



August 13, 2015

Mr. Marc LaBerge
Senior Policy Advisor
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
Farm Finance Branch
1 Stone Road West, 2nd Floor
Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2

Dear Mr. LaBerge,

Re: Regulatory Proposal #15-MAFRA008 - Crop Insurance Act (Ontario) 1996, as amended

Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) appreciates the opportunity to comment on regulatory proposal 15-MAFRA008, *Crop Insurance Act (Ontario) 1996*. BFO represents the 19,000 beef producers in Ontario by advocating in the areas of policy planning, industry development and research, and domestic and export market development.

BFO strongly supports the proposal to expand the scope of the Crop Insurance Act (Ontario) to include all agricultural products, including beef cattle. Production risks related to weather, feed and animal health can present significant challenges for beef operations and have a direct and consequential impact on gross farm margins. Opportunities to mitigate these risks through the development of a yield-based production insurance program for cattle, similar to what is available for Ontario crop farmers through AgriInsurance, would be a welcome and much-needed addition to the Business Risk Management toolbox.

BFO fully supports regulatory proposal 15-MAFRA008 and we look forward to working collaboratively with the province on the development of innovative solutions to reduce production-related risks for Ontario beef farmers. We would like to thank Minister Leal for his leadership on this file and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs for the opportunity to comment.

Beef Farmers of Ontario would be pleased to meet with you to further discuss the contents of this letter.

Sincerely,

Bob Gordanier
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors

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