



2019 RESOLUTION RESPONSES

Enclosed you will find the response letters to the 2019 resolutions

- 19-01 OSPCA and Animal Care Enforcement
- 19-02 Supply of Food Stream Veterinarians (large animal)
- 19-03 Professional Requirements to Conduct Pregnancy Checking
- 19-04 Mobile Slaughter Pilot
- 19-05 Taxes on Abattoirs
- 19-06 SRM Costs
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- 19-26 BCMA Fee Collection Amendment





May 7, 2019

Kevin Krakar
President
Norfolk County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Kevin,

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

WHEREAS, animal abuse and inhumane handling are serious issues and need to be treated as such, and
WHEREAS, OSPCA has been found unconstitutional in court, and
WHEREAS, OSPCA also stated they want out of large animal inspection, and
WHEREAS, others are beginning to step forward asking to take over the role,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO take a leadership role in guiding the government to establish a well-trained government run animal welfare inspection team to be put in place to properly handle instances of animal abuse.

I would like to thank Norfolk County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. As you are likely aware, the OSPCA is no longer conducting animal welfare investigations on livestock or equine farms. BFO was informed in March by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services and Community Safety (MCSCS) that all calls would be directed to local police beginning April 1, until a new animal care enforcement model could be developed. In the interim, OMAFRA has committed to assisting local police by connecting them with veterinarians and sector specific advisors, like BFO Animal Care Advisors (ACAs), as circumstances warrant.

In early January, an Ontario Superior Court Judge ruled that it is unconstitutional for the Province of Ontario to enact legislation that permits a private charity (the OSPCA) to have policing powers without government oversight. Although the government is appealing this ruling, the OSPCA has decided to abdicate its role in enforcement.

Throughout the winter, BFO has been meeting regularly with a coalition of livestock commodity organizations to discuss both short- and long-term solutions to the situation. A small delegation that included BFO staff also met with political staff from OMAFRA and MCSCS in February to discuss our



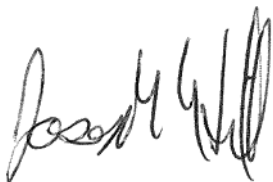
concerns. Regular communication between the coalition representing livestock agriculture, and the two ministries responsible for livestock and animal care enforcement continues.

BFO will remain actively involved in the discussions around the development of a new animal care enforcement model and new animal care act moving forward. In our estimate, this could take six months to a year to develop and implement. Government consultations are expected to be held later this spring.

Finally, in response to your resolution's specific mention of inspector training I can confirm that all of the livestock organizations involved in these discussions share your concerns. BFO will be placing a strong emphasis in our comments to government about the need to ensure all animal care enforcement agents appointed under any new model are well-equipped and sufficiently trained to properly evaluate the species they are charged with inspecting, including familiarity and knowledge of industry approved standards of care.

I hope this letter provides a sufficient response to your resolution. BFO will be sure to communicate to the membership any progress that is made in the development of a new animal care enforcement model for Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Hill". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Joe Hill
President

cc: Dr. Paul Edwards (seconder)
Robert Peacock (Advisory Councillor)
BFO Board of Directors





19-02
Supply of Food Stream Veterinarians
(large animal)

June 21, 2019

Chris MacFarlane
President
Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Chris,

The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February and was recently discussed by the BFO Board of Directors:

WHEREAS, greater licenced veterinarian oversight is required with the new regulations regarding livestock antibiotic use and the Ontario Veterinary College program is fiercely competitive to gain acceptance with few students/new grads interested in entering into livestock practice, it does not take long before a potential crisis due to a shortage of competent livestock veterinaries in the province could be expected,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO in conjunction with other Ontario livestock groups investigate ways to encourage the acceptance and graduation of Food Animal Stream students from the OVC intending to enter into food animal practice in the province before a true shortage occurs.

The BFO Board of Directors agrees and recognizes that the supply of food animal veterinarians in Ontario is a critically important issue for livestock agriculture, especially considering the new requirements for veterinary prescriptions for medically important antimicrobials. While a shortage of bovine veterinarians has been identified in remote areas of the province in particular, BFO recognizes that access to veterinarian services is a province-wide issue. This issue has the potential to worsen further over time, partially depending on the number of students from the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) who graduate with an interest in practicing in the beef sector.

The OVC admits a class of 120 students to its four-year DVM program each year out of a group of applicants that numbers between 350 and 750 (based on statistics for the past 10 years). Admission is heavily weighted towards grades, though it is BFO's understanding that there is some attention paid to where applicants originate from – for example, the OVC has shared that the number of students coming from northern Ontario is proportionate to the population.

In the third year of study, students at the OVC select a stream from four options, which comes into effect in the fourth year of study: small animal, equine, food animal, and rural community practice. All



students are required to participate in an externship in a mixed animal veterinary practice in the summer between third and fourth year. There are typically about 20 students per class in the food animal and rural community practice streams combined. In theory, these approximately 20 students per year are interested and trying to pursue food animal and/or rural community veterinary practice.

BFO has had several discussions with the OVC and veterinarians practicing in the beef sector about the supply of veterinary students who are specifically interested in beef cattle. This number is harder to determine, as students who are particularly interested in bovine practice may be headed towards the dairy sector. Within BFO's discussions, it seems to be generally understood that there has been more emphasis on dairy than beef within bovine studies at the OVC, for various reasons.

Ensuring that there is a sufficient supply of veterinarians from the OVC with an interest in practicing veterinary medicine in the beef sector will require a multi-pronged approach. In April this year, BFO had a meeting with the OVC on this issue, and a variety of potential actions were discussed:

- promote the beef sector and rural community practice/lifestyle to students through speakers at practitioner nights at the Food Animal Student Club;
- promote the beef sector through greater involvement and support from BFO and other industry stakeholders;
- ensure that the list of veterinary practices accepting student externships includes sufficient and attractive beef sector options;
- target efforts towards third year students at OVC who are making post-graduation plans and looking for incentive to pursue various options;
- attract students toward certain sectors and/or locations with incentives that go beyond monetary compensation, e.g. professional network, mentorship and lifestyle;
- investigate potential funding models to incentivize employment in particularly under-served regions, e.g. monetary compensation after several years of an employment contract in a specific geographic area;
- collaborate with OVC faculty to ensure curriculum for beef cattle is relevant and current to industry needs;
- update and seek industry investment in the fourth-year beef rotation for students, which takes place in Ontario and Alberta, to potentially increase the emphasis on Ontario opportunities and activities; and,
- investigate potential updates to the admission criteria for new students at the OVC.

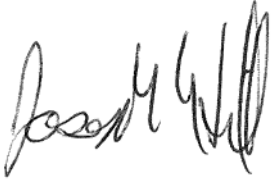
Since the April meeting, BFO has had follow-up conversations with OVC staff and faculty regarding potential next steps pursuing these different options. There are both short-term and long-term actions contained in the above list, and the BFO Board of Directors is committed to investigating the feasibility of these actions and any others that may arise.

Ensuring there is a sufficient supply of new veterinarians from the OVC with an interest in practicing bovine medicine in the beef sector is an issue that BFO will continue to prioritize in the months ahead. We intend to work closely with the OVC, veterinarians currently in beef cattle practice, and other stakeholders to find ways to increase the promotion of the beef sector to students, while also investigating potentially more impactful activities and investments that could have an impact on the supply of food animal veterinarians.



On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, I would like to thank the Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. We will strive to keep the counties and districts updated as we continue to work on this resolution in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Hill". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Joe Hill
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
John Lunn (Advisory Councillor)
Mike Fallis (second)





19-03
Professional Requirements to
Conduct Pregnancy Checking

December 16, 2019

Kebbi Rhyner
President
Kenora District Cattlemen's Association

Dear Kebbi,

The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February and was recently discussed by the BFO Board of Directors:

WHEREAS, we have a shortage of large animal veterinarians in Ontario especially areas of the north, and
WHEREAS, a lot of veterinarians are not interested or have the time to preg check the beef and dairy herds, and

WHEREAS, the AI technicians were in the past allowed to preg check, and

WHEREAS, ultrasound is becoming more and more common and affordable, and

WHEREAS, trained "ultrasound technicians" are more than adequate for our needs

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with CVO to have preg checking removed from a veterinarian only procedure.

The College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO) regulates veterinary medicine in Ontario under Ontario's *Veterinarians Act*. This legislation lays out the definition and scope of veterinary medicine, including procedures that are considered diagnostic in nature (including pregnancy checks) and therefore must be conducted by veterinarians only, as opposed to registered veterinary technologists or other technicians. Throughout 2019, BFO held discussions with Ontario Sheep Farmers (their members have encountered similar challenges with accessing pregnancy checks) and the CVO on this issue.

The CVO is currently reviewing and modernizing the *Veterinarians Act* and its associated regulations. A summary report, titled "Achieving a Modern Approach to the Regulation of Veterinary Medicine in Ontario", was prepared in December 2017 and includes 19 recommendations for modernizing the *Veterinarians Act*. These recommendations have since been approved by the CVO Council and presented to the provincial government.

The applicable section of the aforementioned report that relates to pregnancy checking is "Scope of Practice – Definition and Authorized Activities". The following is a partial list of proposed activities that would be legislatively authorized to veterinarians, meaning that only a veterinarian can perform these

activities or they could be delegated to someone (regulated or unregulated) who is not authorized but is deemed competent by the veterinarian. In the case of delegated activities, the veterinarian remains responsible for the supervision and outcome of the activity.



“12. Putting an instrument, arm, hand, or finger... v. beyond the labia majora, vi. beyond the anus or cloaca ...

13. Applying or ordering the application of a form of energy prescribed by the regulations under this Act

14. Performing upon an animal any manual procedure for the diagnosis and/or treatment of pregnancy, sterility, or infertility, inclusive of ova and embryo transfer”

With respect to item 12, the report notes that these procedures are not authorized to veterinarians only and, therefore, a trained individual could possibly still perform a rectal palpation or use ultrasound equipment intravaginally or intrarectally. With respect to item 13, which relates to energy application (i.e. ultrasound), a veterinarian must make the order to apply the ultrasound to the animal (similar to ordering a lab test), but can delegate the application of the ultrasound to a competent individual, which could be an artificial insemination (AI) technician, a registered veterinary technologist, or an ultrasound technician.

Item 14 above is concerning to beef producers because it would require any pregnancy check done through rectal palpation to be done by a veterinarian and could not be delegated to a technician. This concern has been voiced to the CVO, along with the problems beef producers face with accessing pregnancy checking services and manual pregnancy checks. The CVO has committed to examining the issue more thoroughly, including any risks associated with manual pregnancy checking procedures such as rectal palpation. The CVO has stated that high-risk activities will remain the domain of veterinarians only, while low-risk activities can be moved to the public domain and may then be delegated to other professionals. BFO will also participate in research-gathering and analysis on this topic.

Whether through ultrasound or rectal palpation, pregnancy checking will, in many instances, require delegation to other professionals due to a lack of access to veterinary services. The CVO is currently drafting a “delegation model” that will outline how a veterinarian would delegate certain procedures and establish relationships with other competent professionals. The CVO will initiate a targeted industry-veterinarian consultation on this model and other proposed changes in the spring of 2020, during which BFO will provide feedback and raise any concerns on the model and access to these services.

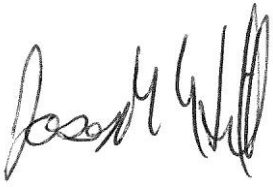
The regulations accompanying the amended *Veterinarians Act* are also in development and a draft is expected by September 2020. The CVO has informed us that these regulations will not designate who a veterinarian may delegate to, which will leave room for trained individuals of other professions (AI technicians, ultrasound technicians, etc.) to provide pregnancy checking services once a relationship is established with the veterinarian. All delegated individuals would be supervised by the veterinarian indirectly and the veterinarian retains the overall responsibility for this process and outcome.

In the short to medium term, there can at times be limited options available to producers for pregnancy checking. A veterinarian may hire a registered veterinary technologist and train this individual to gather clinical information that is reviewed by a veterinarian for a diagnosis. Alternatively, a producer can learn to take blood samples from the animals that may be sent to a diagnostic lab for pregnancy confirmation.

On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, I would like to thank the Kenora District Cattlemen’s Association for bringing this resolution forward. We will continue to work closely with the CVO as they work on changes to the *Veterinarians Act* and regulations, and we will continue to keep the counties and districts updated as we work on this issue.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Hill". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Joe Hill
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Evan Debney (Advisory Councillor & mover)
Brent Cadeau (seconder)





December 16, 2019

Bob Dunsmore
President
Perth County Beef Farmers Association

Dear Bob,

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

WHEREAS, there is a growing need for local slaughter capacity for beef cattle and a growing need for slaughter options for compromised cattle that can't be legally transported,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby the provincial government to create a pilot project for mobile slaughter that can be blue printed across all parts of Ontario.

BFO recognizes that beef farmers in Eastern Canada are faced with a serious processing capacity and competitiveness issue that is costing the sector millions in lost income. We have been actively lobbying both provincial and federal governments on this issue, and working toward solutions around slaughter capacity is a top priority. A mobile abattoir has the potential to provide relief with respect to local processing capacity for compromised cattle, and may provide a financially viable option to producers when assessing animals for fitness to transport, ensuring both economic success for the producer and optimal welfare for the animal.

The amended *Health of Animals Regulations* Part XII, Humane Transport will come into effect on February 20, 2020. These regulations have now embedded a thorough definition of compromised and unfit animals. The accompanying interpretive guidance document further defines and explains how these animals may be moved and to which locations. Compromised animals may be transported for up to 12 hours provided they are transported with additional attention paid to their comfort and welfare (e.g. extra bedding, segregating from other animals, etc.) and are sent to the nearest location where they can receive care or be humanely slaughtered. Unfit animals cannot be transported to slaughter.

BFO produced an "Emergency Slaughter Primer" earlier in 2019 (available on the BFO website and included with this letter), which details procedures and costs associated with emergency slaughter services. Emergency slaughter services are available to Ontario producers through the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and accessing these services allows a producer to sell the meat from an animal that was slaughtered through the emergency slaughter provision. However, the program can be difficult for some producers to access depending on location and can also be cost-prohibitive, especially if an animal is not near finished weight.



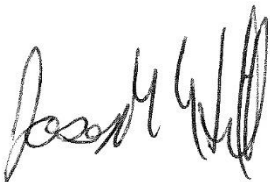
There has been a great deal of interest around mobile slaughter options over the past several years, with extensive projects completed through the University of Guelph in 2014 and Trent University in 2019. These projects examined consumer interest in local food and scratched the surface on whether a mobile slaughter program would be viable and useful in Ontario. The results are encouraging but a great deal of additional work would be needed to ensure that this type of business would be sustainable and profitable. BFO believes that the following actions would need to be completed:

- Complete a jurisdictional scan, with specific focus on British Columbia and the United States where these units currently exist and operate at a profit.
- Examine the regulations and any associated programs that would allow for safe operation of these units with the goal to discover what, if anything, would need to change in the Ontario meat regulations to make mobile abattoirs viable.
- Complete a feasibility study and/or market analysis to establish: 1) possible location of the unit(s) that would allow for maximum use and accessibility, 2) potential business models that will result in sustainable and profitable operations, 3) services that should be offered (i.e. slaughter capability with cooling space, full butchering services, etc.), 4) species served by the unit in addition to cattle, if any, and 5) a full cost analysis, including set-up and operation of the unit and associated pricing for services once the unit is operational.
- Identify parties interested in establishing and operating a mobile abattoir unit (to note, previous studies have shown that private ownership and operation with government support is far more successful than government-owned and -operated units).
- Discuss with OMAFRA the coordination and scheduling of provincial meat hygiene officers needed to accompany the units in order to conduct ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections.

The above outlined actions would require the services of an economist and other additional expertise, and BFO will investigate the potential for pursuing these activities while also continuing our discussions with other organizations on this issue.

On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, I would like to thank the Perth County Beef Farmers Association for bringing this resolution forward. We will strive to keep the counties and districts updated as we continue to work on this resolution in the months ahead.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

Cc: BFO Board of Directors
Jack Chaffe (Mover)
Karl Terpstra (Second)
Murray Brodhagen (Advisory Councillor)





December 16, 2019

Murray McDonald
President
Rainy River Cattlemen's Association

Dear Murray,

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

WHEREAS, food safety is a high priority for Ontarians, and
WHEREAS, local food is a high priority for Ontarian, and
WHEREAS, local abattoirs provide needed jobs in rural communities,
WHEREAS, abattoirs in the province of Ontario are struggling to achieve profitability,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby the Ontario Government to investigate and support the reclassification and assessment within the current tax structure in relation to the abattoirs in the province of Ontario.

BFO would like to thank Rainy River Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. The BFO Board of Directors recognizes the essential role Ontario's local 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. Competitiveness and financial viability of local abattoirs have been raised as issues by BFO at multiple meetings with OMAFRA staff and the Minister throughout 2019. It is BFO's belief that the solution to this issue will not be found with revisions to Ontario's tax classification system, which will not be supported by government agencies, but instead with a combination of other actions.

There must be reductions in regulatory burden and additional support for Ontario processors to help local abattoirs reduce their operating costs. BFO was pleased to participate in an agricultural roundtable with OMAFRA Minister Hardeman in May 2019 on Northern Ontario Meat Processing. Our submission from the roundtable is attached, and covers the following areas:

- Inconsistent regulatory interpretation and enforcement by OMAFRA
 - Lack of accessibility to public service procurement
 - Burdensome licensing requirements
 - Outcome-based lighting requirements
-
- Access to labour and markets
 - Funding programs

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

www.ontariobeef.com



- Government-industry communication

BFO is also acutely aware of how important profitability is in Ontario's abattoirs, especially as our province experiences a critical lack of processing capacity. Beef processing capacity and economic viability are, and will continue to be, top priorities for BFO in the months and years ahead. The concerns outlined in your resolution, as well as the issues listed above that have impacts on abattoirs' profitability, will be reflected in the steps BFO takes through policy development, lobbying, programs, and other initiatives.

Thank you for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Hill". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Joe Hill
President

Cc: BFO Board of Directors
Kim Jo Bliss (Advisory Councillor)
Delton Martin (mover)
Colin Vanbeek (seconder)



December 16, 2019

Todd Moore
President
Beef Farmers of Durham Region

Dear Todd,

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

WHEREAS, Current regulations around SRM requirements cost Ontario beef producers many dollars, and

WHEREAS, Ontario cattle can move south of the border and be slaughtered, then have the meat shipped back to Ontario without this issue or cost,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO in conjunction with CCA lobby the provincial and federal authorities to have these SRM rules investigated, relaxed where possible and harmonized with the US rules where possible.

BFO's Board of Directors has reviewed this resolution and agrees that Canada needs to achieve regulatory harmonization with the U.S. and implement less costly and burdensome specified risk material (SRM) removal requirements. Presently, the Canadian beef industry removes approximately 58 kilograms of SRM from over-thirty-month (OTM) animals compared to removal of approximately 900 grams in the U.S. According to 2008 statistics, the approximate cost of SRM removal in Canada is \$31.70 per head or over \$35 million per year. BFO has requested updated SRM removal costs from the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and we are pleased to report that CCA is working with the Canadian Meat Council (CMC) to provide these updated costs in the coming months.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has established recommendations and guidelines for SRM removal based on a country's risk classification. Since 2007, Canada has been classified as a "controlled BSE risk" country by the OIE. Our SRM removal rules were originally put in place with consideration to our risk classification and as a safeguard against BSE.

The Canadian beef industry has actively supported and advocated for Canada's application to the OIE for a change in BSE risk status from "controlled risk" to "negligible risk". To that end, Canada is close to passing the 11-year mark with no confirmed cases, as the last confirmed case of BSE in Canada was an animal born in March 2009. This is an important criterion for attaining BSE negligible risk status. It is worth noting that achieving BSE negligible risk status will help enable the recovery of some markets that were lost in 2003 due to discovery of BSE in Canada.



The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has shared with industry that the application for a change in status has not been submitted to date due to insufficient data. As part of a joint industry/government working group that has been tasked with preparing Canada's OIE application, CCA is working on the industry practices segment of the application. This includes a lifecycle assessment of the Canadian beef production system and an in-depth review of how SRM is handled, specifically how it is removed and kept from being recycled into feed or feed products.

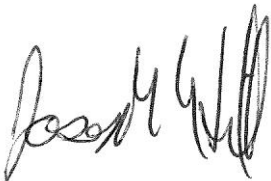
Canada's application needs to be submitted to OIE in May 2020 for initial acceptance by July 2020. A final decision is expected by March 2021. Once negligible risk status has been achieved in Canada, it is critical that Canadian SRM regulations are revised to be consistent with those of the U.S. Although harmonization of SRM regulations is not guaranteed following a change in risk status, and will likely take some time to move forward, this is a federal lobby priority for BFO.

BFO's Board of Directors understands and shares your frustration in this matter, and BFO will continue to work with CCA, CMC and CFIA on viable solutions that lead to SRM regulatory harmonization with the U.S. once Canada's risk status is downgraded. Specifically, BFO will work with CCA to lobby for the following actions:

- 1) Ensure Canada's application to the OIE for BSE negligible risk status is completed well in advance of the spring 2020 application deadline.
- 2) Establish the regulatory plan to introduce less costly and burdensome SRM removal requirements after Canada's BSE risk status is changed.

I would like to thank the Beef Farmers of Durham Region for bringing this resolution forward. We will strive to keep Ontario's beef producers regularly updated on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

Cc: BFO Board of Directors
Stan Found (Advisory Councillor)
Dale Mountjoy (mover)
Brian Lee (second)





September 30, 2019

Scott MacDonald
President
Bruce County Beef Farmers

Dear Scott,

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

WHEREAS, the Ontario Feeder Finance Program is a well-designed and effective program and of particular importance to younger producers working to get established in the Ontario beef industry, and **WHEREAS**, cattle markets have seen extreme fluctuations in the past few years and buying/selling cattle monthly is one way of managing market risk,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with Ontario Feeder Finance Program to raise the current number of loans to allow producers more flexibility in buying and selling cattle.

At the February meeting of the Provincial Feeder Finance Council a motion was put forward and carried by delegates in response to this resolution that was raised by the Bruce County Beef Farmers at the 2019 BFO AGM. The motion was as follows:

THAT the Feeder Finance Executive Committee initiate an investigation into the pros and cons of increasing the maximum number of loans per member from 4 loans to 12 loans, in consultation with BFO, the provincial government, individual cooperatives, and individual lenders and report back to the Provincial Feeder Finance Council at the 2020 Feeder Finance AGM.

The Feeder Finance Executive Committee, a sub-committee of BFO, had a lengthy discussion at its August meeting regarding the merits of pursuing a change to the program's Order-in-Council (OIC) to increase the maximum number of feeder loan agreements that can be active by a single member at any one time, from four to 12. At that meeting, Cheryl Russwurm, Provincial Program Supervisor noted that the average number of active loans per member is approximately 2.7. Program statistics indicate that very few members hit the loan maximum of four at any one time. However, many farm partnerships (husband-wife, father-son, etc.) routinely access multiple loans by more than one individual within the farming operation, which could indicate a broader desire by some members to increase the loan maximum.

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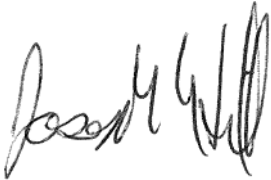
As a result of the discussion in August, the Feeder Finance Executive Committee tasked BFO staff with surveying each co-op to determine the level of member interest and potential uptake if the loan maximum was increased. Staff will be asking co-ops for their responses by the end of September. The results of this survey will help guide our decision about whether or not to pursue a change to the OIC on this matter.

The next review of the OIC is scheduled to begin sometime in 2020 with changes to be implemented for the 2021 program year. BFO will be engaged directly with OMAFRA throughout this process.

It should be noted that regardless of BFO's view on this request the lenders and the province will conduct their own evaluation and assessment of the potential change to their respective liabilities, which may impact our ability to make this change.

Thank you for bringing this resolution forward. We will keep you apprised of discussions on this matter as we prepare for the 2020 OIC review. Should you have any questions regarding this process I would encourage you to contact Steve Eby, Chair of the Feeder Finance Executive Committee or Cheryl Russwurm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Hill". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Joe Hill
President

Cc: Mike Jeffray (Mover)
Jarrett Johnson (Seconder)
Steve Thede (Advisory Councillor)
Cheryl Russwurm (Provincial Program Supervisor)
Steve Eby (Chair, Feeder Finance Executive Committee)
BFO Board of Directors





June 21, 2019

Kebbi Rhyner
President
Kenora District Cattlemen's Association

Dear Kebbi,

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

WHEREAS, AgriStability does not meet the needs of the majority of cow calf producers, and
WHEREAS, AgriStability is required to access the cash advance program, and
WHEREAS, the Risk Management Program (RMP) is more responsive to the beef sector, and
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby the appropriate entity that the RMP be accepted as security for the Cash Advance Program.

In response to this resolution, the BFO Board of Directors agreed to submit a formal request to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to permit the RMP program to be used as security for an advance under the Advance Payments Program (APP), which is commonly referred to as the "Cash Advance Program." A copy of this request has been appended to this letter for your information.

In the development of the request to AAFC, BFO was able to secure the support of the Veal Farmers of Ontario and the Ontario Sheep Farmers. The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC), which operates as the main APP administrator in Ontario, also expressed support for this request. Additionally, this issue was raised at the APP administrators meeting in Ottawa in late May, where a copy of our letter was provided directly to AAFC program staff.

In an email update provided to BFO staff in early June, AAFC indicated that they were in the process of reviewing the request internally and would be reaching out to BFO to help address any additional questions that they may have. BFO will be sure to report back in a timely manner regarding any change in the status of this request.

Sincerely,

Joe Hill
President

cc: Evan Debney (mover and Advisory Councillor)
Don Hargrave (second)

Roger Griffiths
BFO Board of Directors

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

www.ontariobeef.com





July 19, 2019

Kebbi Rhyner
President
Kenora District Cattlemen's Association

Dear Kebbi,

Further to our letter to you of June 21 responding to Resolution 19-08 relating to RMP and the Cash Advance Program, we received a reply from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to our request to allow the Ontario Risk Management Program (RMP) to be used as security for an advance under the Advance Payments Program (APP).

AAFC gave careful thought to our request to determine whether the RMP would be eligible as security under the APP and have informed us that the current design of RMP does not meet the requirements to be used as such. They also informed us that they would be willing to re-examine the possibility of accepting the RMP as an alternate form of security if the current program parameters were ever modified to better align with the APP program requirements.

We appreciate AAFC's efforts on our behalf and their timely response. We also appreciate the endeavours of the Kenora District Cattlemen's Association to help improve financing opportunities for Ontario's beef farmers. A copy of the letter from AAFC is enclosed for your reference.

Sincerely,

Joe Hill
President

cc: Evan Debney (mover and Advisory Councillor)
Don Hargrave (secondar)

Roger Griffiths
BFO Board of Directors

Encl.



December 16, 2019

Bob Dunsmore
President
Perth County Beef Farmers Association

Dear Bob,

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

WHEREAS, cash crop farmers have the option of enrolling in both RMP for price insurance and crop insurance for production insurance of their crops, and

WHEREAS, beef farmers only have RMP for price insurance for their cattle with no program offered by the provincial or federal governments in regards to production insurance for cattle, it leaves beef farmers at a disadvantage when it comes to renting or purchasing land

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO with the assistance of CCA, lobby both the provincial and federal governments for production insurance for beef farmers to cover the production side of their operations.

BFO has and continues to advocate for improved fairness and equity in business risk management (BRM) programs to ensure all sectors have access to similar levels of support. In fact, federal-provincial-territorial (FPT) ministers of agriculture committed to finding ways to improve BRM equity across sectors as part of the 2017 national review of BRM programs.

While BFO has publicly supported the need for continued review of national BRM programs, the absence of any increase in the BRM funding envelope will likely restrict the government's ability to provide a robust livestock production insurance program without degrading support for existing AgriInsurance plans currently offered, which account for nearly two-thirds of the current BRM budget.

Unfortunately, the current federal and provincial BRM support structure continues to favour grains, oilseeds, horticulture, and supply managed sectors, which has produced inequity in the competitive landscape across the country. One of the primary reasons for this inequity rests with the fact that beef producers and other livestock farmers have limited access to production insurance, outside of hay and forage insurance plans that pale in comparison to the support provided under crop insurance. This gap in BRM programming has been recognized repeatedly by governments, most notably back in 2003 when federal and provincial governments committed to developing a National Livestock Production Insurance Program. Although AgriInsurance (production insurance) was promised to our industry, it has not been delivered.



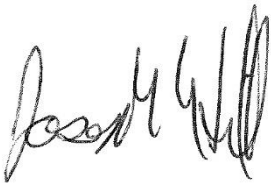
Production risks related to weather, feed production and animal health can present significant challenges for beef operations and have direct and consequential impacts on farm gross margins. Opportunities to mitigate these risks through the development of a National Livestock Production Insurance, including movement toward a yield-based forage insurance program for cattle that is similar to what is available for Ontario crop farmers through AgrilInsurance, would be a welcomed and much-needed addition to the BRM toolbox. There are currently no insurance programs, publicly or privately offered, that provide the type of production insurance protection that the crop sector receives under AgrilInsurance.

In 2014 and 2015, BFO supported legislation in Ontario to expand the scope of the *Crop Insurance Act* to include all agricultural products, including beef cattle. While the *Agriculture Insurance Act* (amending the *Crop Insurance Act, 1996*) was approved by the province in 2015, no concrete plans to further develop this type of programming for beef cattle has occurred to date. The expansion of the *Crop Insurance Act* to include all agricultural products nevertheless provides a positive signal of intent to address inequity in BRM programming.

BFO will continue promote the need for a national livestock production insurance program and for enhancements to forage insurance. To add, BFO continues to aggressively promote the need for increased funding for the Ontario Risk Management Program (RMP) and fulfillment of the province's commitment to increase the cap on RMP funding by \$50 million per year.

Access to sufficiently funded and effective BRM programs will continue to represent a major advocacy priority for BFO moving forward. On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, I would like to thank the Perth County Beef Farmers Association for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

Cc: BFO Board of Directors
Evan Chaffe (Mover)
Murray Brodhagen (Advisory Councillor)





19-10
Emergency Response Infrastructure
and Capacity

December 16, 2019

Brad Cober
President
Waterloo County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Brad,

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

WHEREAS, an integral component of livestock transport emergencies is the safe and efficient removal of cattle and other livestock from trailers, and
WHEREAS, BFO is in the midst of purchasing emergency response trailers for northern Ontario, and
WHEREAS, livestock transport rollovers occur in other areas of the province, not just the north, often times in or near large urban settings that may require a more strategic and prepared response,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO partner with other livestock organizations to ensure all regions of the province maintain access to extraction equipment and emergency response trailers, as well as trained individuals prepared to assist first responders in livestock transport emergencies.

I would like to thank Waterloo County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. BFO believes that an organized, well-equipped and extensive network of emergency infrastructure and personnel is essential to protect and ensure both human and animal safety and welfare. To this end, BFO has embarked on a number of initiatives related to emergency response and preparedness over the past few years and is committed to furthering the emergency preparedness of our sector.

The Ontario Cattle Emergency Network is an emergency advisory group established to assist first responders. This network of beef farmers, located strategically across the province, has been extensively trained to provide advice and guidance at the scene of a transport emergency. The group has focused not only on handling of livestock, but also on chain of command protocols at emergency scenes with the understanding that human health and safety must remain the top priority. This group provides assistance to first responders to make necessary phone calls and reports, advise on livestock handling, and bring or find nearby necessary supplies, such as temporary fencing, large animal veterinarians, replacement trucks, and holding facilities.

In 2018, BFO acquired funding through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative, to purchase four mobile trailer gate systems that have been stationed in northern Ontario. These units must now be provided to and operated by the appropriate emergency management body to ensure accessibility of equipment and coordination of emergency personnel. We are currently investigating the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, including the Office of



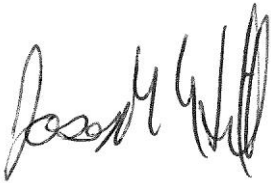
the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of the Solicitor General (who is responsible for animal protection in the province), and industry.

Northern Ontario is an ideal pilot location for this initiative due to the unique challenges encountered across the region, specifically inclement weather and distance between population centers. The majority of cattle coming into Ontario from the western provinces are transported along the northern route, increasing the risk of a transport emergency in this region. Upon establishment of the emergency infrastructure framework for livestock transport rollovers, BFO will seek to expand the network of existing equipment and increase capacity across the province. This may be done through collaboration with other commodity partners, additional grant funding, and/or through consideration of similar initiatives in other provinces (e.g. Alberta's emergency livestock handling equipment trailer program). There are several options to consider and the BFO Board of Directors is committed to investigating the feasibility of these actions and any others that may arise.

Ensuring there is an extensive network of emergency infrastructure and capacity across Ontario is an issue that BFO will continue to prioritize in the months ahead. We intend to work closely with the previously mentioned ministries and other stakeholders to find ways to improve current services, equipment and access.

I hope this letter provides a sufficient response to your resolution. We will strive to keep the counties and districts updated as we continue to work on this issue in the months ahead.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

Cc: BFO Board of Directors
Stewart Cressman (Mover)





December 16th, 2019

Scott MacDonald
President
Bruce County Beef Farmers

Dear Scott,

The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Annual General Meeting (AGM) in February and was recently discussed by the BFO Board of Directors:

WHEREAS, local county associations are challenged to find enough engaged producers to serve as local directors, and

WHEREAS, order to remain viable it is essential for any organization to examine and review its structure to improve efficiency and strength,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO review the electoral/board structure, and county level delegate representation to determine potential strategies that will improve the strength and quality of BFO, their producers, and greater beef industry and report back in a year.

The BFO Board of Directors agrees that governance and strategic review of any organization is important for maintaining its health and value for members. In addressing this resolution, BFO board and staff reviewed the existing BFO governance structure and discussed potential strategies for increasing producer engagement at local, provincial and national levels.

Currently, the BFO Board of Directors is comprised of 12 elected positions representing the following: three cow-calf, three feedlot, one backgrounder, one southern, one eastern, one northern, and two at-large. Director terms are three years to a maximum of three consecutive terms (nine years) to maintain consistency and allow time to best fulfill the roles and responsibilities associated with the position.

The role of BFO's directors is to promote the best interests of the beef industry in Ontario and work to fulfill the objectives of BFO. The board's responsibilities include:

- Fulfilling the mandate given to BFO in accordance with the provisions of the *Beef Cattle Marketing Act*, the BFO constitution and by-laws, and the BFO policy manual
- Hiring and overseeing BFO's executive director
- Setting strategic direction and establishing policies for BFO
- Overseeing the sound financial management of BFO and striving to provide producers with value for their license fees



- Exercising leadership
- Making effective, responsive and informed decisions
- Operating within legal and ethical guidelines
- Ensuring that all board decisions and actions are made in the best interests of cattle producers and the Ontario beef industry
- Fostering a positive image of BFO and the beef industry for producers, industry partners and the broader community

Review of BFO director roles and responsibilities typically occurs each year prior to our AGM. The BFO Nominations and Governance Committee recently conducted this review and agreed that no amendments should be made, as the list of responsibilities remains accurate and reflective of the rigorous role of BFO directors.

As part of BFO's Advisory Council Summer Meeting, roundtable discussions were facilitated on the number of voting delegates at BFO's AGM and related policies. There was not widespread support for changing any of BFO's policies or reducing the number of voting delegates, nor was there consensus on a better process for designating voting delegates.

The BFO Board of Directors is not supportive of reducing the number of delegates or revising the electoral structure at this time. However, we are aware that finding adequate county/district representation and engaged producers to serve as local directors can be challenging in some places. We continue to believe in the importance of building leadership at the grassroots and local level, to encourage producers to get involved in their county/district associations and the broader industry. This is an area that we will continue to invest in, and we are always open to feedback on how we engage with our members.

BFO's County Grant Program (CGP) was recently reviewed and updated for 2020. The CGP has been redesigned in an attempt to better encourage and incentivize producer engagement and participation in important programs, meetings, awards and events. New for the 2020 funding year, the CGP will be increased from a flat \$1,000 to a maximum \$1,500 per county/district, accompanied by changes to the incentive structure and eligibility criteria. The new CGP incentivizes participation and support for important programs and awards, which will further the development of future leaders in our industry. We encourage all local associations to consider promoting the leadership and industry development programs listed in the CGP to their members.

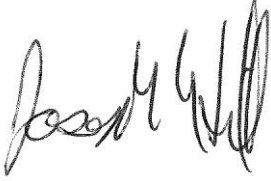
The CGP changes were shared with county/district associations this fall, and a full breakdown of eligibility criteria and incentives can be found on the BFO website. The program will be reviewed each fall by the BFO Board of Directors so that changes to funding levels or eligibility criteria can be communicated in advance of the funding year.

The BFO Board of Directors may need to look at conducting a full-scale evaluation of our association's structure in the future, and we will continue to look for innovative strategies to maintain the long-term health of our provincial and local beef associations and increase producer engagement.



On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, I would like to thank Bruce County Beef Farmers for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Joe Hill
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Steve Thede (Advisory Councillor)
Mike Jeffray (Mover)
Jasper Munro (Seconder)





September 30, 2019

Scott MacDonald
President
Bruce County Beef Farmers

Dear Scott,

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

WHEREAS, the Bruce County Beef Farmers have new directors coming onto the board each year, and **WHEREAS**, we need to support the directors to make sound decisions and be able to work in a board environment at the local and provincial level,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO establish a procedure for a director training program to be held in the first month following elections and recommend it to BFO to also initiate this program.

The BFO Board of Directors recognizes the value in good governance for our membership both at the board level and at the county/district level. In the fall of 2018 BFO shared an educational guidebook and DVD on board governance and running effective meetings with each county and district association. At the time we encouraged each county/district association to familiarize themselves with this tool and to use it to help train local directors, both existing and newly elected. The resource was made available to BFO by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and was created and developed by the Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development in partnership with the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies.

While only one guidebook and DVD were distributed to each local association, the resource is available online for all to use. Links to the training program have been provided below.

View the "flippable" e-books at:

- <http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/flippingbook/rural-dev/aet/governance/index.html>
- <http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/flippingbook/rural-dev/aet/mtgs/index.html>

At the recent Advisory Council meeting in July, Advisory Councillors were asked during the roundtable discussions if, 1) this resource was of value to their local association, and 2) whether their local associations would benefit from, and/or find value in additional governance training, and if so, what topics they would like to see included in a training program. Overall, ACs familiar with the resource commented that it was of value to their associations. You will find that topics that were suggested that day to have included in a

.../2



future training program, such as Financial Management, Conflict of Interest, Robert's Rules of Order, etc., are covered in the resource that was distributed.

The BFO BUILD Leadership Program, which was delivered by the Rural Ontario Institute, was launched in December 2011. Since its inception, 75 participants have completed the leadership training program. The knowledge and skills developed through participation in this program include a focus on the individual, on running effective meetings, and on the organization. Module topics include the following:

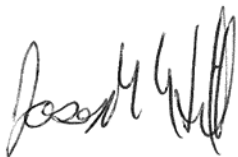
- Communication
- Dealing with Change
- Motivating Others
- Meeting Management
- Effective Listening Skills
- The Role of the Leader
- Leadership Styles
- Effective Group Mediation Tools and Techniques
- Board Roles and Responsibilities
- Fiduciary Responsibility
- Effective Policies and Procedures
- Effective Skills for Recruiting Others to the Board and to the Organization
- Empowering Others and Advocacy

The BFO board firmly believes in the educational and confidence-building value that this program provides and has maintained a standing position that the association would offer the program again if there was sufficient interest from producers. To run an effective program, BFO would need between 13-15 individuals committed to participate. The cost to participants in the program is approximately \$150 per person, which is refundable upon full completion of the program.

Lastly, Farm and Food Care Ontario offers media training workshops for board and staff of local and provincial agricultural associations, designed for those who want to be better prepared to speak about issues related to their sectors during media interviews, farm tours, and other events. Space is limited to 12 participants per session, and the cost is \$400 per person (less a 25 percent discount for Farm & Food Care Ontario members), which includes coffee breaks, lunch and workshop materials. Local associations interested in this type of training for their executive members or other board directors should contact Farm and Food Care Ontario for more information.

On behalf of the BFO Board, I commend Bruce County Beef Farmers for your interest in developing good governance and leadership and hope that you will further explore these educational opportunities that will help strengthen your association and your local community.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

Cc: Harold Zettler (Mover) | Lynn Thede (Secunder)
Steve Thede (Advisory Councillor)
BFO Board of Directors





December 16, 2019

Murray McDonald
President
Rainy River Cattleman's Association

Dear Murray,

The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February and was recently discussed by the BFO Board of Directors:

WHEREAS, there have recently been several OMAFRA Agriculture Development Advisors retiring across Northern Ontario, reducing staff to half of what it was in 2017, and
WHEREAS, there are great distances between the farming regions of Northern Ontario, and
WHEREAS, there are unique climate and regional agricultural needs in each Northern Ontario District,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby the Ontario Government to replace and retain a full complement of OMAFRA Representatives for Northern Ontario.

The BFO Board of Directors understands there is a significant gap in OMAFRA staffing and resources in northern Ontario, which creates challenges for producers in the region trying to access information and resources. Support services offered by OMAFRA staff help to assist producers with financial planning and business management, product marketing, securing funding, environmental planning, inspection, and health monitoring. As stated in your resolution, northern Ontario has unique needs based on climate and other factors, and access to staff who understand the region is important for the beef sector and all of agriculture.

BFO has discussed the reduced OMAFRA staff capacity in northern Ontario (and across the province) with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and other organizations. OFA policy, established in 2018, calls on the Ontario government to “lift the hiring freeze to ensure the replacement and retention of a full complement of OMAFRA staff in Ontario.” To this end, OFA sent a letter to Premier Ford in March 2019 advocating for filling empty OMAFRA positions and maintaining a full complement OMAFRA staff.

Though OFA's advocacy this year regarding OMAFRA staffing has not resolved the issue, we believe it is critical for OFA to be involved in lobbying for a full complement of OMAFRA staff, as it is an issue that affects all of agriculture. To ensure OMAFRA staffing capacity across Ontario, including northern Ontario, remains a priority for OFA, BFO submitted the following resolution at OFA's 2019 AGM:

WHEREAS, *there has been a loss of OMAFRA staff at the Kemptville office and across northern Ontario that leads to understaffed offices and gaps in services to producers, and*



WHEREAS, these regions are sometimes at a great distance from other farming areas with OMAFRA staff, and

WHEREAS, these regions have their own unique challenges, opportunities and climate from other regions, and

WHEREAS, there has been a hiring freeze on the numerous vacant OMAFRA staff positions in Kemptville and northern Ontario,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT OFA advocate for filling gaps in OMAFRA staffing and lobby the Ontario government to hire and retain a full complement of OMFARA staff in Kemptville and across northern Ontario.

The above resolution was brought to OFA's 2019 AGM jointly with the Renfrew federation, and was then amended on the floor to read:

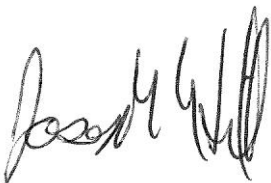
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture advocate for filling gaps in OMAFRA staffing and lobby the Ontario Government to hire and retain a full complement of OMAFRA staff in Ontario.

It is our understanding that this amendment was made to reflect the need to have vacant OMAFRA staff positions filled across the province, as this is unfortunately a more widespread issue. The amended resolution was approved with a strong majority of voting delegates, and another similar resolution from Arnprior was also passed. The two resolutions on OMAFRA staffing were then endorsed and approved by the OFA Board of Directors on December 10th, 2019, and BFO takes this as indication that the issue will be an action item for OFA in 2020.

BFO is committed to working with OFA on lobbying for a full complement of OMAFRA staff across our province to ensure all of producers are receiving support from government representatives, with an understanding that regions like northern Ontario are faced with particular challenges from reduced OMAFRA staffing.

Thank you for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Delton Martin (mover)
Philip Krahn (seconder)
Kim Jo Bliss (Advisory Councillor)
Keith Currie (President, OFA)





December 16th, 2019

Fred Hortis
President
Beef Farmers of Thunder Bay

Dear Fred,

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

WHEREAS, attendance at beef meetings and events is central to the role of BFO directorship, and, **WHEREAS**, completing a candidate biography and delivering a candidate speech at the AGM demonstrates a candidate's commitment to the position and their ability to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of a director, **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** require all board candidates to be present at the AGM to be considered eligible for director positions.

The BFO Board of Directors recently discussed the request outlined in the above resolution. The current director candidate requirements were reviewed as part of that discussion, which are as follows:

- Director candidates must be checkoff-paying members in good standing with BFO;
- Director candidates must be registered as a voting delegate on the day of election, regardless of whether they are present or not; and
- Director candidates must submit a nomination package no later than 10 business days prior to the start of the annual general meeting.

While the Board of Directors acknowledges that candidate presence at the AGM is preferred, we also recognize that extenuating situations may arise from time to time that may prevent a candidate from being present during the elections at the AGM. This is not a frequent scenario, and as so, we do not support a proposal to require director candidates to be present at the AGM in order to be considered eligible for election. The Board of Directors does not want to discourage anyone from participating in the elections process or running as a candidate.

BFO's Nominations Committee also provided direction on this resolution, which included discussions concerning extenuating circumstances and potential reasons for a candidate's absence at the AGM. Examples of extenuating circumstances mentioned during the committee's discussion include a family death; unforeseen illness, injury or procedure; extreme weather; and the list continues. The Nominations Committee concluded that voting delegates have the power and discretion to decide if a

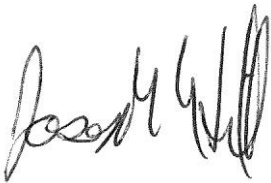


candidate's absence is acceptable. As so, the Nominations Committee reminds members this decision is also up to the counties/districts, as signing in an absent candidate results in a lost vote for their designation.

It is the Board of Director's belief that emergency or otherwise unforeseen or unexpected conflicts with our AGM should not disqualify a candidate from seeking election, provided all candidate requirements have been satisfied, nor prevent the grassroots membership from being able to vote for their preferred candidate for a seat on the BFO board.

BFO will continue to promote the expectation of candidate presence at the AGM as part of our board nominations and elections process. Thank you for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Hill". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Joe Hill
President

Cc: BFO Board of Directors
Brent Cadeau (Advisory Councillor)
Holly Tuck (seconder)





19-15
Support for Algonquin College
Agriculture Program

December 16, 2019

Reg Campbell
President
Ottawa Beef Farmers

Dear Reg,

The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February and was recently discussed by the BFO Board of Directors:

WHEREAS, Algonquin College is starting a new agricultural program at its Perth campus for the Fall of 2019,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO recognize and support the program at Algonquin College Perth anyway that promotes and educates future beef farmers.

The BFO Board of Directors whole heartedly supports the education of not only our future beef farmers, but all individuals working within the beef industry. We believe in supporting all Ontario college and university programs that prepare students for a career in the beef industry.

Graduating from a college or university can open many doors for our youth and young producers. This includes building essential interpersonal and professional skills, reaching career goals, establishing industry network connections, and returning to operations to share new and innovative ideas. In addition, enrolling in an agriculture-related college or university program allows those not living or working on a farming operation to explore and understand the opportunities in our industry.

The benefits stretch far beyond the individual, as more students studying agriculture will help to fill the gaps in the labour demand. Four jobs are currently waiting for every graduate from a Bachelor of Agriculture degree. Such job opportunities range from on-farm activities to food processing, transportation, sales, research, management, advising and financial planning. Our youth and young producers are the future of the agri-food sector, and fresh ideas and approaches will help build a strong, innovative sector.

BFO staff have drafted an article for the *Ontario Beef* magazine that highlights the undergraduate degree and college diploma agri-food programs offered in Ontario. Focus was given to programs that help prepare students for a career in the beef industry through scientific expertise and experiential learning. The article was prepared with young adults and soon-to-be high school graduates in mind, and

features the experiences of current students and alumni, as well as commentary from program faculty. To read the article, please see the December 2019 edition of *Ontario Beef*.

130 Malcolm Road, Guelph, ON N1K 1B1
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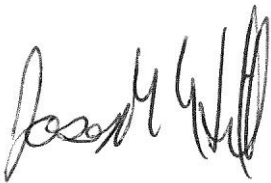
In addition, BFO staff have compiled a list of resources for student or faculty use – “Beef Farmers of Ontario’s Resource Guide: The Dorm Edition.” The resource collection includes both producer and consumer engagement materials, covering topics such as hormone use, greenhouse gas emissions, animal care, direct marketing, nutrition, and the list continues. Please see the enclosed copy of the resource collection. To receive an additional online or physical copy of the resource collection contact Bethany Storey at bethany@ontariobeef.com or 519.824.0334 ext. 224. The resource collection will be promoted on the BFO website and the associated social media accounts.

BFO staff have reached out to Algonquin College to learn more about their Business – Agriculture co-op program. We strongly support the opportunities the program offers students interested in pursuing a career within the beef industry. In speaking with the program’s current students and faculty, BFO is working to build lasting relationships in hopes of sharing resources and promoting our industry as a whole.

It is fairly regular practice for BFO staff to visit Ontario schools to discuss the beef industry, our organization, and the producer programs we offer. However, BFO staff are now looking into further expanding the number of post-secondary programs and schools visited to promote the opportunities in the beef industry.

Learning never stops, whether it be on farm, in a classroom or on the job site. BFO supports continuous learning, and the innovation and advancement it provides the beef industry. Thank you for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

CC: BFO Board of Directors
Delmar Cavanagh (seconder)





May 9, 2019

Michael Pedlar
President
Grey County Beef Farmers Association

Dear Michael,

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) has reviewed the following resolution from Grey County Beef Farmers Association which was passed at BFO's Annual General Meeting in February:

WHEREAS, local producers believe there is insufficient information explaining the process for accessing Emergency Slaughter Services,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO consider compiling a resource, which includes clear guidelines, explaining the process for accessing Emergency Slaughter Services and for compromised cattle that end up at sales barns.

I would like to thank Grey County for bringing this resolution forward. The BFO Board believes in the importance of emergency slaughter services for Ontario's beef producers, and recognizes that the procedure for accessing it may not be clear to all producers. As per your request, staff have compiled a resource (attached) to guide producers through the basic process of accessing emergency slaughter. We have also included some information on compromised cattle, but following the advice of veterinarians consulted in the process of researching this issue, we will not offer explicit advice on treatment of compromised cattle that differs from either performing immediate euthanasia or following normal emergency slaughter procedure.

This resource is available to county and district associations for distribution to their membership.

On behalf of the Beef Farmers of Ontario membership, thank you for taking the time to raise your concerns regarding the management of animals for which normal transport is no longer an option.

Sincerely,

Joe Hill
President

Encl: 2

cc: Jason Hurst (Mover)
Brian Adams (Seconder)

Don Hargrave (Advisory Councillor)
BFO Board of Directors





MEMO

TO: [Mike Pedlar, President, Grey County Beef Farmers Association]
FROM: Michael Campbell
DATE: May 9, 2019
RE: Emergency Slaughter Primer

BACKGROUND

This memo outlines the costs associated with, and the process for accessing, emergency slaughter for beef animals considered unfit for normal transport.

WHAT IS EMERGENCY SLAUGHTER?

Emergency slaughter (ES) is a provision under the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) that allows for the slaughter of food animals outside of a slaughter plant under specific circumstances that have made transport of the animal impossible. Its intention is to allow producers to recover some investment from an animal that can no longer be slaughtered and marketed through their normal process.

As defined by OMAFRA:

Emergency Slaughter provisions in Ontario Regulation 31/05 (Meat) made under the Food Safety and Quality Act, 2001 allow for the ante mortem inspection, slaughter and bleeding of a food animal outside of a slaughter plant and the transport of the carcass to a licensed abattoir for dressing and post mortem inspection. If approved, the carcass can be processed into an inspected meat product. Meat from food animals slaughtered under the ES provisions is fully inspected and eligible to be sold, shared, donated, or distributed to the public.

ELIGIBILITY OF INJURED ANIMAL FOR SLAUGHTER

An eligible animal is one that is injured, has escaped confinement, or cannot be loaded without endangering itself or people.

If the animal is a bovine, the RV will advise the plant that it requires an annual Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) permit to receive ES cattle (SRM) and advise the producer that a CFIA permit to transport ES cattle (SRM) to the plant is required.

Please note that if an animal is injured, only a veterinary inspector can perform the ante mortem (before slaughter) and post mortem (after slaughter) inspections.

PROCESS FOR EMERGENCY SLAUGHTER OF INJURED ANIMAL

1. The producer calls either the operator of a meat plant or a veterinary inspector¹.
2. The operator of the meat plant or the veterinary inspector will call the Regional Veterinarian to obtain authorization for the emergency slaughter. If the animal is eligible (based on the above criteria) the emergency slaughter can proceed. The Regional Veterinarian (RV) will give conditions for the authorization including the amount of time allowed for emergency slaughter [from exsanguination (bleeding out) to the end of the post mortem inspection.] This is usually around two hours.

If an ES animal is bovine the RV will also advise that:

- A. the plant must have a CFIA permit to receive ES cattle; and
- B. the producer have a CFIA permit to transport ES cattle. (call CFIA at 1-866-788-8155 or 1-800-442-2342 to obtain a permit.)

An emergency slaughter can only be authorized if:

- a. a veterinary inspector is available;
- b. the meat plant operator agrees to be responsible for the associated costs of the emergency slaughter;
- c. the animal meets the injured animal criteria for emergency slaughter; and
- d. the animal can be slaughtered within a reasonable time.

If the animal is not eligible for emergency slaughter or cannot be slaughtered in a reasonable time, the Regional Veterinarian may give recommendations for disposition such as humane euthanasia.

3. At the farm:
 - a. The veterinary inspector arrives.
 - b. The producer (owner/ custodian) of the animal completes and signs Part 2 of the Emergency Slaughter Certificate.
4. The veterinary inspector performs the ante mortem inspection:
 - a. The animal is approved for slaughter, or
 - b. The animal is not approved for slaughter, the veterinary inspector calls the Regional Veterinarian to determine the disposition.
5. If the animal is approved for slaughter after the ante mortem inspection:
 - a. The veterinary inspector verifies that all of the factors are in place to allow the rapid transport of the carcass to the meat plant.

¹ OMAFRA keeps a list of appointed veterinarians for emergency slaughter online at this location:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/es-vets.htm>

BFO cannot vouch for the up-to-date nature of this list.



- b. The animal is stunned and exsanguinated, the time is recorded and reported to Regional Veterinarian.
 - c. An Emergency Slaughter Leg Band is attached to the right hind leg, and the number is recorded on Part 1 of the Emergency Slaughter Certificate.
 - d. The carcass is loaded, covered, and shipped in a leak proof transport container to the meat plant, the meat plant operator notified.
6. At the plant:
 - a. The veterinary inspector verifies the leg band number on the carcass.
 - b. The veterinary inspector verifies that Parts 1 and 2 of the Emergency Slaughter Certificate have been completed.
 7. The post mortem inspection is completed by the ES trained veterinary inspector. The carcass and all of its parts are held. The time is recorded and the Regional Veterinarian is notified. The Regional Veterinarian makes the decision to approve, condemn or hold the carcass for further testing the carcass based on post mortem findings and test results.
 8. Testing will be performed and the carcass and all the edible parts (BSE testing requires that every part) will be held when:
 - a. injured animals greater than 30 months of age - BSE testing (BSE testing required that every part of the carcass will be held);
 - b. all injured animals - drug residue testing;
 - c. other tests will be performed as required based on the post mortem findings as per the Regional Veterinarian.

COST STRUCTURE

OMAFRA helps to subsidize part of the cost of emergency slaughter, for the purpose of ensuring animal welfare and minimizing food animal waste. In order to accomplish this, OMAFRA has an agreement with certain processors for how emergency slaughter will be performed, and has a billing/payment mechanism that enables OMAFRA to compensate licensed vets for involvement in emergency slaughter while providing an element of cost control for processors and producers.

When an emergency slaughter is performed, the processor receives payment from the producer, and sends a payment to OMAFRA based on an established set of rates and charges for the vet's time. This is in place of the producer or processor sending a payment to the vet. OMAFRA then compensates the vet for their involvement at a rate higher than is paid by the processor.

It has been suggested that, depending on market prices, an animal under 1,000lbs may not yield enough return from emergency slaughter to recover costs to the producer from the process.

OMAFRA CHARGES

In the cases of animals that are escaped or dangerous to themselves or others, either a vet or meat hygiene officer is able to perform ante- and post- mortem inspections at the site of the slaughter and at the processing facility. In the case of an injured animal, *only a vet* may perform these functions.



When Emergency slaughter is performed, the plant pays the provincial government

- \$25 for the emergency slaughter

and

- \$80/hr for the vet's time outside of the slaughter facility; this includes time in transit to/from the farm or facility, and time spent during ante-mortem inspection and the slaughter itself.
- \$40/hr for the vet's time inside the slaughter plant to perform the post-mortem inspection.

or

- \$48/hr during regular hours for a meat hygiene officer's time outside of the slaughter facility; this includes time in transit to/from the farm or facility, and time spent during ante-mortem inspection and the slaughter itself (\$65/hr for holidays).
- No charge during regular hours for the meat hygiene officer's time inside of the slaughter plant to perform the post-mortem inspection (\$20/hr outside of regularly scheduled hours and \$25/hr for holidays).

PLANT CHARGES

The plant will charge the producer, at a minimum, the costs it must pay to OMAFRA, and may add additional charges, such as butchering or wrapping. One plant interviewed will charge the producer an extra \$35 for a farm visit to slaughter UTM cattle, and \$100 for OTM cattle. The plant also charges \$80 for SRM disposal. Another plant interviewed did not charge the producer anything extra, and would instead usually pay the producer for the carcass.

VET CHARGES

The vet is compensated by OMAFRA for their time involvement in the emergency slaughter. The vet therefore does not bill the producer or processor for this time. The vet may charge mileage if the vet clinic's vehicle is used to transport the carcass to the plant. One vet interviewed charged \$2/km round trip for this service. If the producer is unsure of whether an emergency slaughter is required, the vet may charge a call fee for visiting the farm in order to make the determination. Examples could be a \$50 fee for a local call and a \$100 fee for a call to a more distant location.

If the need for emergency slaughter is uncertain or a vet determines that emergency slaughter is unnecessary, the vet may charge for the visit to the farm in absence of the emergency slaughter taking place.

As a cost example:

If the vet leaves the clinic at 9am, arrives at the farm at 10 for inspection and slaughter, arrives at the plant with the carcass at 11, leaves the plant at 12 and is back to the clinic at 1pm, using their vehicle to transport the carcass with a round trip distance of 200km, the cost breakdown may be:



- \$25 OMAFRA fee for the emergency slaughter
- \$80/hr OMAFRA fee for 3 hours = \$240
- \$40/hr OMAFRA fee for 1 hour = \$40
- \$2/km vet fee for carcass transport for 200km = \$400

For a total of \$305 billed by the processor and \$400 billed by the veterinarian.

As this is an example and vets and processors may have their own individual processes, these charges may be different depending on the circumstance. The processor may charge their normal cutting/wrapping fee, or may purchase the carcass from the producer.

COMPROMISED CATTLE AT AUCTION MARKETS

CFIA defines a compromised animal as:

An animal with reduced capacity to withstand transportation but where transportation with special provisions will not lead to undue suffering. Compromised animals may be locally transported with special provisions to receive care, be euthanized or humanely slaughtered.

A non-exhaustive list of conditions that would deem an animal compromised, provided by CFIA, is as follows. An animal is compromised if:

- it has an acute penis injury;
- it has acute frostbite;
- it is bloated (if not weak or already down);
- it has laboured breathing;
- it has blindness in both eyes;
- it has an open wound or laceration (depending on the severity of the wound, the animal may be unfit);
- it is an amputee;
- it has not fully healed after an operation, such as dehorning or castration;
- it has given birth in the preceding 48 hours;
- it has rectal or vaginal prolapse;
- it is lame;
- it is hobbled to prevent kicking;
- it is in heavy lactation (animals in heavy lactation requiring milking every 12 hours, or they will become unfit for transport); or
- it has squamous cell carcinoma, Stage 2 or 3.

Compromised cattle may not be transported to auction markets or assembly yards. According to CFIA, compromised cattle must be transported, with special provisions, to the “nearest suitable place” for treatment, euthanasia, or slaughter. This unfortunately includes cases where an auction market has received an animal that has been determined to be compromised.

The transport of a compromised animal for slaughter requires special provisions that must be accepted by the abattoir’s inspector upon receipt of the animal. Transport of a compromised animal under



provisions that are not accepted by an inspector may result in financial penalties to the producer. **BFO is not in a position to advise on what constitutes special provisions for such transport.** If it is decided that a compromised animal should be transported to slaughter, it may be necessary to make contact with the inspector at the receiving abattoir before the decision to transport is made.

Similarly, transport of a compromised animal from an auction market to a veterinarian for treatment should not take place without discussion with the veterinarian in question regarding the condition of the animal and what acceptable transport would entail.

If a producer or auction market wishes to avoid the risks that come with transporting compromised cattle, humane euthanasia of the animal is recommended.





July 29, 2019

Kevin Krakar
President
Norfolk County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Kevin,

The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February and was recently discussed by the BFO Board of Directors:

WHEREAS, beef consumption declines every year losing market share to other proteins, and **WHEREAS**, this loss is partially due to fake news from manipulated science intended to attack beef leaving the real message of beef's value to health and environment to be lost and destroyed, and **WHEREAS**, BFO's current budget declares high allocation to the creation of new brands intended to create competitiveness and confusion in an ever-shrinking beef market. A confused consumer mind will turn them away from beef potentially losing customers to other proteins,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO use a proposed budgetary increase to form a well-financed group to combat fake news with programs that can be used in schools, for improved beef resources for nutritionists, doctors and other front-line influencers to give them confidence in the real facts to recommend (Ontario) Beef for health and wellbeing.

The BFO Board of Directors agrees and recognizes that BFO and the entire Ontario beef value chain must continue working on increasing consumer confidence in Ontario beef. While BFO and the Ontario Cattle Feeder Association's new joint marketing committee will be working on developing and marketing Ontario beef brands, BFO staff are also working on a consumer engagement 2019 work plan that addresses many of the concerns raised in this resolution.

BFO is committing \$270,000 of its 2019 budget to its consumer engagement work plan, which includes events, a consumer awareness and public trust campaign, resource development, research, videos, a new consumer-facing website, and education. The objective of all these activities is to generate awareness, confidence and trust in Ontario beef production and Ontario beef products. All Ontario beef brands and marketing efforts will benefit from this foundational consumer engagement work, which is itself based on consumer research conducted by BFO over the past two years. Ontarians want to "not feel guilty" about Ontario beef's impacts on the environment, animal welfare, and their own health. BFO's consumer engagement activities are aimed at providing consumers with the resources and narratives they need to be confident in our province's beef production and beef products.

.../2



There are other organizations also working on beef advocacy across Canada, including Canada Beef, the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association's public and stakeholder engagement team. This work includes development of messaging and resources to combat negative press with the assistance of nutritionists, dieticians, veterinarians, environmentalists and other third-party experts. BFO is a member and/or funder of each of the above listed national organizations, and works closely with each (as well as Ontario's new joint marketing committee) to ensure there is harmonization between our messages and that duplication of work is avoided.

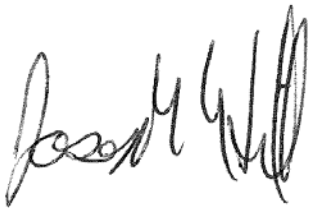
BFO is also a member of AgScape (previously known as Ontario Agri-Food Education), an Ontario organization with a mandate to provide factual, balanced and curriculum-linked resources and educational programs about agriculture and food production to elementary and high school classrooms. BFO has consistently provided funding to AgScape's Teacher Ambassador Program, which allows certified teachers who are knowledgeable about agriculture to visit classrooms and deliver a lesson plan on topics like climate change, animal welfare, and food safety, amongst others.

This year, BFO expanded its support for beef advocacy and education in classrooms by participating in the spring 2019 "Future Foodies" Educational Cooking Lab pilot project, along with Grain Farmers of Ontario and Mushrooms Canada. Over 30 schools in the Greater Toronto Area participated, with students in grades 10 to 12 receiving information on beef production and its role in a healthy diet, followed by preparing, enjoying and discussing beef recipes.

"Future Foodies" is just one example of the exciting consumer engagement activities taking place this year. Regular updates on BFO's consumer engagement work plan will be included in *Ontario Beef* magazine, and an update was also provided at BFO's Summer Advisory Council Meeting this month.

On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, I would like to thank Norfolk County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Robert Peacock (secondar)





December 16, 2019

Kim Weedmark
President
Grenville County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Kim,

The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February and was recently discussed by the BFO Board of Directors:

WHEREAS, the OMAFRA office, staff and resources in Kemptville are only available to agricultural producers on a call ahead basis because the front door is locked, and
WHEREAS, this facility, staff, and resources are funded by Ontario Tax Dollars,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO to lobby the Ontario government to make the Kemptville office fully available to agricultural producers during normal office working hours, with an open door.

The BFO Board of Directors understands there is a gap in OMAFRA staffing and resources in Kemptville, which creates challenges for producers in the region trying to access information and resources. When discussed with OMAFRA, BFO learned that the reason the Kemptville office is not regularly open is a lack of staff due to retirements and other vacancies. Support services offered by OMAFRA staff help to assist producers with financial planning and business management, product marketing, securing funding, environmental planning, inspection, and health monitoring. In addition, OMAFRA staff tend to be specialists within their region, offering an added value for producers when seeking support.

BFO has discussed the reduced OMAFRA staff capacity in Kemptville (and across the province) with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and other organizations. OFA policy, established in 2018, calls on the Ontario government to "lift the hiring freeze to ensure the replacement and retention of a full complement of OMAFRA staff in Ontario." To this end, OFA sent a letter to Premier Ford in March 2019 advocating for filling empty OMAFRA positions and maintaining a full complement OMAFRA staff.

Though OFA's advocacy this year regarding OMAFRA staffing has not resolved the issue, we believe it is critical for OFA to be involved in lobbying for a full complement of OMAFRA staff, as it is an issue that affects all of agriculture. To ensure OMAFRA staffing capacity across Ontario, including both the Kemptville office and northern Ontario region, remains a priority on OFA's agenda, BFO submitted the following resolution at OFA's 2019 AGM:

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WHEREAS, there has been a loss of OMAFRA staff at the Kemptville office and across northern Ontario that leads to understaffed offices and gaps in services to producers, and

WHEREAS, these regions are sometimes at a great distance from other farming areas with OMAFRA staff, and

WHEREAS, these regions have their own unique challenges, opportunities and climate from other regions, and

WHEREAS, there has been a hiring freeze on the numerous vacant OMAFRA staff positions in Kemptville and northern Ontario,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT OFA advocate for filling gaps in OMAFRA staffing and lobby the Ontario government to hire and retain a full complement of OMAFRA staff in Kemptville and across northern Ontario.

The above resolution was brought to OFA's 2019 AGM jointly with the Renfrew federation, and was then amended on the floor to read:

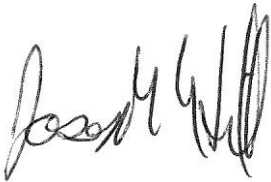
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Federation of Agriculture advocate for filling gaps in OMAFRA staffing and lobby the Ontario Government to hire and retain a full complement of OMAFRA staff in Ontario.

It is our understanding that this amendment was made to reflect the need to have vacant OMAFRA staff positions filled across the province, as this is unfortunately a more widespread issue. The amended resolution was approved with a strong majority of voting delegates, and another similar resolution from Arnprior was also passed. The two resolutions on OMAFRA staffing were then endorsed and approved by the OFA Board of Directors on December 10th, 2019, and BFO takes this as indication that the issue will be an action item for OFA in 2020.

BFO is committed to working with OFA on lobbying for a full complement of OMAFRA staff across our province to ensure all producers are receiving support from government representatives, with an understanding that regions like Kemptville are faced with particular challenges from reduced OMAFRA staffing.

Thank you for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Gordon Conklin (mover & Advisory Councillor)
Kim Sytsma (secondor)
Keith Currie (President, OFA)





September 13, 2019

Ian Payne, President
Dundas County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Ian,

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

WHEREAS, BFO staff provide County Associations with membership lists of beef producers, and **WHEREAS**, those lists contain many errors, duplications, and omissions (e.g. names, addresses, phone numbers), and

WHEREAS, BFO staff have indicated an awareness of the existence of shortcomings in the lists, having asked for input to improve the lists, and

WHEREAS, many of the listed producers are primarily/exclusively "dairy" producers, and

WHEREAS, several other "lists" of producers (farmers) already exist for other purposes or programs (such as quota management, disease control, animal health, National Livestock Identification for Dairy (NLID), production insurance, AgriStability, RMP, Provincial Premises Registry (PPR), the Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS), RFID tags, the Livestock Identification and Traceability Program (TRACE), pedigree certification, and performance measuring, reporting and predicting, or other matters),

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO conduct a review of its membership list(s) with a view to eliminating errors and omissions prior to the end of 2019.

The BFO membership list is intended to include all individuals who have paid a license fee (check-off) in the previous 24 months or who have paid a BFO membership fee, if applicable.

As cull dairy cattle are processed for the purposes of beef, dairy producers are required to pay license fees on every head of cattle at the time of sale for processing, and are therefore included as members of BFO and are included in the BFO membership list.

In the vast majority of cattle transactions, it is the responsibility of the buyer to deduct the check-off from the proceeds payable to the cattle seller. As outlined in the Beef Cattle Marketing Act, firms which deduct check-off are required to remit the fees to BFO, as well as a statement showing the person's full name, address, postal code and telephone number by the 15th day of the following month. For sales by private treaty, the seller must remit the check-off accruing from the transaction directly to BFO by the

.../2



15th day of the following month with a statement showing their name and complete address, and the number of head sold.

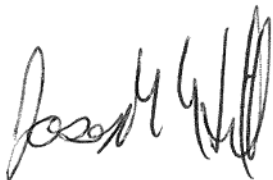
BFO staff receive membership information in multiple formats (electronic and hard copy) and from multiple sources (auction markets, packing plants, licensed dealers and producers). Oftentimes, the submitted information has varying levels of completeness, accuracy, and legibility. As well, similar but not identical submissions are received which make it difficult for staff to discern if discrepancies are the result of names being shared generationally or if these are mistakes or omissions. Additionally, producer information submitted by third parties to whom producers have sold cattle is not always verified as accurate by the sellers. These realities ultimately limit BFO's ability to ensure complete accuracy of information.

Nevertheless, membership lists are reviewed regularly by BFO staff by, i) manually checking and comparing the names and addresses submitted to us against information in our existing database; ii) cross-referencing our mail-out list for Ontario Beef Magazine with the checkoff (member) information that is submitted to us by other parties; iii) following up on discrepancies by correcting spelling mistakes, checking online public address information, deleting duplicates wherever they are identified, or by contacting the individual directly if possible. One recent change we have made to our database is the addition of an address look-up feature. This new feature has improved the accuracy of our system by allowing us to find a producer in the database even if the third party that submitted their information misspelled their name or operation.

Producer lists for other organizations/programs, many of which are cited in your resolution as potential resources for BFO staff, are not compiled based on the criteria of having paid a BFO license fee, and are therefore not valid based on our constitution, bylaws or requirements outlined under the Beef Cattle Marketing Act. Also, privacy laws prevent BFO staff's ability to access program and producer databases managed by other organizations.

Although BFO has attended to and improved the accuracy of our membership list over the years we agree there is room for more improvement. We welcome your specific recommendations for how to raise the accuracy level of the BFO membership database keeping in mind the limitations noted in this letter.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: Henry Van DenBroek (Secunder)
BFO Board of Directors





February 10, 2020

Elliott Miller
President
Huron County Beef Producers

Dear Elliott,

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

WHEREAS, applying missing CCIA tags is dangerous and can cause unnecessary carcass bruising just prior to slaughter, and

WHEREAS, 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 PINs are or will be assigned to all cattle farms,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO and CCA work with CCIA to investigate the feasibility of using CCIA packer PINs for direct to packer sales on shipping manifests as an alternative to applying missing RFID tags to cattle.

The BFO Board of Directors agrees that the requirement to re-apply missing tags on cattle headed for direct to packer sales is unnecessary and unsafe. There is no additional information gained from applying a new tag to an animal in transit for a direct to packer sale – this requirement comes with risks of harm and stress to both humans and cattle, plus costs of carcass bruising, but without any actual benefit for producer, packer, cattle or traceability.

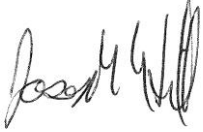
While BFO has brought this issue up with CCIA and CCA on numerous occasions in the past, it is CFIA's requirement that missing tags be re-applied to cattle headed for direct to packer sales instead of allowing the use of information available on shipping manifests. As Canada's new traceability regulations continue to be developed with CFIA, BFO believed it would be prudent and beneficial to once again reach out to CFIA directly on this issue. Please see attached for the letter sent to CFIA from BFO, outlining our request that the requirement to retag an animal on direct to packer sales be removed from current and future traceability regulations.

Like previous BFO boards, the current BFO Board of Directors wholeheartedly supports this resolution's intent, and we will continue to advocate for regulatory changes.



Thank you for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Hill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joe" and last name "Hill" clearly distinguishable.

Joe Hill
President

Encl.

Cc: BFO Board of Directors
Harvey Hoggart (Advisory Councillor)
Matt Shortreed (seconder)





February 10, 2020

Colleen Barnes
Vice-President, Policy and Programs
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
1400 Merivale Road
Tower 2, Floor 3, Rm 136
Ottawa, ON K1A 0Y9

Dear Ms. Barnes,

On behalf of Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) and our 19,000 producer members, I am writing regarding the development of Canada's traceability regulations and the specific requirement for cattle to only be received at processing facilities with an approved tag, even if the tag was lost on transit to the facility.

As CFIA develops the requirements for mandatory full-chain traceability for Canada's cattle sector, BFO questions the requirement to re-tag "direct to processor/packer" cattle. Retagging cattle that are on their way to slaughter results in unnecessary carcass bruising, creates stress for the animals, and can often be unsafe for humans and animals.

Furthermore, there are no clear benefits to the requirement that would justify the above risks and their associated costs. No additional information is gained when an RFID tag lost on route to slaughter is replaced before acceptance at a processing facility, as any necessary information can be obtained, in most cases, from the movement reporting document (manifest) that will be required under proposed traceability regulation, as well as the new humane transport regulation that comes into force February 20, 2020. Even if the movement reporting document does not provide the necessary information, a tag applied prior to transport to slaughter or upon arrival at the processing facility provides zero benefit from a traceability point of view. Applying a tag in those scenarios only presents risks to human and animal safety and additional financial costs. More common sense needs to be applied in both the development and interpretation of traceability regulations.

A load of cattle that is on route to processing and that contains one or two animals without an approved RFID indicator tag is highly unlikely to be indicative of a deliberate non-compliance event. The more likely scenario is that the identifier tag was lost immediately prior to shipment or in transit, through no fault of the owner or transporter.

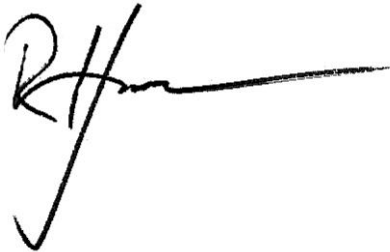
Ultimately, more pragmatism is needed in the development of Canada's new traceability regulations to address the re-tagging of cattle on direct to processor/packer trips, either prior to shipment or upon arrival at the terminal site.



We strongly recommend that the requirement to re-tag an animal on direct to packer sales be removed from current and future traceability regulations. This should include a repeal of the requirement that currently prevents the shipment of animals not bearing an approved tag, to not only recognize that 100% compliance is difficult to achieve due to the challenge of identifying tags in ears while cattle are being loaded onto a truck, but also the human and animal safety risks this requirement presents when attempts are made to re-tag slaughter-weight animals on their way to processing.

Thank you for consideration of our request. We would be happy to discuss our concerns in further detail with you or your colleagues at a mutually agreeable time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Horne', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Richard Horne
Executive Director

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Anne Brunet-Burgess (General Manager, CCIA)
Pat Hayes (CCIA Chair)



October 17, 2019

Tony Onufer
President
Wentworth County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Tony,

The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February and was brought forward for discussion by the BFO Board of Directors:

WHEREAS, climate change is a thermal dynamic system and the 2nd law of thermal dynamics states there must be a cycle, and

WHEREAS, there exists much scientific research showing many different natural cycles affect climate, and

WHEREAS, CO₂ is an integral and necessary part of plant, animal and human life cycles (photosynthesis and respiration), and

WHEREAS, whereas CO₂ is part of both respiration and photosynthesis, and

WHEREAS, whereas natural cycles indicate CO₂ follows climate change but does not cause it

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO research or have it researched what effect cyclic climate has or should have on their policy and lobby position.

The BFO Board of Directors understands and values the importance of strategically developing its policy and lobbying positions while ensuring they are based on sound science. Furthermore, it is BFO's position that environmental regulation and legislation should be built on a foundation of sound, science-based evidence, and should be effective for both environmental protection as well as practical for farmers competing in a globalized marketplace.

Cyclic climate change refers to climate change being part of a natural and predictable cycle with changes to atmospheric temperature fluctuating over long periods of time and multiple time scales, though not perfectly periodically. Human-caused climate change refers to climate change being a result of human activities and development on the planet that produce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), and not solely driven by naturally occurring cycles.

There is a large and diverse body of science on these varying climate change models and theories, but it is generally and widely accepted in academia that while there are cyclic weather and climate patterns on the planet, the climate change event currently being experienced is driven by and/or heavily influenced by human activities and an increase in GHGs. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, for example, "climate varies without human influence, and this natural variation is a backdrop for the



human-caused climate change occurring now” and “current rates of global climate change are extremely rapid compared to past changes.”

BFO’s position on climate change is based on available science, including evidence of increased GHGs from human activities and their resulting contribution to the climate change currently being experienced. Part of the context for BFO’s positioning on climate change is the work that has been done through the Beef Cattle Research Council and the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef. Their research shows that the Canadian beef industry contributes 0.04% of GHGs globally and 2.4% of GHGs in Canada, and that producing the same amount of beef in Canada now emits 15% fewer emissions than it did 30 years ago.

Any type of food production will contribute GHGs, but an important part of BFO’s position is that climate change mitigation must be balanced with economic viability of farms and food security. Another important piece of BFO’s position is that grasslands (perennial forages and grasses) used for beef production sequester and store large amounts of carbon in a manner similar to trees, and that ruminant livestock production includes a valuable grasslands ecosystem for mitigating GHGs.

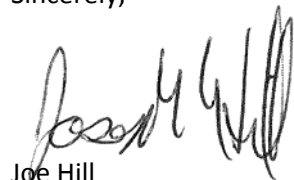
Based on available research, BFO believes that the Ontario beef industry is uniquely positioned to help mitigate climate change through management of grasslands and best management practices that improve resource utilization efficiency. At the same time, more work needs to be done on how agricultural sectors can best adapt to a changing climate.

BFO supports the Ontario and Canadian governments’ commitment to meeting GHG reduction targets, but believes that climate change policy should not be a barrier to appropriate expansion and growth of Ontario agriculture in response to global market demands, and should instead focus on improving efficiencies to reduce GHGs per unit of production and maintaining agricultural land, while fostering a viable local food economy.

BFO is committed to continuing to develop all of its strategic policy and lobbying positions based on the best available science and with the objective of balancing varying interests, including the economic viability of Ontario beef farms and our competitiveness in the global marketplace. This is also reflected in how BFO communicates to the general public about climate change. The objective of BFO’s new consumer engagement campaign is to generate awareness, confidence and trust in Ontario beef production. Our consumer research shows that Ontarians want to “not feel guilty” about Ontario beef’s impacts on climate change. BFO’s consumer engagement activities include sharing research and information on how Ontario beef production can be part of the local solution to climate change.

On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, I would like to thank Wentworth County Cattlemen’s Association for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Ken Mills (AC)

Philip Krakar (mover)
Steve Colyer (second)





19-22
E-Coli Testing Protocols in Provincial
Abattoirs

June 21, 2019

John Buis
President
Kent County Cattlemen's Association

Dear John,

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

WHEREAS, new e-coli regulations are being imposed on local abattoirs and producers, and **WHEREAS**, the rules and procedures regarding E coli risk management and testing are unclear to OMAFRA inspectors, abattoir operators and producers, and

WHEREAS, improper testing procedures and protocols can lead to significant financial loss for abattoirs and producers, and

WHEREAS, others are beginning to step forward asking to take over the role,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with the Ontario Independent Meat Packers, OMAFRA and producers to establish realistic and practical solutions to mitigate E Coli risk at local abattoirs

BFO would like to thank the Kent County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. While BFO is strongly supportive of controls that ensure the safety of our products we share your concern regarding the procedures that are being used in provincial plants to identify *E. coli* O157 and Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) through routine swabbing of beef carcasses. We have heard from

plant operators and producers regarding inconsistent communications from inspectors, concerns regarding the integrity and timing of sample collection, and questions surrounding the response protocols when test results confirm a positive case.

In April, BFO met with staff from OMAFRA's Meat Inspection Branch, alongside staff from the Ontario Independent Meat Processors (OIMP) to discuss these issues. OMAFRA explained that results of the baseline surveillance study of *E. coli* O157 and STEC being conducted in provincial plants indicated a strong need to focus greater attention on hygienic slaughter and dressing practices, and on the application of microbial control interventions to reduce food safety risks on carcasses.

While we are supportive of microbial interventions in provincial plants, both BFO and OIMP emphasized the outstanding issues with the current *E. coli* testing procedures would not allow industry to support any transition from a baseline study to a permanent routine monitoring or surveillance program without a significant review of the outcomes of the current project and protocols, and without industry participation.

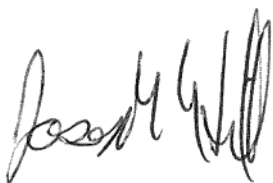


BFO also submitted a similar recommendation to Minister Hardeman and his staff in May as part of the Minister's focus on reducing red tape and regulatory burden in the meat processing sector. Specifically, BFO recommended that OMAFRA "halt plans to implement a routine monitoring or pathogen surveillance program for *E. coli* O157 and STEC until a significant review of the outcomes of the current baseline [*E. coli*] study have been reviewed in consultation with industry.

As of July 1, 2019, all provincially licensed abattoirs will be required to have a microbial intervention in place. It is still unclear how or if a routine monitoring program for *E. coli* O157 and STEC will be implemented. In the interim, please see the OMAFRA InfoSheet appended to this letter providing information on microbial controls.

BFO will continue to seek clarity from OMAFRA on this issue and will report back to the membership with any new information that becomes available.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

Encl.

cc: Mike Buis, Advisory Councillor (mover)
Ed Gillier (seconder)
BFO Board of Directors



Contamination-free meat products begin on the farm

Infosheet

February 2019

Introduction

Escherichia coli (*E. coli*) bacteria normally live in human and animal intestines. Most *E. coli* are harmless and are an important part of a healthy human intestinal function. However, some *E. coli* are pathogenic, meaning they can cause illness.

Pathogenic *E. coli* cause disease by making a toxin called Shiga toxin. The type of *E. coli* that make these toxins are called Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli*, or STEC for short.

STEC cause human illnesses, which can range from mild diarrhea to very severe and life-threatening conditions, including death.

The STEC strain most frequently associated with human illness in North America is serotype O157:H7. However, several other *E. coli* serotypes (O26, O45, O103, O111, O121, and O145) are also commonly associated with severe illness in humans.

In 2017, Public Health Ontario reported 129 cases of foodborne illnesses and one death caused by STEC in the province of Ontario.

What can be done on-farm to reduce the presence of STECs in meat?

Research results have shown that the dirtier the hide, the greater the potential for carcass contamination and the higher the risk to human health. More particularly, if hides are contaminated with fecal material at the time of slaughter, there is a greater risk of the meat becoming contaminated with pathogenic bacteria such as STECs during dressing.



Farmers can assist abattoir operators in reducing the risk of contamination on the meat from slaughtered animals by making sure that only clean cattle intended for slaughter are shipped from the farm.

This can be a difficult task, since cattle cleanliness is particularly affected by diet, housing, cattle health, weather conditions and the cost of bedding materials.

In addition, evidence suggests visible and bacterial cleanliness declines with increasing transport time and distance. It is advisable for farmers to:

- keep cattle clean, hides free of manure tag, and house them with sufficient clean bedding;
- modify the diet, or withdraw food for a short time before transport, to reduce fecal soiling, or feed a straw diet for 1-2 days prior to transport; and,
- use a reputable hauler for cattle that will avoid mixing animals and arrive at the farm with clean, disinfected and well-ventilated trailers that have fresh bedding in them.

It is in both the producers' and the abattoir operators' interest to make sure that cattle are clean when presented for slaughter since inspectors will verify compliance with the following section of Ontario Regulation 31/05:

68. (3) If the condition of a food animal would likely cause contamination during the dressing of its carcass, the operator of a slaughter plant shall ensure that the animal is not presented for slaughter.

The operator may need to:

- retain dirty animals,
- alter the order of slaughter,
- and/or take additional time during dressing to decrease the risk that contaminants from the hide get onto the carcass.

All these measures can result in delay and extra costs for both producers and abattoir operators.

Cleanliness of animals presented for slaughter contributes to the production of safe meat, minimizes the risk to human health, improves the shelf life of the meat, increases consumer confidence, and protects industry's reputation and investment.



Why are abattoirs putting microbial control interventions on carcasses?

Abattoirs must always use hygienic slaughter and dressing practices so that contamination is kept off the carcasses.

However, even the highest standards of abattoir hygiene cannot guarantee the absence of contamination of the carcass or cross-contamination of nearby carcasses during dressing. Bacteria are often

unintentionally transferred from the fecal material, gastrointestinal tract, hide and plant equipment to the surface of the carcass during processing.

Microbial control interventions are being applied to carcasses both during and at the end of dressing to help control any cross-contamination that might have occurred on the kill floor.

Applying microbial control interventions effectively reduces or inactivates bacterial contamination and improves meat safety.

Commonly used microbial control interventions include:

- organic acid rinses
- hot water rinses
- steam pasteurization
- steam vacuuming
- dry aging



Each abattoir selects the microbial control intervention that works best for their operation. Below are some of the pros and cons of each type of intervention.

Organic acid rinses are highly effective, can be installed directly into an existing water line for ease of application, and have minimal health and safety concerns for workers.

Hot water and steam, although effective, can be a hazard to workers and increases the likelihood of excessive condensation on the kill floor.

Dry aging requires carcasses to be kept in a cooler that is less than 4°C in temperature and less than 90 per cent relative humidity for at least six days. To prevent cross-contamination and allow sufficient air circulation, cooler storage rails must be placed far enough from refrigeration equipment, walls, columns and other fixed parts. Sides of beef should be placed in the cooler so that there is no contact between them for efficient air circulation. For some operations, limited cooler space prevents this as a viable option for microbial control.

Are organic acid rinses safe for use on meat?

Organic acid rinses are safe for use as microbial control interventions on meat. They are commonplace in the food industry, have been used for many years, and are mandated at federally registered meat processing facilities. Health Canada has expressed no objection to the use of various acid washes as antimicrobial food processing aids to treat the surface of a carcass.

The organic acid wash is applied to the carcass prior to the chill step. During chilling, the acid rapidly dissipates from the carcass. If applied correctly, little evidence of its use should be present.

The acid, as a processing aid, is not considered to be an ingredient, and is therefore not required to be declared on labels under federal regulations.

Does applying organic acid rinses to the carcass affect my organic certification?

Lactic acid and citric acid rinses for application to carcasses meet the requirements of the Canadian General Standards Board (CAN/CGSB-32.311-2015)

Organic Production Systems - Permitted Substances List as food additives.

The use of these highly effective microbial control interventions will allow your product to remain organic in nature while protecting the public from harmful bacteria.

For more information:

Toll Free: 1-877-424-1300

Email: ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca
ontario.ca/meatinspection

December 16, 2019

John Buis
President
Kent County Cattlemen's Association

Dear John,

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

WHEREAS, new regulations can cause dirty animals to be rejected or condemned at local abattoirs, and
WHEREAS, acceptable levels of tag (manure on hide) are solely at the opinion and discretion of the omit inspector, and
WHEREAS, abattoirs have existing procedures to safely handle dirty cattle, and
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with the Ontario Independent Meat Packers, producers and OMAFRA inspectors to establish clear and practical solutions for dirty animals arriving at local abattoirs.

I would like to thank Kent County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. While BFO is strongly supportive of regulations that ensure the safety of our products, we agree that these regulations must be clear and practical.

BFO has had several discussions with OMAFRA's Meat Inspection Branch and Agriculture Development Branch, as well as Meat and Poultry Ontario (MPO; formerly OIMP) regarding the concerns expressed in your resolution. These conversations provided us with additional insight and information on pertinent regulations and statistics related to carcass condemnation.

There are two particular sections in the meat regulations (Ontario Regulation 31/05) pertaining to condemnation orders – sections 64 and 70. It is worth noting that Meat Hygiene Officers present at processing facilities do not have the authority to condemn an animal. This authority rests with a Veterinary Inspector or Appointed Veterinarian, whom a Meat Hygiene Officer must consult if there is a concern with a particular animal presented for slaughter.

Section 68(3) states that "if the condition of a food animal would likely cause contamination during the dressing of its carcass, the operator of a slaughter plant shall ensure that the animal is not presented for slaughter". As such, it is imperative that producers maintain open dialogue with abattoir operators to ensure that they are familiar with individual plant requirements and procedures related to animal condition.



Statistics on carcass condemnations are available on the OMAFRA website (“Condemnations for pathological conditions” section). If an animal is condemned, a producer may request the reason and any relevant records from the abattoir operator. Unfortunately, the “contamination” category does not necessarily reflect contamination of the hide ante-mortem. If animals are being rejected or condemned due to unacceptable levels of manure on the hide, then it is essential that records capture this information. BFO will work with OMAFRA on improving the recording system and providing relevant information and statistics to producers. Anecdotally, both BFO and MPO were informed by OMAFRA that there have been no condemnations due to excessively dirty animals. Rather, these animals are handled more carefully and are processed last. Additionally, there may be a greater amount of trim on these carcasses in an effort to further limit any contamination.

BFO believes that regular training is essential to improving consistency and interpretation around inspection practices. Development and delivery of meat inspector refresher training has taken place since September 2017. Through five training sessions, inspectors have received training on hygienic slaughter and dressing and microbial control interventions. New inspection checklists have also been rolled out to help inspectors focus their inspection on hygienic slaughter and dressing practices, personnel good manufacturing practices, facility design, and employee competency.

In February 2019, OMAFRA released an infosheet titled “Contamination-free meat products begin on the farm”. This infosheet provides additional information on what producers can do to ensure cleanliness of animals, minimize trim due to contamination concerns, and prevent delays in processing at the slaughter facility.

I hope this letter provides a sufficient response to your resolution. BFO will continue to monitor this issue and will report back to the membership with any new information that becomes available.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

Cc: BFO Board of Directors
Mike Buis (Advisory Councillor)
Ed Gillier (seconder)





September 30, 2019

Dave DeNure
President
Northumberland County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Dave,

The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February and was recently discussed by the BFO Board of Directors:

WHEREAS, the new Food Guide has ignored research that supports the inclusion of animal-based protein and dairy in a balanced diet, and
WHEREAS, the new Food Guide relies heavily on imported goods that impact the carbon foot print of every Canadian family, and
WHEREAS, the Food Guide is an important nutritional educational tool for schools, hospitals and institutions
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO initiate talks with all sectors of Canadian agriculture with the goal of creating a science-based, practical, and realistic food guide containing Canadian grown food.

The BFO Board of Directors understands the frustrations with Canada's new Food Guide, as it includes a new recommendation for increasing plant-based protein and also encourages Canadians to make food choices based on environmental impacts of food production. BFO's comments to the federal government over the last few years, in written correspondence and in numerous face-to-face meetings, focused on these two issues. Our concerns regarding the Food Guide were a top federal lobby priority for BFO in 2017 and 2018.

BFO, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and other industry groups from across the country expressed concern to the federal government that the new Food Guide would mislead Canadians with respect to the inclusion of meat as part of a healthy diet, and perpetuate misinformation on the environmental impacts of beef production. Our recommendation was to frame the Food Guide's references to consuming meat in a more positive context with an explanation that, when eaten in appropriate amounts and prepared properly, the inclusion of meat can be an important part of a healthy balanced diet. Our comments also emphasized beef's role in the diet as an excellent source of essential nutrients that many Canadians are lacking.

.../2



Regarding the Food Guide's recommendations to make eating choices based on environmental impacts, BFO suggested that environmental considerations should focus solely on reducing food waste, as environmental impacts of whole agricultural systems are complex. Our concern was that this recommendation in the Food Guide could perpetuate misinformation about the environmental footprint of beef production, while in fact, a healthy agricultural landscape includes the integration of both crops and livestock.

While the new Food Guide does not include all of our recommended changes, it is important to note that it does not recommend that Canadians reduce red meat consumption. Beef is pictured on the official image of a plate of food showing portion sizes of different food groups, and is included as a protein option along with other animal- and plant-based proteins. In fact, the recommended consumption for beef is about three servings a week, and that is the average consumption of beef currently in Canada. Overall, the official recommendations in the Food Guide are not negative towards beef – though they are positive towards plant-based protein.

The increased presence of plant-based protein in the new Food Guide is part of a much larger, global movement. In the past several years, there have been numerous reports and articles emphasizing the value of plant-based protein, not to mention new products in the market that bill themselves as alternatives to animal protein like beef.

This larger trend is an important focus of the consumer and public engagement campaigns taking place across the Canadian beef industry. BFO and the entire Ontario beef value chain must continue working on increasing consumer confidence in Ontario beef, with specific focus on nutrition and environmental impact. BFO is committing \$270,000 of its 2019 budget to its new consumer engagement work plan, which includes events, a consumer awareness and public trust campaign, resource development, research, videos, a new consumer-facing website, and education. The objective of all these activities is to generate awareness, confidence and trust in Ontario beef production and Ontario beef products. Ontarians want to “not feel guilty” about Ontario beef's impacts on the environment, animal welfare, and their own health. BFO's consumer engagement activities are aimed at providing consumers with the resources and narratives they need to be confident about eating beef as part of a healthy diet.

There are other organizations also working on beef advocacy across Canada, including Canada Beef, the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association's public and stakeholder engagement team. This work includes development of messaging and resources to combat negative press with the assistance of nutritionists, dietitians, veterinarians, environmentalists and other third-party experts. BFO is a member and/or funder of each of the above listed national organizations, and works closely with each to ensure there is harmonization between our messages and that duplication of work is avoided. Dietitians in particular have been invaluable in promoting beef as a nutrient- and protein-rich food choice.

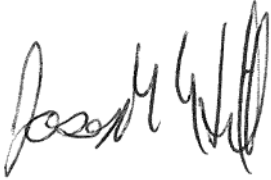
An important message from BFO to consumers in the months and years ahead that while protein options are good (choice of what we get to eat is a good thing), health and nutrition experts are all in agreement that overly processed food should be avoided and reduced in our diets. Beef is a whole food, not overly processed with multiple additives, with more protein and nutrients and less calories than many of the other protein options. Continuing to have third-party experts, such as dietitians, championing beef over ultra-processed protein choices will be part of our strategy going forward.

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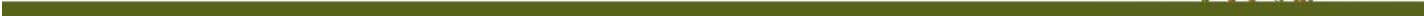
On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, I would like to thank Northumberland County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Hill". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Joe Hill
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Doug Gray (mover, AC)
Kyle Petherick (second)





December 16, 2019

Dave DeNure
President
Northumberland County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Dave,

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

WHEREAS, fast food chain A&W has chosen to use the words "Meat" and "Burger" in their national advertising campaign for a new plant-based product "Beyond Meat Burger", and
WHEREAS, "Meat" and "Burger" are terms used to describe an animal-based product such as beef, and
WHEREAS, the use of words and phrases associated with beef gives this product a false identity which may be confusing to the consumer,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with CCA to develop policies around advertiser's misuse of words and phrases associated with the beef industry.

The BFO Board of Directors shares your concerns with how terms such as "meat" and "burger", as well as imagery that includes cows, have been used to promote plant-based products. Misusing this terminology and imagery is misleading to consumers and inaccurately classifies plant-based foods into the same category as meat, which comes from animals.

To begin addressing this resolution and to provide context to Canada's rules around labeling and marketing of animal- and plant-based proteins, BFO and CCA have reviewed the existing regulations for food labelling, terminology and advertising.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency regulates false, misleading and deceptive labelling in regards to "any expression, word, figure, depiction or symbol that may reasonably be considered to imply that a consumer prepackaged food contains any matter that it does not in fact contain or that it does not contain any matter that it does in fact contain".

According to the CFIA, meat is defined as "the edible part of a carcass that is muscle associated with the skeleton, tongue, diaphragm, heart, gizzard or mammalian esophagus". Meat by-product is defined as "the blood of a food animal or an edible organ or tissue that is derived from the carcass of a food animal...not includ[ing] meat, finely textured meat or mechanically separated meat". A meat product is defined as "the carcass of a food animal, the blood of a food animal, or a product or by-product of its carcass". The term "burger" is not regulated by CFIA, as it refers to the serving of food in a round and flat shape, typically on a bun, and has various synonyms including patty, hamburger and sandwich.



The *Canadian Code of Advertising Standards*, administered and enforced by Ad Standards-Canada, also plays a role in food labelling and marketing. According to the *Canadian Code of Advertising Standards*, “advertisements must not contain, or directly or by implication make, inaccurate, deceptive or otherwise misleading claims, statements, illustrations or representations”. Complaints regarding an advertisement that is not complying with the *Canadian Code of Advertising Standards* can be made to Ad Standards-Canada and will be reviewed by the Standards Council.

We have been collaborating with the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association (CCA) to understand what actions can be taken to address concerns regarding mislabeling of plant-based products and misleading terminology. Thus far in our efforts, BFO and CCA are satisfied with CFIA’s labelling regulations and meat definitions. However, it remains clear to us that gaps exist in the enforcement of these regulations, which is typically complaint based.

CCA conducted a project this year that reviewed the formal complaint process for both CFIA and Ad Standards-Canada, and also studied previously submitted complaints with issues around mislabeling or misclassifying food products, including dairy and meat. From the review, we believe that formal complaints that originate with consumers have more strength or credence than those that originate with industry. Submitting formal complaint to CFIA is often the best option for addressing issues that arise with mislabeling or misrepresenting plant-based products, as they help spur investigation and regulatory enforcement by CFIA.

BFO and CCA are encouraging individual producers to take on the role as consumers when there are instances of mislabeling or misrepresenting plant-based products in the advertising and in market. To do so, formal complaints can be submitted to CFIA online (available [here](#)). Completing the online form may be time-consuming or burdensome, and BFO staff would gladly assist with submitting any formal complaints that producers/consumers want to bring forward in the future.

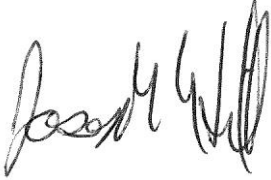
There is a positive example of enforcement of a complaint from late 2018, when Les Producteurs de bovins du Québec collaborated with the Agricultural Research and Policy Directorate of the Union of Agricultural Producers in Quebec to file a complaint against A&W Restaurants for the promotion of plant-based “meat”. CFIA’s response to the complaint included the following: “Due to the resemblance of this product to meat of animal origin, CFIA believes this claim could be misleading to consumers. Alleging that the product is “made of vegetable meat” can mislead customers about the composition of that food. This claim must therefore be removed from all A&W labels and advertisements”. In response, A&W Restaurants discontinued use of the term “vegetable meat” in the media, removed promotional materials used to launch the “Beyond Meat” burger, corrected online communications, and replaced menu boards and packaging.

BFO and CCA will be keeping producers updated on the steps that industry is taking to ensure integrity in how plant-based products are labelled and marketed to consumers, in addition to the work being done by our respective consumer/public engagement teams on promoting beef in a marketplace with these new protein competitors. BFO, CCA and Canada Beef understand the importance of addressing the questions that arise around plant-based proteins and how they are compared to beef regarding nutrition and environmental impact. As Canadians, we are lucky to have food choices, and plant-based proteins are another option. However, it is not acceptable for there to be misleading or false claims associated with these products or their comparisons to beef.



BFO and CCA are committed to continued work on this issue, regarding both the policy/regulatory file with the CFIA and Ad Standards-Canada and the consumer/public engagement file with how we communicate about plant-based products. Thank you for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Hill". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Joe Hill
President

Cc: BFO Board of Directors
Doug Gray (Advisory Councillor)
Jennifer Babcock (Policy Manager, CCA)



January 31, 2020

Dave DeNure
President
Northumberland County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Dave,

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

WHEREAS, BFO has asked for \$1.50 increase to the provincial check off, and
WHEREAS, there are gaps in the collection of beef check off at provincial abattoirs and provincial inspected processing plants, and
WHEREAS, the BFO board has acknowledged this gap in collection,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO take immediate steps to have the Ontario legislature change the act that governs the collection of the beef check off to include the collection of check off at provincial abattoirs and provincial inspected processing plants.

Ontario's beef check-off system was designed to collect levies on all sales of cattle in the province, and a shift to also collect levies on animals at slaughter without a change in ownership would represent a fundamental shift in Regulation 54 of the *Beef Cattle Marketing Act* (BCMA).

In 2019, the BFO Board of Directors reviewed a preliminary analysis of the potential change that included:

- a rough estimate of the number of additional animals that may be captured if a change to the BCMA was made,
- an overview of check-off systems in other provinces that currently collect check-off on every animal slaughtered, and
- a ballpark estimate of expected board and staff time required to implement the change, including time required for analysis and engagement with the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission, consultation and communications outreach with affected and potentially affected parties, and lobbying efforts to ensure the proposed changes make it through the Cabinet agenda in an expedient manner.

It has proven more difficult than originally envisioned to obtain an accurate estimate of the number of animals that, with a change to the BCMA, would have levies collected at slaughter without a change in



ownership. This is due to certain gaps in the data that add uncertainty to our estimation. Data on the volume of Ontario cattle exported through auction markets and the number of Quebec cull cows and fed cattle being slaughtered in Ontario are not directly available due to limitations in government data, as well as issues respecting buyer/seller confidentiality.

However, after careful consideration and with due diligence, the BFO Board of Directors has decided to develop a request for the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to pursue formal regulatory amendments to the BCMA to capture levy-exempt cattle". Regulatory changes take time and preparation of this formal proposal will include a deeper investigation on: check-off systems in other provinces that currently collect check-off on all animals at slaughter, from both an operational and enforcement point of view; investigation of potential regulatory language that would accomplish this change; and possible consultation with legal counsel.

We hope this provides a satisfactory response to your resolution at this time. Ultimately, any progress made in response to this resolution will be communicated to the broader membership in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Doug Gray (Advisory Councillor, mover)
Kirby Hakkesteegt (secondar)

