



2023 RESOLUTION RESPONSES

Enclosed you will find the response letters to the 2023 resolutions

- 23-01** Age Verification at Processing
- 23-02** Interest Free Portion of APP
- 23-03** Electronic Logging Device Exemption for Livestock Truckers
- 23-04** Crown Land Access for Agriculture
- 23-05** Agriculture in the Classroom
- 23-06** Production and Livestock Medicines Training
- 23-07** Property Tax Rates for Pasture in Ontario
- 23-08** Ear Tag Retention
- 23-09** Production Insurance on Double Cropping with Forages
- 23-10** County/District Dissolutions and Amalgamations
- 23-11** Butchering as a Skilled Trade
- 23-12** Veterinarian Telehealth & VTAC Model
- 23-13** Separation of Commercial Livestock in PAWS Act
- 23-14** Destruction of Prime Agricultural Land
- 23-15** Joyceville Abattoir
- 23-16** Carbon Tax Payments for Pasture Production
- 23-17** Promotion of Environmental Benefits of Beef Cattle



23-01

October 24, 2023

Mike Fallis
President, Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Mike,

The following resolution was passed at the 2023 BFO AGM:

WHEREAS, CFIA continues to enforce the 30-month rule in cattle by dental thus adding to the cost for abattoirs and farmers,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO and CCA lobby CFIA to recognize age verification in federal plants as opposed to dental verification.

BFO staff brought the issue to the attention of CFIA that there are still instances where age verification in federal plants is not being recognized. CFIA is disappointed to hear there are still issues occurring. They indicated that it is imperative that these issues are flagged when they happen so they can determine if the issue is localized to a specific inspector, office or region.

In July 2021 BFO received operational guidance on age determination for inspection staff and CFIA has noted that nothing has changed. Enclosed you will find a copy of that letter indicating the acceptable methods for age determination of an animal are as follows:

- i. date of birth proof either from CCIA or ATQ database, including the actual date on which a calf is born or the first day of the calving period which a group of calves was born and
- ii. dentition when estimated dates are provided by other methods.

Should there be an instance where age verification in federal plants is not being recognized, please contact the office as soon as possible so the issue can be flagged for CFIA to investigate.

Thank you to the Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,

Jack Chaffe
President

cc: John Lunn (Mover and Advisory Councillor)



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

174 Stone Rd. W
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 4S9

July 27, 2021

Richard Horne
Beef Farmers Ontario
130 Malcolm Rd
Guelph, ON
Canada N1K 1B1

Dear Mr. Horne,

The operational guidance on age determination for inspection staff is quite clear and provisions are outlined for situations where there is no date of birth proof or there may be reason to suspect that the date of birth is inaccurate. These situations are addressed on a case by case basis and I have outlined these for you in the information provided below.

The acceptable methods for age determination of an animal are:

- i) date of birth proof either from CCIA or ATQ database, including the actual date on which a calf is born or the first day of the calving period which a group of calves was born and
- ii) dentition when estimated dates are provided by other methods.

As part of ante mortem inspection procedures, CFIA inspectors will examine birth date documentation used by the license holder for determining the age of cattle. If the Veterinarian with supervisory authority concludes that the document is accurate and reliable, the document will be accepted as verification of the age of the cattle. However, if the Veterinarian with supervisory authority finds significant reasons for questioning the validity of the document, the cattle in question will be processed as a lot and the document will be further verified in consultation with the original issuing authority. If verified by the issuing authority, the lot is released. If the lot cannot be verified by the issuing authority, then dentition will be used for age determination.

Similarly if an animal's birth date documentation has been deemed acceptable on ante mortem inspection but at head inspection by the CFIA, a head is observed where the third permanent incisor tooth is above the gum line, the animal will be deemed an OTM and will be treated accordingly. The inspector will note the discrepancy between birth date documentation and physical appearance of the head as a deviation. If considered appropriate, an observation report will be forwarded by the Veterinarian with supervisory authority to the Area CFIA individual responsible for identification and traceability. This would flag clusters of improper age determination/identification by producers and allows

for follow-up actions on a case by case basis. Traceability National Information Portal is a resource for inspection staff for age verification.

When there is no valid birth certificate available, then cattle are considered to be aged 30 months or older (OTM) when they have more than two permanent incisor teeth erupted (that is, the first pair of permanent incisors and at least one tooth from the second pair of permanent incisors). If no birth certificate is available, age is solely determined by dentition.

The links below provide additional information regarding age determination in cattle:

<https://inspection.canada.ca/food-safety-for-industry/food-specific-requirements-and-guidance/meat-products-and-food-animals/srm/eng/1369768468665/1369768518427#a2>

<https://inspection.canada.ca/food-safety-for-industry/food-specific-requirements-and-guidance/meat-products-and-food-animals/srm/appendix-a/eng/1369853226194/1369853310363>

<https://inspection.canada.ca/inspection-and-enforcement/guidance-for-food-inspection-activities/preventive-control-inspection/srm-controls/eng/1546892551628/1546892601847>

Submission of accurate birth date information by producers is strongly supported by the CFIA. Birth date information in the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) database, or the Agri-Traçabilité Québec (ATQ) database in the case of Quebec, is a CFIA recognized equivalent to dentition for domestic meat inspection purposes, and live animal or meat exports. The availability of acceptable birth date information on a timely basis will mean that dentition assessment should not be necessary.

Best Regards,

Kevin Urbanic
Director General, Ontario Operations
Canadian Food Inspection Agency



August 22, 2023

Jasper Munro
President, Bruce County Beef Farmers

Dear Jasper,

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 Advanced Payments Program (APP) is a Federal Government program to assist agricultural producers with marketing flexibility with low interest cash advances,
WHEREAS, the Advanced Payment Program for beef cattle is available in Ontario thru the Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan program or the Agriculture Credit Corporation,
WHEREAS, the Advanced Payment Program is very valuable with the interest free portion and attractive interest rates, and
WHEREAS, in June of 2022 the interest free limit changed from \$100,000 to \$250,000 for the 2022 and 2023 program years,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT work with CCA to ensure the higher interest free limits are maintained and to work to improve and enhance the Advanced Payment Program.

On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, I would like to thank the Bruce County Beef Farmers for putting forward this resolution. The Board fully supports your request to increase the interest-free portion of the Advanced Payments Program (APP).

During the past year, BFO has put forward motions and raised this request with the Canadian Cattle Association's (CCA) Board of Directors, the CCA Officers and Executive committees, and the Domestic Agriculture, Policy and Regulations Committee. Our staff have also promoted this request with the national management group that meets monthly and includes CCA management and the provincial cattle association general managers.

In April, BFO and Ontario's CCA directors held meetings in Ottawa with Senators and Members of Parliament, including MP Francis Drouin, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. During these meetings we prioritized the APP program and our concerns regarding the interest-free portion.

We were pleased that the 2023 Canadian Federal Budget included a commitment to increase the interest-free portion of APP from \$250,000 to \$350,000 in the wake of higher interest rates and production costs. In response, BFO sent a letter, which has been appended to this response, to the

federal agriculture minister thanking the minister and his government for the commitment to increase the interest-free portion of APP and to ensure that commitment is extended.

Ensuring that the industry has access to predictable, timely, and effective BRM programs continues to be a critical pillar of BFO's government relations priorities. With respect to the APP, we can commit to continuing to press this issue with CCA and the federal government, and will update the membership should there be any further progress to report.

Thank you for serving the beef farmers in Bruce County.

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: Steve Eby (Mover)
Harold Zettler (Seconder)
Jarrett Johnson (Advisory Councillor)
Jennifer Isber-Legge (Secretary)



August 22, 2023

The Honorable Lawrence MacAulay
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Email: lawernce.macaulay@parl.gc.ca

Re: Request for Permanent Increase to the Advance Payment Program

Dear Minister MacAulay,

On behalf the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) and our 19,000 members, we would like to congratulate you on your new role and extend our thanks to your government for increasing the interest-free portion of the Advance Payments Program (APP) from \$250,000 to \$350,000. This decision has been met with great praise and appreciation across our sector.

APP is a critically important tool that beef farmers have come to increasingly rely on to help manage business cash flow needs, which has become even more important with the increased market volatility, interest rate hikes, and debt servicing costs that farmers must attempt to manage. The recent increase in funding to APP has really helped in this regard.

The movement of the prime rate in Canada from 2.7% in March of 2022 to 7.20% in July of 2023, underscores the importance and need for programs like APP to help alleviate the strain that rising interest rates have on farm operations. The additional \$100,000 that was committed to in the 2023 budget has the potential to save producers up to \$7,200. If a person utilizes the full interest-free portion, it can save them up to \$25,200 in interest fees, which for the average farmer is significant.

While interest rates may eventually go down, the need to maintain elevated support for APP in the wake of the new operating realities and risks that farmers face is critical. The cost to produce food in Canada today is simply no longer aligned with the APP limits that were initially established, which is why associations like BFO are requesting that the government maintain the temporary increase that farmers are benefitting from today. By extending the increase to the interest-free portion of APP, we can ensure that our farmers

have access to financial resources throughout the year, enabling them to plan ahead, invest in their operations, and make informed business decisions.

The increase in APP enrollment across the beef and broader agri-food sector demonstrates the value that farmers see in this program. As an example, from 2021 to 2022, Ontario saw the number of beef farmers in Ontario using APP increase by 129, which is a 28.23% increase bringing the total number of beef farmers in the province using APP to 586. During the same period, we saw the value of advances increase by \$46,660,814, which is a 107.64% increase year over year, bringing the total value advanced to \$90,008,498. Increased enrollment in APP also has creates an incentive to stay or enroll in the AgriStability program, which provides mutual benefits to the government, farmers, and the broader farm sector.

In conclusion, we urge you to consider extending the recent increase in the interest-free portion of the Advance Payment Program. This would provide much-needed stability, support, and confidence to our farmers, enabling them to contribute to Canada's food security and economic prosperity.

We have appreciated your dedication and leadership to the agriculture sector during your tenure as Minister, and we thank you for your due consideration of our request. We would be happy to provide any additional information or engage in further discussions regarding this important issue.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Francis Drouin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Former Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food



August 28, 2023

Darrell Russett
President, Beef Farmers of Hastings County

The following resolution was passed that the 2023 BFO AGM

WHEREAS, truckers are limited to thirteen (13) hours per day,
and

WHEREAS, livestock is held on trucks during the drivers rest period,
and

WHEREAS, livestock can be within minutes from their destination and the driver has to
pull over to avoid log book infractions and fines from the Ministry of Transportation, and

WHEREAS, CFIA has already decreased the hours for animals to be in transit,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby the Transport Canada to get the
electronic log book exempt for all livestock haulers.

The BFO Board of Directors shares your concerns on Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs) for transporters regarding the potential impact on animal welfare while trying to comply with the *Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations*. The ELD issue has been front of mind both at the federal and provincial levels as we have met with various Members of Parliament (MP) and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP) to express our concerns with the regulations. BFO has been an active member with the National Working Group – Animal Transport which also includes CCA, Ontario Livestock Transporters' Alliance and other provincial and national organizations.

The working group has met with Transport Canada, AAFC and CFIA asking the federal government to create regulatory flexibility so that transporters can safeguard the welfare of the livestock being transported due to unforeseen delays during transport which cause drivers to go over duty hours. The working group has also asked Transport Canada to take immediate steps to harmonize Canadian live animal transport regulations with the U.S. legislation. This would include an exemption for livestock and insect haulers from hours-of-service regulations within a 150-air-mile radius from the origin and destination of the animals. This is an extremely beneficial exemption as it allows the drivers flexibility in delivering the animals to their destination in a timely and safe manner.

While the regulations are federal, enforcement is a provincial matter. BFO met with MPP Grewal, the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation and explained the grassroots impact these regulations will have on our sector. Following that meeting, BFO sent a letter to the Minister of Transportation, Caroline Mulroney outlining our concerns and requesting the immediate provision of strong guidance to all enforcement officers that clearly states that animal welfare issues are defined as 'emergency situations'. We received a response from Minister Mulroney to our letter; both it and the letter we submitted are attached along with Regulation 555/06 (Hours of Service) which outlines the exemptions and regulatory flexibilities that are relevant to our sector.

The federal government has made it very clear that ELDs will not be exempt from truckers transporting livestock; however, through discussions with the government, they have suggested that the current regulations have enough flexibility within the emergency clauses to allow transporters to reach their final destination if they are within a reasonable distance. We are not encouraged by this answer as we would rather see guidance language within the hours-of-service emergency exemption clause to specifically address animal welfare. This would provide livestock transporters confidence that they are operating within the law.

BFO will continue to monitor this issue and push for more clear and distinct language around welfare to be included in the emergency exemption clauses. Thank you for taking the time to submit your resolution to the 2023 AGM.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
Beef Farmers of Ontario, President

cc: Brad Denure (Mover)
Paul Kinlin (Advisory Councillor)
Al & Marg Govier (Secretary)



Ontario Livestock Transporters' Alliance

May 30, 2023

Hon. Caroline Mulroney
Minister of Transportation
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8
minister.mto@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Mulroney:

Re: Commercial Drivers' Hours of Service - Transporting Livestock

We are writing on behalf of our respective associations regarding animal welfare concerns associated with the mandatory use of electronic logging devices (ELDs) for animal transporters. This issue was raised in OLTA's letter to you on December 12, 2022, and during a meeting Beef Farmers of Ontario had with PA Grewal earlier this month.

Our cargo, unlike freight, has differing dispositions sometimes leading to challenges and delays in getting the animals loaded or unloaded. Drivers and handlers must work with these behavioural traits. This sometimes means taking quite a bit longer to load a particular group than normal or as planned especially during hot or humid weather to avoid stressing the animals. Drivers take their jobs very seriously and take pride in their safe driving record. Animal care is a big part of transporting live cargo. Patience and attention to detail are huge for animal transporters.

Due to the decreased flexibility with ELDs, our concern is the potential for drivers to reach their maximum hours of service due to **unforeseen delays** before reaching the animals' destination or with unloading at the destination. Live haul drivers, unlike freight transporters, cannot simply pull into a rest area and go off-duty if they unexpectedly cannot get to their destination and/or unload within their hours of service.

Most of our animal trailers are passively ventilated which means the load cannot remain stationary for prolonged periods of time; it must be kept moving to attain maximum air flow and temperature control. This is also true for the transportation of bees. Plus, with bees, there is the concern of bee escapes when stationary which could be a human safety concern.

Animal transporters are not seeking a blanket exemption from ELDs or hours-of-service. We are asking for flexibility in the hours-of-service enforcement in **unforeseen** circumstances where drivers may be put in the difficult position of either complying with hours-of-service regulations or doing what they know is best for the welfare of the animals in their care which is getting them to their destination as quickly and safely as possible.

As part of a national working group, we have met with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and Transport Canada officials multiple times but there does not seem to be an understanding of the urgency and seriousness of the concerns we are raising. AAFC and CFIA contend this is a transportation regulation and therefore outside their mandate. Transport Canada officials have requested statistics and information from the sector that are not available. We should address this concern before we have data on animal deaths due to the unworkable transport regulations.

Subsections 76(1) and (2) of the Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations permit drivers to extend the driving time allowed during adverse driving conditions or emergency situations in order to

reach their destination for the safety of the occupants and the security of the load. This may cover animal welfare concerns, but the interpretation is left largely to enforcement officers.

The U.S. has recognized the unique challenges associated with animal and insect transport. The 2021 *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* included an exemption from hours of service for livestock and insect haulers within a 150 air-mile radius from the origin and destination of their trip. This is an extremely beneficial exemption as it allows the drivers flexibility in delivering the animals to their destination in a timely and safe manner. Alignment with U.S. transport regulations would provide Canadian animal transporters with the flexibility they need to maintain the highest level of safety for drivers on the roads, transport livestock humanely, and prevent food supply chain disruptions.

We acknowledge that facilitating alignment may take time. Therefore, in the interim, we request the immediate provision of strong guidance to all enforcement officers that clearly states that animal welfare issues are defined as 'emergency situations' in Subsections 76(1) and (2) of the *Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations*. As we are entering the summer months with higher temperatures and humidity, this guidance is **urgently** required.

Transport Canada has provided provincial enforcement agencies with the *Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations Application Guide* which provides guidance on interpreting and applying the regulations. Our request is that Transport Canada update the existing *Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations Application Guide* or provide an addendum to the *Guide* that specifically addresses animal welfare. This would provide clarity to enforcement officers and reassurance to animal transporters. Thus far, Transport Canada officials have not indicated to us that they would move forward with this reasonable request.

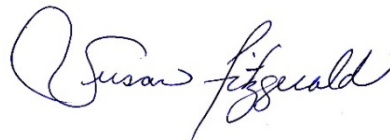
Therefore, we have taken it upon ourselves as a sector to draft proposed guidance for Transport Canada's consideration which we feel would provide assistance to enforcement officers in appropriately enforcing the regulations while safeguarding the welfare of animals being transported. This flexibility is imperative so that transporters can safeguard the welfare of the livestock in their care when unforeseen delays occur.

We are asking for your support by contacting Minister Alghabra and Minister Bibeau and urging them to address this issue immediately. Additionally, in light of Transport Canada's reluctance to act, we request the Ontario Ministry of Transportation directly issue guidance to provincial enforcement officers regarding animal welfare considerations. Both driver safety and animal welfare need to be considered. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to further discuss this important issue.

Sincerely,



Richard Horne, Executive Director
Beef Farmers of Ontario¹
richard@ontariobeef.com



Susan Fitzgerald, Executive Director
Ontario Livestock Transporters' Alliance²
susan.tfo@bell.net

cc: Hardeep Singh Grewal, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation
hardeep.grewal@ontario.ca
Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs,
minister.omafra@ontario.ca

¹ **Beef Farmers of Ontario** represents 19,000 beef farmers in Ontario by advocating in the areas of sustainability, animal health and care, environment, food safety, and domestic and export market development.

² The **Ontario Livestock Transporters' Alliance** represents approximately 80% of the commercial hog transport in Ontario and over half of the cattle transport. We also have members located in Manitoba, Alberta, and Quebec.

Proposed Text for Inclusion in *Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations Application Guide*

Text within Regulations which relates to Emergencies and Adverse Driving Conditions

76 (1) The requirements of these Regulations in respect of driving time, on-duty time and off-duty time do not apply to a driver who, in an emergency, requires more driving time to reach a destination that provides safety for the occupants of the commercial vehicle and for other users of the road or the security of the commercial vehicle and its load.

- (2) A driver who encounters adverse driving conditions while driving the vehicle during a trip south of latitude 60°N may extend the permitted 13 hours of driving time specified in sections 12 and 13 and reduce the 2 hours of daily off-duty time required by subsection 14(3) by the amount of time needed to complete the trip if
- a) the driving, on-duty and elapsed time in the cycle the driver followed is not extended more than 2 hours;
 - b) the driver still takes the required 8 consecutive hours of off-duty time; and
 - c) the trip could have been completed under normal driving conditions without the reduction.

Existing reference in Guidance document:

100. What is considered to be an “emergency” for the purposes of Section 76(1) in order to be permitted to drive beyond the prescribed driving periods?

Guidance: An emergency is a situation or impending situation where the safety or security of people is at risk or likely to be in jeopardy. The term “in any emergency” shall not be construed as encompassing such situations as a driver's desire to get home, shippers' demands, market declines or shortage of drivers.

Additional new text for Guidance document:

In the case of live animal transport, would an unforeseen animal welfare concern which could lead to animal suffering, illness or death be considered an “emergency” for purposes of Section 76(1) in order to be permitted to drive beyond the prescribed driving periods?

Guidance: Where the safety and security of the load is at risk, in this case live animals, this could be deemed an emergency situation. The load must be taken to the nearest appropriate place that has the required facilities, equipment and materials to unload and/or care for the animals.

Existing reference in Guidance document:

103. Does the term “the security of.....and its load” include the temperature of the load?

Guidance: No. The rule has not changed in this respect. However, other legislation may apply, such as the Federal Health of Animals Regulations, Explosive Act, etc.

Suggested new wording to replace current 103 in Guidance document:

103. Does the term “the security of.....and its load” include the temperature of the load?

Guidance: Only in situations where the temperature of the load poses an imminent, life-threatening situation for the occupants of the vehicle or for other users of the road. This includes live animal transportation where animal life is at risk due to the temperature of the load. The load must be taken to the nearest appropriate place that has the required facilities to accommodate the load to prevent animal suffering, illness or death.

New item:

What constitutes “adverse driving conditions” referenced in 72 (2) and (3)?

Guidance: Adverse driving conditions could include severe weather, traffic accidents which close roads or bring traffic to a standstill, border crossing delays, bridge or road outages, and other unforeseen animal behaviour challenges that slow or delay transport.

Ministry of
Transportation

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1Z8
416 327-9200
www.ontario.ca/transportation

Ministère des
Transports

Bureau de la ministre

777, rue Bay, 5^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 1Z8
416 327-9200
www.ontario.ca/transports



107-2023-1645

Thomas Brandstetter
Manager of Policy & Issues
Beef Farmers of Ontario
thomas@ontariobeef.com

Dear Thomas Brandstetter:

Thank you for your email sharing concerns associated with the mandatory use of electronic logging devices (ELDs) as they relate to the animal transport industry. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

ELD technology will improve safety on our roads by helping to ensure that drivers operate in compliance with Ontario's Hours of Service rules and aligning Ontario with federal *Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations*.

As you are likely aware, with the introduction of ELDs, Ontario's Hours of Service rules for drivers of commercial motor vehicles have not changed, including:

- drivers who are required to carry and maintain a record of duty status;
- information that must be contained in a record of duty status;
- hours of service limits and cycle requirements that drivers must follow; and
- responsibilities and obligations of operators related to the monitoring of drivers.

The same regulatory flexibilities that drivers had while maintaining a paper record of duty status also continue to be available to drivers tracking their hours using ELDs including certain exemptions and provisions when encountering adverse driving conditions where criteria are met. Additional details on specific regulatory flexibilities that may be relevant or of interest to the animal transport sector is enclosed, for reference.

Thank you for you sharing details of the proposal to work with Transport Canada to develop guidance for enforcement authorities to address concerns regarding the mandatory use of ELDs within the animal transport sector. Our staff look forward to discussing details of your request as Transport Canada considers this proposal and as provincial and territorial transportation authorities are further engaged. I have directed ministry staff to contact Transport Canada to inquire on the status of this request and to monitor related developments.

.../2

In response to your request for Ontario to issue interim guidance to provincial enforcement authorities, please note that enforcement officials continue to enforce Ontario's Hours of Service rules based on existing regulatory requirements - including provisions that extend regulatory flexibility in scenarios where criteria are met.

With respect to regulatory flexibility extended during an emergency, the current exemption in Ontario is limited to vehicles providing relief during an emergency only.

With respect to flexibility when encountering adverse driving conditions, the current flexibility extended is limited to scenarios involving impaired driving conditions that were not known, or could not reasonably have been known, to a driver or an operator dispatching a driver immediately before the driver began driving.

It is a priority of our ministry to ensure the consistent application and enforcement of Ontario's Hours of Service rules – including scenarios involving regulatory flexibility.

Should you, or your members, encounter issues regarding a lack of consistent enforcement of Ontario's Hours of Service rules, you are encouraged to report details to the Commercial Inspection and Enforcement Branch at cepo@ontario.ca.

Thank you again for your letter and for bringing this information to my attention.

Sincerely,



Caroline Mulroney
Minister of Transportation

Enclosure

- c. The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Hardeep Singh Grewal, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation
Commercial Inspection and Enforcement Branch, Transportation Safety Division,
Ministry of Transportation
Richard Horne, Executive Director, Beef Farmers of Ontario
Susan Fitzgerald, Executive Director, Ontario Livestock Transporters' Alliance

bc. Case 107-2023-1645
Jennifer Elliott, Director, Commercial Safety and Compliance Branch
Andrew Chase, Manager, Carrier Program Development Office, Commercial
Safety and Compliance Branch
David Mercanti, Manager, Carrier Enforcement Program Office, Commercial
Inspection and Enforcement Branch

minister.omafra@ontario.ca

hardeep.grewal@ontario.ca

cepo@ontario.ca

richard@ontariobeef.com

susan.tfio@bell.net

Regulation 555/06 (Hours of Service)

The following provides information on specific regulatory flexibilities that may be relevant or of interest to the animal transport sector in Ontario.

Each section referenced below can be found in Regulation 555/06 (Hours of Service).

Exemptions:

- Under Section 3 (1) 1, a driver and operator are exempt from provincial hours of service rules when operating a two or three-axle commercial motor vehicle, or combination of a two-axle commercial motor vehicle and a one-axle trailer, being used to transport the primary products of a farm, forest, sea or lake, if the driver or the operator is the owner and producer or harvester of the products, or to return after transporting the primary products of a farm, forest, sea or lake, if the vehicle is empty or is transporting supplies and equipment used for the production of primary products of a farm, forest, sea or lake.

Adverse Driving Conditions

- Under Section 15 (1) A driver who encounters adverse driving conditions while driving a commercial motor vehicle may, (a) increase the driving time permitted by section 5 by up to two hours and the on-duty time permitted by that section by up to two hours and reduce the off-duty time by a corresponding amount; and (b) increase the driving time permitted by sections 9 and 11 by up to two hours and the on-duty times permitted by those sections by up to two hours if the 16 hour elapsed time required is not exceeded.
- Under Section 15 (2) If the driver exceeds the on-duty time for the cycle permitted by sections 12 to 14, the cycle requirements under those sections must be met by the end of the following day.
- Under Section 15 (3) if a driver increases their driving or on-duty times under Section 15 (1), the reason for the increase must be entered in the record of duty status or in the record required.

Record of Duty Status: Exemption

- Under Section 23 (1) A driver is not required to keep a record of duty status (in any format) for a day if the driver (a) on the operator's instructions, drives a commercial motor vehicle solely within a radius of 160 kilometres of the location at which the driver starts the day; and (b) returns at the end of the day to the same location from which they started.



23-04

January 2, 2024

Greg Hessels
President, Beef Farmers of Cochrane District

Dear Greg,

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 Government is reluctant to sell any patented Crown land for agricultural use. Crown land previously farmed reverted back to the Crown due to unpaid taxes by the owner. **BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** lobby the provincial government to release Crown land, which has been previously patented, for agriculture production.

Agricultural expansion in Northern Ontario and improving the Crown land disposition process for agricultural use remains a priority for BFO. We believe further developing farms in Northern Ontario, in the Great Northern Clay Belt area specifically, is one of the most significant economically sustainable plans for the region and will contribute substantial economic base activity for decades. Improving access to Crown land for agriculture use is a key component of this objective and this point is regularly communicated to the provincial government. This was also one of BFO's main lobby priorities during our Queen's Park BBQ and lobby day in September.

Although the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) developed the *Applicant's Guide to Applying for Crown Land for Agricultural Purposes in Northern Ontario*, which is a useful guide for understanding the process for accessing Crown land for agricultural purposes, the process remains cumbersome, time consuming and costly to navigate. The proposal for MNRF to release Crown land that was previously used for agriculture prior to returning to the Crown and make the process for accessing such land less onerous, if the land would continue to be used for agriculture, is a reasonable and logical approach.

Earlier this year, BFO and OFA staff discussed similar resolutions received from our respective membership related to the topic of accessing Crown land for agriculture in Northern Ontario and provided OFA with an overview of past BFO efforts, the Northern Livestock Pilot and Beef North initiative, and current efforts to improve how Crown land is accessed.

BFO met with the MNRF Minister's Chief of Staff in November to discuss our thoughts on improvements that could be made to the Crown Land disposition process, including reviving and

releasing the pilot sites that were identified in northern Ontario for agricultural expansion under the previous government. BFO will continue to engage in discussions with the Minister and the Minister's Office, as well as our allies in the northern municipalities to help drive improved access to Crown Lands for agriculture in the north, and specifically those targeted for grazing.

BFO staff also met with MNRF staff to discuss the "Proposed agricultural land use amendment for Hearst and Kapuskasing", which MNRF held a public consultation on in early 2020. At the time, BFO has submitted comments supporting the proposal. In January 2023, MNRF released its decision on the consultation approving land use policies in the Hearst Administrative District for the sale or lease of Crown land for agriculture purposes. The details of the above resolution were also shared with MNRF during this meeting as a means to improve access to Crown land for agriculture purposes in the region. It was communicated the Ministry does not currently consider previous uses of Crown land when reviewing applications.

As noted, the proposal to release Crown land that was previously used for agriculture prior to returning to the Crown to interested farmers makes sense. More work is needed on this file and BFO is committed to continuing to engage with the provincial government and our partners to see an improved process for accessing Crown land for agriculture that is transparent, defined, predictable, and responsive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Chaffe". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Jason Desrochers (Mover and Advisory Councillor)
Albert Helin (Seconder)
Kyla Riach (Secretary)



October 23, 2023

Joost Van der Heiden
President, Perth County Beef Farmers

Dear Joost,

The following resolution was carried at the 2023 BFO AGM:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work together with Ontario commodity groups and general farm organizations to lobby the provincial government to implement agricultural production education as part of the curriculum in Ontario classrooms.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank the Perth County Beef Farmers for bringing this resolution forward. Educating and engaging students on the topic of agricultural production and food literacy will ensure our next generation appreciates the role of farmers, understands their commitment to sustainable and responsible methods of farming, and values the impact of food production on our communities and economies.

BFO, along with our fellow commodity and general farm associations, continue to have a strong presence at a number of events throughout the year that are popular venues for connecting with teachers and students. These include events such as The Farm at the CNE, Canada's Outdoor Farm Show and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (RAWF). The CNE and the RAWF offer students, children and families hands-on and up-close learning opportunities, allow them to interact with real farmers and animals, and explore where their food comes from. They can observe daily demonstrations about farming and animal care, investigate new frontiers in STEM research, and discover more about the diverse career opportunities in the agri-food sector.

As students returned to school in September of this year, the Canadian Cattle Association (CCA) and their public and stakeholder engagement team launched the Ontario version of the *Guardians of the Grasslands* video game. Based on the award-winning film, the game aims to teach students the ecosystem services provided by raising cattle on grasslands. The game is connected to science curriculum outcomes for students in grades 7 to 12. AgScape, the provincial member of Ag in the Classroom Canada, is helping to distribute the game into classrooms. Additionally, the game was used by BFO staff and volunteers to engage with visitors in the beef education area at the CNE this summer, and will be shared at the RAWF next month.

Having agriculture and food literacy taught in the classroom is vital, and ensuring the right people are teaching it is just as critical. For this reason, BFO supports and partners with AgScape to not only get the information into classrooms, but also supply it in a way that is relevant and accessible for students of all ages. AgScape provides factual, balanced, curriculum-linked food

literacy programs and resources to Ontario's educators and students. Their mission is to empower Ontario youth and educators to understand their relationship to the agriculture and food system and ignite interest in related careers through experiential and science-based programs.

Over the last five years, BFO has provided AgScape with \$105,000 in financial support. With this funding, they have developed a teaching guide for grades 7 to 12 titled, *An Exploration of Beef Farming in Ontario*, which is available in English and French. Since its launch, this resource has created 11,262 educational experiences, reaching 390 different educators in 161 communities across the province. Through our partnership with AgScape we have also strongly supported their Teacher Ambassador Program (TAP), which provides interactive and engaging lessons that align with the Ontario curriculum for grades 4 to 12. Currently, AgScape is providing 797,463 educational experiences and reaching 2,447 schools annually through its various teaching streams like TAP, virtual field trips, Camp AgScape, career exploration events, and agri-food literacy resources. Some recent feedback from AgScape:

"At the Ontario Association of Geographic and Environmental Education conference, Cassi (a dairy farmer and past AgScape employee) hosted a live virtual field trip with the members. She was asked, "What most concerns you as a farmer about climate change?" and she answered, "The way dairy and beef farms are villainized for being terrible for the environment." She elaborated on some of the beneficial grazing practices that heal and restore grasslands and then shared the work organizations like Ducks Unlimited, Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association and the Environmental Farm Plan do to maximize environmental, financial and social sustainability on farms. She also shared the Guardians of the Grasslands video and game with them too. It was VERY well received, and many eyes were opened!"

In addition to a focus on agriculture and food literacy in the classroom, AgScape also prioritizes helping students make real-world connections to learn about future career pathways in the agri-food sector. Using their thinkAG Career Competitions, they connect agriculture industry representatives with students through interactive stations related to agriculture, food and careers. Through our partnership with AgScape, BFO participated in a number of competition events this year with more yet to come in the 2023/2024 school year. In 2023 so far, over 2,800 students have interacted with the BFO activity at the competitions. Realizing labour, or lack thereof, continues to impact the growth and innovation of the agriculture and processing sectors, we believe exposing students to the diverse career opportunities within the agri-food sector is critical to ensuring we have a strong workforce for years to come.

This past June, the Ontario government announced the Promoting Agri-Food Careers initiative, a three-year, \$1.7 million Ontario initiative, is set to promote careers in agriculture through agricultural societies. Funded through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP), the program will be available to 213 agricultural societies, represented by the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies, to increase awareness and promote jobs in the agri-food industry and attract the next generation of agri-food leaders. By partnering with agricultural societies, the government is looking to further support the goal outlined in their Grow Ontario Strategy to increase total agri-food sector employment by 10 per cent by 2032.

Lastly, we continue to offer and supply a number of educational resources and displays free of charge to our local associations, agricultural societies, breakfast on the farm and ag awareness events throughout the year. We also respond to various requests from teachers, educators and

culinary professionals throughout the year by providing educational packages and resources that can be used to support lessons on beef farming and production in Ontario.

To build on the work of AgScape and help expand our connections with educators across the province in both rural and urban communities, we would encourage local associations to introduce themselves to the administration at their local schools and/or school boards. By bringing attention to the educational resources available to both teachers and students, we can help foster a positive introduction or deepening of understanding and appreciation for the societal and economic value of agriculture and food production in the province.

In the meantime, we will continue to work with commodity groups and general farm organizations to promote agricultural production and discuss the issue with elected officials when appropriate. BFO would again like to thank the Perth County Beef Farmers for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Elizabeth Johnston (Seconder)
Bob Dunsmore (Advisory Councillor)
Angela Schneider (Secretary)

Resource link: <https://aitcresources.agescape.ca/en-ca/for-educators/curriculum-linked-resources>

AgScape Website: <https://agscape.ca/index>

ThinkAg Career Competition video link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dw9NruhABH0&t=1s>



September 29, 2023

Dave Wolgemuth
President, Algoma District Cattlemen's Association

Dear Dave,

WHEREAS, Ontario Beef farmers have faced declining veterinarian services over the last several years, especially in more rural underserved areas, and
WHEREAS, newly purchased pandemic pets have caused a North American shortage of qualified veterinarians, and
WHEREAS, OMAFRA in conjunction with Ridgetown College in 2001 introduced a Livestock Medicines Education Program that was intended to compliment Quality Assurance Programs by teaching livestock producers the technical and practical skills required to ensure adherence to modern standards of animal husbandry consistent with industry Best Practices that was subsequently discontinued,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with the bovine veterinarian community and government to reinstitute and encourage industry wide practical training of producers through Quality Assurance and other programs to ensure competent delivery of the full range of industry Best Practices.

BFO strongly supports producers furthering their knowledge on various industry practices to better their operations, and supporting producers with opportunities and resources to do this is an important priority for us. We continue to explore ways to get producers the information they may need through BFO led initiatives or collaborating with and promoting other industry, veterinary or government opportunities.

In particular, advancing the Ontario beef sector through Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef quality assurance programs, such as Verified Beef Production Plus (VBP+) and Ontario Corn Fed Beef (OCFB), and supporting producers to meet and exceed the beef Code of Practice responsibilities for animal health and welfare are identified as key actions in BFO's updated strategic plan.

To promote further participation in quality assurance training and certification, BFO continues to offer the Ontario Beef Quality Assurance Rebate Incentive Program. The program provides BFO check-off paying members with a 100 per cent rebate on first time VBP+ audit fees paid by members who become certified through the completion of training, and an on-farm audit. For producers renewing their VBP+ audit in 2023, BFO will provide a rebate of 75 per cent on audit fees.

BFO staff provide VBP+ training as live webinars for producers at various times throughout the year and we encourage producers to notify BFO staff if they are interested in taking the training. Producers also have the option of taking the VBP+ training course online at any time for \$50. The training course can be found on the VBP+ at <https://www.canadiancattlelearningcenter.com/#/public-dashboard>.

To support producers seeking information on animal health and to compliment quality assurance programming, a number of educational resources and manuals have been developed. For example, VBP+ producer manuals are available to all producers regardless if the producer is certified under VBP+. The various sections of the manuals provide detailed information on animal health, including use of livestock medicines and antimicrobials, animal nutrition, animal care, biosecurity, etc. These manuals can be found at <http://www.verifiedbeef.ca/producer-resources/producer-reference-manual.cfm>. In addition, producers can find an online portal for the Compendium of Veterinary Products developed by Canadian Cattle Association and Merck Animal Health (<http://www.verifiedbeef.ca/producer-resources/important-resources-links.cfm>).

Feedlot producers in Ontario can also utilize the OCFB Quality Assurance manual developed by the Ontario Cattle Feeders' Association. The OCFB manual includes a focus on animal care and animal health topics, such as use of veterinary medicines, antimicrobials, purchase and storage, etc. This manual can be found at <https://ontariocornfedbeef.com/ocfb-qa-manual/>.

In regards to the Livestock Medicines Education Program, it was offered by the Ontario government to help promote the responsible use and safe handling of antimicrobials on farms. The voluntary course focused on the role of veterinarians, understanding medicines and associated regulations, withdrawal times, proper injections, and other related topics. After the course was discontinued, it later became available at the University of Guelph's Ridgetown Campus for a fee, however, as of January 1, 2023, the course is no longer available due to low demand.

In response to Health Canada regulations that came into effect in 2018 and increased veterinary oversight of antimicrobial use in food-producing animals, the Farmed Animal Antimicrobial Stewardship Initiative (FAAST) project and resources were developed. FAAST was created to provide livestock farmers and their veterinarians with free tools and resources to help prevent antimicrobial resistance. The initiative was a collaborative effort between the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association, government, academic, and industry partners.

FAAST includes a number of 'do it yourself' courses for farmers and veterinarians including: Introduction to Livestock Medicines; Regulations on Antimicrobial Use and Access; Antimicrobial Stewardship; On-farm Biosecurity Management; and commodity specific courses like Antimicrobial Stewardship in the Ontario Beef Industry. In regards to the Livestock Medicines course, the FAAST website states the former course provided by the Ontario government has been digitized, re-designed and updated to provide an accessible resource for all livestock producers in Ontario. These resources can be found at <https://www.amstewardship.ca/>.

Other valuable producer resources have been created by the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) that explore animal health and antimicrobial resistance, record keeping, reproduction and calving, etc. BCRC also provide webinars to do with animal health and welfare topics and provide courses, albeit not related to livestock medicines, on cow-calf record keeping.

With an abundance of information available to producers online, BFO, in an effort to make finding information related to animal health easier for our members, has consolidated these various resources on our website, which can be found here (<https://www.ontariobeef.com/farmer-hub/industry/animal-health/>). BFO will make members aware of these resources by promoting it through our various communications channels.

Thank you to the Algoma District Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Ryan MacLeod (Mover and Advisory Councillor)
Dennis Kirby (Secunder)
Mikala Parr (Secretary)



23-07

December 20, 2023

Jasper Munro
President, Bruce County Beef Farmers

Dear Jasper,

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, recently a long-term study of US grasslands showed ruminants, albeit Bison, greatly improved biodiversity, and

WHEREAS, cows have been shown to improve the organic matter of reclaimed gravel pits, and

WHEREAS, Canada already has more trees per person than any other country in the world,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO advocate that long term pasture ground be given a lower property tax rate as land put into Land & Forest.

Thank you to the Bruce County Beef Farmers for bringing this resolution forward. In Ontario, property, or part of a property, can be designated as Managed Forest or Conservation Land for property tax purposes. Land designated as Managed Forest or Conservation Land must be approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation assesses its value according to their protocol.

The provincial government recognizes many forestlands are privately owned, but provide environmental benefit for all Ontarians. The province created the Ontario Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program to increase stewardship of forested lands and provide a property tax reduction to eligible landowners who prepare and follow an approved Managed Forest Plan. If approved, your property, or portion of your property, is classified as managed forest and taxed at 25 per cent of the municipal residential property tax rate. To be eligible for the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program, the land must be owned by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident, or a Canadian business, trust or conservation authority; have at least 4 hectares (9.88 acres) of forest on a single property in Ontario on one municipal roll number; and have a minimum number of trees per hectare.

Farm properties that meet the eligibility requirements for the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program have farmland and associated outbuildings placed in the farm property class are taxed up to 25 per cent of the municipal residential tax rate resulting in a lower tax rate than land and forest. Some counties throughout the province have been successful in lobbying their municipal government to have eligible farm properties taxed between 15 and 24 percent of the municipal residential tax rate.

In speaking with staff from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), they are willing to work with local associations in an effort to lobby their municipal government to have eligible farm properties taxed at a lower rate. BFO staff have also committed to developing a toolkit members can use when engaging and participating in discussions with local candidates on industry priorities prior to an election or when making submissions for budget consideration.

Earlier this year, we met with a Member of Parliament (MP) to discuss ideas for a Private Members Bill (PMB). We recommended a PMB to develop a non-refundable tax credit for producers with actively managed hay and pasture ground in production. BFO also recommended the non-refundable tax credit follow the percentage increase of the federal carbon tax levy. Farms registered as corporations would also be eligible. BFO believes the development of such tax credit would help protect the valuable and critical hay and pasture land. Not only would it provide an economic benefit to beef and livestock farmers of Canada, but also a social and environmental benefit to the people of Canada. While this PMB was not brought forward this year, it is one we will continue to suggest when meeting with elected officials.

We will reach out early next year to coordinate a meeting between BFO, OFA and Bruce County Beef Farmers. Thank you again for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Jarrett Johnson (Mover and Advisory Councillor)
Tom Cunningham (Seconder)
Jennifer Isber-Legge (Secretary)



23-08

October 2, 2023

Guy Shane
President, Prescott County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Guy,

WHEREAS, the CCIA tags have very poor ear tag retention in cattle, and
WHEREAS, most purchased cattle need to be retagged when shipped or resold, and
WHEREAS, the traceability of Canadian cattle is not effective nor accurate due to the high ear tag losses, and
WHEREAS, the tag manufacturers have had many years to improve upon these tags to stay in cattle ears and have not done so, but have increased prices over the years, and
WHEREAS, these tags are a burden and extra cost to beef producers,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO address the issue of tag retention with CCIA and the tag manufacturers.

BFO strongly believes that tag retention is an integral part of the traceability system and the need to find solutions to concerns about lost tags, missing backs and tag retention. While attending the Canadian Beef Industry Conference (CBIC) in Calgary last month, the BFO directors and staff in attendance had the opportunity to tour the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) head office, meet with their staff and bring forward your concerns.

This issue has long been a focus of the CCIA and they have collaborated on a number of research projects to better understand common issues regarding tag retention. CCIA has been working directly with manufacturers to improve tags for greater retention.

One of the items staff from CCIA presented on during the tour was regarding ear tag retention, advancements that have been made by tag manufacturers to current tags on the market and their upcoming campaign set to launch early next year. Throughout 2024 the CCIA will be promoting a national education campaign focused on promoting best practices amongst livestock producers and industry stakeholders, elevating trust in the traceability program, with the goal of improving tag retention.

The "Retention Matters" campaign will run January through December 2024, inclusive, and will feature content based on five key tenets of retention – tag design, tag quality, environment, tag application, and myths and misconceptions.

This campaign, unanimously supported by the CCIA's Board of industry members, will be one of the largest run by the Agency, with all the supporting content curated in one dedicated website – www.retentionmatters.ca (to be launched early 2024). Across the year, content will be delivered through a mix of visual and interactive educational tools, national print and social media campaigns, and demonstrations at trade events. BFO will be sure to make members aware of content delivered throughout the campaign via our Ontario Beef magazine and weekly Bull-etin Board.

Additional support and awareness will be provided through the CCIA's Client Support Team, and every single pack of tags distributed by the CCIA, both to dealers and direct to producers, will include additional information on retention. The CCIA is confident that the "Retention Matters" campaign will strike a positive chord, and is looking forward to positive engagement from industry on this timely issue.

CCIA continues to work with tag manufacturers to improve the quality and longevity of the plastics used in currently approved indicators. In addition, BFO continues to push, along with many of our cattle association partners, on the introduction of Ultra-High Frequency (UHF) RFID tags to improve readability and reduce management costs.

In the meantime, if you wish to provide comments on the performance (i.e., readability and retention) of approved indicators, please complete and submit the Approved Tag/Animal Indicator Quality Control Form to the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency by email, mail or fax which can be found at <https://www.canadaid.ca/clts-forms/>.

Thank you to the Prescott County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Rene Harnisch (Mover)
Allen Booker (Secunder)
Geordie MacLaren (Advisory Councillor)
Gordon Wylie (Secretary)



23-09

December 19, 2023

Blair Williamson
President, Lambton County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Blair,

Thank you to your county for taking the time to submit the following resolution to the 2023 Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) AGM:

WHEREAS, there has been increased awareness and adoption of growing a grain or oilseed crop after an overwintered cover crop, purposely grown for a forage harvest, and;

WHEREAS, this is seen as improving soil health and making Ontario farmers more sustainable, and;

WHEREAS, even though the planting date is made before recommended seeding dates, this is seen by Agricorp as double cropping and, therefore, not eligible for production insurance,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with other ruminant livestock groups along with OMAFRA and Agricorp to develop guidelines to allow for the adoption of the practice of growing a grain or oilseed crop after an overwintered cover crop to be covered under our provincial crop production insurance.

As more producers across the province are implementing double cropping practices, the BFO Board of Directors agrees that ensuring producers are covered through a production insurance program is critical. The recent increase in the double cropping practice can be attributed to producers' increased knowledge with respect to the positive impact on soil health. Cover crops or winter forage crops sequester carbon and prevent soil erosion as the land is covered during the winter months. BFO recognizes the added benefits to livestock producers as they can gain more feed off the same acreage if they utilize this production practice.

Currently, Agricorp feels the needs of producers in this scenario can be met with the New Forage Seeding program, as it can help producers recoup any cost incurred on the field if the crop does not survive the winter. The current program is eligible for spring-seeded and summer-seeded forages or cover crops, and the coverage extends from seeding until May 31 of the following year, or until the first pasturing/cut in the following year. There are two levels of coverage outlined below:

- Premium – Seed count of less than 50% red clover or seed value of greater than \$35/ac.
- Standard – Seed count of more than 50% red clover or seed value of less than \$35/ac.

Further Details on the New Forage Seeding program can be found by visiting <https://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/Programs/ProductionInsurance/NewForageSeeding/Pages/Overview.aspx>

The scenario outlined to BFO from Agricorp was as follows: an annual forage crop, such as winter barley or winter rye, is planted as an overwintering crop harvested in the spring, then a grain or oilseed crop is planted post-harvesting of the overwintering crop.

With this scenario, Agricorp feels its current programs can insure both crops for the producer and protect them from adverse weather events. As the overwinter crop is covered through the New Forage Seeding program, and the following corn or soybean crop would be covered under the standard Spring Seeded Crop program, provided the planting deadline and good farming practices are met.

Prioritizing program enhancements is a part of the business planning process of Agricorp and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), and they work collaboratively to prioritize requests for program changes and follow up accordingly to determine the priority for enhancements for a commodity. However, all coverage changes require approval from both provincial and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) officials. Before approval of the change in programming, time is needed for analysis to determine the design and to consider the impacts on customers, Agricorp infrastructure, and costs.

Agricorp is open to meeting the Lambton County Cattlemen's Association to discuss specific scenarios members feel are not being covered by the current suite of programs and BFO staff can coordinate this meeting.

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

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Chad Anderson (Mover)
George Dickenson (Seconder)
Hanneke Mills (Secretary)



July 24, 2023

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, the beef cattle population on farms with beef cattle in Ontario continues to decline, making it difficult for counties with fewer cattle and fewer producers to function effectively, leaving them without the ability to have proper executive successions,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO consider developing a protocol to give direction for counties wanting to dissolve their county associations and/or amalgamate with other counties, similar to what other provincial commodity organizations have done (i.e., Pork and Grains & Oilseeds).

As per the BFO Constitution and By-Laws under the section County or District Branches:

8(1) Members of the Association shall be formed into groups by area known as county or district branches to which members shall belong according to their place of residence except where a member's affiliation is changed by the Board of Directors under s. 3 (4)

8(2) The areas for county or district branches shall conform to the boundaries of counties and territorial districts in Ontario but two or more adjacent counties or districts may be joined to form one branch

8(5) No new branch may be formed nor may any existing branch be extended, consolidated or dissolved without the approval of the Board of Directors of the Association

We have created and attached a process for counties or districts to follow should their members decide to amalgamate with one of more neighbouring counties or districts or make the tough decision to dissolve.

Prior to considering either option, a county or district may try a cooperation approach with one or more neighbouring counties or districts to host local events, support a local charity, or hold a joint monthly or annual meeting. This can result in the sharing of resources between the local

associations with the end result of saving both time and money for those local associations willing to cooperate with each other.

Please contact the office should you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the options in more detail. Thank you to the Norfolk County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Chaffe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Robert Peacock (Mover and Advisory Councillor)
Percy McNabb (Seconder)



BEEF FARMERS
of Ontario

PROCESS FOR COUNTY OR DISTRICT COOPERATION, AMALGAMATION & DISSOLUTION

REQUIREMENTS & STEPS

July, 2023



Does your local association find it difficult to fill executive rolls and meet quorum for regular board meetings? Is your local association challenged with having enough volunteers to host events and fundraise for local causes? Is your local association struggling financially?

If you answered yes to one or more of the questions above, the thought of amalgamating with a neighbouring county or district or dissolving all together might be something you've considered. We would strongly encourage that prior to following the required steps for either, that your local association consider cooperating with a neighbouring county or district to host events and meetings to help share resources and costs.

To assist our local associations in arriving at the best path forward, below are the requirements and steps to be taken by your county or district for each scenario.

1. Cooperation Between Two or More Counties or Districts

Required: A willingness between two or more counties or districts to work cooperatively together when it comes to hosting events and meetings.

Discuss the benefits of cooperating with neighbouring counties or districts. This could include:

- Joint participation in local events
- Joint funding support of local charities and causes
- Joint hosting of producer and public-facing events
- Joint monthly meetings to share costs, but meet separately within the meeting space to conduct individual association business
- Host a joint annual meeting, join together for the speaker program and meal, meet separately in the meeting space to conduct individual association business

2. Amalgamation of Two or More Counties or Districts

Required: A motion to amalgamate must be voted on and passed by local association members at a special general meeting held by the counties or districts looking to amalgamate.

Steps To Be Taken

- Discuss amalgamating with one or more neighbouring counties or district. If there is enough interest, contemplate the following:
 - How will you amalgamate the finances and assets of each association?
 - What will be your new identity (i.e., name, logo)?
- If consensus is reached between two or more counties or districts to amalgamate, submit a formal letter to BFO signed by all parties requesting the amalgamation.
- Schedule a special general meeting of each association to be held in person or virtually.
- BFO to send a letter to all active members in the affected counties/districts notifying them of the date, time and purpose of the special general meeting.
- Meeting details will also be published at least 14 days prior to the special general meeting in at least one agricultural paper having a wide circulation in Ontario.
- At the special general meeting, a majority of the active members present and voting may pass resolutions for presentation to the association which includes a vote to amalgamate.
- The results of motion(s) passed will be brought forward for approval by the BFO Board of Directors at their next board meeting.
- If approved by the BFO Board of Directors, BFO's legal counsel can work with the affected counties/districts should any agreements be required to deal with the amalgamation of each association's finances and assets.

- BFO to send a letter to all active members in the affected counties/districts notifying them of the amalgamation.
- Should an affected member wish to join a county or district that is closer to their residence, as per the BFO Constitution and By-Laws section 3(4) they can apply to the BFO Board requesting the change.
- The newly amalgamated group will be required to write a constitution and submit it to the BFO office.
- After amalgamation, associations within the amalgamated group will no longer independently qualify for BFO grants, the Sharecost Program or delegate representation at the BFO AGM.

3. Dissolution of a County or District

Required: A motion to dissolve must be voted on and passed by local association members at a special general meeting by the county or district looking to dissolve.

Steps To Be Taken

- Discuss the above options of cooperation and amalgamation with the local association's executive and active members. If there is no interest in either and not enough people to keep the association active, dissolution might be your last option. Contemplate the following:
 - What will you do with the finances and assets of the association?
- If consensus is reached to dissolve, submit a formal letter to BFO signed by the association's executive requesting the dissolution of your county or district.
- The BFO Board of Directors will decide which county or district impacted members will become a member of following dissolution.
- Schedule a special general meeting of the association to be held in person or virtually.
- BFO to send a letter to all active members in the affected county or district notifying them of the date, time and purpose of the special general meeting.
- Meeting details will also be published at least 14 days prior to the special general meeting in at least one agricultural paper having a wide circulation in Ontario.
- At the special general meeting, a majority of the active members present and voting may pass resolutions for presentation to the association which includes a vote to dissolve.
- The results of motion(s) passed will be brought forward for approval by the BFO Board of Directors at their next board meeting.
- If approved by the BFO Board of Directors, BFO's legal counsel can work with the affected county or district should any gift agreements be required to deal with the association's finances and assets.
- BFO to send a letter to all active members in the affected county/district notifying them of the dissolution and which country/district they are now a member of.
- Should an affected member wish to join a county or district that is closer to their residence, as per the BFO Constitution and By-Laws section 3(4) they can apply to the BFO Board requesting the change.

Questions?

If you have questions about the information contained within this resource, or if you would like to initiate an amalgamation or dissolution of your local association, please contact Thomas Brandstetter, BFO Manager of Policy and Issues, by email at thomas@ontariobeef.com or by phone at 519.824.0334.



December 18, 2023

Joost van der Heiden
President, Perth County Beef Farmers

Dear Joost,

Thank you to the Perth County Beef Farmers for taking the time to submit the following resolution at the 2023 Beef Farmers of Ontario AGM.

WHEREAS, rail butchery is not recognized as a skilled trade in Ontario, and
WHEREAS, there is a need for more trained butchers, and
WHEREAS, a rail butcher is a tradesperson specialized in slaughtering, reducing carcasses to primal cuts, and further reducing to retail cuts; and
WHEREAS, a retail meat cutter is only responsible for preparing primal cuts into smaller cuts intended for sale in a retail environment, such as a grocery store;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with Meat and Poultry Ontario to lobby the provincial government to have rail butchery included in the list of skilled trades as defined by Skilled Trades Ontario.

Meat processing in the province is critical to the sustainability of the beef sector within Ontario. The BFO Board of Directors supports the need for more training programs specifically tailored to meat cutting, or at least funding streams where processors can offset the cost of training new employees.

Over the last few years, we have seen programs within the province that address butchery being added; however, these programs do not meet the needs of employees looking to gain skills associated with industrial meat cutting as they are primarily focused on retail meat cutting.

We have been working closely with Meat and Poultry Ontario (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 meat and poultry industry stages to examine the challenges and develop solutions. Their work led to the development of six recommendations for government and industry to work towards that 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: target newcomers and youth to come into the industry (recruitment partnership with CareersNow, social media campaigns, mentorship sessions, and virtual job fairs).
3. Pilot a new entrant recruitment and training program: the 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 a curriculum and is 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 comprising employers to lead and steward the development, implementation, and governance of the workforce development action plan.

MPO has continued to work closely with the University of Guelph to establish the Centre for Meat Innovation and Technology (CMIT). CMIT was created out of an identified need to reduce or eliminate barriers to growth in our industry, and CMIT is driven to advance and strengthen the Canadian meat processing industry. It is the leading Canadian meat hub powering industry collaboration and innovation. CMIT is dedicated to showcasing the world’s leading technology for our industry and helping Canadian processors adopt these innovations to become more competitive. As in every industry today, meat processing technology is advancing rapidly.

CMIT is a source for specialized training, equipment, and software, and it has access to the University of Guelph’s federally licensed processing facility. CMIT will also find the experts, develop curriculum and deliver courses, and provide micro-credentials to help our industry develop a skilled workforce.

BFO has been in discussion with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training, and Skills Development (MLITSD) about how BFO and industry can best utilize the resources and funding programs they have developed. Over the past couple years, MLITSD has created funding programs for capital improvements to help the labour force and programs to assist in training new employees by offsetting the cost of senior employees training the new staff. The Skills Development Fund Training Stream is closed for this calendar year but as this is the fourth year the program has been offered, we believe MLITSD will be continue to offer this program next year. BFO could, in partnership with other industry stakeholders, develop an industry specific proposal allowing our sector more flexibility to attract, train, and retain meat cutters across the province.

Unlike other issue specific programming we have within agriculture, the province thought a broader funding program would make it easier to apply to multiple sectors, industries and business that do not have a designated system to hire and train new talent. BFO has provided a policy submission letter to MLITSD for the next fiscal year in which we have outlined three key priorities:

1. Funding for abattoirs to offset the cost of training of new employees.

2. Capital investment in labour saving technology alongside investment into systems that create a less labour-intensive environment.
3. Immigration strategies that meet the needs of the food processing sector.

BFO believes these policy priorities can help drive the sector forward and create new opportunities for the next generation of meat cutters. While we understand these efforts might not directly address the inclusion of rail butchery as a skilled trade, if we can create alternative pathways for employers to hire and train new employees, this should help address the labour shortage issue at abattoirs across the province. Much of the industry focus has been on expanding training opportunities within the meat cutting sector in Ontario, which should help drive the next generation to the sector and allow for greater opportunity to enter the field.

In the meantime, BFO will continue to update our membership on any new funding and program streams related to increasing the number of meat cutters in the province and addressing the labour shortage issue. Thank you again for taking the time to submit your resolution.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Spencer Dunsmore (Mover)
Carolyn Van der Heiden (Seconder)
Bob Dunsmore(Advisory Councillor)
Angela Schneider (Secretary)



August 2, 2023

Kelso Purdon
President, Lanark County Beef Farmers

Dear Kelso,

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

WHEREAS, there are not enough veterinarians in Ontario to provide services to beef farmers or livestock producers which leads to increased livestock mortality, increased livestock producer costs, decreased livestock producer profitability and decreased livestock producers, and **WHEREAS**, the Ontario medical industry faced with a shortage of doctors during the COVID pandemic did a quick pivot and developed a program called VTAC (<https://rcvtac.ca/>) in Renfrew County whereby paramedics visit patients and report to nurse practitioners or doctors via radio who make prescriptions and recommended treatment. VTAC also offers patient phone or video calls. VTAC reduces the need for patients going to hospital Emergency Departments. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** pursue the Ontario government and the College of Veterinarians of Ontario to investigate how the VTAC model can be implemented in Ontario to help the veterinary industry to treat more livestock across the province even with the limited number of veterinarians.

The Virtual Telemedicine and Assessment Centres (VTAC) have been described as an innovative health-care delivery model that allows people, primarily those without a family doctor, to access a family doctor, nurse practitioner and/or community paramedic for non-emergency medical concerns. The VTAC model was implemented by Renfrew County in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and allows individuals to call a toll-free number to book a telephone or video call appointment with a physician or nurse practitioner. Based on the medical issue, a physician or nurse practitioner may arrange for a community paramedic to provide an in-home assessment and treatment, prescribe medication or order diagnostic testing.

The VTAC model creatively utilizes both telemedicine and healthcare teams to improve access to healthcare. In the context of veterinary medicine, creating this sort of model for the provision of veterinary care for livestock would be challenging, at least at this point in time. However, aspects of the VTAC model, specifically the use of telemedicine and improving the utilization of other veterinary professionals, are occurring and should be expanded upon within veterinary medicine in Ontario.

Veterinary telemedicine has informally been in use for many years, but over time with improved technology and access to technology, along with increasing issues accessing veterinary care, it has grown in use. The College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO), the regulatory body for veterinarians in Ontario, established its Telemedicine Professional Practice Standard in 2016, and

most recently updated the Standard in 2022, to educate Ontario's licensed veterinarians on the appropriate use of telemedicine. CVO's telemedicine guideline outlines how telemedicine can be utilized within Ontario, how telemedicine can be used to establish a Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship (VCPR), and can be used to prescribe medication.

Veterinary telemedicine is meant to be a tool that complements the delivery of in-clinic or on-site veterinary care, and as a means to expand access to care and a veterinarian's ability to provide care. It is also important to acknowledge telemedicine does not address on-farm emergency service issues, but can be an effective method for veterinarians to provide guidance and preventive and non-urgent animal care.

Veterinary clinics utilizing telemedicine grew in use as a result of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. According to the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA), as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, almost 90 per cent of veterinarians in Ontario were using telemedicine. Following the loosening of restrictions, approximately eight in 10 veterinarians continued to use telemedicine to provide care. In a Canadian Cattlemen's Magazine article examining the growing opportunities for veterinary telemedicine, the value and popularity of telemedicine and its growing use were well highlighted. For the many veterinarians who use telemedicine, it is typically used to triage cases to determine if an animal requires further veterinary care and/or an on-site examination.

Some veterinary clinics in Ontario that work with livestock continue to have dedicated webpages on telemedicine. The Eastern Ontario Veterinary Services telemedicine consultation webpage (<https://eovs.ca/telemedicine/>) and the Upper Grand Veterinary Services telehealth webpage (<https://uppergrandvets.ca/who-we-are/telehealth-for-your-farm/>) are two such examples.

In 2022, the Canadian and Ontario governments recognized the importance of veterinary telemedicine by jointly investing \$4 million through the *Livestock Veterinary Innovation Initiative* to improve access to large animal care and for large animal veterinarians working in underserved areas. The initiative provided cost-share funding to veterinarians to improve virtual care options, expand telemedicine access and improve mobile clinics.

Legislative and regulatory changes are forthcoming in regards to veterinary medicine in Ontario that aim to modernize the *Veterinarians Act*, which has not been substantially updated since 1989. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) recently held a public consultation on a number of proposed changes to *the Act*. BFO participated in the consultation process and provided our comments and recommendations to OMAFRA. One of the main areas examined in the review was the scope of practice for veterinary medicine. Under the current legislation, only a licensed veterinarian can engage in the practice of veterinary medicine and *the Act* does not include a specific list of activities a veterinarian can perform while practicing veterinary medicine. The current legislation also does not recognize registered veterinary technicians (RVT) and the veterinary activities they are authorized to perform. This lack of clarity within *the Act* has led to confusion for the public and the profession about what is and is not within the scope of practice for both veterinarians and RVTs.

We support OMAFRA reviewing *the Act* and better defining the medical activities that can be conducted by veterinarians and RVTs, and we believe this will allow for more opportunities for RVTs to support farmers on-farm, either under direct or indirect supervision by a veterinarian. This will potentially alleviate the workload of large animal veterinarians, especially those who

practice in underserved areas of the province. The proposed changes to the *Veterinarians Act* are expected to come into effect in 2024 with potential subsequent public consultations to do with regulatory components of *the Act*.

In relation to the VTAC model, when the proposed changes to the *Veterinarians Act* come into force and with the increasing use of telemedicine, developing a model similar to the VTAC may become more feasible. We may also see an increase in veterinary clinics triaging client issues via telemedicine, and determining if an on-farm visit is needed and whether to have the veterinarian and/or the RVT attend.

The CVO, the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians (OAVT) and the Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance have been discussing and developing a potential pilot project that would take place in the Cochrane and Temiskaming areas in northern Ontario and would focus on increasing the use of RVTs on-farm. The pilot project would aim to develop a model for collaborative veterinary service, increase capacity of veterinary practices, and improve use of RVTs on-farm. Details of the initiative are being examined further.

BFO staff met with the founders of an Ontario company called VETSon to learn more about their virtual veterinary care services for farm animals. VETSon has developed a virtual healthcare platform that allows farmers to book virtual appointments with VETSon employed veterinarians to receive care. The platform can also be used by veterinarians to provide telemedicine through their clinic. To learn more about VETSon, see their website here (<https://vetson.ca/>).

BFO staff also recently met with a project team at McMaster's DeGroote School of Business as the project team is examining the potential of conducting research on telemedicine for the veterinary sector in Canada. The project team explained their project proposal to BFO and have met with a number of other organizations to get feedback on the project proposal, including the Beef Cattle Research Council. BFO staff will stay in contact with the project team regarding this potential project.

We have shared the above resolution with the CVO and the OAVT and will be further discussing the feasibility of applying the VTAC model or other similar models within the context of Ontario's veterinary care framework. We will keep members updated on how these conversations unfold along with any other relevant updates.

Thank you to the Lanark County Beef Farmers for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Dave Campbell (Mover and Advisory Councillor)
Mary Ellen McLellan (Seconder)
Barb Keith (Secretary)
Don Badour (BFO Board of Director)



January 31, 2024

Mike Fallis
President, Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association

Dear 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:

WHEREAS, the PAWS act contains many flaws in its act and procedures
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby to have a segregated part of the act written for livestock to recognize them as separate entity to that of a domestic pet.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution 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 there are concerns with elements of the PAWS Act, our team of Animal Care Advisors have 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. BFO continues to defend our position and formally request a complete review of the Act, a request we have made directly when meeting with elected officials and staff from the Office of the Solicitor General's and Animal Welfare Services.

In 2023, BFO prioritized the following activities:

- Met with senior staff from the Office of the Solicitor General to discuss our concerns on several occasions.
- In April 2023 BFO compiled and submitted a document outlining our observations and suggestions concerning BFO's experience with enforcement practices on beef farms. This document was prepared in anticipation that it may serve as the basis of more

extensive discussions with AWS leadership and the Solicitor General on operational, and potential legislative and/or regulatory improvements to the current system.

- Following the introduction of Bill 102, Strengthening Safety and Modernizing Justice Act, BFO staff and board took part in a roundtable discussion on May 2, 2023 to provide feedback and perspective from the livestock sector on initiatives addressing the health, welfare and comfort of farm animals in Ontario. A follow-up roundtable discussion took place on September 12, 2023 to continue the conversation.
- Presented on May 16, 2023 to the Standing Committee on Justice our concerns with Bill 102, Strengthening Safety and Modernizing Justice Act and encourage the province and the Ministry of the Solicitor General to continue to engage with the agricultural sector directly in discussions around opportunities for improvement and collaboration.
- Requested as a part of BFO's provincial lobby documents a full review of the PAWS Act for more appropriate response to animal welfare concerns on farms.
- At our 16th Annual Queen's Park BBQ held October 4, 2023 we had 22 meetings with Ministers, MPPs and opposition leaders 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.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between BFO and Animal Welfare Services, Ministry of the Solicitor General was formalized on November 9, 2023 outlining roles and responsibilities along with training and cooperation opportunities which will include improving the level of training and education of AWS staff and their participation in joint on-farm training sessions to ensure consistency in the application of the Beef Cattle Code of Practice.
- Participated along with other Ontario livestock commodity group representatives to meet jointly on November 24, 2023 with representatives from the Ministry of the Solicitor General/AWS and OMAFRA to discuss important issues in regard to animal welfare.
- On December 14, 2023 and January 5, 2024 BFO met with senior staff from Animal Welfare Services to discuss implementing the Memorandum of Understanding along with our concerns regarding the PAWS Act/Enforcement Practices which are attached for your reference. AWS committed to reviewing and responding to the concerns.

Despite a working relationship that has been formed with the enforcement branch, BFO and many of our farm organization counterparts remain concerned with components of the current system and will continue to lobby for a full view of the PAWS Act. BFO will be sure to keep the local associations apprised of any developments and progress on our request. Again, thank you for taking the time to submit this resolution.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: John Lunn (Advisory Councillor and Mover)
Francis Crowley (Seconder)
Patricia Leahy (Secretary)

Livestock Sector Concerns with the PAWS Act / Enforcement Practices

Removal/Seizure Costs and Contractors

- Statements of Account (SOAs) need to provide a full break down of costs. For example, Animal Welfare Services (AWS) will often list a category (e.g. transportation - \$30,000) without breaking it down further, which makes it difficult for someone to challenge said costs. In the transportation example, the SOA should list items such as truck and contractor rate per hour and hours billed.
- Eligible/ineligible costs that can be incurred by AWS in removal/seizure cases should be prescribed. In one case, flood lights were requested and ultimately denied to assist with removal. Seizures/removals of farm animals should never be done in the dark. If a list of eligible cost items was prescribed, it would eliminate unacceptable requests of items like flood lights.
- Maximum rates for contractor and other removal costs should be outlined and periodically updated based on commercial standards. AWS should not simply accept costs that contractors submit for their services.
- A list of appropriate vendors should be established and maintained to assist with livestock removal and seizure cases. In one case, livestock fencing was purchased at a foster farm to help contain removed livestock. The sector would argue that AWS should not be moving removed animals to farms or other locations that cannot adequately house said animals.
- SOAs should be capped at the market value of the animals in care.
- Costs should only be incurred if they are directly related to alleviating distress. Removals have occurred for other issues of non-compliance (e.g. hazardous debris in field).
- Ensure that AWS contract veterinarians assessing large commercial livestock have expertise in large commercial livestock species. In most cases, a small ruminant vet or a companion animal vet is not an acceptable expert when it comes to large commercial livestock, and vice-versa.

Removal/Seizure Process

- Clarify under what conditions can animals be seized or removed. The Act implies that taking possession of an animal is only warranted and authorized where it is in actual distress. AWS has removed animals where the AWS has determined that

the animals are in undue risk of distress rather than the distress required for authorized removal. Undue risk of distress is also not defined in the Act.

- Having debris and old farm equipment within grazing fields should not constitute “undue risk of distress”, particularly where there is no evidence to suggest the cattle are in poor condition or have any evidence of injury.
- Prevent animals not deemed to be in distress from being taken into the possession of AWS, and investigate alternative compliance approaches in lieu (e.g. Administrative Monetary Penalties). For example, animals have been removed for undue risk of distress in the past. A monetary penalty could incentivize compliance without removal. Manitoba Animal Care employs an administrative penalties scheme that could be assessed.
- Define “undue risk of distress” in the Act
- How can AWS justify the removal of some animals, and not others when the entire herd has been ordered to be removed? There have been multiple cases where only some animals have been removed and the remaining animals never moved off farm. In those cases, the owner has been able to either retain or sell those animals at their discretion. Why?

Livestock in the Care of AWS

- Allow animal owners, upon their consent, to sell their animals to cover removal costs without restriction. AWS has been very unclear on this point. In some instances, owners have been able to sell some animals prior to removal while in other cases owners have been told AWS cannot allow the sale of the animals until the SOA has been paid, even once the animals are deemed to be no longer in distress.
- The Manitoba equivalent to PAWS, does not usually remove cattle to foster farms. The cattle are taken directly to a cattle dealer or auction facility for sale at market prices, with the proceeds accruing to the farm owner (if they are fit for transport and sale). Ontario must allow the proceeds of sale to offset the SOA account.
- Once animals are no longer in distress, and in AWS care, they should be able to be sold with the proceeds offsetting the SOA. In some previous cases, owners have been told they must first pay the SOA before the animals can be sold. This makes no practical sense.

- Proceeds from the animals ordered to be sent direct to slaughter should be applied against any outstanding SOA or other administrative penalty with any residual funds returned to the owner.

Coordination with Industry

- AWS should notify the sector organizations in all cases where an inspection is to be undertaken on a beef farm, and when possible, a trained sector representative should be invited to attend during that inspection.
- When an AWS inspector revisits the farm, the sector organization should be notified and invited to attend.
- AWS should notify the sector organization when an order is issued against a farmer from that sector organization.
- AWS should notify the sector organization of all incidents where animal seizure or removal is being considered or planned.

Bill 102 Concerns

- The new requirement brought in under Bill 102 for *“animal owners and custodians to inform an animal welfare inspector when ownership or custodianship of an animal changes if the animal is subject to an active compliance order”* is unrealistic and impractical for commercial livestock. We understand the concern of the owner “buying back” their animals but unless that owner has been barred from owning animals again, he/she is free to participate in the commercial livestock sector. If AWS has concerns about their management, then commit to doing routine checks with that farm, which happens anyway.
- The primary method of sale within the commercial livestock sector is through public auction. Even if the seller is aware of who bought their animal(s), they are often purchased by agents working on behalf of other buyers unbeknown to the seller. To add, many commercial livestock animals, particularly in cattle, have multiple owners over the course of the animal’s life as they progress through various stages of the production cycle. The sector questions what will be gained by such a requirement, within the context of commercial livestock.
- Compliance orders on farm, and the health status of a particular animal are not mutually exclusive. If the animal that has been removed is deemed fit for transport under the federal *Health of Animals Regulations*, that animal will then be subjected to inspection at sale. The compliance, or lack thereof on farm has no meaningful linkage to the animal that has then been removed and sold. AWS can continue to assess compliance against active orders on the farm in question, but the need to follow removed animals to new owners makes little practical sense,

particularly given the fact that those animals will be subject to other enforcement and inspection requirements, and are under the care and control of an individual who was not involved with the earlier compliance issues.

Livestock Sector Concerns with the PAWS Act / Enforcement Practices

Removal/Seizure Costs and Contractors

- Statements of Account (SOAs) need to provide a full break down of costs. For example, Animal Welfare Services (AWS) will often list a category (e.g. transportation - \$30,000) without breaking it down further, which makes it difficult for someone to challenge said costs. In the transportation example, the SOA should list items such as truck and contractor rate per hour and hours billed.
- Eligible/ineligible costs that can be incurred by AWS in removal/seizure cases should be prescribed. In one case, flood lights were requested and ultimately denied to assist with removal. Seizures/removals of farm animals should never be done in the dark. If a list of eligible cost items was prescribed, it would eliminate unacceptable requests of items like flood lights.
- Maximum rates for contractor and other removal costs should be outlined and periodically updated based on commercial standards. AWS should not simply accept costs that contractors submit for their services.
- A list of appropriate vendors should be established and maintained to assist with livestock removal and seizure cases. In one case, livestock fencing was purchased at a foster farm to help contain removed livestock. The sector would argue that AWS should not be moving removed animals to farms or other locations that cannot adequately house said animals.
- SOAs should be capped at the market value of the animals in care.
- Costs should only be incurred if they are directly related to alleviating distress. Removals have occurred for other issues of non-compliance (e.g. hazardous debris in field).
- Ensure that AWS contract veterinarians assessing large commercial livestock have expertise in large commercial livestock species. In most cases, a small ruminant vet or a companion animal vet is not an acceptable expert when it comes to large commercial livestock, and vice-versa.

Removal/Seizure Process

- Clarify under what conditions can animals be seized or removed. The Act implies that taking possession of an animal is only warranted and authorized where it is in actual distress. AWS has removed animals where the AWS has determined that

the animals are in undue risk of distress rather than the distress required for authorized removal. Undue risk of distress is also not defined in the Act.

- Having debris and old farm equipment within grazing fields should not constitute “undue risk of distress”, particularly where there is no evidence to suggest the cattle are in poor condition or have any evidence of injury.
- Prevent animals not deemed to be in distress from being taken into the possession of AWS, and investigate alternative compliance approaches in lieu (e.g. Administrative Monetary Penalties). For example, animals have been removed for undue risk of distress in the past. A monetary penalty could incentivize compliance without removal. Manitoba Animal Care employs an administrative penalties scheme that could be assessed.
- Define “undue risk of distress” in the Act
- How can AWS justify the removal of some animals, and not others when the entire herd has been ordered to be removed? There have been multiple cases where only some animals have been removed and the remaining animals never moved off farm. In those cases, the owner has been able to either retain or sell those animals at their discretion. Why?

Livestock in the Care of AWS

- Allow animal owners, upon their consent, to sell their animals to cover removal costs without restriction. AWS has been very unclear on this point. In some instances, owners have been able to sell some animals prior to removal while in other cases owners have been told AWS cannot allow the sale of the animals until the SOA has been paid, even once the animals are deemed to be no longer in distress.
- The Manitoba equivalent to PAWS, does not usually remove cattle to foster farms. The cattle are taken directly to a cattle dealer or auction facility for sale at market prices, with the proceeds accruing to the farm owner (if they are fit for transport and sale). Ontario must allow the proceeds of sale to offset the SOA account.
- Once animals are no longer in distress, and in AWS care, they should be able to be sold with the proceeds offsetting the SOA. In some previous cases, owners have been told they must first pay the SOA before the animals can be sold. This makes no practical sense.

- Proceeds from the animals ordered to be sent direct to slaughter should be applied against any outstanding SOA or other administrative penalty with any residual funds returned to the owner.

Coordination with Industry

- AWS should notify the sector organizations in all cases where an inspection is to be undertaken on a beef farm, and when possible, a trained sector representative should be invited to attend during that inspection.
- When an AWS inspector revisits the farm, the sector organization should be notified and invited to attend.
- AWS should notify the sector organization when an order is issued against a farmer from that sector organization.
- AWS should notify the sector organization of all incidents where animal seizure or removal is being considered or planned.

Bill 102 Concerns

- The new requirement brought in under Bill 102 for *“animal owners and custodians to inform an animal welfare inspector when ownership or custodianship of an animal changes if the animal is subject to an active compliance order”* is unrealistic and impractical for commercial livestock. We understand the concern of the owner “buying back” their animals but unless that owner has been barred from owning animals again, he/she is free to participate in the commercial livestock sector. If AWS has concerns about their management, then commit to doing routine checks with that farm, which happens anyway.
- The primary method of sale within the commercial livestock sector is through public auction. Even if the seller is aware of who bought their animal(s), they are often purchased by agents working on behalf of other buyers unbeknown to the seller. To add, many commercial livestock animals, particularly in cattle, have multiple owners over the course of the animal’s life as they progress through various stages of the production cycle. The sector questions what will be gained by such a requirement, within the context of commercial livestock.
- Compliance orders on farm, and the health status of a particular animal are not mutually exclusive. If the animal that has been removed is deemed fit for transport under the federal *Health of Animals Regulations*, that animal will then be subjected to inspection at sale. The compliance, or lack thereof on farm has no meaningful linkage to the animal that has then been removed and sold. AWS can continue to assess compliance against active orders on the farm in question, but the need to follow removed animals to new owners makes little practical sense,

particularly given the fact that those animals will be subject to other enforcement and inspection requirements, and are under the care and control of an individual who was not involved with the earlier compliance issues.



September 7, 2023

Dave Perry
President and Advisory Councillor, Beef Farmers of Frontenac

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, Ontario has been a leader in the Local Food Movement over the past number of years and

WHEREAS, there is a requirement to use fertile land/soil to produce food in a profitable manner, and

WHEREAS, Ontario provincial government has vowed to have a large portion of the Greenbelt developed/destroyed

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO take a strong stand against this destruction of prime agricultural land.

A key BFO lobby priority we regularly communicate with the provincial government is to commit to preserving farmland through sound provincial land use policy that sees agricultural lands, including marginal lands used for livestock grazing and carbon sequestration, protected as the highest and best use of our province's arable land. Increasing protections for Ontario's agricultural land base is also identified within BFO's new Strategic Plan.

BFO has long highlighted the ongoing trend of agricultural land loss in Ontario with the government, especially the loss of land used for pasture and hay production. Approximately seven per cent of Canada's land base is used for agricultural purposes and it is widely known that with Canada's growing population and expanding urbanized communities, agricultural lands continue to be converted to other uses. In fact, from 1941 to 2016 agricultural land in Ontario decreased by approximately 50 per cent, according to Statistics Canada Census of Agriculture. The latest Census of Agriculture data showed from 2016 to 2021 another 582,392 acres of farmland were lost in Ontario.

Ontario adopted its first land use guidelines for protecting agricultural lands in 1975. In 2005, the Ontario government established a framework of land use policies many of us are familiar with today, such as the Provincial Policy Statement, the Greenbelt Plan, and the A Place to Grow Growth Plan. In regards to protecting agricultural lands, these policies outline various protections for prime agricultural areas or limitations for using prime agricultural lands for non-agricultural purposes. These policies establish what municipalities can and cannot do and/or provide guidance for municipalities to interpret and apply the policies with some flexibility. Despite the existence of Ontario's land use legislation, policies and on-going commitments from government to protect

Ontario's agricultural land, the continued erosion of Ontario's agricultural land base raises questions about the quality and effectiveness of our land use policies.

Over the past year, there has been growing attention and concern around Ontario's land use policies and protections, or lack thereof, for agricultural lands. The growing attention and concern were largely a result of two pieces of legislation the government put forward to increase housing development in Ontario and meet the government's goal of building 1.5 million houses by 2031.

In October 2022, the provincial government introduced *Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act*. The Act received Royal Assent on November 28 and, in an effort to increase opportunities to build more houses, made changes to the *Planning Act*, the *Conservation Authorities Act*, natural heritage policies, and examined the possibility of combining the Provincial Policy Statement and the A Place to Grow Growth Plan, which are currently the provinces two main land use policies. At the same time, the government released its proposal to remove lands from the Greenbelt following two previous public consultations held in 2021 and earlier in 2022. During this time, BFO worked closely with our industry partners to better understand the impacts of the proposed changes and in further raising our concerns to the government. BFO's detailed comments to a number of the public consultations associated with Bill 23 and the changes to the Greenbelt can be found on the BFO website.

Following Bill 23, the provincial government introduced *Bill 97, Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023* on April 6 and the Act received Royal Assent on June 6. This bill made amendments to the *Planning Act*, *Municipal Act*, *City of Toronto Act*, and *Development Charges Act*. In addition, the government released for public consultation its proposed land use planning policy titled the Provincial Planning Statement (PPS), which integrated the Provincial Policy Statement and the A Place to Grow Growth Plan into a single policy. The government stated the purpose of creating a single province-wide planning document was to create a framework that was housing-supportive and aided in the implementation of the province's 1.5 million new homes target by 2031.

The proposed PPS outlined a number of fundamental changes in regards to land use policies related to agricultural lands. Some of the changes included:

- Allowing up to three severances per farm parcel on prime agricultural lands.
- Making it easier for municipalities to create new settlement areas and expand urban boundaries, and to more easily include prime agricultural areas within expanded boundaries.
- Changes to allow for more housing development on rural lands.
- Removing the provincially mapped "Agricultural System", which included a provincial map of prime agricultural areas and lands.
- Allowing up to two additional residential units in prime agricultural areas.

Many of the proposed changes within the PPS were extremely concerning and BFO continued to collaborate with our industry partners to raise our concerns with the government. Of particular concern was the proposal to allow up to three severances per farm parcel in prime agricultural areas, as this was a fundamental shift from the current lot creation restrictions on prime agricultural lands and would have numerous negative consequences for the agriculture sector in Ontario. Some of these short and long-term consequences include the constraining of livestock farmers' ability to establish new operations and/or grow their operations (barns, manure storage, etc.); exacerbate the already unsustainable loss of Ontario's agricultural lands; risk inflating

farmland prices; increase infrastructure service demands on municipalities; create water quantity and quality concerns as a result of increased residences in agricultural areas; create increased fragmentation of our agricultural land base; and lead to more farmland being purchased for investment and speculative purposes, making farming even more unattainable for the next generation.

Shortly after the release of the proposed PPS, BFO met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to raise our concerns and recommendations. Subsequently, a joint letter was published by Ontario's general farm organizations along with a number of Ontario's commodity organizations signing off, including BFO, Ontario Pork, Ontario Sheep Farmers, Veal Farmers of Ontario, Egg Farmers of Ontario, Chicken Farmers of Ontario, etc. The letter outlined our concerns with Bill 97 and the proposed PPS, with an emphasis on the change to allow severances on prime agricultural lands, and on the need for the government to balance its housing goals with the need to protect our agricultural lands. The joint letter was effective at raising the profile of the issue and received media attention from CTV, CBC, Toronto Sun, Toronto Star and a number of farm media outlets.

In addition, Ontario's three general farm organizations led a letter writing campaign whereby farmers and the general public could easily express their concerns with their local Members of Provincial Parliament. BFO and other commodity groups assisted in sharing this campaign with our members.

Following these efforts, BFO and other farm organization leaders met with the Premier, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and ministry staff to discuss our concerns. Ultimately, at the end of May, the government committed to rolling back its proposal to allow up to three severances on prime agricultural lands and extended the consultation period for the proposed PPS to allow for further discussion with the agriculture sector. The government also committed to work with the agriculture sector to support housing opportunities for farm families.

The extended consultation period provided the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the Associate Minister of Housing the opportunity to hold a roundtable meeting in July with Ontario's general farm and commodity groups to discuss other aspects of the proposed PPS.

When communicating with government in regards to the above issues and the preservation of agricultural lands more generally, we continuously acknowledge that efforts to build housing in Ontario is necessary to meet the demands of our fast-growing population; however, housing development must be focused on existing urban and rural communities where municipal services are present, and addressing Ontario's housing crisis must balance the need to protect our agricultural lands and ability to produce food locally. BFO's comments on the proposed PPS consultation can be found on the BFO website.

Thank you to the Beef Farmers of Frontenac for bringing this resolution forward. BFO will continue to push for land use policies that support the protection of agricultural lands in Ontario and communicate the importance of Ontario's farmland for supporting local food production, our rural economies, the environment, and food security.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Jeff Peters (Secondar)
Jenna Perry (Secretary)



November 28, 2023

Kim Weedmark
President, Grenville County Cattlemen's Association

Dave Perry
President, Beef Farmers of Frontenac

Dear Kim and Dave,

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, the untimely closing of the prison abattoir at Joyceville Institution has increased processing wait times across Eastern Ontario, and

WHEREAS, bureaucratic red tape will continue to deter qualified individuals from taking over the facility at Joyceville Institution, and

WHEREAS, the advocacy group "Evolve Our Prison Farms" continues to spread disparaging mistruths about the value and importance of skilled abattoir training for offenders reintegrating into society, and

WHEREAS, a Kingston Whig Standard article dated October 10, 2022 stated that communications between Calvin Neufeld of Evolve Our Prison Farms and Esme Bailey a Senior Media Adviser at Correctional Service Canada indicated, "the abattoir may reopen if another interested party wants to lease the facility from CSC,"

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with those interested in operating the abattoir to lobby the Federal Government and Minister of Public Safety to take immediate action to successfully reopen the abattoir at Joyceville Institution.

And

WHEREAS, as there is a severe shortage of provincially inspected abattoirs in Ontario and
WHEREAS, the federal government owns a provincially inspected abattoir in Joyceville, Ontario that has recently closed and

WHEREAS, several abattoir operations have expressed interest in running this facility

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO investigate why this facility has not been tendered out and reopened.

Increased investment in meat processing capacity and finding a path to reopen the abattoir at Joyceville Institution have been identified as high priorities for BFO when engaging with both the federal and provincial governments.

After meeting with the BFO Advisory Council at our annual general meeting, Senator Black sent a letter to the Minister of Public Safety and Preparedness, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Official Languages encouraging them to work together to find an effective solution and reopen the facility.

The BFO Board of Directors and staff met with elected officials during the CCA lobby days in April on Parliament Hill and during our annual BBQ in October at Queen's Park. We discussed various issues including meat processing capacity and that local beef producers and consumers rely on facilities such as the Joyceville abattoir to provide processing services that help service local food demand and cattle supplies in the region.

In addition to our lobby days, a meeting with MP Mark Gerretsen took place with representatives from BFO and Meat and Poultry Ontario (MPO) to discuss reopening the abattoir at the Joyceville Institution and the impact the closure has had on beef farmers in the surrounding area. During this meeting, we were informed Correctional Service Canada (CSC) has conducted a review of the building condition and it requires minor repairs. Once completed, a request for proposal (RFP) will be publicly posted. They are anticipating this will occur in the spring or early summer of 2024. We are also currently working with MP Gerretsen's office on a parliamentary petition to help expedite the RFP process. Once the petition is finalized, we will reach out to your associations to ensure your members receive instructions and encouragement on signing it.

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 capacity in Ontario's meat processing sector, in coordination with groups like MPO and CCA.

Thank you to the Grenville County Cattlemen's Association and Beef Farmers of Frontenac for bringing these resolutions forward.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Brandon Jelly (Mover)
Charlene Renkema (Seconder)
Erin Theriault (Advisory Councillor and Secretary)
Mike Voith (Seconder)
Jenna Perry (Secretary)



November 23, 2023

Jasper Munro
President, Bruce County Beef Farmers

Dear Jasper,

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, recently a long-term study of US grasslands showed ruminants, albeit Bison, greatly improved biodiversity, and
WHEREAS, cows have been shown to improve the organic matter of reclaimed gravel pits, and
WHEREAS, Canada already has more trees per person than any other country in the world,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO advocate for funds collected from the federal carbon tax be allocated to protecting pastureland

The continued loss of agricultural grasslands throughout Canada is a major concern. According to Statistics Canada Census of Agriculture data, between 2016 and 2021, approximately 1.31 million acres of grassland were lost in Canada. In Ontario, this meant a loss of 157,200 acres of grassland were converted to annual cropping or urban development. The preservation and expansion of pastureland in Ontario is a priority for BFO and has been identified within BFO's recently updated Strategic Plan. A key deliverable is ensuring growth of Ontario's beef sector through protecting and promoting improvements to pastureland, expanding and improving community pastures, and partnering with other organizations such as farmland trusts, conservation authorities, and other relevant organizations to promote the value of Ontario's grasslands.

BFO also continues to advocate to the provincial government the value of Ontario's agricultural grasslands and press the government to commit to preserving farmland through sound provincial land use policy that sees agricultural lands, including marginal lands used for livestock grazing and carbon sequestration, protected as the highest and best use of our province's arable land. Nationally, the Canadian Cattle Association (CCA) routinely discusses with the federal government the important relationship between beef farming and grasslands and how grasslands sequester carbon and promote biodiversity. CCA partners with various national environmental organizations to support the protection of grasslands efforts throughout the country.

In regards to the federal government's 'carbon tax' or what is also referred to as a 'fuel charge', according to the Government of Canada website, approximately 90 per cent of the money collected from the federal carbon tax is used to provide the "Climate Action Incentive" payments. These rebates are paid on a quarterly basis to all Canadians who file their annual income tax.

With the federal government's emphasis on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing climate change, the government has made a number of commitments in its various climate change related plans and strategies that reference the importance of agricultural grasslands. These statements highlight the role of grasslands as "natural climate solutions", the ability of grasslands to store carbon and support biodiversity, acknowledge the role and value of managing grasslands with livestock, and the need to maintain and restore these landscapes.

These commitments have resulted in the continuation or creation of a number of federal and provincially funded programs that support improvements to grassland areas. Some of these include the on-going Species at Risk Partnership on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL) program and the Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program (SARFIP), which provide funding for pasture and hay land improvements that support species at risk; the Ontario On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) that includes funding for rotational grazing systems; and most recently announced, the Resilient Agricultural Landscapes Program (RALP). RALP provides per/acre direct payments to successful applicants for establishing native grasslands, converting annual cropland to pasture or perennial biomass crops, tree and shrub planting, wetland establishment, etc. Further, the federal government also created its Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund, a \$1.4 billion, ten-year fund meant to reduce greenhouse gas emissions annually by conserving, restoring and enhancing wetlands, grasslands and peatlands to store and capture carbon.

Further information on RALP, SARPAL, SARFIP and OFCAF can be found here <https://programguides.ontariosoilcrop.org/>.

Beyond the above examples, there are other initiatives or tools being looked at or are currently being implemented that deal with protecting grasslands. As noted, CCA works closely with organizations like Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), and together have developed the Grasslands Conservation Initiative to preserve Canada's remaining native grasslands by using various conservation methods, such as land conservation agreements and conservation land purchase financing. This Initiative is in its early stages and CCA, DUC and NCC have had discussions with the federal government to join the initiative as a partner. More information on the Grasslands Conservation Initiative can be found here: <https://www.producer.com/news/initiative-hopes-to-protect-grasslands/>.

BFO throughout this year has met with various organizations to learn more about or receive updates on other grassland related initiatives that are taking place in Ontario. These opportunities also provide an opportunity for BFO to foster relationships with environment focused groups who are looking to build connections with farmers. Earlier this year, staff met with Grasslands Ontario, a division of Forests Ontario, to learn more about its funding program for enhancing grassland habitat on farms and its partnerships with conservation authorities in Ontario to deliver the program. Staff also met with Ducks Unlimited Canada to learn more about their conservation work in Ontario, current projects, and future opportunities to collaborate with BFO.

In addition, the Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) received \$11.7 million this year to protect natural landscapes, including grasslands, from the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund. As a member of OLTA and a project partner, BFO staff met with Ontario Farmland Trust (OFT), an organization committed to working with farmers to protect their farmland through conservation easements. OFT is receiving annual payments as part of the project funding to support additional conservation easement projects with interested farmers. These projects are focused on preserving natural landscapes and included farms with pasture and hay land.

The carbon market has been touted as a potential area that can support the preservation of agricultural land, and more specifically, grasslands, and as an opportunity for farmers to generate income for the environmental services they provide on-farm. However, getting involved in the carbon market is complicated and opportunities to generate “carbon credits” through agricultural activities are limited compared to other countries like the U.S. and Australia.

With that, earlier this year the Canada Grassland Protocol pilot project was finalized. The pilot project was led by the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association (CFGAs) in partnership with other groups. BFO staff met with CFGAs to get an update on the Protocol and to learn how interested beef farmers could take advantage of it. Unlike most agriculture carbon offset protocols, which require farmers to implement a practice, such as cover cropping, and have changes in soil carbon be measured and verifiable, the Canada Grassland Protocol would generate carbon credits through the avoided conversion of grasslands to croplands and avoided loss of soil carbon. There are a number of details and requirements for a project to be considered eligible. Some of the requirements include: sign an agreement to receive financial benefits; interested producers would be required to enter into a conservation agreement whereby the farmer chooses between a 20-to-130-year agreement; partner with a land trust; land must be at risk of conversion; be managed as grasslands for at least 10 years, etc. BFO continues to assess the potential of this Protocol and possible risks, and other agricultural carbon market protocols.

Protecting Ontario’s pasture and hay land is a challenge that requires a number of solutions, in addition to financial support to protect pastureland, that BFO continues to address, including ensuring Ontario’s beef sector is profitable and stable, changes to land use policies, and further opportunities to reward beef farmers for the environmental services they provide on their farm, to improve management of grasslands, and to enhance and expand community pastures, etc.

Thank you to the Beef County Beef Farmers for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Jarrett Johnson (Mover and Advisory Councillor)
Tom Cunningham (Seconder)
Jennifer Isber-Legge (Secretary)



April 26, 2023

Guy Shane
President, Prescott County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Guy,

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

WHEREAS, there is evidence that the agriculture industry and more specifically the cattle industry is under extreme pressure from government environmental regulations and risks being decimated,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO take the lead with the other agriculture and livestock organizations to be proactive on getting the message out to the Federal Government, of all the benefits agriculture provides to carbon sequestering, and more specifically the advantages of cattle that require pasture lands, hay, cover crops, and year-round green cover on land which has such positive effects on the environment and positive carbon sequestering.

We know grazing cattle are an integral part of the grassland ecosystem and play an important role in ensuring grasslands do not disappear from the Canadian landscape. Telling the story of Ontario's beef sector and the positive environmental impacts provided by beef farmers and cattle is a key priority for BFO. Federally, BFO Board members and staff work closely with the Canadian Cattle Association (CCA) to advance issues that are national in scope. The work put into sharing information on beef farming and the environment is done on all fronts from our policy and advocacy efforts, consumer engagement, and in working with other organizations, particularly CCA and its Public and Stakeholder Engagement (PSE) team, and the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB).

Most recently, BFO Board and staff members along with CCA staff held meetings with Members of Parliament and Senators in Ottawa about the sustainability of cattle production in Ontario. Board and staff communicated that federal policies need to resonate with Canadian farmers as much as they do with the Government and the public, and such policies need to include experienced voices from Canadian farmers; the importance of cattle producers being able to feed the world while contributing to environmental, social and economic sustainability; the need for strategic investments in science-based practices and sector-led initiatives to encourage soil-based carbon storage; and to encourage technology, innovations and management approaches that reduce overall emissions and the intensity of emissions.

To combat the narrative that livestock agriculture is negatively impacting the environment, we are continuously highlighting the realities of beef farming in Ontario and in Canada, and the environmental benefits provided by the beef sector. This involves regularly communicating to governments and consumers that Canada's beef sector is a leader in global sustainable beef efforts, that the sector maintains one of the lowest greenhouse gas (GHG) footprints of all beef systems in the world, the value of agricultural grasslands and the integral role beef farmers play in preserving these declining landscapes. As you will likely note from the below information, advocacy and engagement work on this front is a multifaceted approach.

We also acknowledge the beef sector is committed to further improving production practices that benefit the environment and continue to invest in research and extension to advance the sector, work to increase the number of producers trained and audited through beef quality assurance programming, further implement environmental stewardship practices on-farm and continue to identify production efficiencies.

The Canadian beef sector developed the Canada Beef Industry Goals 2030 to further show our commitment to progress and provide the sector concrete targets to work towards. A number of the Industry Goals deal with the environment. These include:

- Greenhouse Gas and Carbon Sequestration Goals
 - Safeguard the existing 1.5 billion tonnes of carbon stored on lands managed with beef cattle
 - Sequester an additional 3.4 million tonnes of carbon every year
 - Reduce primary production GHG emission intensity by 33 per cent by 2030
 - Reduce food loss and waste (from secondary processing to consumer) by 50 per cent by 2030
- Land Use and Biodiversity Goals
 - Maintain the 35 million acres of native grassland in the care of beef producers:
 - by focusing on economic viability of producers and
 - by supporting programs that incentivize conservation
 - in collaboration with Canadian crop groups (e.g. Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Crops)
 - Maintain a network of natural landscapes and healthy functioning ecosystems through well-managed grazing systems that maintain sustainable plant communities and healthy rangelands
 - Maintain and enhance the 68 per cent of wildlife habitat capacity within agricultural lands being supported by beef production
 - Enhance the ecosystem services (e.g. carbon sequestration, etc.) provided on the 9 million acres of seeded grassland in the care of beef producers
 - Encourage practices that build soil organic matter and enhance soil biodiversity resulting in both carbon sequestration and water infiltration
- Water and Soil Quality Goals
 - Promote practices that maximize water quality and retention, to deliver healthier landscapes, resilience to drought and flood events, and groundwater recharge as appropriate to the region's precipitation
 - Improve water use efficiency in the beef value chain
 - Build recognition by the public and policy-makers of the benefits provided by grassland ecosystems, including: Protection of wetlands; The role of wetlands as important carbon sinks; Filtration of nutrients that protect water quality and

reduce non-point source pollution; Resilience to drought and flood events; and support groundwater recharge and future water supplies

To review the Industry Goals in more depth, visit <https://www.cattle.ca/sustainability/canadian-beef-industry-goals>.

In regards to BFO's consumer engagement efforts, a key pillar is talking with consumers about the environmental benefits provided by Ontario's beef farmers. To get a sense of what is communicated, visit the Ontario Beef website to read about our messaging around the environmental value of Ontario beef (<https://www.ontbeef.ca/blog/>). BFO's consumer engagement efforts have continued to grow and in 2022 there were a number of campaigns and advertisements focused on the environmental sustainability of the Ontario beef sector. This included:

- Extending the 2021 environmental public relations campaign through to March 2022, which aimed to build on the campaign efforts in 2021 and increase good news content around beef and the environment.
- A high-profile influencer campaign where three influencers were invited to tour a beef farm and learn more about beef farming and how the farmers are stewarding the land. They each created social media content about their experience on the farm to share with their collective 4.4 million followers.
- Expanded our podcast advertising, which aired on the Ongoing History of New Music with Alan Cross as well as other podcasts across the Corus network. The ads ran from June 1 to August 31 and focused on reiterating the environmental value of Ontario beef.
- Continued our working relationship with AgScape. Throughout 2022, our beef resource, An Exploration of Beef Farming in Ontario, was the most requested resource at AgScape.

Within CCA, the Public and Stakeholder Engagement (PSE) team also handles consumer-facing issues related to beef production in Canada and aims to maintain public trust in the Canadian beef industry. The Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB) is another important partner in the promotion of the environmental benefits of cattle production, advancing the environmental, social and economic sustainability of Canada's beef sector throughout the supply chain. This includes overseeing the CRSB quality assurance certification program for producers, processors and those sourcing beef for their stores or restaurants. In Ontario, producers can become CRSB certified by completing training and an audit through Verified Beef Production Plus or the Ontario Corn Fed Beef Quality Assurance Program. CRSB also plays a key role in benchmarking and assessing our environmental, social and economic sustainability progress.

Another way our sector highlights the beneficial environmental services provided by beef cattle production and our commitment to improving our environmental impact is through research. A component of BFO's Research Committee is funding research on environmental sustainability that will reduce the sector's environmental footprint by developing solutions and systems that benefit beef production and the environment. The Beef Cattle Research Council, a division of CCA, is our national industry-led funding agency for beef and forage research. BCRC supports a number of environment related research projects to do with forage and grassland productivity, feed efficiency, and environmental sustainability, and develop resources for producers to better understand research results.

BFO has also developed relationships with other organizations to promote the environmental benefits of cattle production and our commitment to further improvements. This includes the

University of Guelph, Bird Ecology and Conservation Ontario, Ontario Forage Council, Greenbelt Foundation, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Ontario Farmland Trust, Cleanfarms and the other livestock and general farm organizations, to name a few. Nationally, CCA, PSE, BCRC and CRSB also work closely with many organizations, including: Duck Unlimited Canada, Birds Canada, Nature Conservancy Canada, Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association, etc.

With the help of our industry's advocacy and voluntary efforts, the role of Canada's agriculture sector as a solution to address climate change and to reduce GHG emissions is not lost on the federal government. The federal government has released a number of plans and strategies over the past couple of years to protect the environment and address climate change, and the role of agriculture, including Canada's beef sector and the management of grasslands, is explicitly recognized. For example:

- Released in 2021, the "A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy" plan states farmers are on the frontlines of climate change and are key partners in the fight against it. The plan also states improvements made by the sector, such as how feeding and breeding improvements have lowered emissions by 15 per cent per kilogram of beef over the past 30 years, reducing pressure on land and water. The plan also describes agricultural lands, grasslands and wetlands as natural climate solutions, and the ability to capture and store more carbon through improving management of agricultural lands and by restoring grasslands and wetlands.
- The federal 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan (2022) acknowledges agricultural soils are a significant carbon sink and offset approximately six per cent of total annual agricultural emissions, and the sector has the potential to sequester even more carbon through the use of cover cropping, rotational grazing and improved manure management.
- The Federal Greenhouse Gas Carbon Offset System is developing an initial set of protocols that will include protocols on "Enhanced Soil Organic Carbon" and "Livestock Feed Management". These protocols will allow for farmers to generate credits in the carbon market for a number of environmental practices they provide on-farm and create a financial incentive to reduce emissions.
- Canada's Methane Strategy (2022) aims to reduce methane emissions in Canada by 30 per cent below 2020 levels by 2030. The Strategy recognizes the oil and gas, agriculture and landfill sectors as Canada's main sources of methane emissions. Despite oil and gas contributing 38 per cent, agriculture 30 per cent and landfills 28 per cent of methane emissions, the government's 2030 methane reduction targets expect the oil and gas sector to reduce methane emissions by 65 per cent, landfills by 45 per cent and agriculture by one per cent. This target for agriculture is due in part to the government acknowledging the role grazing cattle has in preserving and improving native grasslands, the benefits of raising beef cattle on grasslands such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity and water quality, and the voluntary actions of Canada's beef sector to preserve grasslands and reduce emissions produced by the sector through the Canada Beef Industry 2030 Goals. The report also notes the reductions in Canada's cattle herd correlates with reduced grasslands, pastures and forages acres, and how native grasslands can be conserved and improved with grazing livestock and managed grazing to sequester carbon.
- The Sustainable Agriculture Strategy consultation (2023) closed for public comment on March 31, 2023 and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is planning to publish the final Strategy at the end of 2023. This Strategy is meant to create long-term plan that will help bring together action on priority environment and climate issues in the agriculture sector and outlines a number of recommendations, such as protecting grasslands to support biodiversity. The draft Strategy notes agriculture accounts for 10 per cent of

Canada's GHG emissions (35 per cent of which is associated with enteric fermentation), and that emissions from livestock production decreased by 20 per cent between 2005-2020 compared to 102 per cent increase in crop production emissions within the same time frame. The Strategy acknowledges the 10 per cent of emissions from the agriculture sector does not account for the carbon sequestered within agricultural lands, which would offset a portion of the agricultural sector's emissions. It also acknowledges the work being done by industry groups to promote stewardship and track sustainability goals, and references the CRSB as evidence of such efforts. It further highlights concerns with the conversion of grasslands to annual crop land and the importance of grasslands in regulating water quality, protecting soil, cycling of nutrients, sequestering carbon and providing habitat for wildlife.

The need to promote the environmental benefits provided by beef production in Canada to governments, elected officials and consumers, and pushback on a narrative that believes beef farming negatively impacts our environment is an on-going effort, and remains a key priority for BFO. We encourage local associations to connect with their elected officials from their ridings to raise this topic as well and to reach out to BFO for information on this matter in order to make the meetings productive. We thank you for bringing this resolution forward and appreciate any feedback or questions from members on this subject.

Sincerely,



Jack Chaffe
President

cc: Rene Harnisch (Mover)
Geordie MacLaren (Seconder and Advisory Councillor)
Gordon Wylie (Secretary)