October 2, 2026

Mark Cain
President
Beef Farmers of Durham Region

Dave DeNure
President
Northumberland County Cattlemen's Association

Karen Paszternak
President
Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association

Cassandra Gorrill
President
Victoria Beef Farmers

Dear Mark, Dave, Karen and Cassandra

Re: Breeder Finance Program - Government Guarantee 26-03

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 access to affordable capital is a major challenge to new and expanding beef farmers,
WHEREAS maintaining or growing the cow herd base is important to the long-term viability of our industry,
WHEREAS the substantial loan guarantees from the provincial government allows the feeder finance co-ops to require lower initial loan deposits or assurances from producers,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO make a request to the Minister of Agriculture to draft an Order in Council that would implement a breeder finance program, include a provincial loan guarantee, and mirror the successful aspects of the Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program.

Advocating for a government-backed Breeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program, modeled after the proven and successful Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program, continues to be a top priority for BFO. A provincial loan guarantee would help lenders offer more competitive financing, making it easier for farmers to purchase breeder cattle, grow their cow herds and expand their operations. It would also help create opportunities for new and young beef farmers to enter the industry and build sustainable, viable operations.

At our Queen's Park BBQ in May, BFO held 29 meetings, including meetings with Premier Ford, eight Ministers including Minister Jones who has been supportive of our request, opposition party leaders and MPPs from all parties. In each meeting, our top priority was advocating for a government guarantee for the Ontario Beef Breeder Co-operative Program to improve access to affordable financing and support growth in Ontario's cow-calf sector.

We continue to work with staff at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness on the potential program parameters. We have also met with lenders involved in both the Ontario Beef Breeder Co-operative Program and the Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program, as well as representatives of the Ontario Beef Breeder Co-operatives, to discuss potential program requirements and keep them apprised of progress to date.

Thank you for bringing this resolution forward. We will continue to advocate for this initiative and will be sure to keep you apprised of any updates. We are optimistic that that the work undertaken to date in response to this request will lead to a positive outcome.

Sincerely,



Jason Leblond
President

cc: Florian Wassenaar (Advisory Councillor)
Glenn Dorland (Advisory Councillor)
John Lunn (Advisory Councillor)
Adam Shea (Advisory Councillor)
Tim Rudkin (Mover)
Dale Mountjoy (Seconder)
April Hackner (Secretary)
Amanda Twigg (Secretary)
Patricia Leahy (secretary)
Glenna Stephenson (Secretary)