



2022 RESOLUTION RESPONSES

Enclosed you will find the response letters to the 2022 resolutions

- 22-01, 22-02 and 22-03** Meat Training Bursary, Butchery as a Skilled Trade and Abattoir Funding Assistance and Apprenticeship Programs
- 22-04** Abattoir Funding
- 22-05** Compromised Cattle
- 22-06** Feeder Finance Ear Notching
- 22-07** Wild Parsnip
- 22-08** Standardized Enforcement Process at Auction Facilities
- 22-09** Government Inspector Process
- 22-10** Nutrient Management Act
- 22-11 and 22-12** Deadstock Service Disruption and Deadstock End Product Use
- 22-13** Transparency and Honesty in Beef Labelling and Marketing Claims
- 22-14** Meat Resources for Retailers
- 22-15** Plant-Based Protein Companies Using Meat and Beef Terminology on Packaging and in Advertising
- 22-16, 22-17 and 22-18** PAWS Inspector Training, Communication With Local Boards Regarding PAWS Investigations, and Review of PAWS Act
- 22-19** Vet Apprenticeship Program
- 22-20** Transfer of Care Documentation
- 22-21** Beef Cattle Marketing Act – Email Collection



Resolutions 22-01, 22-02 and 22-03

September 13, 2022

Kim Weedmark
President, Grenville County Cattlemen's Association

Joost Van der Heiden
President, Perth County Beef Farmers' Association

Dear Kim and Joost,

The BFO Board of Directors has reviewed the resolutions submitted by your county associations at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February around funding support for abattoirs, labour challenges in the meat processing sector, and education and recruitment strategies. As the resolutions address interconnected issues, we have provided a joint response outlining efforts of BFO and Meat and Poultry Ontario (MPO), who we have collaborated jointly with in response to many meat processing issues. For reference, the specific resolutions have been appended to this document.

The availability of processing capacity in Ontario is challenged by the difficulty of hiring and maintaining skilled labour, which can prevent processing facilities from taking advantage of current market demands. Increased investment in programs, regulatory changes that support meat processing capacity, infrastructure for small, medium and large facilities, and investment in training, recruitment and retention of butchers, retail meat cutters, and industrial butchers, continues to be a high priority for BFO when engaging with both the federal and provincial governments.

BFO has provided a number of recommendations to elected officials on this issue. These include:

- A. Increase strategic investment in the sector
 - Simplifying programming and ensuring a sufficient funding window to allow businesses the ability to plan, build and execute growth strategies.
 - Prioritizing funding on projects with the greatest ability to expand production capacity.
 - A combination of cost-share funding, no-interest, and non-repayable loans to spur capital investments in production and improve efficiencies.
 - Finally, the development of an Industry Export Development Fund which, would assist in export diversification efforts and help address international trade barriers.
- B. Address labour shortages and skills training gaps
 - Develop and implement a domestic strategy to attract, train and retain high skill workers by providing investments and supports in training and education.
 - Refocus foreign worker programs into permanent worker programs.



- Develop and implement a strategy that would create a pathway to allow workers from countries with an ample supply of labour to come here and vacant fill jobs.
- C. Revise slaughter regulations related to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), including harmonization of Canada’s specified risk material (SRM) removal policies with the United States, so that they do not weaken the competitiveness of the Canadian beef industry.
- D. Invest in trade infrastructure, such as transportation systems, to improve access to markets and support a modern supply chain.
- E. Modernize regulations and implement targeted programs, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, to encourage the development of local processing businesses and regional small-scale abattoirs.
- F. Consider food insecurity a priority, looking more precisely to northern and indigenous issues, and take the necessary measures to support Canadians in need.
- G. In collaboration with the provinces and territories, seek further harmony between federal and provincial processing standards, so as to reduce barriers to inter-provincial and international trade, and encourage innovation through a focus on outcomes rather than prescriptive measures.
- H. Support innovative approaches to skills development and encourage training and reskilling programs to meet the current and future labour requirements of agri-food businesses, and also help to promote and to raise awareness of career opportunities in the agri-food sector with a focus on future generations, while respecting agreements signed with provincial and territorial governments and their jurisdiction.

In terms of support for plant infrastructure, the provincial government provided \$7 million in funding for the Meat Processors Improvement Initiative Program in response to calls from industry. The provincial program provided up to \$150,000 per project for improvements to handling and processing equipment, and other infrastructure that would assist with increased capacity. This program was fully utilized and BFO has advocated strongly for additional funding intakes that support capacity expansion in both federal and provincial plants. The provincial program followed the federal Emergency Processing Fund, which provided substantial investment to several beef processors in Ontario in 2021. We continue to push for further funding supports.

We are also working closely with MPO on this issue. MPO recently developed its “Inclusive Workforce Action Plan” with funding from the provincial government to map out what the industry and government can do to address labour challenges. MPO coordinated an Industry Workforce Advisory Table consisting of stakeholders from all stages of the meat and poultry industry to examine the challenges and develop solutions. Their work led to the development of six recommendations for government and industry to work towards, which are summarized below.

- 1) Industry career promotion campaign and materials: develop a marketing and education campaign to promote quality careers in the industry and promotional materials to support recruitment strategies and education partnerships.
- 2) Implement a provincial recruitment strategy: to target newcomers and youth to the industry (recruitment partnership with CareersNow, social media campaigns, mentorship sessions and virtual job fairs).
- 3) Pilot a new entrant recruitment and training program: potential of an entry level “boot camp” training program to recruit and train a new entrant talent pipeline.
- 4) Create education partnerships to increase exposure to careers: develop partnerships with grades 7-12 and post-secondary education to integrate curriculum and awareness of careers in



the industry. MPO is already working with AgScape to develop curriculum and are looking at the potential for a Specialist High Skills Major program specific to meat and poultry.

- 5) Enhance employer knowledge, skills and practices: Support effective employer workforce practices through knowledge, skills and resource sharing and development, including knowledge exchange among employers.
- 6) Establish an industry-led leadership committee: made up of employers to lead and steward the development, implementation and governance of the workforce development action plan.

The action plan also examines current training resources and institutions, outlines recommendations to address labour mobility concerns, and communications efforts. In regards to training resources for those new to the industry or with experience, MPO has identified a number of training opportunities from online, in class or on-site training and these may range from a two-hour micro-credential course to 30-week certificate programs. MPO acknowledges that a central hub is needed for employers, employees or individuals looking to join the industry to more easily find these opportunities.

In regards to apprenticeships, “Retail Meat Cutter” is classified as a trade in Ontario and individuals can complete an apprenticeship to become certified although it is not required to work in this field. MPO has advocated for Red Seal certification for the Retail Meat Cutter apprenticeship, but has focused much of their attention on expanding training opportunities and on the other above items.

Lastly, at the national level, labour concerns in our meat processing sector, and food and beverage sectors overall, has received considerable attention. The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council, in partnership with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and Food and Beverage Canada, announced this past spring the *National Workforce Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Food and Beverage Manufacturing*. This project was funded by the Government of Canada. The federal government has also launched a public consultation to inform a National Agricultural Labour Strategy to complement the National Workforce Strategic Plan.

BFO is committed to continuing to advocate to the federal and provincial governments the importance of this issue and the need for investments to address labour challenges and capacity in Ontario’s meat processing sector, in coordination with groups like MPO, Food and Beverage Ontario, CCA, and the Canadian Meat Council.

Thank you for bringing these resolutions forward.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Erin Theriault (mover and Grenville Advisory Councillor)
John Lunn (secondar)
Bob Dunsmore (Perth Advisory Councillor)
Spencer Dunsmore (mover)



Appendix

22-01 Meat Training Bursary

WHEREAS, there is a limited amount of kill capacity in Ontario, and
WHEREAS, kill capacity goes along with manpower to cut what has been killed, and
WHEREAS, our average age of butchers in Ontario is high, and
WHEREAS, there is very little interest in the younger generation to become a butcher, and
WHEREAS, there is a very limited number of schools in Ontario that offer an adequate course for potential butchers to take and
WHEREAS, we will soon have a very limited number of qualified butchers to cut our product in Ontario,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO create a bursary to help cover the cost of going to a meat training institution.

22-02 Butchery as a Skilled Trade

WHEREAS, butchery is not recognized as a skilled trade in Ontario, and
WHEREAS, there is a need for more trained butchers,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby the province to have butchery included in the list of skilled trades as defined by Skilled Trades Ontario.

22-03 Abattoir Funding Assistance and Apprenticeship Program

WHEREAS, staffing levels continue to hinder operating capacity, expansion and access to abattoir facilities for Farmers throughout Ontario.
WHEREAS, small scale beef producers are losing a valuable income source as they are not able to meet the demands of their consumers during large scale “shop local” and “farm to table” movements.
WHEREAS, apprenticeship training is a big cost expenditure for small facilities and in some cases prevents them from taking on able bodied individuals who have a genuine interest in the trade.
WHEREAS, current data reports that Ontario has 115 provincially licensed abattoirs with only 87 of them processing beef for the more than 19,000 reported beef farmers in Ontario.
WHEREAS, various pieces of previous provincial legislation would have put enough financial pressure on well-functioning, small abattoirs, without funding assistance opportunities to help bridge the cost of compliance, many of them went out of business.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO, Canadian Cattlemen’s Association, Ontario Federation of Agriculture and The Christian Farmers Association work together to lobby the Ontario Government to provide large scale cost share funding and incentive programs to small and medium scale abattoir facilities who are actively looking to increase staffing levels through apprenticeship training programs. As well as funding initiatives for facilities who are looking to meet or expand capacity limits if their staffing needs can be adequately met.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work alongside the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities in order to promote apprenticeship programs and career opportunities in the abattoir industry.





Resolution 22-04

April 25th, 2022

Joe Wilson
President
Ottawa County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Joe,

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 U.S. government announced 1 billion to support the expansion of small to medium packing facilities

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby our governments to support the same, to help our industry if there was more competition.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank Ottawa Beef Farmers' Association for bringing this resolution forward, as the BFO Directors know the impact limited processing availability has on grassroots producers.

Within the last year, the provincial government has invested \$7 million directly into the meat processing sector and \$25 million into the food processing sector, which meat processing companies are eligible to access.

The \$7 million was announced in November 2021 under the *Meat Processors Capacity Improvement Initiative* title. This program allowed any eligible project to receive 60 per cent cost-share funding, up to a maximum of \$150,000 per business. All eligible projects must have had their equipment delivered and claims submitted by March 1st, 2022 and the equipment needs to be installed by June 30th, 2022. A similar program was released in December of 2020, which invested \$4 million into the meat processing sector.

In March of 2022, the provincial government launched the *Strategic Agri-Food Processing Fund*, which plans to invest \$25 million into the Ontario food processing sector over the next three years. Though this program is not exclusive to the meat processing sector, meat processors will still be eligible for funding through this program. Unlike the *Meat Processors Capacity Improvement Initiative*, the program is broken down into two different project categories; Major Expansion and Modernization. The Major Expansion section has a cost-share of 20 per cent government and 80 per cent business up to a maximum of \$3 million invested by the province. The recommended size for this project is over \$5 million. The Modernization section has a cost-share of 15 per cent government and 85 per cent business up to a maximum of \$500,000 invested by the province. The recommended size for this project stream is \$2 million. While the government has outlined recommended project size, that is not the only



consideration that will be reviewed on the applications. Other criteria include impact within the sector, benefits to the region, increasing capacity, market expansion, and the project's location (i.e., rural or northern). If the project is in northern Ontario, rural Ontario, or an Indigenous person owns the business, the project could be eligible for an additional five per cent increase in the government's share.

It should be noted that BFO has raised these concerns at both the federal and provincial levels of government. During the last session of parliament, BFO was able to present in front of the Federal Agriculture Committee on the current state of beef processing in the province. As a result, the Federal Agriculture Committee created a report titled *ROOM TO GROW: STRENGTHENING FOOD PROCESSING CAPACITY IN CANADA FOR FOOD SECURITY AND EXPORTS*. Included in the report were 18 recommendations on ways the federal government can work on strengthening and securing the food supply chain. Some important points from the report with respect to the beef industry include:

- The Committee recommends the Government of Canada revise the slaughtering regulations related to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), including those respecting specified risk material, so they do not weaken the competitiveness of the Canadian beef industry.
- The Committee recommends the Government of Canada, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, seeks further harmony between federal and provincial processing standards, so as to reduce barriers to inter-provincial and international trade, and encourage innovation through a focus on outcomes rather than prescriptive measures. Furthermore, the Committee recommends the federal government make available supports for those processors specifically seeking compliance with international trading standards, where these standards place a significant additional burden beyond provincial measures.
- The Committee recommends the Government of Canada evaluate the results of the Agri-Food Pilot program and consider increasing access to it in order to address labour shortages in the agri-food sector.

The full report can be found at the link below:

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-2/AGRI/report-4/>

BFO recognizes these programs are not enough and that they lack substance for the small- and medium-scale processors who cannot afford large-scale infrastructure projects due to either capital constraints or lack of labour to utilize the infrastructure improvements effectively. That is why BFO continues to seek out other solutions regarding the lack of processing capacity in Ontario such as working with our federal counterparts to open up trade access with South Korea through U.S. plants, which should provide another option to Ontario beef farmers. These talks were only made possible through the downgrading of Canada's BSE Risk Status with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) to its lowest level, which should make it easier to remove the BSE clauses in our trade agreement with South Korea. Another regulatory change BFO is working with CCA on is the harmonization of SRM regulations with the U.S. These regulations are burdensome and cause Canadian processors to be less competitive and reduce their ability to expand compared to their American counterparts.

BFO understands the concern around the limited processing capacity in Ontario and recognizes the impact on all levels of the beef industry. Increasing the processing capacity continues to be one of our highest government relations priorities, both federally and provincially. BFO has included this in our Next Policy Framework for agriculture consultation document, and is a key priority included in our



Provincial Election Toolkit, which can be shared with all parties and their candidates during the election campaign.

Again, thank you for taking the time to submit this resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Chaffe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Reg Campbell (Advisory Councilor)
Dave Perry (Mover)
John Lunn (Seconder)
Dwight Foster (Producer)





Resolution 22-05

December 19, 2022

Bill Herron
President
Grey County Beef Farmers Association

Dear Bill,

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

WHEREAS, there are not enough processing facilities that will take compromised cattle in a timely manner.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO investigate or identify additional options for processing compromised cattle.

The BFO Board of Directors agrees there is not enough emergency slaughter (ES) capacity in the province, with only 20 of the provincial abattoirs accepting emergency slaughter animals. There are also very few operations that will transport compromised or emergency slaughter animals from a producer's farm to an abattoir, severely limiting the effectiveness of the emergency slaughter option.

Attached is a letter BFO sent to OMAFRA's Food Inspection Safety Branch, which is responsible for the Provincial Meat Inspection and emergency slaughter provisions. BFO outlines how limited capacity affects the salvageability of the animals and in a worst-case scenario for producers, they assume a significant financial loss. BFO also addresses the importance of food security in a time of high food cost inflation as one animal can feed a significant amount of people.

Below are the recommendations BFO outlined to OMAFRA:

- A review of the compromised cattle and emergency slaughter regulations to ensure they better align with the new CFIA regulations, so producers with unfit animals for transport have more options to deal with those cattle.
- Cost-Share Funding Program that would expand current emergency slaughter capacity through:
 - Supporting current abattoirs to obtain facilities to accept ES animals.
 - Development of more services that can transport ES cattle from the farm to the abattoir.



- Support to establish non-inspected mobile abattoirs to boost overall ES capacity within Ontario.

If there is any further development on this issue, BFO will be sure to pass on any information to our producers.

Thank you for taking the time to submit your resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Chaffe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Jack Chaffe
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Darrell Saunders (Advisory Councillor)





October 24, 2022

Tanya Weber-Kinch,
Director, Food Safety Inspection Branch OMAFRA
Ontario Government Bldg 5th Flr NW, 1 Stone Rd W,
Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2

Dear Tanya,

Re: Compromised and Emergency Slaughter Shortages in Ontario

On behalf of the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO), we write to you regarding the lack of sufficient emergency slaughter services for compromised cattle in Ontario. BFO regularly receives complaints from members regarding emergency slaughter service availability and cost, a long-standing issue that has also resulted in several member-initiated resolutions that have been supported by the majority of BFO delegates at the BFO AGM.

Although approximately 20 abattoirs in the province provide emergency slaughter services for cattle, the current shortage of processing space in the province, particularly at provincially inspected plants, combined with recent changes to the humane transport regulations with respect to compromised animals have further exasperated this issue. The number and availability of service providers to transport compromised animals is also an issue limiting access to this service. All of these factors continue to result in wasted meat products from animals otherwise fit for human consumption, creating significant financial losses for producers, and lost market opportunity for sellers of meat.

Producers that are unable to access emergency slaughter services at an abattoir are forced to either euthanize the animal for deadstock, or harvest the animal on-farm for personal consumption.

Based on the current average carcass weight in Ontario, the amount of meat that comes from a carcass and the average meat consumption of Canadians, each animal wasted could feed up to 16.38 people for an entire year. Animals requiring emergency slaughter tend towards being at their finish weight, which equates to current values in the range of \$2,500 to \$2,900.

BFO would like to work with the province on potential solutions that may help address these concerns, and make emergency slaughter services more affordable and accessible to producers. We believe this is an issue that has persisted for too long without a sufficient industry-government strategy.

Some options for consideration could include:

- A review of the compromised cattle and emergency slaughter regulations to ensure that they align with CFIA regulations.



- Investigate alternative harvest options for animals unfit for transport but otherwise fit for human consumption, informed by a jurisdictional scan and best practice research.
- Program funding that would help expand emergency slaughter capacity through:
 - support for existing abattoirs to modernize facilities and/or staffing to support emergency slaughter services.
 - investigate and/or support transport services for emergency slaughter cattle from farm to abattoir.
 - reduce operator fees with respect to emergency slaughter inspection costs.
 - investigate and provide financial support for the establishment of mobile abattoirs, be that publicly or privately run, or a form of P3 partnership.

The formation of an industry-government working group could also provide a valuable forum to house these discussions.

We thank you for reviewing our concerns and options for consideration. We would be pleased to meet with you to discuss these issues in further detail.

Sincerely,

Thomas Brandstetter
Manager of Policy and Issues

cc: Emily MacDonald, Meat Inspection Program Planner
Tim Metzger, Regional Manager, Meat Inspection, East Region
Nick Van Lankveld, Regional Manager, Meat Inspection, West Region
Goce Manevski, Regional Manager, Meat Inspection, Central/North Region
Franco Nacarrato, Executive Director, Meat and Poultry Ontario





Resolution 22-06

September 30, 2022

Mike Jeffray
President
Bruce County Beef Farmers

Dear Mike,

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 Ontario Feeder Finance Co-ops require an identifying ear notch along with a numbered tag.

WHEREAS, the notching causes unneeded pain and suffering with this process.

WHEREAS, there is no inspection when moving and identifying cattle in Ontario.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the requirement for notching be dropped for the Ontario Feeder Finance Co-op for humanitarian and animal welfare reasons.

On behalf of the Feeder Co-ops, the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) has been working with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) to make improvements to the Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program (OFCLGP), which has included discussions regarding identification requirements of co-op cattle. Members and industry partners have, for some time, discussed the efficacy of maintaining ear notching as a practice to identify co-op cattle.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank Bruce County Beef Farmers for bringing this resolution forward, a resolution which the BFO Board of Directors supports. This issue was discussed by the Provincial Feeder Finance Council at their March 2022 meeting where general support was shown toward the idea of allowing interested co-ops to discuss a revised cattle identification protocol with the lenders to better support positive animal welfare outcomes. Modernized animal identification could include the use of RFID and/or co-op dangle tags depending on what protocols are put in place and deemed acceptable by all parties.

Discussions with OMAFRA on this issue confirm flexibility exists to adjust cattle identification requirements provided “the cattle are identified as the Co-operative and the Lender previously agree upon”, which is stated within the OFCLGP Order-in-Council and Program Guidelines.



A letter was sent on behalf of BFO and the Provincial Feeder Finance Council to the Feeder Co-ops encouraging them to initiate discussions with their respective lenders on identification requirements and protocols moving forward. We will follow up with the Feeder Co-ops in the fall to see what they have negotiated with the lenders with respect to an acceptable identification method.

Again, thank you for taking the time to submit this resolution.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Ken Schaus (Mover)
Ron Stevenson (Seconder)
Steve Thede (Advisory Councillor)





Resolution 22-07

May 30, 2022

Dave Campbell
President, Lanark County Beef Farmers

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, Wild Parsnip is designated as a noxious weed that is harmful to humans and livestock, and outcompetes native plant species; and

WHEREAS, the Province and municipalities put in place protocols that supported spray and cutting programs along highways, Municipal roads, and ditches to reduce the effects of Wild Parsnip on landowners and the public at large; and

WHEREAS, recently the Province and many municipalities have discontinued these programs and have resulted in a significant increase of the Wild Parsnip population in these areas, which have spread into farmland and private properties; and

WHEREAS, appointed Weed Inspectors are not fully utilizing their authority under the Weed Control Act to facilitate the control of Wild Parsnip,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby the Ontario Government, Regional Warden's Councils, ROMA, and other groups to take a more proactive approach with their protocols to control wild parsnip and other noxious weeds on public lands, and along Provincial and Municipal roadsides and ditches, and **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** encourage appointed weed inspectors to facilitate the control of Wild Parsnip and other noxious weeds along Provincial and Municipal roadways, and on private properties.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank the Lanark County Beef Farmers for bringing this resolution forward. BFO very much understands the concerns and issues with noxious weeds and the harmful impact they can have on livestock, humans and crops. We have discussed the above resolution with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) who have been working to better understand the process for controlling noxious weeds and how to best address this issue.

OFA has had discussions with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Weed Management Specialist and the Chief Weed Inspector under the *Weed Control Act* to discuss the above resolution and the issue more generally. OMAFRA has been in contact with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to discuss the control of weeds, in particular, wild parsnip in the Lanark area. MTO sought guidance from OMAFRA on the best approach to manage wild parsnip on provincial roadways and offered areas along the Highway 401 near Cornwall and Highway 7 in Lanark County for OMAFRA to demonstrate different approaches to manage wild parsnip. OMAFRA has also approached Lanark County to request if similar demonstrations can be conducted in Lanark and is also examining the potential for



herbicide application by drone in areas that are more difficult to access. OFA continues to have discussions with OMAFRA.

On the Lanark County website, the County recognizes the issues caused by wild parsnip and outlines its process for controlling wild parsnip. The County's website states its process for controlling wild parsnip in areas identified during its wild parsnip inventory, and that it does not spray roadside ditches maintained by property owners. If you feel that your agricultural or horticultural land is being negatively impacted by wild parsnip or other noxious weeds, OMAFRA advises land owners to contact their County or local municipality for information.

It is also important to note under the *Weed Control Act* it is the shared responsibility of municipalities and private landowners to destroy noxious weeds. Section 2 of the *Act* states, "*every person in possession of land shall destroy all noxious weeds on it.*" Landowners are responsible for destroying noxious weeds on their property and municipalities have the responsibility of controlling it on publicly owned lands. Although, the *Act* does not require a municipality or property owner to destroy noxious weeds if they are far enough away from any land used for agricultural or horticultural purposes and do not interfere with the use of such land.

BFO will continue to stay in contact with OFA on their efforts to work with the province and municipal governments to better manage wild parsnip.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Ivor Thurston (seconder)





Resolution 22-08

January 4, 2023

Bill Herron
President
Grey County Beef Farmers Association

Dear Bill,

The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Annual General Meeting in February:

WHEREAS, beef producers have concerns about the lack of fair and consistent criteria being used for inspecting general and physical condition of cattle at auction barns.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with government agencies to determine or develop a consistent or standardized enforcement process for inspections of cattle at auction facilities.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank the Grey County Beef Farmers Association for bringing this resolution forward. BFO very much understands the concerns and questions that often arise in response to inspection decisions at auctions and at other regulated sites. Ensuring consistent inspection practices is an issue BFO regularly raises in our discussions with Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

The CFIA has the mandate to mitigate risks to food safety and protect the health and safety of Canadians by following several regulations including *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* and *Health of Animals Regulations* (Part XII: Humane Transportation) in an effort to provide a mix of outcome and prescriptive-based approaches. The regulations, in many cases, specify the outcome regulated parties must meet without prescribing the way it should be achieved. According to the CFIA, prescriptive requirements are used for situations that have a greater risk factor, such as animal slaughter.

Inspections at auction facilities are done by facility staff receiving animals, by CFIA- and OMAFRA-appointed inspectors and veterinarians contracted by the ministry. The roles and responsibilities of each differ. Inspectors will use a combination of onsite inspection and evaluation techniques for assessing compliance and determining the impact of non-compliance.

Facility staff are responsible to identify abnormal livestock and segregate them for veterinary examination. Segregated livestock are examined by veterinarians contracted by the ministry who then make a decision/disposition on the animal. Their decisions/dispositions are based on their examination findings and the *Ministry's Guide to the Uniform Disposition of Compromised Livestock* ('Disposition Guide'). The veterinarian's decision/disposition may include the animal being sold through the ring, or ordered returned to consignor, treated, sent direct to slaughter or euthanized. OMAFRA staff monitor facility staff's segregation, and monitor, assist and support ministry contracted veterinarians. OMAFRA staff may also, in



rare situations, forward fallen animal cases for enforcement action. The Livestock Community Sales Act (LCSA) Coordinator monitors OMAFRA staff and veterinarians for program consistency and dispositions.

Training of facility staff includes a short in-class portion followed by on-the-job observation and monitoring. Contracted veterinarians receive a day of in-class training delivered by an OMAFRA veterinarian and/or the LCSA Coordinator primarily around application of the legislation, *Disposition Guide*, decisions/dispositions they can make and their documentation. This is followed by at least one day of practical training at a high-volume facility and up to three days at their assigned facility partnered with the LCSA Coordinator and/or experienced inspector. The program holds group update sessions for contract veterinarians at least every two years and “mini” update sessions more frequently. OMAFRA staff receive in-class training as well, but their practical training is initially weeks at high volume facilities and subsequent weeks at their assigned facilities with experienced inspectors depending on their previous experience and knowledge. Internal policies document these standardized training processes and, additionally, prerequisites have been established for contracted veterinarians including their license is in good standing in Ontario and target large/food animal veterinarians.

CFIA inspectors follow the *Standard Inspection Procedure (SIP)*. This procedure applies a consistent method of inspection. Verification activities can include making visual observations, evaluating documentation, interviewing personnel, sampling, measuring, testing, and commodity inspection. The SIP provides inspectors with the flexibility to adapt to different situations that may arise during an inspection. In addition to the SIP, there are also procedure documents in place to cover standard permissions and standard regulatory responses. CFIA has created comprehensive guidance documents for inspectors, which may be publicly accessed online. Specifically, *Operations Guidance* provides information on how inspectors perform their inspection activities and must be used in conjunction with *Industry Guidance* that provides information on how industry can comply with the regulations. CFIA inspectors will consult with the on-site veterinarian but CFIA inspectors are the ones who make the final decision whether an animal is safe to transport.

Despite having standardized training processes and inspection procedures in place, with inspections at auction facilities being completed by facility staff, CFIA- and OMAFRA-appointed inspectors and contracted veterinarians, this can result in some inconsistencies from time to time when it comes to criteria being used for inspecting cattle at auction barns. If there are specific instances you are aware of, I would encourage you to contact the BFO office with particulars so BFO can work with government to find a resolution, if possible, or to obtain more information on how and why the decision was reached. Reporting specific instances with as much detail as possible allows BFO to more effectively represent producer concerns with regulators who oversee inspections in Ontario.

Thank you again for taking the time to submit your resolution.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Darrell Saunders (Advisory Councillor)
Garry Smart (Mover)
Dean Cober (Secunder)
Larry Witzel (OLAMA)





Resolution 22-09

December 21, 2022

Katherine Giffen President
Simcoe County Beef Farmers

Dear Katherine,

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

WHEREAS, it has been brought to the attention of SCBF members that there have been producers who are having difficulty navigating the inspection processes and in dealing with what was referred to as "over-zealous inspectors";

WHEREAS, the inconsistency that seems to be present in dealing with different inspectors in different locations. Discussion resulted in the following resolution being put forth.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO designate an advocate to help beef producers navigate the government inspection process and how to best deal with provincial and federal inspectors and regulations.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank the Simcoe County Beef Farmers Association (SCBF) for bringing this resolution forward. BFO very much understands the concerns and frustration that often emerge in response to inspection decisions at auctions, abattoirs, and other regulated sites. Ensuring consistent inspection practices is an issue BFO regularly raises in our discussions with Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), and other regulators such as Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS).

Regulations that guide inspection and enforcement practices, in most cases, specify the outcome regulated parties must meet without prescribing the way it should be achieved. Even for more prescriptive regulations and guidelines, inspectors and other enforcement agents are often provided discretion in exercising their authorities based on their best judgment and assessment of the situation. BFO fully recognizes that outcomes of this process may not always align with producer or industry views, and sometime mistakes and errors in judgment are made.



In instances where inspection inconsistency is observed or where producers believe an error in judgement has been made, BFO strongly recommends these observations be reported directly to the BFO policy team, members of the Board, and/or to CFIA, OMAFRA or the enforcement agency in question. At a minimum, BFO endeavors to support members wherever possible to obtain additional information on inspection decisions, provide guidance on appeals and complaint response, and suggest regulatory or other policy changes in response to specific incidences that have been observed by members and other industry partners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack Chaffe".

Jack Chaffe
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Jim Whitley (Advisory Councillor)
Scott Oster (Secorder)





Resolution 22-10

December 21, 2022

Blair Williamson
President, Lambton County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Blair,

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 construction of a new manure storage and facilities to house livestock for operations greater than 5 nutrient units requires the provincial approval of a Nutrient Management Strategy under the Nutrient Management Act.

WHEREAS, livestock operations in Ontario are diverse in size and complexity of operations.

WHEREAS, some smaller livestock construction projects have little regulatory restrictions in regards to such things as engineering, runoff control, and land application standards.

WHEREAS, the cost for an approved strategy done by a certified nutrient management developer is usually the same regardless of the size and complexity of a livestock operation which can be particularly burdensome for smaller operations which don't have the economies of scale to account for this cost

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with other Ontario livestock organizations and OMAFRA to develop possible amendments to the Nutrient Management Act that would simplify and streamline the approval process that identifies lower environmental risk production units to reduce the cost for smaller livestock operations.

We thank the Lambton County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution and concept forward to BFO. BFO continues to advocate for changes to the *Nutrient Management Act* that would modernize and streamline aspects of the *Act* while ensuring the *Act* still protects the environment.

In relation to the above resolution, BFO was made aware of the nutrient management protocol under the *Nutrient Management Act* regulation 267/03 for short form nutrient management strategies. The short form strategy was ultimately revoked from the *Nutrient Management Act* in 2019. It was created for agricultural operations that generated less than 150 nutrient units (NU) and did not apply liquid manure or non-agricultural source material. The short form strategy allowed operations that fit the criteria to complete a yes or no checklist. If the operation answered "yes" to each question, then the short form strategy could become the nutrient management strategy (NMS) for the operation. If the



operation answered “no” to any questions, the farmer would be required to prepare and complete a standard NMS.

BFO staff organized a meeting with staff from Ontario Sheep Farmers and with the Nutrient Management Specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) to discuss the above resolution and to get more background on the revoked short form NMS. Subsequently, BFO staff also discussed the resolution and short form strategy with OMAFRA’s Environmental Specialist.

It was communicated with BFO the short form strategy was only able to be used between 2003-2005 and was likely revoked from the Act as a housekeeping measure when the changes were made to remove the five-year cessation trigger from NMS. Further, it was noted by OMAFRA staff the original short form strategy was not perfect and the language was overly technical.

OMAFRA staff highlighted there is a “Streamlined Review Process” for NMS, which shares similarities to the short form strategy, but NMS submitted through the Streamlined Review Process still require approval from OMAFRA. This review process is meant to simplify the approval process for NMS that meet set criteria and it can be used for smaller operations which generate 100 NU or less. The streamlined review process requires a checklist be completed and all criteria be met in order for it to be approved by OMAFRA. Submissions that do not meet the requirements for the streamlined process would need to be reviewed through the standard review process.

BFO will continue to discuss this matter with OMAFRA and potential changes that can be made to simplify the approval process for smaller livestock operations who require or are looking to complete a NMS, and we will continue to work with other livestock industry organizations to see changes made to modernize and streamline the NMA. We appreciate all feedback and discussion from our members on the NMA and suggestions on how it can be improved.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Murray Shaw (mover)
Tom Wilson (second)





Resolutions 22-11 and 22-12

November 9, 2022

Dale Mountjoy
President, Beef Farmers of Durham Region

Kevin Krakar
President, Norfolk County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Dale and Kevin,

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

WHEREAS, Independent dead stock removal companies are disappearing from the business for various reasons; and

WHEREAS, dead stock by their very nature are a serious bio-security issue both on the farm and during transportation; and

WHEREAS, in the wrong context publicly, dead stock could become a serious public relations issue;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BEEF FARMERS OF ONTARIO CONSIDER: Aggressively pursuing, along with other affected sectors and any University or Government Ministry necessary, a viable logistical and financial solution to this issue.

And

WHEREAS, deadstock removal and usage has become less available and whereas when it is available it is more costly,

WHEREAS, there seems to be limited market for the stock removed and whereas if there were profitable markets for this product it would become an industry which would attract more to take care of the deadstock removal

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BFO work with industry and, academia to develop profitable products that could be sold (e.g., fertilizers) to strengthen the deadstock/rendering sector.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank the Beef Farmers of Durham Region and Norfolk County Cattlemen's Association for bringing these resolutions forward.



In early August 2021, it was brought to the attention of BFO and Ontario's livestock organizations that a number of our members were being impacted by a loss of deadstock collection services across a number of regions in the province. The reduction in critical services was a result of a couple of licensed deadstock operators reducing their service area radius or eliminating services altogether. BFO staff engaged both levels of government regarding the issue and created an industry working group with Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Dairy Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Pork and Ontario Sheep to assess alternative options for affected producers.

On November 19, 2021, the *Increasing Deadstock Capacity Initiative* was announced under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership to support livestock producers, waste management facilities, municipalities and other agri-businesses such as livestock auction barns, assembly yards, deadstock transporters, collectors, renderers, and veterinary clinics in increasing capacity for deadstock management. To reflect demand, the initial budget of \$700,000 was increased to \$1.5 million. It resulted in 16 new licences being issued to deadstock collectors and transfer station facilities. While this initiative (50 per cent cost-share rate, up to a maximum of \$25,000 per applicant) was a step in the right direction, more needed to be done to ensure producers have access to resources and services to handle the disposal or collection of deadstock quickly and efficiently.

On December 30, 2021 a letter was sent from Ontario's livestock organizations to OMAFRA Minister Lisa Thompson to thank her for her timely support and attention to the issue while also requesting the ministry take additional steps to address the situation facing producers. BFO began discussions with ministry staff from the Animal Health and Welfare Branch about a Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) for industry to investigate possible solutions. Unfortunately, when the provincial election was called this resulted in a delay until the new government was formed.

On September 29, 2022 the Livestock Research Innovation Corporation (LRIC) entered into a TPA on behalf Ontario's livestock organizations with OMAFRA. The purpose of the TPA is to engage stakeholders to assess the current issues and work with BFO, livestock organizations and stakeholders to develop a long-term solution to the deadstock issue in Ontario. Key objectives of the project include:

- Assess and document the issue of hides as a related organic resource.
- Identify opportunities and barriers for new entrants and existing pick-up service providers and renderers to allow for expansion and growth of their business.
- Conduct and complete a global jurisdictional scan of deadstock best management practices and program technologies to assess on-farm management, pick-up and disposal systems that could be applied in Ontario.
- Conduct market analysis of end product use/sale and the opportunities and barriers that exist to develop end-markets for by-products of deadstock management systems.
- Investigate the potential to utilize the St. Albert, Ontario transfer station and other potential providers as an interim measure to handle Ontario's deadstock disposal needs.
- Consult with waste management companies, municipalities and landfill sites to determine and document possible deadstock pick-up and disposal options at their facilities.

When opportunities to engage producers for their thoughts and perspectives on the issue are presented, we will be sure to reach out through our normal channels to solicit feedback. A report will be prepared and presented with the findings of the project to various stakeholders including BFO and the other livestock organizations. We will share the report with you and the other districts/counties.



Again, thank you for taking the time to submit these resolutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Chaffe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Florian Wassenaar (Advisory Councillor)
Arthur Schickedanz (Mover)
Stan Found (Secunder)
Robert Peacock (Advisory Councillor)
Percy McNabb (Mover)
Anissa Krakar (Secunder)





Resolution 22-13

January 23, 2023

Mike Jeffray
President
Bruce County Beef Farmers

Dear Mike,

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

WHEREAS, commodity beef requires no added claims and is sold as presented to the consumer.
WHEREAS, beef has become labelled with many names such as grass-fed, organic, hormone free, humanely raised and more.
WHEREAS, if beef has added claims, it should be transparent and honestly presented at purchase.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby the government to put in place an audit process for label and marketing claims made on beef sold in Ontario.

On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, thank you for submitting your resolution regarding marketing claims used on beef product labelling. We would also like to extend our apologies for the delay in responding to this resolution. BFO had hoped that some of our discussions over the last year with the Canadian Cattle Association (CCA), and with regulators such as the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), would materialize and provide a more optimistic outlook on the potential to address these concerns but sadly, the status-quo system of complaint-based enforcement appears to be the approach that will be taken by federal regulators at this time.

It must be stated that BFO fully agrees with the call to government laid out in your resolution, and supports the concerns regarding unchecked marketing claims. This year, BFO staff and directors raised your concerns with the CCA Food Policy Committee. BFO also made a direct request to the CFIA to investigate ways to improve the integrity of beef product labels in Canada. CCA has also had conversations with the agency on this topic in recent years.

In our discussions with CFIA, officials encouraged industry groups and farmers to utilize CFIA's complaint-based model to report any instances of misleading labelling occurring at retail. While this approach does not address the concerns related to unsupported marketing claims, it is an approach that CCA has taken, and BFO endorses, in the absence of a more robust proactive enforcement system.

Although we have no positive news to report on this file, we are committed to the development and support of Ontario beef brands supported by assurance structures that validate any and all marketing claims as part of our Ontario Beef Market Development Program (OBMD) that operates in partnership with the Ontario Cattle Feeders' Association. One of the tenets of the OBMD program is to ensure brand integrity and trust from consumers in the Ontario products marketed and supported under this



program. While we can influence and, in some respects, help control marketing integrity for the brands we support, it becomes a much more challenging issue to address with competitor brands and other commodity beef products, be that domestically produced or imported.

Moving forward, BFO will continue to work on this issue with CCA, Canada Beef, and other groups that may support our call for improvements, such as the Retail Council of Canada. While that work continues, we do encourage all members to report misleading or fraudulent marketing claims on beef products in stores and other retail environments to the CFIA, or to BFO or CCA directors or staff for follow up with federal regulators.

Thank you for taking to the time to submit a resolution to BFO on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Ken Schaus (Mover)
Steve Thede (Advisory Councillor)





Resolution 22-14

December 19, 2022

Eric Johnson
President
Elgin Beef Farmers

Dear Eric,

The following resolution was passed at the 2022 Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Annual General Meeting in February:

WHEREAS, the beef industry is becoming more complex for consumers to navigate possible misleading or contradictory advertising (i.e., grass fed, grass finished, forage fed, grain fed, grain finished, corn fed). Further, consumers are relying heavily on a limited understanding of these feeding methods rather than understanding all beef is produced sustainably with benefits for all.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO CONSIDER an educational non-biased pamphlet and/or hard copy poster or digital graphic that butcher shops, freezer beef retailers, farm fresh/farm gate stores owners/suppliers, restaurants/chefs, can hand out to consumers to educate them on what Ontario cattle eat (e.g. grass, alfalfa, silage, haylage, corn, ration mix, distillers grains etc.) not only so that consumers better understand, but also so the consumers can more easily repeat the information and promote the consumption of Ontario beef.

Clear and concise promotion of Ontario beef and beef production practices is one of the core mandates of BFO and industry partners like Canada Beef, Canadian Cattle Association (CCA), and Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC).

To make efficient use of time and resources, BFO utilizes materials produced by our partner organizations, such as Canada Beef, who maintain a large assortment of fact sheets and other resources that address common questions from consumers. Understanding Grass-Fed and Grain-Fed Beef, Understanding the Difference In Organic and Other Beef, and Understanding Antibiotics and Beef Cattle are a few examples. BFO also maintains an active supply of the “Wondering about what beef cattle eat?” resource, which we make available at producer and consumer events, and by request from the office.

The BFO consumer engagement website www.ontbeef.ca is also an excellent resource for retailers. It contains the same information found on many of the physical copies of our promotional and infographic material. Another asset found on the Ontario Beef website is a collection of videos addressing common



questions consumers have surrounding topics such as animal welfare, environmental sustainability, and what beef cattle eat. The website also includes other information, such as decoding beef labels to assist consumers in breaking down how the Canadian grading scale works, inspection labels, and the difference between Made in Canada and Product of Canada, as well as showcasing the Canadian Beef logo. The website provides practical information such as how to select cuts and cook beef, basic nutritional information, recipes, and links to our active social media channels. This ensures the Ontario Beef website is a one-stop shop for all our consumers' needs.

In addition, BFO distributes point of sale materials to butcher shops, farmers markets and other retailers who respond with interest to our direct outreach, as well as those who make direct requests for materials. These materials are free of charge and both provide information and encourage shoppers to ask for Ontario beef. Producers, consumers, and retail partners interested in having resources sent to them directly can call the BFO office and we would happily assist with sourcing and distribution. Further, if the current library of resources available does not address a certain topic or specific audience, we would be pleased to assist in helping to tailor or create new resources to address the desired need. We are always open to ideas for useful resources that help tell the Ontario beef story from farm to plate.

BFO appreciates and thanks Elgin Beef Farmers for taking the time to submit your resolution.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Nolan McClarty (Mover)
Dave Campbell (Seconder)





Resolution 22-15

November 29, 2022

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:

WHEREAS, plant-based protein companies are making an extraordinary effort to displace the market share of beef and brainwash consumers into believing that livestock are a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

WHEREAS, plant-based protein companies are using meat and beef terminology such as "burger", "beef", "roast", "steak" and "patty" and meat grading scales, labeling their products as AAA-grade in an effort to make consumers believe their products are similar to 100% meat products.

WHEREAS, plant-based protein companies are utilizing loopholes in food labeling legislation to market their products and potentially confused consumers at a retail level.

WHEREAS, plant-based protein has been allowed to be placed in meat counters and meat departments of grocery stores, thus creating further confusion for retail level consumers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work alongside CCA, OFA, Christian Farmers of Ontario, National Farmers Union, Ontario Pork and Chicken Farmers of Ontario to put pressure on the CFIA to create clear legislation that will separate meat and beef terminology from that of plant-based protein in order to preserve the Ontario Meat Market and protect retail level consumers from misguided information.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO and the CCA continue to study and release up to date data on the low impact that raising livestock has on greenhouse gas emissions and negative climate change effects in order to educate the public on the important role that livestock plays in the world.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO and the Ontario Government work with the CFIA in order to mandate that animal carcass and meat grading scales be used for meat only, will help create clear lines between what real meat offers versus what plant-based protein is claiming to offer.

Thank you for taking the time to develop and submit your resolution. BFO agrees the use of traditional meat terms by plant-based protein products, such as "burger" and "patty," is of serious concern to our sector. The use of these terms on alternative protein products runs the risk of misleading consumers at the retail level.

In 2019, BFO, Canadian Cattle Association (CCA), and other meat protein groups worked in a coordinated effort during the consultation on the Simulated Meat Protein Labeling requirements that CFIA held. A collective effort was maintained between the organizations to ensure there was a unified voice in the meat protein sector when approaching the issue of simulated meat labeling. There is currently a guidance document on the CFIA website that outlines the rules simulated meat products need to follow. For example,

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

www.ontariobeef.com



any product that has the appearance of meat needs to have a statement of "Contains no meat" on the package that is no smaller than the common name of the product. Additionally, any product that wishes to call itself simulated meat needs to meet the nutrition equivalency of the traditional meat product.

One of the challenges is that CFIA utilizes a complaint-based system that relies on organizations and consumers to submit complaints on products they find that violate the current guidelines. This puts a strain on organizations as they have to establish an active monitoring system that reviews all products entering the market, which is typically not within the scope of these organizations. CCA's Food Policy department does attempt to address concerns brought forward by industry and other stakeholders or members of the public regarding specific product labels, but again, this is a reactive system not designed to proactively assess all products in market. As such, BFO encourages members to submit examples of specific product labelling concerns to the BFO office or to CCA's Food Policy team. CCA has also explored the use of legal action in particularly egregious mislabelling examples, something the national organization will continue to assess as cases emerge.

With respect to new legislation and/or regulation, BFO continues to monitor developments nationally and internationally, as BFO has seen other jurisdictions in North America pass laws limiting what simulated meat companies can call their product. BFO is closely observing how these laws will be implemented and enforced. Several jurisdictions that have taken this approach have had legal challenges brought forward, challenges that must be actively fought in court, thus dissuading other jurisdictions from taking similar approaches.

Many individuals have pointed to the French law that came into force in October 2022 as a motive for pursuing something similar in Canada. The new law bans the use of terms such as "sausage," "steak," "bacon," and "chicken" to describe plant-based foods. However, under the French law, the use of the term "burger" is exempt as it is not a reference to one specific type of meat, which allows alternative products to utilize the term. The bill also does not apply to imported products. With that said, BFO supports increased regulation and/or legislation that would better distinguish animal-based meats from alternative products, as well as creating better monitoring and penalty systems. BFO has promoted these ideas with CCA, and in direct conversations with MPs. This year, we pitched the introduction of these concepts in a potential private members bill. While the concept has support from many opposition members, it appears highly unlikely it would garner the necessary support from the government in power, and therefore would have a very slim chance of being enacted, which seems to have deterred supportive MPs from pursuing the idea.

The Canadian beef industry knows it has a vital role to play when it comes to climate change and being part of the solution. Building on the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef's National Beef Sustainability Strategy set in 2016, the beef industry established the 2030 Canadian Beef Industry Goals that BFO strongly supports, which include:

- Reducing primary production greenhouse gas emission intensity by 33 per cent by 2030.
- Safeguarding the existing 1.5 billion tonnes of carbon stored on lands managed with beef cattle.
- Sequestering an additional 3.4 million tonnes of carbon every year.

It is essential we educate the public and make elected officials aware of the best management practices and work beef producers are doing on a daily basis to achieve these goals. CCA has gone through a major rebranding process to showcase the positive environmental impact cattle have, not only in carbon sequestration via the grasslands cattle help protect, but also the positive impact on wildlife biodiversity as those same grasslands are home to over 1000 plants, animals and insects.

BFO along with CCA advocate and engage consumers as noted in the following recent highlights:

- The Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA) Roundtable with Minister of Environment and Minister of Agriculture's staffers.
- Meeting with Canada's Climate Change Ambassador ahead of COP27 and COP15.



- Following COP27, the United Nations released a document on agriculture, which included livestock management systems being recognized for their many environmental benefits.
- The Green Agricultural Plan is currently being consulted on, where methane reduction will be discussed and CCA is part of the government's advisory committee.
- CCA started an Environment and Sustainability Campaign with a goal of ensuring decision-makers are aware of the consistent work of the industry to reduce environmental impacts and the leadership taken to be part of the solution for climate change.
- BFO's research and innovation and consumer engagement strategies continue to prioritize and promote the environmental benefits of beef production and grassland stewardship.
- BFO had a booth at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair from November 4 -13, 2022 which highlighted the positive impacts of beef farming on the environment and by protecting the grasslands, Ontario beef farmers are protecting the environment. BFO received a lot of positive feedback from teachers and parents of students that visited the booth.

The issue of ensuring simulated meat products do not hold any quality grading scales reserved for traditional beef products is a high priority for BFO. Quality grading in Canada is conducted and regulated through the Canadian Beef Grading Agency (CBGA), a third-party, non-profit organization. The beef industry does have representation on the CBGA board of directors alongside packers and retailers. Their mission is to ensure an impartial assessment of carcass quality for Canadian beef, bison, and veal. However, BFO would encourage any member who comes across a simulated meat product carrying a quality grade similar to the ones that CBGA is responsible for to please report that to BFO.

BFO continues to work with all of our meat industry partners to tackle this issue. We are also aware of the next challenge facing the labeling industry as cultured/lab-based proteins start to enter the food supply and how they will be positioned against traditional meat proteins. As that issue unfolds, you can be assured that BFO and CCA will be there to represent producers' interests in how these cultured/lab-based proteins are marketed and labelled to consumers.

Thank you for taking the time to submit your resolution.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Erin Theriault (Advisory Councillor)
Paul Ferguson (Secunder)





Resolutions 22-16, 22-17 and 22-18

December 15, 2022

Dave DeNure
President, Northumberland County Cattlemen's Association

Mike Telford
President, Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Dave and Mike,

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BEEF FARMERS OF ONTARIO Engage government to ensure PAWS staff are trained and certified in the general knowledge of livestock and the safe handling and transportation of livestock and government ensure all costs associated with moving and impounding of livestock are within Ontario standards.

And

BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO Animal Advisory Council's responsibilities be reviewed and revised so that it has direct communication with county board members especially the President and the Advisory Councillor in all livestock welfare cases before the involvement of PAWS.

And

BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO unite with other livestock commodity groups to review the PAWS act for incidents where livestock is involved during enforcement.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank Northumberland County Cattlemen's Association and Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association for bringing these resolutions forward. BFO was an active and supportive partner of the province in the development of the *Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act*. The transition in enforcement responsibility to the Ministry of the Solicitor General was viewed positively, as it finally provided appropriate ministerial oversight and accountability of animal welfare enforcement practices in Ontario.

Although we had, and still maintain concerns with, elements of the *PAWS Act*, our team of Animal Care Advisors has worked cooperatively with PAWS inspection staff since the Act's inception to provide



industry perspective regarding the interpretation of accepted standards of practice involving the care and handling of beef cattle.

Despite this relatively positive working relationship that has been fostered with Animal Welfare Services (AWS) staff since PAWS was introduced, BFO maintains serious concerns with the internal decision-making process and standard operating procedures used to make decisions about whether animals should be removed from a farm or not, how that is then executed, and what happens after animals have been removed. As a result, BFO has formally requested and defended our position for a complete review of the *Act*, a request we have made directly with Premier Ford, Minister Thompson, and Minister Kerzner.

Several recent high-profile livestock removals have exposed some concerning issues the livestock and broader agricultural community would like to see addressed, in partnership with the province. In our view, the current *Act* and AWS internal processes do not sufficiently distinguish companion animals (dogs and cats) from commercial livestock when it comes to the execution of their responsibilities. This has been particularly evident in cases where a decision has been made to remove and then foster seized animals, regardless of whether the animals were deemed to be in immediate welfare distress.

In 2022, BFO prioritized the following activities in light of these issues:

- Established a multi-sector industry working group to develop recommendations to improve the *Act* and identify policy and process improvements to better align with agricultural practices without jeopardizing the welfare of animals.
- Requested as a part of BFO's election priorities and provincial lobby documents a full review of the *PAWS Act* for more appropriate response to animal welfare concerns on farms.
- Helped to facilitate a letter signed by the leaders of the major provincial livestock and agricultural organizations to the Ontario Solicitor General, Michael Kerzner, in September, requesting changes to the *PAWS Act* to better align with industry standards, improve the seizure/removal process of animals, improve training and resource deployment of mental health services, improve data collection and sharing on cases involving livestock, and enhance the training of livestock inspectors.
- At our 15th Annual Queen's Park BBQ held September 7, 2022, we met with Premier Doug Ford, OMAFRA Minister Lisa Thompson and numerous MPPs to discuss the need for a review of the *PAWS Act* to help identify policy and process improvements and next steps to strengthen the protection of farm animal welfare in Ontario. We were disappointed a commitment was not included in the recent red tape reduction bill, which included commitments to review many other legislative acts in the province, including the Veterinarians Act. In response to this, BFO will be sending a letter expressing our disappointment.
- Met with the Solicitor General's staff and the Chief Animal Welfare Inspector to discuss our recommendations to improve the *PAWS Act*, our request for on-farm inspector training, and to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BFO and the Ministry of the Solicitor General. The draft MOU is currently being reviewed by the Ministry of the Solicitor General's legal staff.
- BFO in consultation with our Animal Care Advisors recently developed an information resource titled "A PAWS INSPECTOR IS AT MY DOOR, NOW WHAT?" that provides Ontario beef farmers with recommendations should a PAWS inspector visit your farm, what an inspector is legally allowed to do during an inspection, what happens when an inspector issues an order and how to



appeal should you disagree with a compliance order or the removal of an animal. The resource also contains information regarding the Farmer Wellness Initiative which provides access to free counselling services and tailored mental health support and resources to all Ontario farmers and their families.

- Staff are in the process of developing an enhanced and more detailed list of recommended changes for elected officials on major areas of concern.

In recent meetings BFO has had with the Chief Animal Welfare Inspector, we made it known there have been instances of complaints involving beef cattle where BFO was not contacted prior to an AWS inspector visiting on-farm. The Chief Animal Welfare Inspector has given direction to AWS staff to contact BFO if a call is received involving beef cattle. Over the past number of months BFO has made a concerted effort to inform the President and Advisory Councillor from the county or district in question regarding current investigations in their region.

While we have directed staff to involve local associations, we also recognize some cases, activities, and other information related to a particular case may need to remain confidential. Despite this, we will continue to involve local associations and to request local support wherever feasible. Unfortunately, given the nature of the complaint process, it is impossible to contact the President and AC before the involvement of AWS inspectors.

BFO will be sure to keep the local associations apprised of any developments on the draft MOU with the Solicitor General's Office, and any progress on our request for a full review of the PAWS Act.

Again, thank you for taking the time to submit these resolutions.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Kirby Hakkesteegt (Advisory Councillor and 22-16 Seconder)
John Lunn (Advisory Councillor and 22-17 Seconder)
Mike Fallis (22-17 and 22-18 Mover)
Karen Paszternak (22-18 Seconder)





Resolution 22-19

December 14, 2022

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, large animal veterinarians are increasingly difficult to get,
WHEREAS, the vet relationship is vital, whereas the cost and such associated with becoming a vet is high,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with CCA and accredited Vet colleges to develop an apprenticeship type program for students interested in becoming large animal vets.

We thank the Norfolk County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. BFO recognizes access to large animal veterinary care is an issue in many parts of the province and is a growing problem in other parts. BFO board members and staff have been engaging with the provincial government and other organizations impacted by veterinary shortage concerns to discuss solutions to address this problem.

As the resolution relates to mentorship programs for veterinary students who are looking to become large animal veterinarians, we are aware of two programs currently provided by the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) to allow students to get experience on-farm. The first program is the OVC Externship Initiative, which is an eight-week placement program where students work in a large animal or mixed animal vet clinic in the summer between their third and fourth year of study. The second program is the Beef Rotation program for students aiming to work with beef cattle. This is a two-week program where students spend one week visiting various beef operations in Ontario and one week in Alberta at feedlot operations.

Increased mentorship opportunities for veterinary students looking to work as large animal veterinarians are certainly needed. BFO continues to take part in the Veterinary Medicine and Beef Farming Sector Working Group created to discuss how best to solve access to large animal veterinary care in historically and newly underserved areas of the province. In addition to BFO representatives and producers, members of the working group include representatives from the College of Veterinarians of Ontario, Ontario Veterinary College, Ontario Veterinary Medical Association, Ontario Association of



Veterinary Technicians, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners and a number of large animal veterinarians.

The working group created the appended strategy document earlier this year. It outlines multiple objectives for industry groups to achieve to improve the issue of access to veterinary care for beef producers in Ontario. This involves engaging with government around several objectives as well.

Creating further mentorship and experiential learning opportunities is also identified within the strategy document, especially for individuals seeking to work in an underserved area of Ontario. There are three overarching goals of the strategy document with relevant objectives and tactics under each. The three overarching goals are:

- 1) Building the Right Sized Veterinary Workforce
- 2) Cooperative Business Models for Delivery of Veterinary Medicine in Rural Ontario
- 3) Promote Beef Herd Health and Production Programs through Veterinary and Producer Partnerships

In a report published earlier this year by the University of Guelph and ACER Consulting titled *Examining Need, Capacity, and Barriers to Accessing Food Animal Veterinary Services in Underserved Areas of Rural Ontario*, as part of the report, veterinarians, producers, and current OVC students were interviewed. Students participated in focus groups and were asked questions related to working in large animal medicine and around working in underserved areas of Ontario. Students noted an interest in more experiential opportunities to learn more about large animal medicine and farming earlier in their studies, and for opportunities to more directly work with the farming community to get hands-on experience with farm animals.

BFO has recently connected with the OVC Food Animal Student Club, particularly, the students interested in working with beef cattle, to share information about the Ontario beef industry and to get a better understanding of how we can create opportunities to get interested students on-farm experiences. Along those lines, BFO will also be looking to engage with the recipients of the new BFO scholarships at OVC, which were created last year for students with experience working with beef cattle and who plan to study large animal medicine, to discuss similar experiential opportunities.

In addition, BFO was pleased to recently support a proposal put forward by the University of Guelph and Lakehead University that would train 20 per cent more veterinarians annually with targeted recruitment from northern and rural areas through a collaborative *DVM in Rural and Northern Community Practice Program*. We hope to see this proposal supported by the province and the College of Veterinarians of Ontario.

Furthermore, BFO was pleased to see a commitment to modernize the Veterinarians Act included in the new red tape reduction bill tabled by the province in November. Part of this commitment includes looking to include and hopefully expand the focus and scope of veterinary technicians as one way to help address capacity shortages in the province. BFO provided its support to Minister Thompson and will be engaged in the consultation process.

Lastly, as the appended document shows, there is not one solution that will address the issues around accessing large animal veterinary care in Ontario, but there are a multitude of short-term and long-term



goals that will need to be tackled to see real progress. BFO will continue to push this issue and work with our industry partners and the provincial government to improve access to large animal veterinary care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Chaffe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Robert Peacock (seconder and Advisory Councillor)



Veterinary Medicine and the Beef Farming Sector in Ontario - A Collaborative Approach to Sustainable Animal Care

Vision One – A Right-Sized Veterinary Profession

Objective	Tactics	Lead Group
<p>STO #1A – To optimize the full utilization of the veterinary team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop tools and case studies to assist veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians (RVTs) to understand and implement full skill set utilization across the veterinary team • Develop a business case for practice owners on the successful use of RVTs within the veterinary practice to support efficiency and effectiveness • Develop and introduce relevant and accessible continuing education to support RVTs in assuming roles in food animal practice 	<p>Collaboration amongst working group</p>
<p>STO #1B – To assure access to the skills of internationally educated veterinarians</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize existing licensure pathways that recognize focused scopes of practice • Develop new assessment tools that assure the competence of veterinarians wishing to practice in food animal practice only 	<p>College of Veterinarians of Ontario</p>

<p>LTO #1A – To expand domestic DVM and RVT training, with the goal of graduating more rural mixed animal veterinary professionals with a strong connection to underserved regions and an emphasis on team-based care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore feasibility and business planning for expanded DVM and RVT training in Ontario • Explore feasibility of different education and training models (i.e., increase domestic class size at Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), or a partnership program with another university, encourage additional training at Colleges for RVTs, etc.) • Develop an admission strategy that favours applicants wishing to work in underserved capacities, combined with a strong mentorship program 	<p>Ontario Veterinary College</p> <p>Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians</p>
<p>LTO #1B – to establish a system of incentives for students and graduates to train, work, and remain in underserved regions of the province</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a suite of potential incentives to support students and new graduates in making a long-term lifestyle choice for rural food animal practice • Study the pros and cons of incentive programs in other jurisdictions to assist with learnings for building an Ontario centric incentive model • Seek funding and partners which support a long-term incentive strategy 	<p>Beef Farmers of Ontario</p> <p>Ontario Veterinary College</p> <p>Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians</p> <p>Ontario Veterinary Medical Association</p>

Vision Two – Cooperative Business Models for Delivery of Veterinary Medicine in Rural Ontario

Objective	Tactics	Lead Group
<p>#2A - To maintain and expand business sustainability incentives for veterinary medicine that promote full spectrum production management services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively participate in the current review of the Veterinary Assistance Program (VAP) and advocate for a renewed program that reflects current costs • Lobby for a review of the Northern Ontario Heritage Cooperation Program, inclusive of an increase in the funding and the length of the term • Actively source and collate the spectrum of existing resources that veterinary practices of all sizes can leverage 	<p>Ontario Veterinary Medical Association</p>
<p>#2B - To create cooperative veterinary practice models that promote shared services (i.e., human resources, equipment, infrastructure, etc.) for large animals in underserved communities to ensure the sustainability of veterinary services and the access to veterinary care by producers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify veterinary practice owners interested in piloting cooperative practice models • Develop cooperative business models for large and small veterinary practices that could be piloted to demonstrate efficacy for owners and clients • Seek funding sources to support implementation and assessment of proposed cooperative business models 	<p>CVO, OVMA, OVC</p>

Vision Three – Promote Beef Herd Health and Production Programs through Veterinary and Producer Partnerships

Objective	Tactics	Lead Group
<p>#3A - To create multi-level incentives that promote quality assurance and producer education on progressive herd health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek partners to explore and identify government and non- government incentive opportunities that optimize herd health and welfare • Develop a white paper on the “why” arguments for the creation of new incentives • Seek partners and funding to support a long-term incentive strategy 	<p>Beef Farmers of Ontario</p>
<p>#3B - To create research interest in beef herd health and promote channels for knowledge transfer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Beef at Guelph as a center of excellence in production management and herd health practices for both producers and veterinarians • Create a “living” conduit where producers and the veterinary team can identify relevant questions to consider within the existing research channels • Link producers, veterinary professionals, and industry in seeking funding that supports research initiatives in production management 	<p>Beef at Guelph Beef Farmers of Ontario</p>
<p>#3C - To create and promote mentorship programs that support the herd health “family”– producer, veterinary team, on-farm team, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify existing mentorship programs in Ontario and in other jurisdictions, and their associated strengths and weaknesses, to determine an approach or approaches that will foster herd health • Seek partners to champion mentorship opportunities, inclusive of producers and veterinarians • Seek funding and partners to support program development as needed 	<p>Collaboration amongst working group</p>



Resolution 22-20

December 19, 2022

Joe Wilson
President
Ottawa Beef Farmers' Association

Dear Joe,

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

WHEREAS, the livestock manifest being signed off at local auctions and abattoirs. Many abattoirs are not familiar with and do not have a dedicated person to sign or place to safely leave these documents when unloading animals. We can't afford to lose move provincial plants and the record keeping is becoming increasingly onerous.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with CFIA, meat and Poultry Ont. and producers to provide information and assist in setting up a workable system to obtain signatures and leave copies of these documents or find a work around to eliminate the need to bother employees who are busy on the kill floor when animals are being unloaded at abattoirs.

As the Ottawa Beef Farmers' Association is aware, there have been some growing pains with respect to the Transfer of Care documentation as a result of the new Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Humane Animal Transport Regulations. BFO has been in constant communication with CFIA and Canadian Cattle Association (CCA) regarding this component of the regulations. The transfer of care document is intended to maintain a line of care responsibility for the animals from a producer's farm to the abattoir or sales barn.

When CFIA developed these regulations, they wanted to ensure flexibility so each location could build their own process to handle the transfer of care documents, as long as the transfer of care steps were followed. The BFO Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is attached to this response and there are two questions and responses specifically tailored to this resolution that BFO would like to highlight:

Question - How can I complete a transfer when dropping off at a site after hours? Will sending an electronic message (i.e., text message or email) suffice to confirm the transfer of care?

Answer - It is the responsibility of regulated parties to make sure they are following the transfer of care process. The provision of the transfer of care notice and document may be done electronically as it does not require the receiver to be present. While it is best practice for the receiver to be present and



acknowledged by the consignee, the regulation was written this way to offer flexibility in situations such as these.

Question - What if an abattoir, assembly yard or auction market refuses to accept the transfer of care?

Answer - It is the transporter's responsibility to make the receiver aware when their role stops, and the receiver's role starts for the responsibility for care of the animals. While transporters can't make receivers accept the responsibility, they can make a record of the interaction to protect themselves in the case of a dispute.

As noted in these responses, abattoirs, assembly yards and auction markets can set up their own system that works for them, however, the process needs to be followed. It is noted that the best practice is, of course, that someone is present when the livestock are unloaded to ensure the transfer of care process is followed. As the onus is on the transporter to ensure the process is followed, it is best to write down on the form any interaction that occurred if it is not a standard sign-off to justify the steps they took to ensure the best care for the animals.

It is recommended that all parties involved in the transfer of care process retain the documents for two years, however, commercial transporters must retain their copies for at least two years in case of inspection or audit by CFIA. BFO will ensure any changes to the Transfer of Care requirements or inspection interpretation practices are communicated to all producers, transporters, and abattoirs in a timely fashion.

Attached is the BFO Transfer of Care Document and the FAQ document, which can also be found at <https://www.ontariobeef.com/services/transport-information.aspx>

Thank you for taking the time to submit your resolution.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Reg Campbell (Advisory Councillor)
John Lunn (Mover)
Eleanor Renaud (Secunder)



ANIMAL TRANSPORT RECORD

LOADING THE SHIPMENT

Date of shipment:		Time of loading:	
Producer/shipper name:		PID number, if available:	
Producer/shipper address:			
Name and address of transport company:			
Driver(s) name(s):		License/registration number of trailer:	
Area – floor area available to animals (m ² or ft ²):			
Date and place trailer was last cleaned/disinfected:			
Number of animals on load:		Estimated total weight of animals on load:	
Description of animals on the load, i.e. purpose of travel, sex, type (cull cows, feeders, etc.):			
All animals have been determined to be fit for transport YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		Number of compromised animals loaded:	
Compromised animal(s) description and measures taken:			
Date and time of last access to feed, water and rest prior to loading: Date: _____ Time: _____			

IN TRANSIT

If applicable, provide the date, time/duration and place where the animals had access to feed, water and rest during transit:

Date: _____ Time/duration: _____ Location: _____

ARRIVAL AT DESTINATION

Date of arrival:		Time unloaded:	
Receiving company name:			
Receiving individual name:			
Destination address:			
Arrival: All animals arrived in good condition YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> If no, please complete the box below			
Condition of animals upon arrival, including any dead animals, and actions taken to address prior to arrival:			
Owner or Shipper Signature:	Transporter Signature:	Receiver Signature:	

The transfer of care from the transporter to the receiver occurs immediately upon acknowledgement of the shipment and the accompanying documentation by the receiver.



Resolution 22-21

May 25th, 2022

Kim Sytsma
President
Leeds 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 more and more information is being disseminated via email,
WHEREAS mailing county newsletters via Canada Post has become cost prohibitive and emailing is fast and cheap,
WHEREAS although BFO has many producers email addresses, the addresses are not files under county lists,
THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Beef Farmers of Ontario consider when BFO next opens the Beef Cattle Marketing Act, BFO asks that Email addresses be included in the information collected by Sales Barns, Abattoirs and Cattle Dealers on behalf of BFO.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank Leeds County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward.

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.

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 (BCMA), 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 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 (i.e., electronic and hard copy) and from multiple sources (i.e., 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.

BFO recognizes the fact that more and more communication is electronic in nature for a variety of reasons. We thank you for your suggestion that email addresses be included in the information collected by sales barns, abattoirs and cattle dealers on behalf of BFO. BFO has recently been in touch with staff at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) regarding a review of the BCMA. They have committed to reviewing the act following the provincial election in June. We will be certain to bring forward your suggestion for consideration during their review.

Again, thank you for taking the time to submit this resolution.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Erica Miles (Mover and Advisory Councillor)
Eleanor Renaud (Secunder)

