



NFA
 Northumberland
 Federation of Agriculture



2025 ISSUE #4

News & Notes

Working for a Vibrant and Innovative Agriculture Industry

Message from the President Allan Carruthers

It is hard to believe 2025 is almost over, and a challenging year it has been. The drought we experienced resulted in a heavy yield loss on just about every crop grown here in Northumberland County.

The uncertain trade issues with the United States has put

pressures on inputs, equipment and parts costs have risen. All of these variables make the agriculture sector budgeting more difficult to achieve a sustainable profit.

As winter sets in and the upcoming holiday Christmas season begins, some family

time is definitely a must. Recharge your batteries, have some fun family and friend time. We will get back to work in the New Year. Have a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Merry Christmas

Allan

Notes from OFA Ontario Federation of Agriculture

A Typical Board Meeting

The following are a few issues from the December board agenda to give you all a snapshot of a typical OFA board meeting.

Chatham-Kent Drainage Dispute

You may have read in the farm press that the Federally regulated railways feel that after 100 plus years, they no longer need to fulfill their obligations under the Provincial Drainage Act. Chatham-Kent, along with support from OFA, took the case to the Tribunal. The Drainage Referee does not agree and ordered the railways to pay their allotted costs, under the drainage act. We call this a win, although it is widely expected the railway will appeal. The ultimate question to be answered is the constitutionality of the Federal railways and the provincial legislation. Lots more to come here.

Conservation Authorities Consolidation

The government proposes to consolidate the thirty six CAs down to seven regional CAs. The goal is to reduce duplication and streamline operations. OFA is working on our comments to this proposal as I type this newsletter.

Plant Based Treaty

Use Google for more detailed information on this movement and search to see who has endorsed it. Note: There are five Ontario Municipalities that have signed on.

Animals for Research Act

Rumour has it, Premier Ford has taken note of dogs used for research. The consensus around the board table was Ontario has strong regulations governing all animal research.

Cloned Meat

Cloned meat is old news. Remember Dolly the sheep about 20 years ago? The issue has been in the news recently because Health Canada has removed it from the "novel" category.

As always, if you want further discussion on these or any other current issue, I am always available.

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Brian Crews, OFA Provincial Director Zone 12

Resi's Report OFA Member Service Rep

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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 page

We Lend a Hand: The Forgotten Story of Ontario Farmerettes

This documentary film that tells the extraordinary story of 40,000 teenage girls who volunteered on Canadian farms and helped win the Second World War. It's now screening in Ontario and with sold out events. I had the pleasure of viewing this documentary at OFA's annual Convention this past month, and it filled me with pride to see such a powerful moment in our history memorialized in this way. I encourage everyone to seek an opportunity to view the documentary. welendahand.ca/

2025 OFA AGM & Convention

Members can watch the highlights from OFA's biggest event of the year on our YouTube channel, including our keynote speakers' presentations –

Althia Raj: Canadian Political Journalist | Member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery | CBC & **Tom Deans:** intergenerational wealth expert.

NFA submitted a resolution, asking OFA to advocate on behalf of members to Hydro One for better vegetation management along power lines and the resolution had much support. ofa.on.ca/community/annual-general-meeting/

OFA Resource Spotlight: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

OFA has a dedicated page on our website for HPAI that includes background information, biosecurity tips, and a centralized spot for links to other industry information. ofa.on.ca/resources/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza/

OFA Benefit Program

Our Benefit Program offers a wide range of services and promotions exclusively for OFA members, delivering additional value to your farm business. This month, we are featuring our partnership with **Park N Fly** who is offering a discount that can be accessed at this link. If you need help with your login information, call head office at 1(800)668-3276 ofa.on.ca/benefit/parkn-fly/

NFA Foodbank donation

Congratulations to NFA, all the agribusinesses who donated and those who attended NFA's AGM, on a big donation of **\$3575** to Northumberland Food 4 All. We are so fortunate to farm in a generous community that takes care of one another.

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



NFA Donates \$3575.00

to Northumberland County "Food 4 All" which helps keep safe and healthy food available to many groups who use this facility. Local agribusinesses and farmers generously contributed items to both the live and silent auctions at our Annual General Meeting held in October, resulting in **\$2,575** raised. We topped it up with another **\$1000** to help those in need in this county. **Thank you** to all that made this happen.



Be Social

Like us on Facebook:
@OFAzone12



www.FARM911.ca

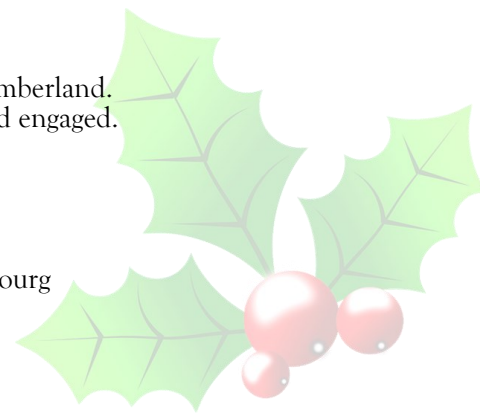
A Year in Review - 2025

In 2024-25 NFA directors continued to advocate for the agriculture industry in Northumberland. Monthly board meetings as well as events and special meeting kept the directors busy and engaged. The following is a list of things NFA has been working on for you!

- Migrant Workers BBQ contribution
- Scholarships awarded to three Northumberland Youth for their schooling
- Our crop signs went to the Port Hope fair
- Attending meetings concerning the proposed Hunco Lands Development west of Cobourg
- Delegates represent Northumberland at OFA AGM in Toronto
- Meeting with county staff for an update of high speed internet access
- Breakfast meetings with MP Lawrence and MPP Piccini
- Helped facilitate OFA Connect Zone 12 members meeting
- Submitted questions to all candidates meeting in Port Hope for Feb provincial election
- Hosted a town hall with Piccini in Codrington in April
- Facilitated a Federal election all candidates meeting in Roseneath
- New rollout banner printed for future functions
- Hired someone to elevate our social media presence on a summer contract
- Collaborated on the “Prosper Northumberland” survey in response to tariffs supporting Northumberland business’
- Supporting a member’s beef condemnation issues and taking them to Piccini’s office
- Local first responder training on DeJong farm to increase awareness of on farm hazards
- PoliAg 2025 to McComb’s and Sandy Flat Sugar Bush
- Induction of Bette Jean Crews to the Quinte Agriculture Wall of Fame

When you get a chance thank this dynamic group of farmers who continue to volunteer their time to keep policies that affect agriculture in Northumberland “farmer friendly”.

Way to go NFA and keep up the good work for 2026.



FARMLAND HEALTH CHECK-UP

Plan for your soil's future

Not every field has the same challenges and not every farmer is looking for the same solutions. That's where the [Farmland Health Check-Up \(FHCU\)](#) comes in. It's a free, one-on-one assessment with a CCA or P.Ag where you choose the focus. Together, you can look at:

- Building organic matter and soil life
- Tackling compaction and erosion
- Improving nutrient management
- Supporting pollinators and biodiversity

Pick your most challenging field and get started today with free support: ([Find and Advisor + Start Your Assessment](#))

FHCU is funded through the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership (Sustainable CAP), a 5-year (2023-2028), \$3.5 billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments.

Welcome
Jesse Meidema & Amelia Nelson
to our board of directors.

Strength in Unity: Farms and Food Forever OFA AGM



Keynote Speaker



The OFA AGM was well represented by Northumberland farmers. We heard from numerous politicians, provincial and federal, who were engaged with the issues of our industry. Senator Rob Black spoke of how he continues to represent agriculture. Althea Raj, Canadian Political Journalist and CBC “At Issue” panellist, brought political insights with thoughts of the future of free trade, and the changes since the 2024 US election. Tom Deans, Author & Speaker delivered a presentation that enlightened about succession and wealth transition.

It was a pleasure to be able to view the “We Lend a Hand” documentary about the forgotten story of Ontario Farmerettes, young women who helped on farms in war times.

There is value listening to the support and opposition views to the resolutions presented from the grass roots level, which gives all delegates an opportunity to hear first hand about the issues for agriculture in the province. Connecting with other federations provides strength in Unity!



You can watch the video recording of the event here.

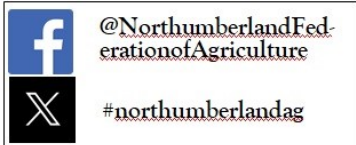
<https://www.youtube.com/@ontariofarms>

ofa.on.ca/silence-is-the-great-destroyer-of-our-wealth-keynote-speaker-talks-importance-of-succession-and-wealth-transition-at-ofa-annual-meeting/



**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.

It's taking root.

Construction is underway for your new high-speed network.

We in Northumberland have been watching the installation of fiber all over the county, in anticipation of stable affordable internet. Check out the details at this link. Once stage one is complete we will go to stage two and then three. Plan costs are listed on Axle's web site. Exciting times!
northumberland.ca/services/broadband-in-northumberland/



Annual General Meeting
Saturday, January 17, 2026
Alderville Community Centre
8913 County Rd. 45 Alderville
Trade Show 5pm
Dinner 6pm
Meeting to follow
Tickets \$25.00
Contact 905 344 1100 or any director
Cash Bar



**HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE AND BEST WISHES
FOR A SAFE & PROSPEROUS 2026**

Lisa

CANADA'S AGRICULTURE DAY
Let's celebrate the food we love

February 10, 2026
How will you Celebrate?
www.foodintegrity.ca/nadas-agriculture-day/

POST A PHOTO OR VIDEO celebrating Ag

The Tenth annual edition of Nourish Marketing Trend Report for 2026 from Canada's only marketing agency specializing in the food sector from field to fork.

- ⇒ When Algorithms Become Your #1 Customer
 - ⇒ The Rise of the Celebrity Platform Brands
 - ⇒ Food as the Cure for the Loneliness Epidemic
 - ⇒ Single-Nutrient Focus Gives Way to Functional Balance
 - ⇒ Polarization & Politicization of the Food System
 - ⇒ Embracing Authenticity Over Artificial Perfection
 - ⇒ Redefining the Beauty Regimen with Nutrition
- Check it out here and learn more about what consumers will be looking for.
<https://www.nourish.marketing/trend-report>

THE RETURN OF REAL
2026 TREND REPORT

NOURISH
food marketing

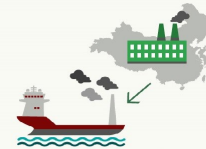
Support a Farmer and Stay Real!



WHERE DO CHRISTMAS TREES COME FROM?

Fake Trees

Manufactured and shipped from factories in China, Taiwan and South Korea



Distances of **nearly 10,000km**

Real Trees

Grown right here in Canada, needing only sunlight, rainfall and soil

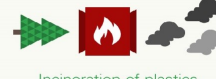


Approximately **70,000 acres** of farmland allocated to growing Christmas trees

WHAT HAPPENS TO OLD CHRISTMAS TREES?

Fake Trees

Cannot be recycled



Incineration of plastics, such as PVC, cause **dioxins** and other **carcinogens** to be released into the air

Real Trees

Recyclable and biodegradable



Firewood to heat your home
Mulch to feed and protect your garden

THANKFULLY, CANADIANS SPEND MORE ON REAL TREES

Fake Trees

\$58.3 million

The total value of artificial Christmas trees imported to Canada in 2014

Real Trees

\$64.4 million

The value of farm cash receipts for Christmas trees in Canada in 2014

BECAUSE REAL TREES HELP US BREATHE EASIER AND GROW CANADA'S ECONOMY

Every acre of growing Christmas trees can produce **enough oxygen for 18 people a day**



2,381
Canadian farms grow Christmas Trees

\$125+ million
contribution to our rural economy