and crops, safeguarding the food supply, and maintaining the economic stability of Ontario's agricultural sector. Diseases and pests can travel easily on people, vehicles, equipment, and even clothing, making every visitor and activity on a farm a potential risk. By following strong biosecurity measures, farmers can protect their animals, crops, livelihoods, and communities from costly and potentially devastating outbreaks. Good biosecurity ensures the agricultural sector remains productive, sustainable and safe for generations to come.

Check out OFA's latest Factsheet on Biosecurity at <https://ofa.on.ca/resources/biosecurity/>



Resi

Hey Teachers!

Do you know any teachers looking for some inspiration this school year? How about some parents doing home schooling? AgScape provides factual, balanced, curriculum linked food literacy programs and resources for Ontario's educators and students. And if you aren't teaching any grade one to twelve kids, it is great to see what is available as a window to our agriculture food producing industry.

Check them out! <https://agscape.ca/>



NFA Board Director Inducted to Wall of Fame

On Sept. 14th at Farmtown Park in Stirling, **Bette Jean Crews** was inducted to the Quinte Agriculture Wall of Fame. This honour is given to individuals in the Quinte area who have made an outstanding contribution to the agriculture and food industry at the local, provincial and/or national level.

Take some time and visit the wall and see all the people in this area who have made a difference to our industry. If you can't go in person check out the digital version.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d022e0b532984e92bdf>

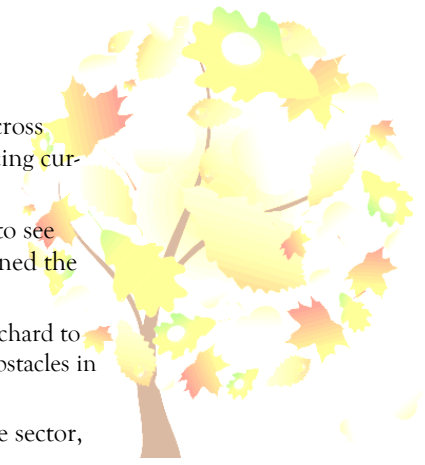
Poli-Ag Tour 2025 for Northumberland

NFA hosted another successful Poli-Ag Tour this past August. This year municipal councillors and staff across Northumberland were able to experience robots at work at the McComb family dairy barn. Experiencing current technology at this farm

Farm equipment was set up for all to sit in a seat and experience site lines approaching a roadway and to see how visible automobiles are behind large equipment. TCO Agromart brought their sprayer and explained the stress their employees have travelling on the road with impatient traffic.

Next off to the Sandy Flat Sugar Bush to hear about the science behind the process. A walk to the Potter orchard to experience an outdoor chapel exposing us to the Agri-tourism part of the business and listening about the obstacles in the way to make things thrive. A wonderful lunch was enjoyed among the maple trees and the chickens.

This tour is a crucial opportunity to enhance communication between policymakers and the agriculture sector, fostering teamwork for Northumberland's future.



Great Feedback

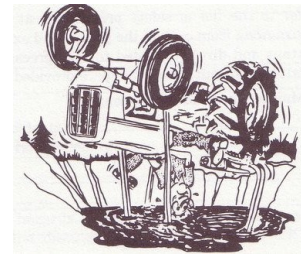
Just a quick note to thank you for the Poli-Ag Tour yesterday. It's something I genuinely look forward to every year. I always come away having learned something new, and I often find myself sharing those insights in conversations long afterward.

I truly appreciate the time and effort that goes into organizing these tours. Our community is fortunate to have access to such a valuable opportunity and resource

TURKEY FACTS

Canadians consumed 137.3 million kg (Mkg) of turkey in the year 2024.
 Per capita turkey consumption in 2024 was 3.3 kg.
 The Nielson Company reported an estimated 49.4 Mkg of turkey and turkey products were purchased at retail by Canadians in 2024 (excluding deli).
 Of that 49.4 Mkg, 39.3 Mkg of whole turkeys were purchased.
 In 2024, Canadian households consumed a total of 6.4 million whole turkeys.
 Annual sales of turkey parts and processed turkey products in Canadian supermarkets was 10.0 Mkg in 2024 (excluding deli).
 At Thanksgiving 2024, 2.1 million whole turkeys were purchased by Canadians, equal to 32% of all whole turkeys that were sold over the year. At Christmas the number changed to 2.7 million equal to 42% of all whole turkeys.

Happy Thanksgiving



Be Safe!

Mental Health Moment

Harvest season is upon us and with the drought we have had this growing season yields may not be as hoped. That extra stress could add pressure to the season, so take some time to nurture mental health. Keep an eye on your loved ones.

Visit the new web site and get yourself familiar with what is available. You never know who it can help.

Access free unlimited counselling

1-866-267-6255

24 hours a day 7 days a week

farmerwellnessinitiative.ca



Changes to the **official plan** are happening in Northumberland. Check the maps in your area to make sure you agree with the changes. Public open houses will be held in October 2025 (dates and locations coming soon!). Please review the documents at the following link and

bring your questions and feedback to one of the upcoming open houses this fall.

<https://joinin.northumberland.ca/northumberland-next-official-plan-update/>

It's Fair Season

The Agriculture Societies are in full swing hosting their fairs in the area. So many volunteers are needed to keep these events going so if you think you can spare a little time to help them in any way contact them and get involved. So many of the Ag events can't continue without people to help and it is a strong tie to consumers who are far removed from where their food comes from.

Here is a link to all of the fairs in our district.

<https://ontarioagsocieties.com/our-fairs/?district=12>

Lend a hand and keep this fall tradition going strong.





NORTHUMBERLAND FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

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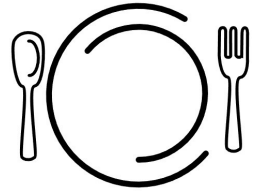
@NorthumberlandFederationofAgriculture
 #northumberlandag

We're on the web
www.ofa.on.ca/about/county-federation-sites/northumberland.aspx



The NFA Annual Banquet

Will be held on Friday, October 10, 2025
7pm Dinner will be at
Alderville Community Center,
8913 Hwy. #45, Roseneath, ON
Cost is **\$30.00** per person.



"Cash bar only no debit."

Celebrate Ontario Ag week with us!

Lisa

NFA has Vacant Spots on our Board

If you have an interest in working with politicians to steer policy in a helpful direction for our industry; instilling awareness for consumers to understand what agriculture is all about for a secure food supply; supporting our members; then this is the job for you!

Connect with a director and take the next step.



Did you see them?

Gadgets

Digital resource that you may find useful.



Grain Cam™ Mobile

Calculate grain loss during harvesting and to optimally adjust your combine harvester. Take a picture with your smart phone and let the app do the work.

<https://agriculture.newholland.com/en/asiapacific/services-and-solutions/apps>



Municipal Ag Advisory Committees – Do You Have One in your Municipality? Why Not!!!

An Agricultural Advisory committee provides advice and information to municipal councils on agricultural related matters. These Committees help municipal staff identify any agricultural-related issues and make recommendations to Council. They provide Council and staff with an agricultural perspective on many issues that impact the industry and provide advice on municipal policy and by-laws as they relate to agriculture.

Farmers make up less than 2% of the population in Ontario and fewer people have direct contact with agriculture, so making use of these committees becomes more important as time passes. Consider sitting on an Ag Advisory Committee to share your knowledge of our industry and help policy maker's work with agriculture to have a sustainable thriving atmosphere in Northumberland County.



THE BIG MAC? NOT WITHOUT CANADIAN BEEF FARMERS.

EGG McMUFFIN? NOT WITHOUT CANADIAN EGG FARMERS.

THE McFLURRY? NOT WITHOUT CANADIAN DAIRY FARMERS.

CHICKEN McNUGGETS? NOT WITHOUT CANADIAN CHICKEN FARMERS.

OUR FOOD. YOUR QUESTIONS.™

It makes me smile when I see companies advertising this way. My hope is the general public realizes the importance of Canadian farmers to their everyday life. We are a small number of the population so when we have partners spreading the word it helps. Send the companies a note encouraging more of this.

