



2014 RESOLUTION RESPONSES

Enclosed you will find the response letters to the 2014 resolutions for your review:

- 14-01 RMP Cap
- 14-02 Breeder Co-op Program Enhancements
- 14-03 CCIA Retail Registry Fee
- 14-04 RMP Participation & Program Information
- 14-05 OTM Rule
- 14-06 Feeder Finance Program
- 14-07 Vaccination Verification
- 14-08 Financial Protection Program Levy
- 14-09 Use of Stockyard Funds
- 14-10 Relaxing Cable Restraints
- 14-11 Provincial Agriculture Minister
- 14-12 CCIA's Producers PINs on Shipping Manifests
- 14-13 Prescott and Russell AGM
- 14-14 Science Based Production Methods
- 14-15 Hydro Rates for Livestock Producers
- 14-16 Natural Gas Development
- 14-17 Urban Land Use
- 14-18 Encouragement of Large Carcasses





14-01
RMP CAP

June 24, 2014

Darrell Hill
President
Simcoe County Beef Farmers

Dear Darrell,

The following resolution was brought to the floor and passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February of this year:

WHEREAS *the RMP program in 2012 was a bankable program and the 2013 cap did not provide the support the Ontario Beef Industry needs,*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT *BFO lobby the provincial government to remove the cap*

Despite our disappointment with the cap that was placed on the Risk Management Program (RMP) we understand the need for a program that is fiscally responsible for both government and taxpayers so long as the main intent of the RMP is not compromised. Our message to government has been clear – the \$100 million dollar cap has compromised the stability, predictability and timeliness RMP provides, making it less effective and less responsive to market swings. In order to restore the stability of the program so it can function as designed, an increased investment in the RMP is needed.

In the lead up to the June 2014 provincial election the Ontario Agricultural Sustainability Coalition (OASC) launched the 'Raise the Cap' Campaign, calling for an increased investment in the RMP by \$25 million per year for three years. This was the number one priority for the non-supply managed sectors. Similarly, BFO had just one request for all parties during the recent Ontario election – raise the cap for RMP. Despite the lack of formal commitment to increase the cap we are optimistic that our continued pressure will pay dividends. The 'one voice, one message' strategy played a critical role in achieving a fully funded provincial RMP in 2011; we hope to exploit the same tactic once again.

BFO and our OASC partners will continue to push the Raise the Cap campaign with MPPs and their staff. BFO and our OASC partners will continue to push the Raise the Cap campaign with MPPs and their staff. I would encourage all county associations and you as individual producers to contact your local MPPs and let them know why the RMP is important to you and your operation. As beef farmers we don't have the luxury of production insurance or supply management like many of our competing sectors, and the cuts to AgriStability have left that program unresponsive and ineffective.

Help us drive the message that Ontario farmers need access to a stable business risk management program to allow them to make investments that will increase local food production that will retain and grow jobs in Ontario.

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It is our hope that our activities to date demonstrate our commitment to addressing your concerns and the concerns of our membership.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Gordanier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bob Gordanier
President

cc: Ron Coulter, *Mover*
Doug Shelswell, *Seconder & Advisory Councillor*
BFO Board of Directors





14-02
Breeder Program
Enhancements

December 15, 2014

Cory Van Groningen
President, Haldimand County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Cory,

The following resolution was brought to the floor and passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February of this year:

WHEREAS *one of the barriers of entry into the cow-calf sector is obtaining funding at reasonable rates; and*
WHEREAS *one of the programs currently being offered to assist in funding in Ontario is the Ontario Beef Breeder Co-operative Program; and*
WHEREAS *each co-operative charges annual membership fees, administrative costs, insurance and tag costs in addition to a 15% security deposit; and,*
WHEREAS *these additional charges and security deposits lead to higher effective borrowing rates;*
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO *review the program and make recommendations such that the program can be as cost effective and attractive for cow-calf producers to use as possible*

BFO consistently lobbies for and works for improvements to the Feeder Finance and Breeder Finance Co-operative Programs. These popular programs offer tangible benefits to Ontario producers-but have not been able to accommodate the dramatic increase in cattle prices.

On July 22, 2013, BFO sent a letter to Premier and then-Minister of OMAF, Hon. Kathleen Wynne. This letter requested the inclusion of the Ontario Breeder Finance Co-operatives under the Ontario government guarantee and an increase in the maximum loan limits for Feeder Finance Co-operatives from \$250,000 to \$500,000 for existing members and from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for new members.

Staff and BFO Directors worked with OMAFRA staff and elected politicians on this request for several months, without progress. In the spring of 2014, the BFO Board reviewed the initial request to make it more palatable to government, and to reflect the rapid increase in cattle prices. Therefore, in April 2014, BFO amended the Feeder/Breeder Finance ASK as follows:

THAT the BFO Board and staff continue to negotiate with OMAFRA on enhancements to the Breeder and Feeder Loan programs into one program, with an ultimate goal of a 10% Breeder Finance Program guarantee assurance account, and maintaining the 5% assurance account for the



Feeder program, with a limit of \$200,000 for the Breeder program and \$500,000 for the Feeder program. Limits for new members would be set at \$50,000 for the Breeder Finance and \$150,000 for Feeder Finance, at the discretion of local Co-op Boards.

Premier Wynne announced a provincial election on May 2, 2014, to be held on June 12, 2014. After the election of a Liberal majority, Parliament resumed briefly between July 2-24 to debate and pass the proposed 2014 Budget, which had triggered the springtime election. The Ontario Legislature officially resumed on October 20, 2014.

BFO continues to advance this request when meeting with OMAFRA staff, senior officials, and politicians. BFO has had several meetings with OMAFRA Minister Jeff Leal to discuss issues concerning to the Ontario beef industry. The Minister is aware of BFO's request for changes to Feeder and Breeder Finance.

Increasing the Ontario cow herd and encouraging heifer retention are areas of focus for the BFO Board and are frequently discussed at Board meetings, as well as at the cow-calf committee meeting. We recognize that an enhanced Breeder Finance program is crucial to the success of our Cow Herd Expansion project, which will begin in Northern Ontario.

BFO is not able to report any-changes to the Breeder Finance program at this time. However, BFO is committed to the program and will continue to work to expand the program. Unfortunately these things take longer than any of us would like.

Please contact the BFO office if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Yours sincerely,



Bob Gordanier
President

cc: Webb Slack, *Mover*
Brent Everets, *Advisory Councillor*
Ontario Breeder Co-Operatives
BFO Board of Directors





14-03
CCIA Registry Fee

August 26, 2014

Scot Legge
President, Bruce County Beef Producers

Dear Scot:

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Board of Directors recently reviewed the following resolution from Bruce County:

WHEREAS CCIA is planning to have one distributor for tags versus three distributors; and
WHEREAS CCIA is putting registry fees for retailers and there will be further costs which ultimately get paid by the producer,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO request that CCIA leave things status quo

As you are now likely aware, CCIA has approved the aforementioned changes to CCIA licensing fees (referred to as *registry fees* in the resolution). CCIA's intent is to increase data integrity within the CLTS database while building a more cost-effective system that will provide RFID tags to producers across Canada in a timely and efficient manner.

In addition to the updated CCIA-approved tag dealer agreement, CCIA has also notified currently-approved tag dealers that CCIA will implement a fee schedule in 2015.

The purpose of implementing a fee schedule is to support an audit program of authorized CCIA-approved tag dealers going forward to improve overall data integrity and accuracy of the traceability data CCIA is responsible for collecting.

CCIA is delaying until 2015 to implement the fee schedule to provide sufficient time for existing tag dealers to review their retail tag operations and adjust to the new tag distribution process being implemented in 2014. CCIA will provide further details regarding the annual tag dealer fee in the fall of 2014.



If Bruce County has any other concerns involving CCIA matters, please contact the Beef Farmers of Ontario office.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Gordanier". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bob Gordanier
President

cc: Steve Thede, *Advisory Councilor*
Jarrett Johnson, *Secunder*
BFO Board of Directors





August 26, 2014

Pierre Charlebois
President, Russell Cattlemen's Association

Marcel Cadieux
President, Prescott Cattlemen's Association

14-04
RMP Participation
and Program Info...

Dear Pierre and Marcel:

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Board of Directors recently reviewed the following resolution from Prescott and Russell:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO follow the example of the Grain Farmers of Ontario and as such implement measures aimed at encouraging beef producers to actively participate in the Ontario Risk Management Program and at providing and publishing in a timely manner, all information pertaining to the current state of the Program.

BFO has actively encouraged participation in the RMP since the program's inception in 2011. While BFO strongly supports RMP and encourages all producers to enroll, we have maintained that it is a voluntary program and that enrollment decisions should be based on each individual producer's assessment of their ability to handle production risks. BFO has long promoted the RMP as an effective insurance program designed to assist producers in mitigating such risks.

The BFO board and staff have discussed and promoted RMP at county annual meetings and at every summer and fall Advisory Councillor meeting since 2011. All relevant program information is communicated through BFO's various communications avenues in as timely a manner as possible. Changes to the program have been communicated to members via their Advisory Councillors, through the BFO website and through Ontario Beef Magazine. Notices in BFO's weekly news bulletin frequently include updated program information and reminders regarding upcoming deadlines and enrollment requirements and/or changes.

While support levels have not been disclosed to date, each RMP customer receives a payment statement that provides detailed information. Unfortunately, due to the complexity involved in calculating RMP support prices for the cattle programs, the creation of a RMP calculator similar to the one provided by the Grain Farmers of Ontario would not be possible with any degree of accuracy.



The BFO board believes the measures that have been implemented to encourage and inform producers of the benefits of participating in the Ontario Risk Management Program to be sufficient.

Yours truly,



Bob Gordanier
President

cc: Ray Lalande, *Advisory Councillor (Russell) & Mover*
Geordie MacLaren, *Advisory Councillor (Prescott)*
Claire Lalande, *Seconder*
BFO Board of Directors





14-05
OTM Rule

May 5, 2014

Mike Edwards, President
Waterloo County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Mike,

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Board of Directors recently reviewed the following resolution from Waterloo County:

WHEREAS *BSE is over ten years past; and*
WHEREAS *OTM carcasses cost the industry many dollars,*
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO *lobby all agencies and associations to remove the thirty month Rule*

Canada is eligible to apply for BSE-free status in 2015, a decade after the last BSE-infected animal was born. BFO and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) are urging the Federal government and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to apply for BSE-free status while concurrently reviewing several regulations that place the Canadian industry at a costly disadvantage to our American counterparts. It costs an extra \$4.50 per head for under thirty months and an extra \$22.50 per head for cattle over thirty months (OTM) to process cattle in Canada due to specified risk material (SRM) regulations.

This was discussed with MPs during a CCA fly-in Lobby Day at Parliament Hill on April 8, 2014 and our message was well received. The MPs are aware that the risk level of BSE is approaching negligible and modeling has demonstrated the effectiveness of both American and Canadian BSE prevention systems. As Canada's eligibility for BSE-free status approaches, BFO and CCA will continue to lobby the Federal government and CFIA on this issue for a positive outcome.

Yours truly,

Bob Gordanier
President

cc: Toby Brubacher *Mover*
John Gilliespie *Seconder*
BFO Board of Directors





14-06
Feeder Finance
Program

October 21, 2014

Brad Noyes
President of Beef Farmers of Temiskaming

Dear Brad,

The following resolution was brought to the floor and passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February of this year:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO continue to work with the Feeder Finance Committee, along with OMAF/RA, to investigate methods of streamlining and reducing the administrative burden of the Feeder Finance Clubs, and work towards expanding these programs.

BFO received similar feedback from the Feeder Finance Annual meeting in March, 2014. The most frequent recommendations for program improvement included

- 1) streamlining the administration of feeder and breeder co-operatives; and
- 2) increasing per member loan limits to encourage herd growth.

BFO consistently lobbies for and works for improvements to the Feeder Finance Co-operative Program. This popular program has offered tangible benefits to Ontario producers for over two decades. Many of the BFO Directors are active members of their local feeder co-operative.

On July 22, 2013, BFO sent a letter to Premier and then-Minister of OMAF, Hon. Kathleen Wynne. This letter requested the inclusion of the Ontario Breeder Finance Co-operatives under the Ontario government guarantee and an increase in the maximum loan limits for Feeder Finance Co-operatives from \$250,000 to \$500,000 for existing members and from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for new members.

Staff and BFO Directors worked with OMAFRA staff and elected politicians on this request for several months, without progress. In the spring of 2014, the BFO Board reviewed the initial request to make it more palatable to government, and to reflect the rapid increase in cattle prices. Therefore, in April 2014, BFO amended the Feeder/Breeder Finance ASK as follows:

THAT the BFO Board and staff continue to negotiate with OMAFRA on enhancements to the Breeder and Feeder Loan programs into one program, with an ultimate goal of a 10% Breeder Finance Program guarantee assurance account, and maintaining the 5% assurance account for the

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Feeder program, with a limit of \$200,000 for the Breeder program and \$500,000 for the Feeder program. Limits for new members would be set at \$50,000 for the Breeder Finance and \$150,000 for Feeder Finance, at the discretion of local Co-op Boards.

Premier Wynne announced a provincial election on May 2, 2014, to be held on June 12, 2014. After the election of a Liberal majority, Parliament resumed briefly between July 2-24 to debate and pass the proposed 2014 Budget, which had triggered the springtime election. The Ontario Legislature officially resumes on October 20, 2014.

BFO continued to advance this request when meeting with OMAFRA staff, senior officials, and politicians. Although the Ontario Legislature has not yet resumed, BFO has had several meetings with Minister Jeff Leal, of OMAFRA, to discuss issues concerning to the Ontario beef industry. The Minister is aware of BFO's request for changes to Feeder Finance.

In July, BFO staff submitted a Risk Profile to OMAFRA staff, which outlines how the program works, program history, and what would happen in the event of a default. BFO staff organized a half day farm tour for OMAFRA staff to meet three different producers that use the program, as well as a co-operative supervisor, who explained how co-operatives protect themselves through a series of checks and balances between the Board of Directors and co-operative supervisors.

BFO is not able to report any increases or program changes for the feeder finance program at this time. However, BFO is committed to the program and will continue to work to expand the program. Unfortunately these things take longer than any of us would like.

Please contact the BFO office if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Yours sincerely,



Bob Gordanier
President

cc: Kerry Walton, *Mover*
Greg Seed, *Seconder & Advisory Councillor*
Ontario Feeder Co-Operatives
BFO Board of Directors





14-07
Vaccination
Verification

August 26, 2014

Charlie Sytsma
President, Grenville Cattlemen's Association

Donald Bracken
President, Leeds Cattlemen's Association

Dear Charlie and Donald:

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Board of Directors recently reviewed the following resolution from Grenville and Leeds:

WHEREAS it has been seen that vaccinated calf sales have been of beneficial value to both sellers and buyers of feeder calves; and

WHEREAS occasional incidences of negative healthy quality of calves have occurred after having purchased calves at guaranteed vaccinated calf sales; and

WHEREAS the integrity of vaccinated calf sales could be compromised in the future due to these health issues experienced by some buyers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with livestock sales establishments to examine ways to ensure that when calves are sold at guaranteed vaccinated calf sales, some degree of assurance is supplied by the seller of vaccinated calves that the protocols of vaccinations are properly followed so that there will continue to be confidence that there is financial value to both buyer and seller for these calves in the future

This resolution was discussed by the both the cow-calf committee and the BFO Board of Directors. While it is difficult to guarantee application of proper vaccination protocols for all calves sold during a specific calf sale, several guaranteed calf sales do employ a number of methods to try and verify that vaccination protocols were followed. Many of those guaranteed calf sales will offer some level of assurance. For example, Zoetis-sponsored sales will either take a titre sample to confirm vaccination or will offer a booster shot to buyers.

Vaccination protocols are based on individual veterinarian recommendations and producer actions. There are several variables that are left to the producer's discretion. For example, many sales do not specify whether calves received live or killed vaccines. Another important variable is whether the producer follows sufficient biosecurity practices to prevent disease exposure and spread.

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As stated in the resolution, vaccinated calf sales are beneficial to both buyers and sellers of feeder cattle. Unfortunately, there are on occasion negative experiences from these sales. Ultimately, buyers are encouraged to build relationships with a seller who has protocols similar to the buyer and consistently healthy calves.

Yours truly,



Bob Gordanier
President

cc: Blair McDonald, *Advisory Councilor (Leeds)*
Kim Sytsma, *Advisory Councilor (Grenville) and Mover*
Tom O'Rourke, *Seconder*
BFO Board of Directors





June 23, 2014

Jim Wideman
 Program Manager
 Ontario Beef Cattle Financial Protection Program

14-08
**Financial Protection
 Program Levy**

Dear Jim,

As you are aware, the role of the Livestock Financial Protection Board is to monitor and evaluate the health and long term sustainability of the Financial Protection Program compensation fund. Actuarial studies are periodically conducted to determine whether the reserve base would cover payments in a major draw event, in most circumstances. The last study, which was conducted in 2011, deemed the fund to be in a healthy position to cover payments in the event of a major claim event (with a 90% accuracy rate).

However, the actuarial study was completed before a number of program changes were made, changes that have increased per claim payouts. Beginning in July of 2011, the percentage of claims paid increased from 90-95% for producers and from 70-85% for dealers. The maximum payout for dealers also increased from \$75,000 to \$125,000. Cattle prices were also significantly lower than they are today. The average monthly Ontario railgrade price for fed steers (\$ cwt) increased by 12% in the 2011-2013 period alone. If 2014 numbers had been included this increase would be even more substantial.

Monthly Ontario Railgrade Prices for Fed Steers (\$ cwt)

	2011	2012	2013	2014		2011	2012	2013	2014
Jan	170.63	200.31	202.65	230.50	Jul	184.44	196.19	209.15	N/A
Feb	177.69	202.25	204.63	245.81	Aug	183.06	191.63	209.45	N/A
Mar	180.50	201.44	201.05	249.60	Sep	181.00	190.31	205.25	N/A
Apr	190.19	194.19	197.15	255.25	Oct	182.94	187.70	204.70	N/A
May	185.50	194.65	202.25	259.38	Nov	191.06	191.38	210.50	N/A
Jun	181.56	200.06	207.81	N/A	Dec	196.38	195.25	214.38	N/A
					AVG.	183.75	195.45	205.75	248.11

Source 1 - BFO Market Information



Record cattle prices and changes to the Financial Protection Program made after the last study have significantly increased the risk to the fund. In light of this, BFO recommends that a new study be commissioned by the Financial Protection Board prior to the next scheduled actuarial review in 2016. This is a reasonable request, and a responsible one given today's cattle market conditions. We recommend this take place before the end of the fiscal year.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of our request and I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,



Bob Gordanier
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Bill Herron
Dale Pallister
Jim Clark





14-09
Use of
Stockyards Funds

June 24, 2014

Florian Wassenaar
President
Durham County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Florian,

The following resolution was brought to the floor and passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February of this year:

WHEREAS *numerous local producers frequently inquire about the use of the Toronto Stockyard Land Development Fund; and*

WHEREAS *provincial Directors and staff reporting at the local annual meeting have not been able to answer these question satisfactorily,*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO *provide each year a detailed account of the monies received from the Stockyard Fund including a breakdown of the distribution and use of these funds and resulting benefits achieved from these investments*

BFO receives an annual dividend from the Toronto Stockyards Land Development Board to conduct research, to fund industry development projects, and to support consumer and producer education efforts in support of the Ontario beef industry. The annual dividend amount appears as its own line item on the income statement of BFO's annual audited financial statements which is disclosed to all AGM delegates every year.

In addition, a detailed account of all BFO activities funded by the association is provided in the BFO Annual Report and provides information regarding our contributions to research, industry development activities, and projects focused on education and promotion of Ontario beef and the Ontario beef industry. This detailed account meets the requirements identified in the Articles of Incorporation under the Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act in regards to how the Toronto Stockyards Land Development Board dividend must be spent.

Furthermore, we feel we have been very clear on the point that all activities BFO undertakes and funds on behalf of Ontario beef producers falls within the research, industry development and/or producer and consumer education streams. It is our duty to provide leadership in these key areas, demonstrated by our financial commitments to initiatives such as the BFO Beef Research Program, the Ontario Corn Fed Beef program, the BUILD leadership program, support of the Feeder and Breeder programs, the County Sharecost program, and the many consumer and producer focused projects undertaken by the BFO board and staff.



Should you have any questions regarding the details of our audited financial statements or the use of the Stockyards annual dividend I would encourage you to contact our Executive Director, Dave Stewart.

Thank you for taking the time to bring this resolution forward.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Gordanier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bob Gordanier
President

cc: Stan Found, *Mover & Advisory Councillor*
BFO Board of Directors





14-10
Relaxing Cable
Restrains

September 30, 2014

Charlie Sytsma
President, Grenville Cattlemen's Association

Donald Bracken
President, Leeds Cattlemen's Association

Dear Charlie and Donald,

The following resolution was brought to the floor and passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February of this year:

***WHEREAS** the Ministry of Natural Resources Coyote Working Group's Non-lethal Relaxing Cable Restraint pilot project was a great success, proving that these non-lethal RCRs were one of the most efficient and humane cost effective ways to deal with problem predators, saving farmers, municipalities and the provincial government money,*

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** work with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture to lobby the Ontario Government to allow these valuable tools to be used to deal with problem predators*

As you may know, Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) and Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency (OSMA) previously partnered with Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) for a project evaluating Relaxing Cable Restraints to capture problem coyotes.

BFO and OSMA staff have been working on a project application for Agriculture-Wildlife Conflict Strategic Funding that builds on the previous work done, while trying to address recurring predation problems. The project intention is to match producers who have a significant number of predation claims with trapper services to remove serial predators. The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) could also be contacted to do DNA analysis on the predators trapped. This could help determine how many predators were involved and their familial relationships. Having MNR involved may also allow the project to utilize Relaxing Cable Restraints as a method of trapping predators.

Coyote predation is a serious issue for Ontario cow-calf producers. We trust that this reply to the above resolution indicates BFO's commitment to following the direction provided by our grassroots membership at the AGM and demonstrates that we are dedicated to science-based research that benefits the broader industry.

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Feel free to contact the BFO office if you have any questions regarding the aforementioned project application.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Gordanier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bob" being more prominent.

Bob Gordanier
President

cc: Kim Sytsma, *Mover, Advisory Councillor for Grenville*
Tom O'Rourke, *Seconder*
Blair McDonald, *Advisory Councillor for Leeds*
BFO Board of Directors





May 4, 2014

John Buis
President, Kent County Cattlemen's

14-11
Provincial Ag
Minister

Dear John,

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Board of Directors recently reviewed the following resolution from Kent County:

WHEREAS agriculture is a vital part of the Ontario economy and agriculture is a major employer; and
WHEREAS this industry requires a full-time dedicated and knowledgeable Minister,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO push to have a full-time Agriculture Minister to represent our Agriculture Community

While we understand that it appears Ontario does not have a full-time minister dedicated to agriculture, the BFO Board of Directors unanimously supports the Premier in her dual role as Premier of Ontario and Minister of Agriculture and Food.

The Premier has been an excellent advocate for agriculture and the agri-food industry since the day she was sworn in as Premier of Ontario. On a weekly basis time is set aside in her busy schedule to function solely as the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Her dedication to agriculture, and the recognition she has paid to the importance it plays in the provincial economy should be commended.

Over the past year, the BFO executive has developed a close working relationship with the Premier and her staff which has been entirely positive. She is well briefed on our issues and has been very open about working collaboratively with the Beef Farmers of Ontario in areas of mutual concern. The duality of her role has been good for our sector and has put agriculture back on the provincial agenda.

BFO looks forward to building on our relationship with the Premier and Minister of Agriculture and Food to help address the needs and concerns of our membership.

Yours truly,

Bob Gordanier
President

cc: Frank Byrne, *Advisory Councillor & Mover*
Ed Gillier, *Seconder*
BFO Board of Directors

130 Malcolm Road, Guelph, ON N1K 1B1
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www.ontariobeef.com





14-12
CCIA Producer PINs
on Shipping
Manifests

August 26, 2014

Brian Caney, General Manager
Canadian Cattle Identification Agency

Dear Brian:

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Board of Directors recently reviewed the following resolution from Huron County:

WHEREAS applying missing CCIA tags is dangerous and can cause unnecessary carcass bruising just prior to slaughter, and since most farm chutes are designed for lighter and younger animals, and
WHEREAS on direct to packers sales of cattle, carcasses maintain their identification to the point of grading, and
WHEREAS individual PIN's are or will be assigned to all cattle farms,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT on direct to packer sales, BFO and CCA work with CCIA to lobby to investigate the feasibility of CCIA producer PIN's on shipping manifests as an alternative to applying missing RFID tags to cattle.

Missing CCIA tags continue to be a challenge for the beef industry and traceability efforts. The BFO Board of Directors supports the intention of this resolution to mitigate potential harm to both cattle and beef farmer. To remedy missing RFID tags in direct-to-packer sales, we ask that CCIA consider accepting CCIA producer PINs on shipping manifests in lieu of re-applying missing RFID tags to cattle.

We would appreciate you addressing our request at your upcoming Board meeting in September which our Director Steve Eby will be attending. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Bob Gordanier
President

cc: Dennis Laycraft, Executive Vice President, CCA
BFO Board of Directors





14-13
Prescott and
Russell AGM

May 5, 2014

Marcel Cadieux
President, Prescott County Cattlemen's Association

Pierre Charlebois
President, Russell County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Marcel & Pierre,

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Board of Directors recently reviewed the following resolution from Prescott and Russell:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT *from now on, both the Russell and Prescott associations will hold a joint AGM but the status they currently hold will be maintained, meaning that BFO will see both associations as two associations and not as one association. The financial situation of either association will not impact the financial situation of the other and both associations will operate as independent entities.*

BFO supports the decision of Prescott and Russell to host a joint AGM. Please ensure that both associations note this change in their response to BFO's request for 2015 county annual meeting dates and times. A reminder will be sent to you by BFO, as it would otherwise, in October. As a reminder, BFO policy states that county/district annual meetings shall be held in January, weather permitting, but will be held no later than the end of the third week of January.

Yours truly,

Bob Gordanier
President

cc: Geordie MacLaren, *Prescott Advisory Councillor*
Raymond Lalande, *Russell Advisory Councillor*
Val Trudeau, *Mover*
Marcus Reid, *Seconder*
BFO Board of Directors





14-14
Science-Based
Production Methods

February 13, 2015

John Buis, President
Kent Cattlemen's Association

Dear John:

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Board of Directors recently reviewed the following resolution from Kent County:

WHEREAS Ontario beef farmers follow sound science based production protocols; and
WHEREAS Ontario beef farmers use hormones and antibiotics in responsible beef production;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO continue to promote these proven safe production methods among its members.

BFO continually emphasizes the need to ensure that policy and regulatory decisions are based on sound science-based evidence. Whether this be in regards to antimicrobial use, neonicotinoids, animal transport practices or otherwise. There has been significant activist pressure to enhance regulations and amend production practices without the use of science-based evidence. BFO does not anticipate that these tactics will disappear anytime soon. Often emotion trumps science in the court of public opinion and it is our job as industry leaders to ensure our side of the story is told to both government leaders and our consumers. BFO will continue to look at ways to ensure a competitive industry based on science-based regulations that reflect modern farming practices.

Livestock agriculture was challenged by a number of negative reports over the course of the past year: the Ontario Medical Association's comments on antimicrobial use in agriculture, the W5/ Mercy for Animals series of undercover expose videos, as well as A&W's 'Raised Without Steroids' campaign. The Canadian beef industry responded both individually and collectively to these reports. A summary of our comments has been provided below:

Antimicrobial Resistance

Ontario's beef farmers are concerned about the issue of antimicrobial resistance as discussed in the policy paper released by the Ontario Medical Association.

In 1994 representatives from government and industry developed a producer-driven, on-farm quality assurance program to ensure the production of safe, high quality beef in an environmentally friendly manner. The Quality Starts Here program includes guidelines on the proper use of antimicrobials.



BFO responded to any inquiries with the consistent messaging that stresses the importance of the fact that the use of antimicrobials in human and animal medicine could contribute to that resistance and our potential to treat people who are sick. Antimicrobials made for cattle are used to help an animal regain or maintain superior health and produce safe beef. They are an important tool in protecting animal health and well being. It is important that consumers know that over 90% of antimicrobials used in beef production are of a class which are not used for human health.

Further in this letter, you will find several examples of how BFO promoted safe hormone use to producers and answered questions from consumers.

Animal Welfare

The February 2014 issue of Ontario Beef featured two articles that pertain to this issue. The cover story "Would Your Farm Survive an Undercover Video?" and the following article "Employees Handling Animals?" by Farm & Food Care Ontario offer practical advice about proper animal care and handling, as well as hiring and training employees to consistently provide a high standard of animal care.

Richard Horne, Manager of Policy and Issues, wrote an article in the August 2014 titles "Animal Welfare: a Joint Partnership" that outlined the working relationship between BFO and the OSPCA. The same issue contains an article "A Good Time to Reflect on Cattle Care" by Ryder Lee, Canadian Cattlemen's Association Manager of Federal Provincial Relations. The article walks producers through various areas of production that affect animal care, such as health of cattle, facilities, access to water and feed, transportation and employee handling.

The December 2014 issue of Ontario Beef magazine included an article by Dr. Laura Beveridge entitled "Making Progress on Animal Care" that outlines what is needed for animal care training in the beef industry and training resources available.

A&W Raised Without Marketing Campaign

In September, 2013, A&W announced that all of its burgers are now made with beef that has been raised without any added steroids or hormones and contains no added preservatives or additives, making it the first national chain in Canada to do so.

"At A&W, we know that a great burger starts with the best beef," A&W Food Services of Canada president and CEO Paul Hollands said in a release. "More and more Canadians are looking for beef that's been raised without added hormones or steroids and we're proud to serve this better beef to burger lovers across the country."

Each of the ranches in Canada, Australia and the U.S. that are part of A&W's better beef program have rigorous verification systems to track the cattle, their feed and their care to ensure the beef meets A&W's strict specifications, Hollands noted.

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Canada Beef Inc. and provincial beef associations all used consistent messaging when approaching the A&W campaign: that Canadian Beef is raised safely. No matter the product brand or method of production, when consumers buy Canadian beef they can be confident they are buying the finest beef available.



Producer Outreach

In 2014, BFO utilized several different methods to promote safe production methods to producers, which included:

- Over 25 Code of Practice Workshops. These events included educational presentations, followed by a hands-on workshop on proper pain mitigation, castration and dehorning led by a local veterinarian.
- Biosecurity workshops that focused on practical biosecurity best management practices and the potential implications of poor biosecurity.
- Guest articles in Ontario Beef magazine by Dr. Katherine Found on topics such as prudent use of antibiotics, Newborn Necessities, Ins and Outs of Implants, and on-farm biosecurity practices
- Several articles in Ontario Beef outlining Animal Welfare and Animal Care, as previously mentioned.
- Weekly e-newsletters to producers and industry that cover current news, updates and upcoming events

Consumer Outreach

BFO promoted and explained safe beef production practices to consumers at various events:

- Consumer-focused booth at both the Royal Winter Fair and the CNE.
- Dan Ferguson participated in an OSPCA “Animal’s Voice Pawdcast” to discuss what the Ontario beef industry is doing to promote good animal care practices.
- Strong social media presence to both share information and engage in conversations with consumers
- Participated in urban media tours to promote safe beef farming practices to journalists and media outlets

BFO will continue to emphasize the need for a science-based approach to policy and regulatory development in our discussions with government and with the general public.

Yours truly,



Bob Gordanier
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
John Lugtigheid, mover
Frank Byrne, Advisory Councillor





14-15
Hydro Rates for
Livestock
Producers

May 5, 2014

Mark Wales
President
Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Lorne Small
President
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

Dear Mark & Lorne,

The following resolution was brought to the floor and passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February of this year:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby the government for a lower flat rate hydro system for primary livestock producers

As Hydro rates affect the broader agricultural community, I would ask that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) pursue this issue, and report back on any discussions or action on this matter. Thank you.

Best regards,

Bob Gordanier
President

cc: Darrell Hill, *Mover*
Andy McNiven, *Seconder*
Doug Shelswell, *Advisory Councillor*
BFO Board of Directors





June 23, 2014

Mark Wales, President
Ontario Federation of Agriculture

14-16
Natural Gas
Development

Dear Mark,

In February, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) requested that BFO send a letter to Premier Wynne and Minister Chiarelli in support of the OFA natural gas proposal that included a recommendation to extend natural gas lines to all parts of rural Ontario with population densities greater than 7 customers per 1 kilometer of line. As you are aware, the BFO board declined to support this request.

While BFO strongly supports greater access to more affordable energy for Ontario farms, we believe the recommended density threshold of 7 customers per kilometer of line will not support the majority of farm operations of any commercially significant size.

BFO suggests that OFA reduce their recommended density threshold to a minimum of 2 customers per 1 kilometer of line to allow more farms of commercial significance to take advantage of the opportunity to access clean and affordable energy. Promoting a '7 customers per kilometer' proposal will prevent the majority of our members from accessing affordable natural gas energy if implemented.

The following resolution on the subject of natural gas service expansion was brought to the floor and passed at the BFO annual general meeting in February of this year:

WHEREAS *Natural Gas is an economical and clean source of energy on Ontario farms,*
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO *encourage and support the expansion and distribution of natural gas within rural Ontario*

As energy policy affects the broader agricultural community, I would ask that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) continue to pursue this issue with the government, noting our recommendations, and kindly report back on any action on this matter.

Sincerely,

Bob Gordanier
President

cc: John Buis, Kent County President
Neal Craven, Mover

Frank Byrne, *Advisory Councillor & Seconder*
Neil Currie, *OFA General Manager*

Lorne Small, *CFFO President*
Nathan Stevens, *CFFO General Manager*
BFO Board of Directors

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14-17
Urban Land Use

May 5, 2014

Mark Wales
President
Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Lorne Small
President
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

Dear Mark & Lorne,

The following resolution was brought to the floor and passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February of this year:

WHEREAS *is the case in many small towns and large cities in Ontario; expansion continues to use more and more land, thus taking farmland out of production for the use of agriculture,*
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO *lobby the government to encourage better use of lands within city and town limits, rather than expanding onto rural lands*

As land use policy affects the broader agricultural community, I would ask that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) pursue this issue, and report back on any discussions or action on this matter. Thank you.

Best regards,

Bob Gordanier
President

cc: Ed Fox
Jamie O'Shea, *Advisory Councillor & Mover*
Wade Graham, *Seconder*
BFO Board of Directors





14-18
Encouragement of
Large Carcasses

August 26, 2014

Marcel Cadieux
President, Prescott County Cattlemen's Association

Pierre Charlebois
President, Russell County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Marcel & Pierre:

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Board of Directors recently reviewed the following resolution from Prescott and Russell:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO *submit an official request to BIO to end all promotions that encourage carcasses of 900lbs or 408.23kgs. The beef cuts from such large carcasses are not aligned to the demands of today's consumers and promotions of this type are a disservice to the beef industry and to consumers.*

While BIO promotes data collection and analysis, starting with animal identification, they do not promote specific targets for the beef industry. BIO promotes efficient beef production based on herd data collection and the ability to evaluate animal progress from birth date to slaughter with the aim to help producers make better business decisions.

Because the Ontario beef herd is in decline and beef prices are at record highs, the packing industry is operating with less animals and steady consumer demand. Larger carcasses increase efficiencies for abattoirs and packers. Market signals are sent by the packing industry and consumers' willingness to pay. In turn, Ontario beef producers respond to market demand, financial signals and incentives.

Yours truly,

Bob Gordanier
President

cc: Geordie MacLaren, *Prescott Advisory Councillor*
Raymond Lalande, *Russell Advisory Councillor*
Mike McMorris, General Manager, BIO

Robert Walsh, *Mover*
Yvon Laniel, *Seconder*
BFO Board of Directors

