



## 2015 RESOLUTION RESPONSES

Enclosed you will find the response letters to the 2015 resolutions for your review:

15-01	GF2 Proposal Evaluation Process	15-12	Sharecost Program Year
15-02	Tag Reader Technology	15-13	Neonicotinoid Restrictions
15-03	Feeder Finance Gov't Loan Guarantee	15-14	Duty to Act
15-04	Feeder Finance Loan Limits	15-15	Spring Bear Hunt
15-05	Feeder Finance Administration	15-16	CCIA Producer PINs
15-06	Inclusion of Breeder Finance in Gov't Administration – <i>In Progress, Not Included</i>	15-17	Nutrient Management Act
15-07	Fencing Assistance	15-18	Centralized Credit Review
15-08	Sustainable Beef Production	15-19	Regional Meetings
15-09	Capital Gains Exemption	15-20	CHE in Southern Ontario
15-10	Joycville Abattoir/Frontenac Dairy Farm	15-21	Competitiveness of Local Abattoirs
15-11	Line Fences Act	15-22	Cow Herd Expansion Concerns
		15-23	Sale of Hydro One





December 21, 2015

Ralph Eyre  
President  
Lambton County Cattlemen's Association

15-01  
GF2 Proposal  
Evaluation Process

Dear Ralph,

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Board of Directors recently reviewed the following resolution from Lambton County, passed at the BFO annual general meeting in February of this year:

**WHEREAS**, Growing Forward 2 (GF2) Project Implementation is meant to offer cost-share to producers, organizations and collaborations to grow profits, expand markets and manage shared risk, and  
**WHEREAS**, many producers are having their applications for the Implementation portion of GF2 declined with no direction as to areas of improvement, and  
**WHEREAS**, the Implementation program is based solely on which applicant can embellish their plan/project to the greatest detail and not the merit of the program or project for the applicant,  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** lobby on behalf of beef producers to have the Implementation portion of GF2 changed to a screening process that is more equitable to all producers or applicants to participate in the government funding.

BFO would like to thank Lambton County for bringing this resolution forward. BFO has heard similar comments from other producers and the Board of Directors shares your concerns.

In June, BFO requested OMAFRA provide application and funding statistics by commodity and priority stream so that industry could better understand the application success rate of the non-Business Risk Management programs offered under Growing Forward 2 (GF2.) This information was provided at the December meeting of the Ontario Agricultural Commodity Council, and the results reinforce our concerns with the current evaluation process: applications by beef producers were successful in only 3% of cases. Commodity staff expressed their dissatisfaction with the current process as evidenced by the application success statistics presented.

Ultimately, the BFO Board of Directors recognizes that beef producers have experienced a high rate of declined GF2 implementation applications and that problems exist in the timing of when funds are delivered. Cost-share programs are essential for beef producers to make investments that enable them to expand or improve the sustainability and profitability of their operations, and these programs have a critical role to play in maintaining a strong agricultural system. As such, it is necessary for the Growing Forward project implementation application process to be nationally consistent and fair to all sectors. Current evidence suggests this is not the case.



BFO staff recently met with the Strategic Policy Branch at OMAFRA to highlight our concerns with GF2 implementation, including the low rate of approvals for beef projects and the need for all sectors to benefit from GF2 implementation. Another topic discussed was the need to allow expenses to be backdated if a project proceeds prior to approval, as many projects are dependent on weather and market factors and cannot wait for funding decisions before being initiated.

BFO will continue to work with the Rural Programs and Strategic Policy branches at OMAFRA on this issue, and we will continue to emphasize the need for a more equitable screening process to increase the number of applications approved under GF2.

It is hoped that positive changes will be made to the project evaluation methods for what remains of GF2, given the number of concerns raised by industry leaders across the commodity sectors. Any further progress on this issue will be communicated to producers in a timely fashion.

Sincerely,



Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: Tom Lassaline  
Tom Wilson  
Debbie Coke  
BFO Board of Directors





December 10, 2015

Mr. Tony Onufer  
President, Wentworth County Cattlemen's Association

15-02  
Tag Reader  
Technology

Dear Tony,

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Board of Directors has reviewed the following resolution from Wentworth County, passed at the BFO AGM in February of this year:

**WHEREAS** *it is possible and desirable for producers to "read" CCIA tags but to do so requires the producer to be in close proximity to the animal which may be inconvenient, but the technology is available to manufacture "readers" that can read at a longer distance;*

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** *in concert with other livestock groups approach the industry to produce readers that will function at a distance.*

The BFO Board of Directors is supportive of your recommendation. BFO remains concerned about the number of approved tag models and applicators, in addition to tag reader technology, given the impact this can have on retention rates when proper application methods are not followed. We believe a more vigorous effort needs to be made to promote tag application best practices across the country. BFO believes that the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) must commit to investigate Ultra-High Frequency tag reader technology to allow readers to function at greater distances.

In response to your resolution, please find attached our letter written to CCIA highlighting BFO's traceability guiding principles and producer concerns, and recommending that CCIA investigate Ultra-High Frequency technology.

I hope you find this an adequate response to your resolution. BFO will continue to work with other livestock groups on the issue of traceability technology and will be sure to report back on any progress, further discussions, or action on this matter.

Sincerely,

Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors  
Ken Mills  
Steve Colyer

130 Malcolm Road, Guelph, ON N1K 1B1  
P/ 519.824.0334 TF/ 1.866.370.2333 F/ 519.824.9101

[www.ontariobeef.com](http://www.ontariobeef.com)





December 21, 2015

Rick Mitchell, President  
Wellington County Cattlemen's Association

15-03  
Feeder Finance  
Gov't Loan  
Guarantee

Dear Rick,

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**, BFO has already started to lobby the Provincial Government, and  
**WHEREAS**, the \$130,000,000 that is currently allotted by the Provincial Government for Feeder Finance Loans is completely used, and  
**WHEREAS**, the Provincial Government has been part of this process for a long time and never had to pay out any money, and  
**WHEREAS**, this program is very important to the beef industry,  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** lobby the Provincial Government to increase the Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program from 130,000,000 to 250,000,000.

In October 2015 in partnership with BFO, OMAFRA began a comprehensive review of the Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program to fulfill a requirement outlined under the program's Order in Council. Among the list of priorities identified by the joint industry-government working group was the need to increase the Ontario government guarantee, in order to allow the program to better respond to the increase in demand brought on by the significant escalation in cattle prices and growing interest from producers.

BFO's final recommendation to OMAFRA, made in December, was to double the government guarantee from \$32.5 million to \$65 million, which would allow an increase in program lending, up to \$260 million in total. It is our expectation that a decision on this recommendation will be made sometime in 2016. While it is too early to report on the outcome of this recommendation we are cautiously optimistic that our request will be viewed favourably by Cabinet.

I would like to thank the Wellington County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. Any progress on this request will be communicated back to members in a timely fashion.

Sincerely,

Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: Rob Unsworth, Mike Cook, BFO Feedlot Committee, BFO Board of Directors, Cheryl Russwurm

130 Malcolm Road, Guelph, ON N1K 1B1  
P/ 519.824.0334 TF/ 1.866.370.2333 F/ 519.824.9101

[www.ontariobeef.com](http://www.ontariobeef.com)





15-04  
Feeder Finance  
**Loan Limits**

July 14, 2015

Mr. Rick Mitchell  
President  
Wellington County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Rick,

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 price of beef cattle has gone from an average of \$912.00 per head going onto Feeder Finance Loans in November 2011 to an average of \$1,740.60 for purchases in November 2014, which is an increase of 91%, and

**WHEREAS**, as a result, the current limits associated with the program are far below what is needed to keep Feeder Finance Co-ops and members going; and members buying power has decreased significantly, and

**WHEREAS**, increases in both the provincial government limits and individual member loan limits are desperately needed by many current Feeder Finance Co-op members, as well as potential new members,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** lobby the provincial government for an increase to the producer loan limits under the Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program from \$250,000 to \$500,000.

As you are aware, the provincial government announced a boost to the individual loan limits of the Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program in April of this year. For the purchasing of feeder cattle, new members who enrol in the program are now able to access a loan for up to \$100,000 (an increase of \$50,000), and existing members are now able to access a loan for up to \$500,000 (an increase of \$250,000). The much needed increases will provide new farmers with greater access to affordable financing, and existing farmers will have the financial stability to expand their operations and make new investments, both of which will significantly contribute to the health of Ontario's beef industry.

However, as alluded to in the resolution, the existing program is nearly fully subscribed due to the significant escalation of cattle prices and the widespread popularity of the program. This prevents many cooperatives from taking on new members – in particular, young farmers who account for 32% of the current participants. So while we are extremely pleased by the government's recent decision to increase the individual feeder loan limits, we also recognize that the program lacks sufficient funding to meet growing demand for competitive financing.

.../2



To address this concern, BFO undertook an aggressive lobby campaign in advance of the spring 2015 federal budget, requesting federal participation in the program, using the traditional 60/40 split. While we received excellent support from Ontario MPs, our efforts to attract federal participation in this worthwhile program have proved unsuccessful to date. As we approach the fall federal election, BFO will continue to engage federal candidates of all parties to request federal support for the Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program. I would encourage you to continue to do the same in discussions with candidates in your riding. If successful, federal participation would help to more than double existing financing assuming the lending institutions remain comfortable with level of risk. It would also provide an opportunity to enter into discussions with the province about the inclusion of a potential breeder loan guarantee program.

Additionally, BFO has engaged with the lending institutions to explore opportunities for improving the program. In June, I challenged all of the feeder finance lenders to consider increasing their credit limits to cooperatives under existing terms and with the understanding that the provincial loan guarantee amount would not change. This would mean that the lenders would accept a lower government guarantee percentage while delving out more dollars. Despite this being a significant request, we have been pleased by the initial response and will continue to explore opportunities to improve the program.

I would like to thank the Wellington County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. We would welcome any opportunity to discuss the contents of this letter in more detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: Rob Unsworth  
Al McBurney  
Harvey Hoggart  
Dan Hoggart  
Ross Jeffray  
Jeff Kobe  
Steve Thede  
Jarrett Johnson  
Matt Shortreed  
BFO Board of Directors





January 25, 2015

Kerry Walton, President  
Beef Farmers of Timiskaming

15-05  
Feeder Finance  
Administration

Dear Kerry,

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

**WHEREAS**, the Feeder Finance Program in Ontario is a valuable component of the cattle industry in the province, and  
**WHEREAS**, the cost of the annual audit is the second largest expense behind labour for most Cooperatives,  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** continue to work with the Feeder Finance Committee, along with OMAFRA, to investigate methods of streamlining and reducing the administrative burden of the Feeder Finance Clubs, and work towards expanding these programs.

In partnership with BFO, OMAFRA began a comprehensive review of the Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program this past fall to fulfill a requirement outlined under the program's Order in Council (OIC). Inclusion of the Breeder Loan Program under the existing feeder cattle loan guarantee was discussed at length by the working group. Notwithstanding the lack of available funding under the existing program that would be needed to reasonably and fairly accommodate both a breeder and feeder loan guarantee OMAFRA has also indicated that a new OIC would be required to facilitate the inclusion of a government guarantee for the breeder program. In other words, OMAFRA has not indicated a willingness to combine both programs under a single OIC, even if the guarantee was raised to a level sufficient to accommodate both programs.

Despite this setback, the BFO Board of Directors fully supports efforts to increase access to affordable financing and will continue to seek ways to address this need. One concept BFO pursued to address this need was to create a new lending structure for the Breeder Loan Program that would provide an increased source of funding for co-ops as a collective unit under an umbrella organization by optimizing the higher aggregate value of the loans in exchange for lower interest rates and optimum loan terms. As you may be aware, the co-ops were asked to consider this request and respond back to BFO with their interest in pursuing this type of arrangement. Unfortunately, response to this proposal was mixed and no decision on an appropriate path forward has been made.

Moving forward, BFO will continue to explore ways to provide new access to competitive financing for Ontario's beef producers.

I would like to thank the Wellington County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward and we will strive to keep you apprised of any movements on this file.

130 Malcolm Road, Guelph, ON N1K 1B1  
P/ 519.824.0334 TF/ 1.866.370.2333 F/ 519.824.9101

[www.ontariobeef.com](http://www.ontariobeef.com)



Sincerely,

*[signature required]*

Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: Greg Seed, BFO Feedlot Committee, BFO Board of Directors, Cheryl Russwurm





September 30, 2015

Mr. Dave Perry  
President  
Frontenac Cattlemen's Association

15-07  
Fencing  
Assistance

Dear Dave,

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**, BFO and the Ontario Beef Industry stakeholders realize that there is a shortage of beef animals in Ontario, and

**WHEREAS**, those involved in the Beef Industry realize that to maintain the current infrastructure we need to increase the cow/calf numbers,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** lobby all levels of government to obtain funding that would enable producers to fence farm land that would be suitable for pasturing Beef animals and thereby allowing producers to raise a larger number of beef animals.

The BFO Board of Directors recently reviewed this resolution and recognizes the significant cost of fencing farmland for pasturing cattle, as well as the importance of ensuring these costs are minimized through government financial assistance whenever possible. The lack of perimeter fencing in Ontario limits expansion of the province's cow herd and presents a costly barrier to business growth for farmers looking to start or expand their beef operations. Making fencing more affordable for farmers will help them raise more beef cattle, which is in the best interest of Ontario's entire beef industry and related sectors.

BFO has approached the Ontario government about securing government funding for perimeter fencing. This was discussed at a meeting in May with the Honourable Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, where we expressed the importance of government financial assistance for fencing infrastructure and how a cost-share program for perimeter fencing, amongst other things, would help spur expansion of Ontario's cow herd.

This request for government funding was also made in BFO's recently submitted comments to the Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure (MEDEI) during its infrastructure

130 Malcolm Road, Guelph, ON N1K 1B1  
P/ 519.824.0334 TF/ 1.866.370.2333 F/ 519.824.9101

[www.ontariobeef.com](http://www.ontariobeef.com)



consultations on *Moving Ontario Forward – Outside the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area*. MEDEI was looking for input on how the Ontario government should invest in projects that address critical infrastructure needs in communities outside the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area across the province. BFO recommended the creation of a dedicated cost-share infrastructure program for perimeter fencing, available province wide. As stated in our comments to MEDEI, partnering with producers to provide a cost-share program that assists farmers in building quality perimeter fencing in communities across Ontario would be an efficient and effective way for the provincial government to support the beef industry and the local economies of rural communities.

In addition to our requests to the provincial government, the need for funding for critical infrastructure, including fencing, was highlighted as a priority in the BFO Federal Election Toolkit. We have encouraged members to ask candidates how they and their parties plan to support growth and expansion in the beef industry, and specifically how they plan to support beef farmers, both new and old, in accessing competitive and sufficient low-cost financing and grants for the purchase of animals, land, equipment and critical infrastructure, such as perimeter fencing. BFO has pitched the idea of a dedicated 'Ontario/Canada Livestock Perimeter Fencing Program' for new or expanding operations as a policy option for federal parties and their candidates to consider.

While a final report has not yet been completed, the need for cost-share programming for fencing infrastructure was a comment heard throughout the workshops held on Southern Ontario cow herd expansion this August and September. BFO board and staff have identified this issue as a barrier to expansion and as a priority for future funding to be discussed with the federal and provincial governments. BFO will continue to push for funding assistance for fencing and will seek out any opportunities for reducing the financial burden placed on producers by the high-cost of fencing farmland for pasture.

I would like to thank the Frontenac Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. We will keep you apprised of any movements on this file.

Sincerely,



Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors  
Jeff Peters  
Alec MacGregor  
Kim Sytsma  
Kim Weedmark  
Jamie Clark  
Terry Brownell





August 25, 2015

Mr. Jarrett Johnson  
President  
Bruce County Beef Farmers

15-08  
Sustainable Beef  
Production

Dear Jarrett,

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**, “Sustainable Agriculture” is being promoted by many sectors, and  
**WHEREAS**, it is important for long term food production,  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** encourage and promote programs aimed at long term cattle and beef production in Ontario.

The BFO Board of Directors recently reviewed this resolution and agrees that sustainable agriculture programs and initiatives play an important role in ensuring that we have long-term food production and food security in Ontario. We are pleased to support a number of programs that contribute to the long-term sustainability of cattle and beef production, both provincially and nationally.

As you may know, Canada’s beef industry has several national-level sustainability initiatives and programs underway, including the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef and the Verified Beef Production Plus program, both of which BFO is a participating member. In addition, McDonalds has their verified sustainable beef project that BFO has been actively engaged in through its development stages. We feel that these national-level beef sustainability initiatives are promising and advanced in their progress, and we are enthusiastic about their projected outcomes, as they aim to set indicators for economically and environmentally sustainable beef production and contribute to a prosperous beef industry in Canada for decades to come.

In addition to the work being done nationally, BFO is also pleased to be involved in the Ontario Livestock Sustainability Working Group as a means for advancing sustainable production practices and outcomes at the provincial level. As sustainable agriculture becomes more of a “hot topic”, we are proud to be members of these various groups and initiatives, which have been driven by producers and are far along in development and implementation.

.../2



BFO itself has projects underway that aim to expand Ontario's cow herd, in order to maintain the health and longevity of our beef industry and its supporting infrastructure, such as auction marts and processors. To increase beef production in Ontario, BFO has developed a plan to expand the industry in Northern Ontario, where there is affordable land, access to water and environmental conditions ideal for raising livestock. In addition to this Northern Ontario initiative, BFO has a new project getting underway this summer that will identify pathways and resources for facilitating cow herd expansion in Southern Ontario.

There are many layers of efforts and initiatives looking at sustainable beef production provincially, nationally and globally, and the sustainability of Ontario's beef industry is a top priority of BFO.

I would like to thank Bruce County Beef Farmers for bringing this resolution forward. We would welcome any opportunity to discuss the contents of this letter in more detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: Steve Thede  
Steve Eby  
Scott MacDonald  
BFO Board of Directors





15-09  
Capital Gains  
Exemption

June 16, 2015

Brian Adams  
President, Grey County Beef Farmers Association

Dear Brian,

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

**WHEREAS, the value of farm property assets has risen at an alarming rate, and  
WHEREAS, the present value of \$800,000.00 in capital gains exemption is inadequate,  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby the General Farm Organizations to ask that the capital gains exemption be raised to a higher level.**

BFO would like to thank Grey County for bringing this resolution forward. As announced in the 2015 federal budget on April 21, the lifetime capital gains exemption for dispositions of farm property has been increased from \$813,600 to \$1 million for 2015. Farmers disposing of agricultural properties can qualify for expanded, lifetime tax exemption on capital gains of up to \$1 million.

Increasing the capital gains exemption should help retiring farmers manage the tax implications of significant increases in the value of farm land. In addition, BFO is currently investigating different options for addressing the implications of the rising value of farm property assets.

We hope this provides an adequate response to your request for BFO to lobby for the capital gains exemption to be raised.

Sincerely,

Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors  
Don Hargrave

130 Malcolm Road, Guelph, ON N1K 1B1  
P/ 519.824.0334 TF/ 1.866.370.2333 F/ 519.824.9101

[www.ontariobeef.com](http://www.ontariobeef.com)





15-10  
Joyceville  
Abattoir/Frontenac  
Dairy Farm

June 30, 2015

Dave Perry  
President and Advisory Councillor, Frontenac County

Dear Dave,

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

**WHEREAS, 2015 is a Federal election year, and**  
**WHEREAS, the abattoir at Joyceville Penitentiary is a critical part of the local food infrastructure, and**  
**WHEREAS, a significant portion of the Beef Farmers of Ontario revenue comes from the dairy sector, and**  
**WHEREAS, the prison farms spend a large amount of money on inputs from local farm businesses.**  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO consider writing the Federal party leaders asking for the restoration of the Frontenac Penitentiary dairy farm and the continuation of the abattoir at Joyceville Penitentiary.**

BFO would like to thank Frontenac County for bringing this resolution forward. The BFO Board of Directors supports the request to write a letter to the federal parties requesting the continuation of the abattoir at Joyceville Institution. While the abattoir at Joyceville Institution is important to the beef industry, the BFO Board of Directors decided that they were not willing to include a request for restoration of the Frontenac Penitentiary dairy farm, as this is not a beef industry issue.

A copy of BFO's letter requesting the continuation of the abattoir at Joyceville Institution, sent to the federal Minister of Agriculture and the opposition critics of agriculture, are attached. The BFO Board of Directors felt that these were more appropriate destinations for the request than the federal party leaders.

We hope this provides an adequate response to your request for support of the continuation of the abattoir at Joyceville Institution.

Sincerely,

Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors; Jeff Peters

130 Malcolm Road, Guelph, ON N1K 1B1  
P/ 519.824.0334 TF/ 1.866.370.2333 F/ 519.824.9101

[www.ontariobeef.com](http://www.ontariobeef.com)





15-11  
Line Fences Act

October 27, 2015

Dave Campbell  
President, Lanark County Cattleman's  
Association

Dear Dave,

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

**WHEREAS**, the current edition of *The Line Fences Act of Ontario* allows the fence viewers discretion to assess responsibility of the line fence construction and maintenance based on the value of said fence. For example, a livestock producer may end up having to maintain more than half of the fence versus the adjacent property owner that may not have livestock, perhaps a cash cropper, municipality, or a severed lot owner, and  
**WHEREAS**, this type of decision by fence viewers can place undue burden on livestock producers,  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** lobby the provincial government to provide external or line fence financial assistance to livestock producers OR Amend the *Line Fences Act* to make construction and maintenance of line fences a mandatory 50-50 split.

BFO would like to thank Lanark County for bringing this resolution forward. The BFO Board of Directors recognizes the need of beef farmers for affordable fencing, in particular for expanding pastureland, and supports pursuing funding support for line fences.

Currently, when assigning responsibility for building and financing a fence, fence viewers consider the type of fencing "typical" of the area. If that fencing is sufficient for the needs of the requesting party, the viewer will, in the majority of cases, assign each party building and maintenance responsibility for 50% of the fence. Assigning responsibility to maintain one's side of a fence is not typical of cases where the land is of a non-residential use such as agriculture. If the requesting party requires a specific type of fencing that is more expensive than the fencing "typical" of the area, that party is likely to be assigned responsibility for construction of the fence, with the other party reimbursing 50% of the costs of a "typical" fence. The requesting party must cover the rest of the fence's expenses. If the viewer feels that both parties benefit from the construction of the fence, 50% of the fence's building and maintenance responsibility will likely be assigned to each party even if the fence is "atypical". This outcome is very common if the fence will separate two parcels of farmland.

If a fence requires removal and replacement and there have been no changes in land use, viewers will typically allocate costs and responsibility to parties in line with how they were allocated according to the act when the original fence was built. Otherwise, viewers will assign costs and responsibility similarly to how they would the initial construction of a new fence. Negligence in maintaining one's portion of the fence that results in the other party incurring maintenance expenses may result in reimbursement and the negligent party being taxed to recover expenses.



In speaking with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, it was communicated that these outcomes are representative of the vast majority of cases, and a beef farmer would expect to bear more than 50% share in instances where their lot borders non-agricultural land and an “atypical” fence is required. The Line Fences Act is not implemented differently depending on municipality, but these outcomes may be different if the Act is overridden by municipal bylaws, and the Pounds Act may regulate the containment of cattle outside the authority of the Line Fences Act.

BFO recognizes the significant costs imposed on beef producers by the need for suitable perimeter fencing, as well as the importance of ensuring these costs are minimized through government financial assistance. The BFO Board of Directors recognizes that a lack of available cost-share funding for perimeter fencing projects limits expansion potential of the province’s cow herd, and presents a costly barrier to business growth for farmers looking to start or expand their beef operations. To address this concern, BFO raised the issue in May and again this October with the Honourable Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

This request for government funding was also made in BFO’s recently submitted comments to the Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure (MEDEI) during its infrastructure consultations. MEDEI was looking for input on how the Ontario government should invest in projects that address critical infrastructure needs in communities across the province. BFO recommended the creation of a dedicated cost-share infrastructure program for perimeter fencing be created, available province wide. As stated in our comments to MEDEI, partnering with producers to provide a cost-share program that assists farmers in building quality perimeter fencing in communities across Ontario would be an efficient and effective way for the provincial government to support the beef industry and the local economies of rural communities.

In addition to our requests to the provincial government, the need for funding for critical infrastructure, including fencing, was highlighted as a priority in the BFO Federal Election Toolkit. We encouraged BFO members to ask candidates how they and their parties plan to support growth and expansion in the beef industry and, specifically, how they plan to support beef farmers in accessing competitive and sufficient low-cost financing and grants for the purchase of animals, land, equipment and critical infrastructure, such as perimeter fencing. Specifically, BFO pitched the idea of creating a dedicated ‘Ontario/Canada Livestock Perimeter Fencing Program’ for new or expanding operations, as a policy option for the federal government to consider. We will continue to push this idea during our routine engagements with MPs.

Furthermore, while a final report has not yet been produced, the need for cost-share programming for fencing infrastructure was a comment heard throughout the workshops held on southern cow herd expansion during the month of August.

BFO will continue to push for fencing assistance funding, and will seek out any opportunities to reduce the financial burden placed on producers by the high-cost of fencing farmland for pasture.

Sincerely,



Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors; Don Badour





15-12  
Sharecost  
Program Year

July 7, 2015

Mr. Jamie Clark  
President  
Stormont Cattlemen's Association

Dear Jamie,

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**, Sharecost starts January 1<sup>st</sup> and expenses are not covered for the month of December, **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** extend the Sharecost period to cover one full year.

The BFO Board of Directors recently reviewed this resolution and agrees that the Sharecost Program should be extended to cover eligible expenses incurred within the parameters of the program guidelines for a full twelve months, from December 1 to November 30.

Full program guidelines, including the requested changes, were included in the annual Sharecost Program package that was sent to all counties this past April and can also be found on the BFO website under the 'programs' tab.

I trust you find this an adequate response to your resolution. Should you have any questions in regards to the administration of the BFO Sharecost Program please contact Bethany Storey at the BFO office.

Sincerely,

Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: Alex McIntosh





July 14, 2015

Mr. Francis Weitzel  
President  
Perth County Cattlemen's Association

15-13  
Neonicotinoid  
restrictions

Dear Francis,

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**, regulatory decisions should be based on sound science, and  
**WHEREAS**, the decision of the provincial government to restrict the use of neonicotinoids will negatively impact our ability to compete in Canada and around the world,  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** supports the efforts of all farms and farm organizations on the neonicotinoid issue.

BFO has maintained a long-standing position that government regulatory intervention should be based on sound science-based evidence, whether this be in regards to antimicrobial use, neonicotinoids, animal husbandry practices or otherwise. To maintain a competitive beef industry, regulatory decisions must be rooted in sound science in a manner that reflects modern production practices and without jeopardizing the economic viability of our industry.

In regards to neonicotinoids specifically, BFO did endorse a position that until the full body of scientific evidence was made available, calls to ban use of neonicotinoid treatments would be premature and extremely costly to farmers. BFO has argued that proactive steps to address the issue with pollinators would be best addressed through the development of best management practices for planting, equipment modifications, new seed lubricants and support of ongoing scientific studies.

BFO strongly supports united efforts that assist agricultural growth and promote economic sustainability of farms in Ontario. The strength of a united agricultural voice is always greater than the sum of its parts. As an example, the success of the campaign that ultimately helped achieve Ontario's Risk Management Program can be attributed, in part, to the power of collaboration and speaking with a united voice.

With that said, decisions regarding the involvement in various lobby or coalition campaigns have always been left to the judgment of the Board of Directors. Decisions about participation in these campaigns



are carefully considered with the merits of involvement weighted against existing BFO lobby initiatives, budgetary commitments/restraints, the approach and intended outcomes, and the relevance and/or importance to the Ontario beef industry and BFO membership.

I would like to thank the Perth County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. We would welcome any opportunity to discuss the contents of this letter in more detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: Doug Laidlaw  
Murray Brodhagen  
BFO Board of Directors





February 1, 2016

15-14  
Duty to Act

Mr. Brent Everets  
President  
Haldimand Cattlemen's  
Association

Dear Brent,

The following resolution was brought to the floor and passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February 2015:

**WHEREAS**, the Beef Farmers of Ontario and the members that it represents have a vested interest in ensuring the welfare of livestock, and

**WHEREAS**, cases of animal abuse and/or neglect are of significant concern to all livestock producers, and

**WHEREAS**, information relating to a number of cases of animal abuse and/or neglect that have been distributed through the media (social, news) and includes a video composition that has been collected over a period of time., and

**WHEREAS**, those collecting this information over a period of time are therefore willfully allowing animal abuse and/or neglect to continue by failing to exercise a Duty to Act,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** work with respective agencies to discuss and decide if amendments need to be made to the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and similar Acts across Canada to include language for individuals failing to exercise a Duty to Act within a specified time frame be punishable under the Act.

The BFO Board of Directors has reviewed this resolution and recognizes the need to develop a system to encourage or require individuals to report animal care concerns, which should include provisions against documenting animal mistreatment over time without reporting. This would help ensure that animal care concerns are promptly reported and investigated. When left unreported, animal abuse and neglect can potentially be filmed by animal rights activists, and they share responsibility for the abuse by allowing it to happen unreported themselves. It is in the interest of all beef farmers to advocate for the welfare of livestock and make all possible efforts to prevent and report animal care concerns to the proper authorities.

As per the resolution, BFO staff have met with respective agencies to discuss the *Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* and potential regulatory amendments that would include language

.../2



regarding a “duty to act” for all individuals who witness animal abuse or neglect – the Act already requires Ontario veterinarians to report such cases to authorities. Based on these discussions, it was determined that pursuing legislative or regulatory amendments would not be the best route for preventing animal abuse or neglect and potential video footage from animal rights activists. Preventing and reporting animal abuse or neglect in the beef industry is a shared responsibility of all beef farmers, and BFO is currently in the process of developing an animal welfare values statement and call to action for its members in lieu of pursuing regulatory amendments for stronger punishment

The call to action currently being developed would include a “duty to act” provision for all individuals, calling for shared responsibility for the treatment of livestock within the beef industry and for individuals to report, and not film, animal abuse or neglect. We believe this to be a positive and proactive approach that will position the Ontario beef industry as an animal welfare advocate and leader.

We will keep you updated as BFO further develops the animal welfare values statement and call to action. There is great potential for Ontario’s beef industry to gain the good publicity and reputation for animal welfare it deserves.

I would like to thank Haldimand Cattlemen’s Association for bringing this important resolution forward. We will be in contact with the county and district associations as we move forward with the development of the BFO call to action, and we would welcome any opportunity to discuss this matter in more detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors  
Wilbert Rowntree  
Scott Dykstra





June 16, 2015

Glenn Dorland  
President, Northumberland County Cattlemen's Association

15-15  
Spring Bear Hunt

Dear Glenn,

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

**WHEREAS**, *the Ontario Government and the Ministry of Natural Resources have deemed a need for control on the bear population and have opened up a few Wildlife Management Units for a spring bear hunt, and*

**WHEREAS**, *there is a need for control in all of rural Ontario,*

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** *urge the Ontario Government and the Ministry of Natural Resources to reinstate the Spring Bear Hunt in all Wildlife Management Units in Ontario.*

BFO would like to thank Northumberland County for bringing this resolution forward. The BFO Board of Directors supports the request to write a letter to the Ministry of Natural Resources requesting the continuation of the spring bear hunt in all Wildlife Management Units in Ontario within bear range. A copy of the letter sent to Minister Mauro on April 22, 2015 has been attached for your review. Minister Mauro's response to BFO's letter has also been attached.

In addition, the Ministry of Natural Resources provided an update on livestock conflicts with bears and the spring bear hunt at a recent meeting of the Agriculture-Wildlife Conflict Working Group, of which BFO has representation. It was suggested that recommendations for expanded spring bear hunts should be sent to local municipalities from local agricultural organizations to encourage movement on this issue. Therefore, I would encourage Northumberland County Cattlemen's Association to consider sending your own letter to the municipalities in your county outlining the importance of this request.

We hope this provides an adequate response to your request for support of the continuation of the spring bear hunt. Should you have any questions with our response, please feel free to contact one of our policy staff or myself directly.

Sincerely,

Bob Gordanier, President

cc: BFO Board of Directors; Doug Gray; Dave Denure

130 Malcolm Road, Guelph, ON N1K 1B1  
P/ 519.824.0334 TF/ 1.866.370.2333 F/ 519.824.9101

[www.ontariobeef.com](http://www.ontariobeef.com)





15-16  
CCIA Producer  
PINs

July 14, 2015

Mr. Matt Shortreed  
President  
Huron County Beef Producers

Dear Matt,

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**, 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 packer 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 BFO** consider on direct to packer sales, BFO and CCA work with CCIA to investigate the feasibility of CCIA Packer PINs on shipping manifests as an alternative to applying missing RFID tags to cattle.

The BFO Board of Directors recently reviewed this resolution and agrees wholeheartedly with its intent. While we have repeatedly asked the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) to lobby the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) for acceptance of producer PINs on shipping manifests in lieu of re-applying missing RFID tags to cattle on direct-to-packer sales, no movement on this issue has occurred.

BFO recently took the opportunity to make specific recommendations on this issue as a component of our broader comments on CFIA's proposed regulatory requirements for the Canadian Livestock Identification and Traceability Program. While a copy of our full comments has been attached for your review, I have copied BFO's specific recommendations to CFIA in response to your resolution below:

*The proposed prohibition 5.2.1, to repeal the current requirement preventing the reception of animals not bearing an approved tag is a welcomed change. However, continuing the requirement to re-tag an animal that has lost a tag, either in transit or before transit and just prior to slaughter, produces a regulatory burden that can easily be avoided by repealing the requirement to re-tag slaughter-bound animals. No traceability information can be gleaned from re-tagging an animal at a terminal site aside from where the animal was most recently*

.../2



*transported and that information can be obtained easily, in most cases, from the movement reporting document (manifest) that, under the current proposal, will be required. To reduce costs to producers and processors and to eliminate potential health and safety risks that arise when attempting to re-tag a market weight animal, BFO recommends repealing the requirement to re-tag an animal that has lost its tag, on direct to processor movements.*

I trust you find this an adequate response to your resolution. BFO will be sure to report back on any further discussions or action on this matter.

Sincerely



Bob Gordanier  
President

Encl.

cc: Doug Scott  
Harvey Hoggart  
BFO Board of Directors





December 21, 2015

Dave McGonegal  
President  
Renfrew County Cattlemen's Association

15-17  
Nutrient  
Management Act

Dear Dave,

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Board of Directors recently reviewed the following resolution from Renfrew County, passed at the BFO AGM in February of this year:

**WHEREAS**, nutrient management strategies / plans are required for building permits for farming operations; or operations with over 400 units or expanding operations, and  
**WHEREAS**, these nutrient management strategies / plans can be costly for farmers as they must hire consultants to do these strategies / plans, and  
**WHEREAS**, these nutrient management strategies / plans are only good for five years as set out by the current provincial legislation, and  
**WHEREAS**, some farm operations do not change anything in those five years; and there are no plans for further changes in the operation in the next five years,  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** lobby the provincial government to allow extensions to nutrient management strategies / plans that have reached their five year plan period by a written request made by the producers so that there is no added cost to the operation for the next five years.

BFO would like to thank Renfrew County for bringing this resolution forward. The BFO Board of Directors recognizes the need for a streamlined process for nutrient management plan reapplications. A procedure that meets the reporting needs of OMAFRA while not imposing onerous requirements on beef producers is achievable and preferable to the current process.

BFO met recently with staff at the Environmental Management Branch at OMAFRA to highlight the concerns outlined in your resolution, namely the cost to producers of formulating nutrient management strategies, and the redundancy in many cases of resubmissions every five years. It was mentioned in the meeting that OMAFRA considers improvements to the resubmission process to be an important issue and are open to input from producer organizations. Staff discussed potential amendments to the current process. Possibilities discussed were as follows:

.../2



- Allowing a written request to suffice for an extension to unchanged nutrient management strategies/plans;
- Establishing a standardized set of documents for the resubmission process;
- A substantially shortened certification process for producers to produce nutrient strategies/plans without the need to hire a consultant, to minimize financial and time requirements for producers;
- Adopting an “open for business”-like approach to streamline environmental compliance and reduce the costs and uncertainty of approvals;
- Requiring a renewal of nutrient strategies/plans only for farms above a certain size.

One of the primary motivations for the meeting was to propose to OMAFRA the establishment of a forum to improve dialogue between regulatory bodies and groups that are responsible for following regulations. Under such an arrangement, farm organizations and consultants would meet with the Ministry of Environment and OMAFRA Nutrient Management staff on a recurring basis in order to highlight priorities and discuss current regulatory pitfalls.

While no regulatory progress has been made to date, BFO will continue to advocate to OMAFRA for an improved process for building permit renewals and submissions, and to pursue the establishment of venues where such concerns can be aired with maximum effect.

We hope this provides an adequate response to your request for support regarding nutrient management strategy/plan renewal. If you have any questions regarding this resolution or BFO's further discussions with OMAFRA, please do not hesitate to contact the BFO office.

Sincerely,



Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: Craig McLaughlin  
BFO Board of Directors





15-18  
Centralized  
Credit Review

December 21, 2015

Jarrett Johnson  
President  
Bruce County Beef Farmers

Dear Jarrett,

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 Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee program has been a successful tool for Ontario beef producers, and

**WHEREAS**, feeder cattle prices have increased, and

**WHEREAS**, the risk to each co-operative has increased due to fewer cattle per member and increased loan amounts per member,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** work with the Ontario Feeder Cattle Finance Co-op Committee to discuss and consider the alternatives for a third party credit review process of individual members that Feeder Co-ops could utilize.

The BFO Board of Directors discussed this resolution in March 2015 and forwarded the request to the Feeder Finance Review Committee for further debate and discussion at their April meeting. Cheryl Russwurm, Provincial Supervisor of the Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program (OFCLGP), highlighted several credit review options utilized in other jurisdictions for discussion purposes at this April meeting. While the committee agreed with the rationale behind the request for a third party credit review process, there was insufficient support to move a recommendation to change the existing credit review structure under the OFCLGP.

Despite the lack of support by the Feeder Finance Review Committee, the resolution was tabled for further discussion with the Industry-Government Working Group that is charged with reviewing the OFCLGP - a process which began this fall. Although third-party credit review was not identified as an immediate priority by the Working Group, it remains on the list of potential changes for future discussion.

While the BFO Board of Directors supports the recommendations made by the Feeder Finance Review Committee and the Industry-Government Working Group, we will ensure that we maintain your recommendation on file for future discussions regarding ways to improve the OFCLGP.

.../2



We hope this provides an adequate summary of the actions taken to address your resolution to date. Should you have any questions in regards to the contents of this letter, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

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

Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: Steve Thede  
Scot Legge  
Cheryl Russwurm  
BFO Board of Directors  
BFO Feedlot Committee





15-19  
Regional  
Meetings

July 14, 2015

Mr. Kevin Krakar  
President  
Norfolk Cattlemen's Association

Dear Kevin,

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**, grassroots input has always been the strength and policy of this organization, and regional meetings ultimately provide this transfer of information between counties and the Beef Farmers of Ontario,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** consider continuing regional meetings with counties.

The BFO Board of Directors recently reviewed this resolution and agrees that regional meetings provide an important opportunity for dialogue with grassroots members. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the BFO Board has committed to hosting a series of fall regional meetings in lieu of a centralized Advisory Council meeting for the 2015 year.

On behalf of all counties who will benefit from regional meetings in the fall of 2015, thank you for putting this request forward.

Sincerely,

Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: Robert Peacock  
BFO Board of Directors





August 25, 2015

Mr. John Buis  
President  
Kent Cattlemen's Association

15-20 CHE in Southern Ontario
-------------------------------------

Dear John,

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

**WHEREAS**, BFO is initiating a program to encourage expanding cattle numbers in the north, and **WHEREAS**, farms in the rest of the province also need help to encourage and retain sustainable beef production,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the programs and incentives offered to producers in the northern project also be available to producers in the rest of the province.

The BFO Board of Directors recently reviewed this resolution and agrees that beef farmers throughout the province need help to expand cattle numbers and retain sustainable beef production. BFO strongly supports any and all initiatives aimed at increasing the cow herd in all parts of Ontario.

Recognizing the need to encourage cow herd expansion in regions across the province, BFO has a new project getting underway that will identify pathways and resources for facilitating expansion in Southern Ontario. Through consultation with beef farmers and other stakeholders, this scoping project will gather ideas and prioritize the optimal ways that Ontario can increase its cattle numbers in southern regions. This will include looking at the opportunities for increasing beef farmers' ability to produce and finish more cattle, including double cropping innovations, heifer retention and other possibilities, as well as the opportunities for convincing crop farmers that there is profit margin and more secure returns if they integrate cattle into their operations.

The nature of the beef industry is different in Northern Ontario from Southern Ontario, with different challenges and opportunities between the regions. Accordingly, BFO's initiatives for cow herd expansion in Northern Ontario and Southern Ontario are also different from each other, designed to be relevant to beef farmers of each region and reflecting the unique situations of both. BFO will not be providing funding to individual producers for expanding the cow herd in any region, but we are hoping that these initiatives lead to tangible incentives, programs and educational resources. These will address different challenges, audiences and regions, as producers in the south may need different programs and tools for expansion than those in the north.

.../2



We need to be seriously committed to finding new ways of ensuring a sustainable and economically viable future for the next generation of beef farmers. Expansion of the cow herd in all parts of the province will reduce the threat of processing plants closing, with the increased production used to access new and growing markets in Ontario and around the globe.

I would like to thank the Kent Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. We would welcome any opportunity to discuss the contents of this letter in more detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: Frank Byrne  
Mike Buis  
Ed Gillier  
BFO Board of Directors





February 3, 2016

John Buis  
President, Kent Cattlemen's  
Association

15-21  
Competitiveness of  
Local Abattoirs

Dear John,

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

**WHEREAS**, local abattoirs are essential for producers to be able to sell local beef, and  
**WHEREAS**, small abattoirs struggle with ever-tightening and expensive regulations that do not necessarily affect food safety,  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** work with OMAFRA and OIMP to assist local abattoirs in finding workable solutions to help them comply with regulations that affect food safety.

BFO would like to thank Kent County for bringing this resolution forward. The BFO Board of Directors recognizes the important role small abattoirs play in the network of infrastructure that enables the Ontario beef industry to efficiently produce a final product and meet the local food demands of Ontarians.

For economic reasons, smaller abattoirs have less flexibility in making physical and procedural changes to their operations. Regulatory adherence can therefore be very costly to a local abattoir, and changes required by inspectors are often specific to each operation and may seem arbitrary, or be unnecessary, for the outcomes the regulations are intended to ensure. The slight repositioning of a sink or widening of a drain may not practically affect the operation of an abattoir, but are expensive modifications to make. While some inspectors may be flexible, others may be unwilling to work with abattoir operators to find a solution to regulatory adherence issues.

BFO staff has outlined to OMAFRA the need for regulatory requirements to be more outcome-based and less focused on minutiae that are disconnected from the ultimate goal of the regulations - food and worker safety, and animal welfare. To this end, OMAFRA staff has acknowledged the issues with prescriptive-based regulations, and have indicated that OMAFRA is making an ongoing shift towards

.../2



regulatory requirements that are more outcome-based. OMAFRA is also focusing on changing the attitude towards regulatory compliance within its organization, emphasizing the potential for abattoirs and inspectors to work together on solutions to compliance rather than dictating requirements, as often still takes place. OMAFRA staff voiced support for outreach programs providing education for and guidance to local abattoirs for meeting regulatory requirements with minimal disruption to their operations.

BFO staff also met with OIMP to discuss the factors that impact the competitiveness of local abattoirs. OIMP staff highlighted (1) costs, such as utilities, taxes, waste disposal, and maintenance; (2) labour acquisition and retention; and (3) maintaining a constant flow of animals as issues critical to the survival of local abattoirs. From the perspective of OIMP, regulatory compliance issues vary widely, whereas cost and labour issues, along with animal supply, are more uniform across the province. OIMP highlighted the work they were doing to improve abattoir access to labour, including providing a labour survey to make abattoirs aware of market trends, and promoting jobs in the food industry. An issue highlighted by OIMP is the importance of local pay scale in the Temporary Foreign Worker program, an issue BFO has lobbied for to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

The BFO Marketing Committee has been actively working on issues that impact the wellbeing of local abattoirs. The Ontario Regional Marketing Initiative, a focus of the committee, is aimed at identifying marketing gaps in Ontario, and developing a marketing plan focused on filling these gaps. This includes an emphasis on promoting demand for Ontario beef within the province, which is key for survivability of small, local abattoirs. The goal of continued and improved viability of Ontario's meat processing sector is one of the components of the initiative, and BFO will be in communication with OIMP and other organizations to ensure initiatives are aligned industry-wide.

Expansion of the Ontario cow herd will be an important factor in the survival of local abattoirs. Abattoir survival is a critical component of BFO's pursuit of access to Crown land in Northern Ontario, as well as BFO lobbying efforts for fencing assistance in Southern Ontario. An expanded cow herd means more business for local abattoirs, and in turn more flexibility in adapting to changes in the market, regulatory or otherwise.

BFO will continue to promote objective-based regulations to OMAFRA, and seek any opportunities to voice issues beef farmers may have with the impact the regulatory process can have on local abattoirs. We will continue to support measures that will have a positive impact on abattoir competitiveness, including ensuring access to labour, opposing decisions by the province that have the potential to increase hydro rates, and pursuing access to northern Crown land for an expanded cow herd.

Sincerely,



Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors  
Ed Gillier  
Frank Byrne





15-22  
Cow Herd  
Expansion  
Concerns

July 14, 2015

Mr. Darrell Russett  
President  
Beef Farmers of Hastings County

Dear Darrell,

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Board of Directors recently reviewed the following resolution passed by the Beef Farmers of Hastings County in May of this year:

**WHEREAS:** The Beef Farmers of Hastings County (BFHC) operate under the guidance and mandate of Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO),

**WHEREAS:** The BFHC represent the interests, concerns and mandate of all beef farmers/producers operating in the County of Hastings, Province of Ontario,

**WHEREAS:** The farmers/producers of Hastings County have expressed concerns, questions and dismay over the BFO promotion, and collaboration with the Ontario government with respect to the expansion of beef herds on to crown lands in north-eastern Ontario.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That BFHC would implore the BFO to revisit and rethink their promotion of ‘Beef Cattle to the North’ due to harsh environmental conditions, distance to markets, feed supplies, and veterinary care, as well as the financial burden placed on mainly young or beginner farmers for startup and continuation of a viable beef operation in the north. In addition, the more prudent use of check-off fees for the benefit of all Ontario beef farmers is imperative.

It was disappointing for the BFO Board of Directors to learn of BFHC’s apparent dismay with BFO’s promotion and collaboration with the provincial government with respect to expansion of beef production in Northern Ontario.

During BFO’s strategic planning process more than two years ago, the shrinking cow herd and decreasing supply of locally-produced beef in the province were identified as issues that needed to be addressed. Beef production is declining in Ontario with cow herd numbers at their lowest point in decades, and we are getting dangerously close to a tipping point. This poses a direct threat to the survival of processing plants in the province and the sustainability of beef farming.

The vision for our organization is helping to foster a sustainable and profitable beef industry and have Ontario beef recognized as an outstanding product by our consumers. To help meet this objective, BFO assembled some of the best minds in the province and held extensive producer consultations to determine

.../2



if expansion of beef production in Northern Ontario was economically feasible or not. This endeavor comes with a set of unique challenges and obstacles, some of which you have cited. However, the report that BFO commissioned last year, with input from Northern Ontario beef farmers, demonstrates that northern expansion is both economically feasible and required to support Ontario's current beef industry and processing sectors.

Accessing land for beef production is becoming more and more difficult due to land being converted to cash crops, competing government policies, and urban encroachment. Ontario beef producers know that the biggest cost factor in establishing a farm business is the cost of land. The available and affordable land in Northern Ontario presents a significant opportunity to help reverse the decline in Ontario's beef production and increase jobs and income for families, if the proper supports are put in place.

Expanding Ontario's cow herd requires tremendous collaboration and BFO needs to work with the province to allow for industry growth. Currently, BFO is requesting that the provincial government release crown land in Northern Ontario for beef production. This will help ensure our feedlots in the south have a steady supply of Ontario-born animals, our southern processors maintain a sufficient supply of cattle, and consumers continue to have access to local Ontario beef products.

With the average age of Ontario farmers having now reached 55 years old, we need to be seriously committed to finding new ways of ensuring a sustainable and economically viable future for the next generation of beef farmers. We believe wholeheartedly that Northern Ontario can provide this opportunity and that sustainable beef farming operations in the north will reduce the threat of processing plants closing, with the increased production used to access new and growing markets in Ontario and around the globe.

It must be stated that BFO strongly supports any and all initiatives aimed at increasing Ontario's cow herd, including expansion initiatives in other areas of the province. Recognizing the need to look at ways to expand the cow herd in Southern Ontario as well as Northern Ontario, BFO has a new project getting underway that will establish resources and identify pathways that will help encourage and facilitate expansion of the cow herd across southern and eastern Ontario.

The BFO board strongly believes that the resources invested in this initiative for the south and the sister project for the north represent a necessary and responsible investment of BFO check-off dollars. I sincerely hope that you understand the urgency behind the need to invest in projects aimed at growing and sustaining our industry in Ontario.

Should you have any further questions regarding the cow herd expansion project please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

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

Sincerely,



Bob Gordanier  
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors





January 12, 2016

15-23  
Sale of Hydro One

Mr. Jarrett Johnson  
President  
Bruce County Beef Farmers

Dear Jarrett,

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Board of Directors recently reviewed the following resolution passed by the Bruce County Beef Farmers in October 2015:

*Whereas : the public electrical system generates significant revenue for the Municipal and Provincial governments and gives Ontario a competitive advantage; and*

*Whereas : the public electrical system in Ontario is a critical significant asset to the economy; and*

*Whereas : Hydro One is a profitable and well-maintained and well run Provincial utility; and*

*Whereas : some Ontario municipalities have examined possible sales or mergers on their local distribution companies, and have decided not to sell to Hydro One or the private sector; and*

*Whereas: the privatization (partial or whole, of the electrical system) has led to higher rates and less control; and*

*Whereas: the sell-off of Hydro One will end the equalization of cost to the consumer of the power provided, and certain parts of Hydro One which will be more in demand for purchase by the private sector, thereby creating further hardship to Rural Ontario; especially Northern Ontario and the Agricultural based communities; and*

*Whereas; Rural Ontario are the purchasers of the power which paid for the majority of the lengthy transmission lines since the conception of the former "Ontario Hydro"*

*Therefore, be it resolved: that Bruce County Beef Farmers call on the Provincial government to : Stop the sale of any part of Hydro One, and maintain Hydro One as a wholly public asset for the benefit of all of Ontario's residents;*

(cont'd)



*Strengthen Hydro One by investing in and upgrading aging infrastructure and invest in the next generation of Hydro One workers; respect the autonomy of local decision-making powers of local distribution companies by not forcing these companies into mergers or sales; and further invest in supporting Rural development and new investment in Agriculture by supporting the development of new Agricultural developments in Ontario by providing fair and equitable hydro rates which reflect growth in the Agricultural economy; and*

*Be it finally resolved; that Bruce County Beef Farmers circulate this resolution to the Beef Farmers of Ontario, the County of Bruce, the Bruce County Federation of Agriculture, and the Bruce County Christian Farmer, and work for its adoption. [sic]*

*(moved by Lynn & Steve Thede)(seconded by Jeff Kobe). Carried.*

Since announcing its plan to broaden ownership of Hydro One by selling 60% of its shares last spring, the Ontario government has faced some questions on what impact the sale will have on Hydro One's customers and how it will affect the province's long-term economic health. The BFO Board of Directors recognizes there are issues stemming from the sale regarding the potential impact of Hydro One's privatization on rural communities and the need for the province to support rural and agricultural development.

As you are likely aware, the sale of Hydro One has already gone ahead, with an initial public offering in November 2015. Three more offerings of about the same size are expected to follow, reducing the province's stake to 40% over time while they remain the largest shareholder. Overall, the government anticipates that selling 60% of its shares will generate a total of \$9 billion. Of this, \$5 billion is intended to be used to pay down Hydro One's debt and \$4 billion is intended for infrastructure investment, including public transit. In a separate transaction, the government has decided to merge the part of Hydro One that runs the distribution system in Brampton with three other municipally owned local distributors (in Mississauga, York Region and Hamilton.) This is expected to net more than \$600 million for the province.

With it clear that the provincial government intends to continue selling off its shares in Hydro One, BFO has opted to focus on how proceeds will be distributed. We have deferred to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and their position on this matter, which is now focused on how the proceeds from the sale are invested in proportion to who paid for Hydro One. Rate payers, not tax payers, have paid for Hydro One; rural communities, specifically, have paid for the distribution portion.

We have sent OFA a letter (copy attached) expressing support for their specific request to the provincial government that a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Hydro One be used to fund rural infrastructure. The BFO Board agrees with OFA that any proposed infrastructure spending from the sale should take into account the source of funds which has paid for a significant portion of the company. That is, since much of the funding of Hydro One came from rural communities, a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Hydro One should be used to fund infrastructure in Ontario's rural communities. This



would help ensure that rural communities, as major stakeholders in any changes to the ownership of Hydro One, are supported by infrastructure investment from the province.

I would like to thank Bruce County Beef Farmers for bringing this resolution forward. We would welcome any opportunity to discuss the contents of this letter in more detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Bob Gordanier  
President

Encl.

cc: Lynn & Steve Thede  
Jeff Kobe  
BFO Board of Directors

