



**Ontario
Cattlemen's
Association**

Committed to Cattlemen

130 Malcolm Road
Guelph, Ontario N1K 1B1
Phone: 519-824-0334
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www.cattle.guelph.on.ca

2012 RESOLUTION RESPONSES

Enclosed you will find the response letters to the 2012 resolutions for your review:

- 12-01 Market Access (p.2-3)
- 12-02 Production Study Results (p.4)
- 12-03 (A) Nutrient Management Requirements (p.5-6)
(B) Nutrient Management Requirements (p.7-9)
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Copies of all 2012 resolution responses can be found on our website at:

<http://www.cattle.guelph.on.ca/policies-issues/index.asp>



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June 11, 2012

Steve Eby
President, Bruce County Cattlemen's Association
RR #5, 302 Concession 9
Kincardine, ON N2Z 2X6

**12-01
Market Access**

Dear Steve,

The following resolution was brought to the floor and passed at OCA's annual meeting in February of this year:

WHEREAS *all markets for beef are important (local, provincial, federal and international)*
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ONTARIO CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION *work with CCA and other agencies to expand and enhance all possible markets for Canadian and Ontario beef.*

OCA's vision is to help foster a sustainable and profitable beef industry, and have Ontario beef recognized as an outstanding product by our consumers. To achieve this vision, OCA collaborates with several organizations to expand and enhance markets for Ontario beef. Provided below are recent examples of market expansion and enhancement:

Provincially, OCA proudly supports Ontario Corn Fed Beef (OCFB) which is available through Loblaws stores, the leading Canadian grocer. In 2011, Loblaws introduced OCFB into 158 Your Independent Grocer, Zehrs Markets, and Valu-mart locations. This spring, it was announced that OCFB will be offered at an additional 46 Loblaws stores.

CCA is responsible for federal and international market expansion. CCA has been active in the Country of Origin Labelling (COOL) dispute between Canada, Mexico and the United States. CCA Past President Travis Toews and Executive Vice President Dennis Laycraft attended the World Trade Organization appeal hearing in Geneva, Switzerland in early May. A ruling by the Appellate body is expected by the end of June. If successful, this ruling should bring Canadian prices closer to parity with American producers. Dan Darling, Bob Gordanier, Tom Wilson and Matt Bowman represent OCA at CCA.

\$1 from every \$3 of mandatory check-off is used to fund market research and development activities through Canada Beef Inc (CBI). CBI focuses their efforts on the domestic market and priority export markets such as the USA, Mexico, Japan, China and Hong Kong. As a result of their extensive market development initiatives, CBI hopes to increase market share of Canadian beef, maximize value for priority products and cuts, and positively influence Canadian consumers through brand awareness. Their continued development of key industry relationships and contacts will help facilitate the alignment of profitable beef supply chains in Canada that can meet the demands of our various domestic and export markets.

I trust that these examples illustrate how OCA collaborates with other agencies to enhance the market for Ontario and Canadian beef.

Yours truly,

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

Dan Darling
President

cc: Scot Legge
Chris Freiburger



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July 17, 2012

John McNaughton
President
Manitoulin Cattlemen's Association
RR 1, 19635 Hwy 6
Tehkummah, ON P0P 2C0

**12-02
Production
Study Results**

Dear John,

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA) Board of Directors has reviewed the following resolution from Manitoulin County, passed at the OCA AGM in February of this year:

WHEREAS *the cow production study at the New Liskeard Agricultural Research Station has finished, and*
WHEREAS *the study was funded by the Ontario Cattleman's Association, and*
WHEREAS *the results could help the competitiveness of the Ontario cow-calf producer*
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT OCA, work to get this study summarized and published.

I am pleased to inform you that work is currently underway at the New Liskeard Agricultural Research Station (NLARS) to retrieve and analyze the production study data the above resolutions refers. NLARS technicians have agreed to retrieve calving season's data from 1998-2011 and have charged a summer student with paper record review duties in light of your request.

Moreover, OMAFRA staff members Tom Hamilton (*Beef Cattle Production Systems Program Lead*) and Barry Potter (*Livestock Specialist*) will work on the statistical analysis and organization of a final summary report. We anticipate the statistical analysis and final summary report to be available for distribution this fall, 2012. This newest study should provide producers with the ability to evaluate the potential advantages and disadvantages of implementing a summer pasture calving system compared with the traditional winter confinement calving.

I hope this summary provides an adequate description of the measures being taken to address your request.

Yours truly,

Dan Darling
President

cc: OCA Board
Jim Martin
Dean Millsap



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July 17, 2012

Tom Lassaline
President
Lambton Cattlemen's Association
RR #4
Alvinston, ON NON 1A0

**12-03 (A)
NMA
Requirements**

Dear Tom,

Re: Nutrient Management Act Requirements

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA) Board of Directors has reviewed the following resolution from Lambton County, passed at the OCA AGM in February of this year:

WHEREAS *some producers have reduced their livestock numbers, and*
WHEREAS *some of the livestock producers could have had a requirement for a nutrient management plan (NMP) as their nutrient units (NU) were 300 or greater, and*
WHEREAS *these producers still have a NMP requirement when their NU fall below 300 as a result of a production reduction, and*
WHEREAS *there are costs associated with the preparation and maintenance of a NMP,*
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT *the Ontario Cattlemen's Association advocate the provincial government to regulate former large nutrient producers (greater than 300 NU) the same as smaller producers (5-300 NU) when circumstances arise.*

In June, Chris Attema (*OCA Water Quality Specialist*) and Richard Horne (*OCA Policy Advisor*) met with Len Senyshyn and Sharon Johnston of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Environmental Policy Branch to discuss your resolution. OMAFRA staff were quick to highlight that the intention of the Nutrient Management Act (NMA) is to 'phase in' Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) for as many operations as possible. While this is contrary to the intent of your resolution, the meeting was encouraging for several reasons.

The OMAFRA staff seemed to understand and even sympathize with the fact that some producers have significantly decreased their operational size [*and nutrient units (NU)*] yet are still forced to comply with the more tedious requirements of a NMP. OCA staff argued, therefore, that the current regulations do not assess environmental risk fairly or uniformly across farm type and size.

The main issue with the current regulations is the lack of a true standard for which environmental risk is based. This shortcoming has created an unequal playing field which pits producer against producer in terms of regulatory requirements. OMAFRA acknowledged this inequity but again referred to the 'phased-in' intent of the NMA as justification for the current requirements.

The idea of moving toward a more risk based approach that would assess farm operations fairly was discussed at length and seemed to garner traction from OMAFRA as a principle that should be used to guide future regulatory amendments or changes to the NMA. Moreover, there was general agreement between both parties that regulations should in fact focus on risk reduction as opposed to risk elimination, and should not pit producers against one another.

Despite the arguments that OCA staff presented, and the positive discussion that occurred, the general response was that the provincial government has no immediate plans to open up the NMA for regulatory reform. OCA will continue to push the dialogue with OMAFRA about how industry and government can work together to develop a more uniform and fair standard for determining environmental risk and responsibilities.

Please find attached a letter written to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) requesting that they consider the above recommendation from the Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA) on behalf of Lambton County Cattlemen's Association.

We will continue to work on this issue on your behalf and will update you on any progress that is made.

Yours truly,

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

Dan Darling
President

cc: OCA Board
Chad Anderson
Tim Fugard



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June 11, 2012

**12-03 (B)
NMA
Requirements**

Jim Richardson
Director
Environmental Management Branch
OMAFRA
1 Stone Rd. West
Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2

cc: Len Senyshyn
Manager
Approvals, Certification and Licensing
OMAFRA
1 Stone Rd. West
Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2

Dear Jim,

Re: Nutrient Management Act Requirements

The following resolution was passed at the annual meeting of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association in February, 2012:

WHEREAS *some producers have reduced their livestock numbers, and*
WHEREAS *some of the livestock producers could have had a requirement for a nutrient management plan (NMP) as their nutrient units (NU) were 300 or greater, and*
WHEREAS *these producers still have a NMP requirement when their NU fall below 300 as a result of a production reduction, and*
WHEREAS *there are costs associated with the preparation and maintenance of a NMP,*
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT *the Ontario Cattlemen's Association advocate the provincial government to regulate former large nutrient producers (greater than 300 NU) the same as smaller producers (5-300 NU) when circumstances arise.*

In June, Chris Attema (*OCA Water Quality Specialist*) and Richard Horne (*OCA Policy Advisor*) met with two of your OMAFRA colleagues, Len Senyshyn and Sharon Johnston, to discuss this issue. We thank them for taking time to meet with us from what we felt was a very positive meeting.

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA) has been generally very supportive of the introduction of the Nutrient Management Act (NMA) despite some concerns. OCA has long held a position of commitment to

the creation of legislation and standards for farming operations effective for both environmental protection as well as practical for farmers competing in a globalized marketplace. However, as the above resolution alludes, the regulations contained in the NMA which dictate whether a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) or a Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS) are required do not treat farm operations equitably or in uniform manner based on environmental risk or the nutrient unit threshold. In fact, the current regulations are conflicting.

For example, in a case when a farm operation expands production to exceed 300 NU, that operation would immediately require a NMP. Conversely, in a case when an operation reduces production to fall below 300 NU, that operation would still be required to maintain the more prescriptive and costly NMP. This is contradictory. The result of this is a failure within the *Act* to fairly and uniformly assess environmental risk. Regulations must focus on risk reduction as opposed to risk elimination, and should not pit producers against one another.

OCA believes that a NMS provides an adequate level of environmental protection for the <300 NU operations and that the additional management and administrative expense of a NMP does not provide additional protection for the environment relative to the risk these smaller operations pose.

The interpretation of the regulations by OMAFRA and MOE is that once a generating site is phased in with a NMP it will always require a NMP, so long it is generating agricultural source material. This interpretation fails to recognize that significant changes to farm operations do occur. Since environmental risk is determined almost exclusively using quantitative data by the number of nutrient units produced, with operations over 300 NU requiring a NMP as soon as their nutrient output exceeds this threshold, then the same science-based risk approach should be applied when operations decrease their nutrient output to below 300 NU, and should then only require a NMS.

It is in the provincial interest that in agricultural areas, agricultural uses and normal farm practices be promoted in a way that balances the needs of the agricultural community with provincial health, safety and environmental concerns. Over regulating producers who downsize production is inconsistent with this principle.

In light of this request, OCA asks that the Ministry consider the following recommendations:

- 1) THAT a process be established so that former large nutrient producing operations (>300NU) who have permanently decreased their production output to (5-300NU) be permitted to apply for re-classification under the Act to bring them in line with smaller nutrient producing operations (5-300NU) and the regulatory requirements they are subject to.**
- 2) THAT the province adopt a true risk based standard for which environmental risk, and subsequently, regulatory requirements are based that fairly and uniformly assesses Ontario farms.**

The OCA recognizes and generally supports the concept of 5-years Nutrient Management Plan and/or Strategy linked to building permit expansions or replacements and the concept of an annual review and update of the Nutrient Management Plan or Nutrient Management Strategy. The OCA view is that there is very little environmental benefit or protection from the current administrative requirement to renew the Nutrient Management Plan and/or Strategy after 5-years.

Therefore, OCA recommends:

3) THAT the administrative requirement for a 5-year renewal be eliminated and replaced with a more appropriate trigger for a Nutrient Management Plan and/or Strategy renewal.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these requests. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to further discuss this issue.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Darling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail on the "g".

Dan Darling
President

cc: OCA Board of Directors
Sharon Johnston (OMAFRA)



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December 7, 2012

**12-04
OSPCA Powers**

David McGonegal
President, Renfrew County Cattlemen's Association
RR #2, 3262 Beachburg Rd.
Pembroke, ON K8A 6W3

Dear David,

The following resolution was brought to the floor and passed at OCA's annual meeting in February of this year:

WHEREAS *there are conflicts with the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) Act and several examples of unauthorized entrance without prior knowledge or permission; and*
WHEREAS *the OCA comments to the 2008 amendments to the OSPCA Act have been virtually ignored*
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE OCA *work with other commodity organizations, GFO's and Farm and Food Ontario on legislative and or regulatory amendments to ensure farm animal protection from cruelty and abuse in managed by experienced professionals accountable to the public and legislature*
FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT OCA *collaborate with livestock commodity representatives to ensure a viable definition of "distress" is developed on which to judge the need for intervention.*

In an effort to address agricultural concerns with the OSPCA and its mandate, Connie Mallory, Chief Inspector for the OSPCA, was invited and spoke at OCA's Summer Advisory Council meeting this past July. During her presentation she answered questions and addressed several industry concerns on the topics of inspector training, the handling of anonymous calls and the OSPCA's legal right to enter a premise. This last concern involves a discretionary judgment based on the OSPCA's definition of "immediate distress" which is used by inspectors to assess the need for immediate intervention. The OSPCA defines "immediate distress" as *distress that requires immediate intervention in order to alleviate the suffering or to preserve the life of an animal.*

While concerns may be raised on the subjective nature of this definition, we are committed to improving the process for addressing farm animal welfare complaints in Ontario by working in partnership with OMAFRA and the OSPCA. You will be pleased to hear that OCA has had preliminary discussions with the OSPCA about entering into an agreement whereby OCA would be notified and asked to participate in all farm calls involving beef cattle.

OCA also supports the recently created Agriculture and Animal Welfare Task Team formed to improve the way farm animal welfare calls are handled in Ontario and to improve relationships between farm animal

agriculture industries, government and the OSPCA. While this process is on-going, we are committed to finding workable solutions for the beef industry and will continue to advocate for our member's rights. I trust this update provides sufficient evidence that your resolution is being acted upon. It is our hope that a more formal arrangement with OSCP will be established in 2013 and will better address the recommendations provided in your resolution.

Yours truly,

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

Dan Darling
President

cc: OCA Board
Craig McLaughlin
Tim Tabbert
Wade Schroeder



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June 12, 2012

Gavin Valentine
President, York Cattlemen's Association
2730 Vandorf Side Road
Gormely, ON L0H 1G0

**12-05
OCA/OCFA AGM**

Dear Gavin,

The following resolution was brought to the floor by York County and passed at OCA's annual meeting this year:

WHEREAS *the Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA) and the Ontario Cattle Feeders' Association (OCFA) each year have separate annual meetings, and*
WHEREAS *many beef producers in Ontario attend both meetings, and*
WHEREAS *there is an expensive component for each organization in providing these separate meetings*
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE OCA investigate the amalgamation of these two meetings into one venue.

While it is expensive to host two separate meetings, OCA and OCFA cannot amalgamate their annual meetings at this time. The OCA Constitution states that the annual meeting must be held in February, whereas the OCFA Constitution states that their annual meeting must occur in January. OCA or OCFA would require a constitutional change regarding the timing of the annual meeting before this issue can be investigated further.

Sincerely,

Dan Darling
President

cc: OCA Board
Wendy Clements (OCFA)
Arthur Schickendaz
Don Taber



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September 18, 2012

James Purdy
President, Lanark County Cattlemen's Association
PO Box 405
Almonte, ON K0A 1A0

**12-06
Predation
Compensation**

Dear James,

The following resolution was brought to the floor and passed at OCA's annual meeting in February of this year:

WHEREAS *producers who consistently sell their cattle into higher markets because of pedigree, genetics, performance records etc. have a right to compensation at a higher amount if killed or injured by a predator under the Agriculture-Wildlife Damage Compensation Program; and*

WHEREAS *there are currently no examples included in the Program guidelines of how a higher value may be determined thus making it seem like pedigree is not to be included in a valuer's assessment;*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ONTARIO CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION *lobby the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs to advise municipalities about the intent of the Wildlife Compensation Program and to provide education and guidelines to valuers to ensure fair evaluations that are consistent with the intent of the Program.*

OCA staff brought forward the concerns outlined in this resolution to the April 2012 meeting of the Ontario Agriculture-Wildlife Conflict Working Group. This working group acts as an advisory body for the Agriculture-Wildlife Compensation Program and other related predation issues affecting Ontario farmers.

As a result, to date, seven Agriculture and Rural Economic Development Advisors who are strategically located and have an interest in predation related issues have been designated as trainers. The newly designated trainers are now delivering training workshops to municipal officials and livestock valuers across the province. While all municipalities and livestock valuers have been briefed on the new Agriculture-Wildlife Compensation Program, the first in-class workshops began this past August with additional workshops currently scheduled for September and October with more anticipated later in 2012 and 2013. These workshops will go far to address concerns over the consistent application of the new program province wide.

Furthermore, I am pleased to inform you that the new Livestock Valuation Guide used in the updated municipal/valuer training course now provides examples of how higher value animals should be valued above and beyond the reported average market price. The guide now advises valuers to factor in management and breed factors that add to an animal's value with the help of examples. In one of the fictitious examples provided, the Ontario average price of a 600lb weaned calf is valued at \$1.42, but once

breed and management factors (Charolais cross, vaccinated, age verified) are included in the valuation, the suggested replacement value increases from the Ontario average of \$1.42 to \$1.65.

Despite the steps taken to address your concerns, it is in our opinion that the Program Guidelines should include more specific reference to how higher value animals should be assessed by municipal valuers, similar to what is included in the new Livestock Valuation Guide used to train livestock valuers in the province. This issue was raised by OCA staff at the most recent meeting of the Agriculture-Wildlife Conflict Working Group on September 4th, 2012. While the Program Guidelines cannot be officially amended until the two year program review in March, this issue will be further discussed at the December meeting. OCA will be providing recommendations to the province in the coming months with regards to updating the Program Guidelines and will incorporate your concerns into those recommendations.

We will continue to work with the Agriculture-Wildlife Conflict Working Group and the other commodities to bring this message forward. OCA will be sure to update you on any further progress with regards to this issue.

I trust you will find this a satisfactory response to your resolution.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Darling". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail on the "g".

Dan Darling
President

cc: Don Badour
Dave Campbell
John Miller



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June 11, 2012

**12-08
Lyme Disease**

Dr. David Butler-Jones
Chief Public Health Officer
Public Health Agency of Canada
130 Colonnade Road
A.L. 6501H
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

Dear Dr. Butler-Jones,

The following resolution was brought to the floor and passed at the Ontario Cattlemen's Association's (OCA) annual general meeting in February of this year:

WHEREAS *Lyme disease is becoming a prevalent problem in Ontario and the health effects can be severe and cause unnecessary suffering; and*

WHEREAS *concerns arise from inconsistent testing, diagnosis and treatment by the Ontario medical community;*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ONTARIO CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION *lobby the Ontario government to encourage the medical community to recognize Lyme disease as a serious disease, adopt more advanced technologies to improve diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic Lyme disease and also improve public and physician education about the disease so that it can be actively treated.*

As you are likely aware, Lyme disease is a relatively new disease as the cause was not discovered until 1981, and it did not become a nationally reportable disease in Canada until 2010.

Our understanding is that it is caused by bites from either western black-legged ticks (in southern British Columbia) or deer ticks (in Nova Scotia, southern and eastern Ontario, and southeastern Manitoba) and that late stages of the disease can be misdiagnosed as multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, Crohn's disease or other autoimmune and neurodegenerative diseases. Lyme disease is a zoonotic disease, meaning it can be transferred between humans and animals.

Farmers are particularly at risk for exposure since ticks can attach themselves to people who are walking through long grasses or forested areas. As a zoonotic disease, farmers must be particularly vigilant in checking themselves, as well as livestock and outdoor pets for ticks and evidence of tick bites. As a disease that can have debilitating health effects for both humans and animals, Lyme disease is a serious concern for Ontario beef farmers.

I am writing to request, on behalf of Ontario's 19,000 beef farmers, that the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Ontario Medical Association pursue more accurate diagnostic methods, and increase public and physician education about Lyme disease.

I would ask that the Public Health Agency of Canada consider this recommendation from the Ontario Cattlemen's Association and report back on any discussions or actions relating to this matter. Thank you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Darling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail on the "g".

Dan Darling
President

cc: Hon. Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long Term-Care
James Purdy, President, Lanark Cattlemen's Association
Don Badour, Advisory Councillor, Lanark Cattlemen's Association
Gordon Patterson, Lanark Cattlemen's Association
Dave Campbell, Lanark Cattlemen's Association



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December 7, 2012

**12-09
Endangered
Species Act**

Mr. Pierre Charlbois
President
Russell County Cattlemen's Association
9236 Russell Road
Navan, ON K4B 1J1

Dear Pierre,

Re: *Endangered Species Act*

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA) Board of Directors has reviewed the following resolution from Russell County, passed at the OCA AGM in February of this year:

WHEREAS *the regulatory costs associated with Endangered Species Act (ESA) are almost entirely assumed by the farming community, and*
WHEREAS *these regulations extend and stretch the original intent of the Act by imposing unreasonable demands on agribusinesses with no consideration to "normal farming practices",*
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT OCA *raise this issue with both the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Natural Resources highlighting the implications for land management activities resulting from the unrealistic demands that the ESA places on Ontario farmers.*

In May 2012, OCA staff met with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) to discuss this resolution, and, more broadly, the demands the Endangered Species Act (ESA) places on Ontario farmers. In August, OFA representatives Peter Jeffrey and Don McCabe met with representatives from both Ministries (MNR and OMAFRA) to discuss potential solutions to several major shortcomings associated with the ESA. Specific recommendations aside, the point was made that while farm organizations like OCA support the protection of endangered species in Ontario, all of society benefits from the protection of listed species and their habitat, and therefore no one sector of society should bear the costs, which since the inception of the ESA has landed predominantly on the shoulders of farmers and other rural private landowners.

OFA was later told by MNR that positive amendments to the ESA would be proposed in the fall session of the Ontario legislature based on recommendations received by various farm groups. Unfortunately, as you are well aware, the Ontario legislature was prorogued by Premier McGuinty in October which effectively worked to kill all new bill proposals and amendments. While we are disappointed that progress on this file has been temporarily halted as a result of the current prorogation, we are encouraged by the provincial government's receptiveness and appeal to our concerns with respect to the ESA. We will continue to push for amendments to this Act upon the return of the Ontario legislature.

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

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Darling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail on the "g".

Dan Darling
President

Cc: Raymond Ialande
Robert Laviolette



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July 17, 2012

Darrell Russett
President, Hastings County Cattlemen's
RR #3
Stirling, ON K0K 3E0

**12-10
OCFA/OCFB
Support**

Dear Darrell,

The following resolution was brought to the floor by Hastings County and passed at OCA's annual meeting in February of this year:

WHEREAS OCA has supported the Ontario Corn Fed Beef program financially in the past, and
WHEREAS the OCFBP promotes beef to the consumers, and
WHEREAS the increase in Ontario beef builds a stronger beef industry in Ontario and a strong beef industry will lead to an increase in research, education, new development, new jobs etc.,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT OCA continue to financially support the Ontario Cattle Feeders at an acceptable level.

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association continues to support the Ontario Cattle Feeders Association (OCFA) through the Ontario Corn Fed Beef (OCFB) program. OCA is currently in the third year of a five year agreement with OCBF to provide \$200,000 per year in funding.

Last year OCFB requested a top-up of an additional \$150,000 after finalizing the agreement with Loblaw's that would see OCFB expand into 156 stores. OCA saw this as a tremendous opportunity for OCFB and for the beef producers of Ontario and thus agreed to provide the additional funds as requested. OCA will continue to fund the OCFA through the very successful OCFB program for the duration of the current contract.

I trust that this letter assures you that OCA is committed to supporting OCFA and the OCFB program at acceptable levels.

Yours truly,

Dan Darling
President

cc: Matt Dunham
Willy Broek



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May 2, 2012

**12-11
Bull Test
Certificates**

Dave Perry
President
Frontenac County Cattlemen's Association
RR #1, 4547 Yarker Road
Harrowsmith, ON K0H 1V0

Dear Dave,

Re: Bull Test Certificates

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA) Board of Directors has reviewed the following resolution from Frontenac County, passed at the OCA AGM in February of this year:

WHEREAS *BIO is an organization that is an information provider of genetic values of to Canadian Beef Breeders and many of these breeders have smaller operations regarding the number of animals produced and,*

WHEREAS *these smaller producers add great value to the genetics contained in the Canadian Beef Herd and,*
WHEREAS *these smaller breeders when testing bulls in the bull test program do not receive the information that they did receive prior to 2008 when stations were privately run.*

THEREFORE BE ITRESOLVED THAT BIO *treat these smaller producers in the same manner as prior to 2008 and provide them with bull test certificates along with their bull test results in a timely manner.*

All bull test centres have been privately run since 2002. BIO's test requirements have always stated that bulls for which BIO does not have pre-weaning information will not receive complete genetic evaluations as they cannot accurately account for the pre-weaning impact on post-weaning performance. When no herd data is provided, bulls are categorized as 'unofficial' and do not receive Bull Test Certificates (Genetic Score Card).

For complete genetic evaluations a weaning index is required, the producer must also submit a minimum herd contemporary group of 5 animals. Previously, if these requirements were not met, a producer would not receive a certificate, also called a Genetic Score Card.

However, this resolution was discussed at the BIO annual meeting February 21, 2012 where it was decided that BIO would now provide Genetic Score Cards for all bulls, regardless of what information is available for inclusion in the report.

BIO has committed to honour this new practice for producers for animals who previously would not have qualified as 'official' and subsequently would not have received a Genetic Score Card. Producers wishing to obtain Genetic Score Cards for previously tested animals that were deemed 'unofficial' should contact Scott Bothwell at BIO. I have included Scott's contact information below:

Scott Bothwell
Manager of Operations
Beef Improvement Opportunities (BIO)
(519) 767-2665 ext. 311
sbothwell@biotrack.ca

I hope this summary provides an adequate description of the measures being taken to address your request.

Yours truly,

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

Dan Darling
President

cc: OCA Board
Scott Bothwell, BIO
Pete Redmond
Oliver Clow



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June 11, 2012

Matt McKillop
President, Elgin Cattlemen's Association
2257 Church Street
Mount Brydges, ON N0L 1W0

12-07 / 12-12
RMIP
-120 Day Requirement
-Premium Rebate

Dear Matt,

The Ontario Risk Management Insurance Program (RMIP) was a popular topic for discussion at the Ontario Cattlemen's Association's (OCA) annual general meeting this past February. There were multiple suggestions on how to tailor the program to better suit the needs of Ontario beef producers. However, as outlined in Ontario's March 2012 budget, a \$100 million cap will be placed on the RMIP beginning in 2013. This announcement by the Province has changed both the intent and focus of our discussions with OMAFRA regarding the design of the RMIP moving forward. OCA understands the fiscal challenges that face our provincial government, and appreciates that the Risk Management Insurance Program was maintained despite the difficult budget.

We take seriously the government's invitation to work together on reforms and next steps. We believe the Risk Management Insurance Program, in its current form, is a well designed, workable program that is both predictable and bankable for farmers and government.

OCA will be actively involved with reviewing the program's design, and will make sure to voice the concerns of our membership. We also take the resolutions from our grassroots members seriously and will work collaboratively with the Ontario government to continue to provide a bankable and predictable RMIP that is both fiscally sound and responsible.

We will continue to update our membership on any changes to the program and we thank you for your suggestions.

Sincerely,

Dan Darling
President

cc: Alan Carroll, Elgin County Cattlemen's Association
Ian McKillop, Elgin County Cattlemen's Association
Rose Stewart, President, Dundas Cattlemen's Association
Jim Shaw, Dundas Cattlemen's Association
Bonna Oosterhof, Dundas Cattlemen's Association



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December 7, 2012

**12-13
Animal Welfare
Investigation...**

Ray Beauregard
President, Stormont County Cattlemen's Association
17440 Amell & Randald
George Road
St. Andrews, ON K0C 2A0

Dear Ray,

The following resolution from Stormont was brought to the floor and passed at OCA's annual meeting in February of this year:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT OCA *all farmers should have the right to have an OCA representatives to be part of an investigation team should there be any animal welfare complaint against any OCA member.*

OCA is committed to improving the process for addressing farm animal welfare complaints in Ontario by working in partnership with OMAFRA, the OSPCA, and other livestock commodity organizations. You will be pleased to know that OCA has had preliminary discussions with the OSPCA about entering into an agreement whereby OCA would be notified and asked to participate in all farm investigations involving beef cattle. This would help ensure that industry representation is made available to OCA members during animal welfare complaints. Although this is an on-going process, we are confident that a positive solution will be reached in the near future. In the meantime, OCA will continue to advocate for our member's rights.

It should also be noted that OCA supports the recently created Agriculture and Animal Welfare Task Team formed to improve the way farm animal welfare calls are handled in Ontario and to improve relationships between farm animal agriculture industries, government and the OSPCA. The need for industry representation during agricultural investigations was discussed at the November task team meeting. It is anticipated that individual agreements, similar to the agreement being pursued by OCA with the OSPCA, will be pursued by other livestock organizations to help alleviate concerns with the OSPCA and provide Ontario farmers with an additional resource during animal welfare investigations.

I trust this update provides sufficient evidence that your resolution is being acted upon. It is our hope that a more formal arrangement with the OSCP will be established in 2013 to better address the recommendation provided in your resolution.

Yours truly,

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

Dan Darling
President

cc: Jamie Clark
Rose Rutely
Terry Brownell



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December 7, 2012

Mr. Dan Mooney, President
Grey County Cattlemen's Association
RR #5, 058134 Church Hewitson Rd.
Owen Sound, ON N4K 5N7

**12-14 (A)
Reportable
Disease Comp.**

Dear Dan,

Re: Rabies Indemnification Program Compensation

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA) Board of Directors has reviewed the following resolution from Grey County, passed at the OCA AGM in February of this year:

WHEREAS *the value of livestock has risen dramatically in the past two years and the maximum value of Federal compensation for reportable diseases, example Rabies, has remained at \$1000.00.*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT OCA and CCA lobby the appropriate Federal government agency to increase maximum compensation values so that they cover fair market value.

In our view, the maximum indemnity values under the *Rabies Indemnification Program (RIP)* currently do not provide adequate compensation to producers. The OCA Board of Directors holds the position that the maximum indemnity values should be reviewed and modernized to reflect true market price similar to compensation awarded for other federally reportable diseases as outlined in the Compensation for Destroyed Animals Regulations under the *Animal Health Act*.

In response to your resolution please find attached a letter written to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) requesting that CFIA review and modernize current indemnity values to reflect current market prices. However, regrettably, it is our understanding that the federal government intends to completely eliminate this indemnity April 1, 2014. While no official announcement on this change has been made OCA has formally requested a review of this decision along with a re-evaluation of current indemnity values. We will continue to work towards resolve on this issue.

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

Yours truly,

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

Dan Darling
President

cc: OCA Board of Directors
Carl Spencer
Don Hargrave



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December 7, 2012

Dr. Ian Alexander
Executive Director/Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO)
Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
Animal Health Directorate
59 Camelot Drive, Camelot Court, Floor 3 E, Room 225
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0Y9

**12-14 (B)
Reportable
Disease Comp.**

Dear Dr. Alexander,

Re: Rabies Indemnification Program Compensation

As you may be aware, the *Rabies Indemnification Program* provides producers financial assistance for certain animal species (including cattle) that die as a result of rabies. The CFIA provides an indemnity for livestock which have been confirmed either by laboratory evidence or by veterinary diagnosis as having rabies. The federal share of the indemnity is 40% of the animal's total market value to a maximum of \$400 for cattle. Ontario has, in the past, paid the remaining 60% share of this cost. Combined with the federal share, the maximum payment a producer can receive in Ontario is \$1000 for affected cattle.

In our view, the maximum indemnity values under the *Rabies Indemnification Program* provide inadequate compensation to producers. These producers are also faced with other, often significant, auxiliary costs. For example, keeping animals quarantined for an extended period of time increases a producer's costs in maintaining their herd and significantly decreases their returns once the animals are marketed. Producers may also be forced to arrange special accommodations at processing facilities to accommodate animals from quarantined premises and, furthermore, could incur additional veterinary costs.

Producers who report incidences of rabies assist CFIA and the provincial health units in preventing the transmission of rabies from animals to humans and as such should be compensated for the loss of their animals at a fair market price. As we understand it, the federal share of this indemnity will be eliminated April 1, 2014. OCA respectfully requests a review of this decision along with a re-evaluation of the current indemnity values.

The maximum indemnity values should be reviewed and in-fact modernized to reflect true market price similar to compensation awarded for other federally reportable diseases as outlined in the Compensation for Destroyed Animals Regulations under the *Animal Health Act*.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter to Ontario's beef producers. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

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

Dan Darling
President

cc: OCA Board
Dr. Greg Douglas (OCVO – OMAFRA)



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October 22nd, 2012

Ed Fox
President, Middlesex Cattlemen's Association
RR #5, 31846 Centre Road
Parkhill, ON N0M 2K0

**12-15
OSPCA Act**

Dear Ed,

The following resolution was passed by the Middlesex Cattlemen's Association and submitted to the Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA) for consideration:

WHEREAS the Private Member's Bill introduced by MPP Jack McLaren amending the OSPCA Act demonstrated serious concerns with how farm animal welfare concerns were addressed, and ***WHEREAS*** this Bill was defeated, there is still a need for modification to the current OSPCA system, and ***WHEREAS*** beef and other livestock producers want to ensure that farm animals are cared for and handled properly, and ***WHEREAS*** Farm and Food Care and other organizations plan to form a working group with the OSPCA and the government to develop solutions for farm animal care complaints, ***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE OCA*** fully support the task team, working to find reasonable and effective solutions and make changes to the current legislation.

OCA supports the task team through staff (Richard Horne) representation on the committee. The team meets monthly to collaborate and find reasonable and effective solutions for farm animal welfare complaints in Ontario.

In an effort to address provincial concerns with the OSPCA and its mandate, Connie Mallory, Chief Inspector for the OSPCA, was invited and spoke at OCA's Summer Advisory Council Meeting. During her presentation, she answered questions and addressed several industry concerns such as improved inspector training, handling anonymous calls and an OSPCA Officer's right of entry.

You may also be interested to know that the Canadian Cattlemen's Association is revising the Beef Cattle Code of Practice as part of a National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) project to renew several of the Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals. The Beef Code Development Committee is comprised of producers, animal welfare and enforcement organizations, the research community, the transport and processing industries, and government.

The renewal of the Beef Cattle Code of Practice will provide both producers and industry with a national guideline on the proper care and handling of beef cattle and may also be used as a reference in some provinces in animal welfare cases. The draft beef Code of Practice will be published, for a 60 day comment

period, in early November. Following this comment period, the committee will review all input and work towards a final edition, expected to be released in April of 2013.

I trust that this letter assures you of OCA's support for the established task team and commitment towards finding a solution to how animal welfare complaints are currently handled in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Darling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail on the "g".

Dan Darling
President

Cc: OCA Board



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October 26, 2012

**12-16
Improved Forage
Insurance**

Steve Eby, President
Bruce County Cattlemen's Association
RR #5, 302 Concession 9
Kincardine, ON N2Z 2X6

Dear Steve,

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA) Board of Directors has reviewed the following resolution from Bruce County:

WHEREAS Agricorp has a Forage Rainfall Insurance program; and,
WHEREAS the growing season of 2012 was very dry resulting in reduced forage yields; and,
WHEREAS 2012 claims as calculated in the program are not representative of the losses incurred
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT *the Ontario Cattlemen's Association lobby and work with Agricorp and industry producers to develop a forage insurance program that protects forage producers against weather issues (frost, drought, excess rainfall, etc.)*

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA) thanks Bruce County Cattlemen's for bringing this resolution forward. An effective forage insurance program which will protect producers against risks associated with weather related perils such as frost, drought, and excess moisture is certainly needed and is something that we are committed to pursuing. However, the pursuit of a truly effective program that can address these needs is a large and complex task, and one that will take time. It should be noted that this issue has been and continues to be raised by OCA and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) with both levels of government.

CCA is currently involved in a National Forage Insurance Task Team, on which OCA has representation, to examine forage insurance. The Task Team will present their final report to the federal government in early 2013. In addition, Dave Stewart and I discussed this issue at length this past summer with both the Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and with senior Agricorp staff. OCA and Agricorp

have committed to enter into formal review and redesign after the National Forage Insurance Task Team makes their final report and recommendations in early 2013.

I trust this update provides a satisfactory response to your resolution.

Yours truly,

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

Dan Darling
President

Cc: Scot Legge
Jeff Kobe
Brian Dudgeon
OCA Cow-Calf Committee



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December 7, 2012

David McGonegal
President, Renfrew County Cattlemen's Association
RR2, 3262 Beachburg Rd.
Pembroke, ON K8A 6W3

**12-17
Corn Silage**

Dear David,

The Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA) Board of Directors has reviewed the following resolution from Renfrew County:

WHEREAS the severe drought experienced by Renfrew County and other areas of the provinces has caused a critical shortage in hay and pasture and is forcing farmers to sell off their herds prematurely at reduced market prices, and,

WHEREAS a lot of the corn in our area will be written off in crop insurance claims, and

WHEREAS normally a claimant is forced to destroy the insured crop or incur a reduction in payment for salvage value if it is harvested as silage,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT OCA lobby the Provincial Government and Agricorp to waive the salvage penalty and allow producers to harvest the corn as silage for livestock in drought regions in the province.

In early August, OCA's Executive Director Dave Stewart and I had a number of separate meetings with both the Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and with senior Agricorp staff to discuss this issue and the drought more broadly at length. Our message was clear: under extraordinary circumstances, such as the feed shortage induced by this year's record drought, provisions in the production insurance program should provide Agricorp with the flexibility to encourage the salvage of grain corn as silage. The current program provides no economic incentive for producers to do this based on the current conversion rate of one imperial ton of silage to seven bushels of grain corn. Agricorp understood and acknowledged these concerns and has committed to working with OCA on this issue moving forward to ensure future programming during disaster-type situations is more flexible in nature.

Production Insurance aside, OCA believes that an effective forage insurance program which will protect producers against risks associated with weather related perils such as frost, drought, and excess moisture is certainly needed and could help address some of the underlying issues outlined in your resolution. However, the pursuit of a truly effective program that can address these needs is a large and complex task, and one that will take time. It should be noted that this issue has been and continues to be raised by OCA and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) with both levels of government.

CCA is currently involved in a National Forage Insurance Task Team, on which OCA has representation, to examine forage insurance. The Task Team will present their final report to the federal government in early 2013. OCA and Agricorp have committed to enter into formal review and redesign after the National Forage Insurance Task Team makes their final report and recommendations in early 2013.

I trust this update provides a satisfactory response to your resolution.

Yours truly,

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Dan Darling
President

Cc: OCA Board
Myles England
Craig McLaughlin