



2025 RESOLUTION RESPONSES

Enclosed you will find the response letters to the 2025 resolutions

25-01	The Protection of Livestock from Dogs Act
25-02	Large Animal Veterinary Access
25-03	PAWS Act
25-04	Yield-Based Forage Insurance
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25-01

September 22, 2025

Jim King
President
Victoria Beef Farmers

Dear Jim,

Re: *The Protection of Livestock from Dogs Act 25-01 & Wildlife Damage Compensation Program 25-05*

The following resolutions were passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Annual General Meeting in February and recently discussed by the BFO Board of Directors:

THE PROTECTION OF LIVESTOCK FROM DOGS ACT

WHEREAS, domestic dogs kills in the province fall under the scope of Protection of livestock and Poultry from Dogs Act Ontario Regulation 329/11,

WHEREAS, in 2019, OMAFRA changed the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program (OWDCP) program (for payments due to predation losses from Wild Animals) to no longer have maximum payment amounts, and only using market rates,

WHEREAS, beef prices have risen exponentially in recent years, and the current regulation imposes a \$2,500 non-registered cattle maximum rate,

WHEREAS, municipalities are required to adhere to the above regulation when determining maximum compensation values,

WHEREAS, municipalities should have the ability to use fair market rates in assessing domestic dog predation kills in the same manner that wild animal predation kills are valued,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO submit a request to the Minister responsible for Regulation 329/11 to remove the maximums altogether from the legislation and to explicitly permit fair market rates to be used in cases of Domestic Dog kills.

WILDLIFE DAMAGE COMPENSATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation program relies on municipal clerk offices to administer this program with farm experienced investigators conducting investigative work in the field,

WHEREAS, these investigators are being asked to sign a waiver exempting them from compensation should an accident or event occur while an investigation is taking place,

WHEREAS, if individual investigators are required to purchase insurance for themselves at great cost, the industry potentially may lose most or all the investigators if it is no longer a profitable arrangement,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with the other General Farm Organizations on this file to make a request to the appropriate body (Province or Municipality) that investigators be covered under their insurance.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank you for bringing these two resolutions forward at our AGM in February. Ensuring our producers have a viable, well-run program is critical to help mitigate the risk our producers face from wildlife predation alongside domestic dog predation. In 2024, the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation program (OWDCP) paid out a total of \$1,101,040.75 over 579 incidents involving beef cattle within the province. In the Kawartha Lakes region, the program paid out a total of \$114,249.68 over 61 incidents.

The *Protection of Livestock and Poultry from Dogs Act* has maximum values associated with each species of livestock and has further sub-categories within it for both registered and non-registered cattle. Currently, the compensation maximums established within the Act's regulations are \$2,500 for non-registered cattle and \$8,000 for registered cattle. These maximum values differ from those established in the OWDCP, which are \$4,000 for non-registered cattle and \$8,000 for registered cattle. The value of the animal is determined by using the indicated weight and a standardized fair market value formula. With the current market prices of beef cattle, these maximum compensation limits are going to become very restrictive on the compensation producers receive. BFO would like to see the maximum compensation values align with the CFIA destruction rate values. As of the June 2025 update, they are \$16,500 (from \$10,000, set in 2015) for registered cattle and \$10,000 (from \$4,500, set in 2015) for non-registered cattle.

To address the maximum compensation value limits for both the *Protection of Livestock and Poultry from Dogs Act* and the OWDCP, BFO alongside Ontario Sheep and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture sent the attached letter to Minister Jones of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) regarding the need to increase the maximum compensation as the current market prices have surpassed the current maximum prices set by the ministry.

In the letter, we also recommended streamlining the process of wildlife predation claims. Over the past number of years, BFO has received complaints from our members that the turnaround times for their predation claims were falling outside of the service standards put forward by OMAFA. In some cases, we heard of wait times up to six months after the claim was submitted before payment was received. We recommended the ministry look into the model they use in unorganized townships, where producers submit their own claims directly to OMAFA and receive their payment directly from the ministry. If this process was used province-wide, it would allow the program to eliminate the intermediary and create a more efficient process. This would also enable counties and townships to offload the program from their duties, as many municipalities struggle to find investigators or at times are even unaware that they are responsible for administering the program.

BFO participated in a roundtable for red tape reduction at the beginning of September, and one of the recommendations we brought forward was to replace the current predation compensation program with a self-reporting and central verification system. This would result in a program that is timely for our producers, will allow claims to be processed faster by the ministry and save time and money for the ministry and municipalities as there will no need for the municipality to have to investigate.

BFO is a member of OMAFA's Ontario Wildlife Conflict Working Group, which meets quarterly and is responsible for reviewing program stats and discuss potential improvements to the program. Be assured that BFO will bring your concerns forward to that group and push for change within the program so it can be timelier and more predictable for producers. If you have any further comments or concerns about the program, please contact the office to ensure they are addressed.

BFO would like to thank Victoria County for bringing these issues forward and we will update you on any further progress on this file.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig McLaughlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Adam Shea (Advisory Councillor, Mover)
Lois Batty (Seconder)
Glenna Stephenson (Secretary)



July 15, 2025

The Honourable Trevor Jones
Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Agribusiness
77 Grenville Street
Toronto, ON
M7A 1B3

Sent via email: minister.omafa@ontario.ca

Dear Minister,

Re: Issues Regarding the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program

The Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program (OWDCP) is a valuable resource to livestock producers in Ontario. We have appreciated the responsiveness of your ministry in the past when issues have been identified and addressed.

Our organizations recently participated in a meeting of the provincial Agriculture Wildlife Conflict working group. At that meeting, we suggested improvements to the program we feel will reduce program costs, address producer concerns and improve the responsiveness of the program to our farmers. It was suggested at that meeting that we bring our concerns and solutions to your attention.

This year, our organizations received feedback from our producers that the amount of time between reporting livestock damage and a producer receiving compensation was over six months and, in some cases, almost a year. Additionally, inspectors in some municipalities are not responding in a reasonable time to producer reports of damage and livestock kills are having to be documented by producers rather than inspectors to capture the required proof of wildlife damage.

There is broad inconsistency in program delivery through municipalities that leads to inequity between farmers across the province. Some municipalities send inspectors right away and pay claims immediately. While others rarely send inspectors and hold money even when it is transferred by the province until council approves the transfer, which causes significant delay.

Our boards recommend the province administer the program equitably to all producers by introducing an online wildlife damage reporting form. We understand a form may already exist and be in use for farmers

in unorganized townships. Producers can submit their own photos and investigators can be engaged only when the province requires additional information.

This reduction of red tape will save the province and municipalities thousands of dollars in administration time and the cost of investigators for every claim.

The OWDCP does not accurately reflect the true valuation of commercial breeding sheep stock lost to predation. Presently, commercial breeding sheep stock is only compensated at the cull animal meat price. The cull animal value does not truly reflect any breeding stock value. There is no compensation value given for the many years and thousands of dollars of investment in a commercial breeding program and the future flock genetic improvement these animals represent. Commercial or non-purebred genetics does not mean they are of lower quality than purebred genetics. In many purchases, the commercial ewe genetics have a value premium due to hybrid vigor resulting from the genetic selection for specific traits inherent in other breeds.

To further improve the program, an annual survey of sheep breeders reporting actual values of commercial and purebred breeding stock sold should be conducted. The survey can also help identify the added value for specific breeds utilized for their quality wool or their dairy milk production. Similar to breeding stock, the actual value of these animals is significantly more than the cull meat price. The survey could also determine a value for livestock guardian dogs when they are also lost to predation.

In addition to concerns regarding wildlife predation, Ontario farmers also face losses from domestic dog attacks, yet the compensation framework for these incidents remains outdated and inconsistent with the support provided under the OWDCP. While the OWDCP provides compensation to poultry and livestock producers at market value based on industry-recognized pricing, losses caused by domestic dogs fall under the *Protection of Livestock and Poultry from Dogs Act*, which does not follow the same valuation approach. This discrepancy results in significantly lower compensation rates for producers who experience losses due to domestic dog attacks.

For example, under the OWDCP, non-registered cattle are compensated up to \$4,000, while the *Protection of Livestock and Poultry from Dogs Act* only provides up to \$2,500 for the same loss. The lack of regular updates to compensation rates under this separate legislative framework creates an unjust financial burden for affected producers. This disparity does not reflect the true economic loss suffered by farmers and fails to provide adequate support for their livestock protection efforts.

We recommend harmonizing the compensation structure for livestock losses caused by domestic dogs with the OWDCP model, ensuring that all producers receive fair and up-to-date compensation based on industry standards. Aligning these programs would create a more equitable system, recognizing that the source of predation—whether wildlife or domestic dogs—should not determine the financial viability of a farm business recovering from a loss.

We thank you for the opportunity to bring forward these recommendations that can strengthen the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program and we look forward to working with you to ensure the program is able to compensate producers in a fair and timely manner for predation losses.

Sincerely,

Craig McLaughlin *Drew Spoelstra*



Craig McLaughlin
Chair
Beef Farmers of Ontario

Drew Spoelstra
President
Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Art Alblas
Chair
Ontario Sheep Farmers



December 9, 2025

Nathan Stirk
President
Dufferin County Cattleman's Association

Re: Large Animal Veterinary Access 25-02

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, Access to large animal veterinarians for beef producers is a challenge in many parts of Ontario. This is causing many veterinarians to expand their service area and travel much further distances. This problem leaves many parts of Ontario with minimal to no veterinary care for their cattle.

THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED THAT BFO focuses on efforts to improve access to veterinarians throughout the whole province and identifies geographic areas of concern including but not limited to Northern Ontario and continue to work with veterinary and government partners to provide solutions.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank Dufferin County Cattleman's Association for bringing this resolution forward. Reducing large animal veterinary shortages in the province continues to be a top priority for BFO. At the Queen's Park BBQ and lobby day in May, we asked elected officials to address the large animal veterinary shortage by enhancing incentive programs, increasing investment in the Veterinary Assistance Program (VAP), and ensuring the successful launch of the new collaborative Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Program with Lakehead University and the University of Guelph.

The Veterinary Incentive Program encourages recently graduated veterinarians to practice large animal veterinary medicine and work in underserved areas in the province to address critical skill and labour shortages. Each new veterinarian graduate will be eligible to receive grants of up to \$50,000 over five years for working in rural and northern communities and treating large animals. Since the program launched in October 2023, 15 veterinarians have committed and taken advantage of the program.

In July, I attended Northern Economic Development and Growth Minister George Pirie's roundtable on behalf of BFO to discuss VAP where discussions focused on ways to enhance the program. In August, BFO staff and I met again with Minister Pirie to discuss concerns related to the VAP that were not fully addressed at the roundtable. The minister was receptive to BFO's recommendations.

The Ontario government is investing \$2 million through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) to help Lakehead University build a new facility for its Collaborative DVM Program, delivered in partnership with the University of Guelph. In September, the program

welcomed its first Northern Cohort—20 students from Northern Ontario—who are completing the full four-year program at the University of Guelph. Starting in 2027, once Lakehead’s new facility is complete, students will begin the program in Thunder Bay before finishing in Guelph.

BFO offers two scholarships to Ontario Veterinary College students pursuing large animal health and welfare. The DVM Entrance Scholarship provides \$4,000 to an incoming DVM student, distributed as \$1,000 annually over four years to a student who has significant beef cattle experience and a demonstrated interest in food animal practice. The DVM Convocation Award provides one award of \$5,000, to a graduating DVM student who has shown strong involvement in beef cattle, completed a beef rotation, and is enrolled in the Food Animal or Rural Community Practice stream. Additionally, the BFO Degree Bursaries offer several awards of varying amounts to students with financial need. Most recently, BFO established a *Beef Farmers of Ontario Veterinary Bursary* in the amount of \$2,000, which was presented at OFA’s AGM.

BFO recently sent a letter of support to the Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance (NOFIA) regarding its Vet Capacity Pilot Project proposal. This project looks to support veterinary capacity in northern Ontario, with a targeted focus on the Cochrane district. The project’s objectives are to improve access to food animal care in northern Ontario through a shared services model using human resources, equipment, and infrastructure, while ensuring the long-term sustainability of veterinary services for producers.

BFO appreciates this issue being brought forward as we recognize its importance within our sector. We remain committed to advocating for both short-term and long-term solutions to help address and improve access to veterinary services throughout the whole province. We will keep our members apprised of progress made on this issue.

Sincerely,



Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Rex Crawford (Mover)
Mike Swidersky (Seconder)
Curtis Dullard (Advisory Councillor)
Kaitlyn McReavy (Secretary)



25-03

August 20, 2025

Karen Paszternak
President
Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Mike,

Re: PAWS Act 25-03

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 PAWS Act as written, calls for livestock to be adopted out if the farmer is unable to meet the requirements of an inspector or he or she cannot pay the fees for the cattle to be taken care of

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO continue to lobby to have a separate legislation for livestock written.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association for continuing to bring this resolution forward to ensure it remains a high priority for our association.

BFO continues to raise with elected officials and ministry staff the serious concerns we have. These include 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.

We held our Queen's Park BBQ at the end of May. We met with MPPs from all parties along with staff from Solicitor General Kerzner's office to discuss our provincial priorities that included requesting a formal review of the *Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act*. We also asked for the creation of a distinct and tailored system of enforcement and regulatory framework for livestock, similar to what is done in other jurisdictions.

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 collaborate and lobby for changes to address industry's concerns.

BFO will be sure to keep the local associations apprised of any developments and progress on our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig McLaughlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: John Lunn (Mover, Advisory Councillor)
Gavin Faught (Seconder)
Patricia Leahy (Secretary)



25-04

January 26, 2026

Jordan Miller
President
Manitoulin Cattlemen's Association

Dear Jordan,

Re: 25-04 YIELD-BASED FORAGE INSURANCE

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, hay is a managed and valuable crop just like any of the other commodity crops grown in Ontario that are already insured through a self-reporting, yield-based system; and
WHEREAS, rainfall is not the only significant peril that affects a hay crop's yield; and
WHEREAS, rainfall amounts can vary significantly within a current reporting area and are not an accurate representation of localized weather; and
WHEREAS, BFO's goal is to increase the Ontario cow herd and hay is the primary feedstuff for the Ontario cow herd;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with OMAFA and Agricorp to move towards a self-reporting, yield-based hay insurance program that replicates the production insurance program already in place for other commodities such as corn, corn silage, wheat, beans etc.

Thank you for bringing forward the resolution to our annual general meeting. We appreciate the time invested in highlighting the need for a yield-based forage insurance program in Ontario.

We acknowledge that forage production faces multiple yield-affecting risks beyond rainfall alone, and that localized weather variability can make area-based rainfall programs an imprecise reflection of individual farm experiences.

BFO recognizes forages are the primary feed source for Ontario's cow herd, and strengthening forage risk management tools supports herd growth and long-term sector sustainability. Access to effective, responsive insurance programming is essential to maintaining confidence in feed supply and overall farm viability.

BFO has discussed this issue with the Cow-Calf Committee and established a dedicated working group to explore potential improvements to forage insurance. As part of this work, the group conducted a jurisdictional scan of forage insurance programs across North America to identify

comparable models that may be applicable in Ontario. Through this review, the Alberta Hay Insurance Agreement was identified as a potential example that could offer useful insights for an Ontario-based program.

In parallel, BFO has engaged with Agricornp to discuss the feasibility of a self-reporting, yield-based hay insurance model. This issue has also been added to BFO's provincial priorities list, underscoring its importance to the organization and its members.

BFO and Agricornp also continue to participate in the national Industry-Government Forage Insurance Task Team, which assesses and compares forage insurance models used across North America. While forage insurance has been a long-standing concern, significant work remains to develop the mechanics of a program that is saleable to the government, affordable for producers and the province, responsive and accurate at the individual farm level, and relevant to eastern forage production systems.

Developing forage insurance is inherently more complex than traditional crop insurance. Forage production is difficult to measure, value, and standardize, as forages may be grazed, harvested multiple times or stockpiled, often without any yield records. Their value is typically indirect, tied to on-farm livestock use rather than open markets, and forage quality can decline without a clear reduction in yield. In addition, forage growth responds to weather across multiple periods and is heavily influenced by management practices, species mix and local conditions, making it challenging to isolate weather-related losses in an actuarially sound and administratively practical way.

As a result, many forage insurance programs rely on area- or weather-based indices, such as rainfall, which simplify administration but introduce basis risk when index measurements do not align with on-farm conditions. Despite these challenges, BFO continues to work with Agricornp and partner stakeholders to explore alternative approaches to the current rainfall-based program, with the goal of improving risk management tools for forage and pasture producers, while balancing accuracy, cost and practicality.

We thank you for bringing this resolution to our attention, and we will keep you informed of any future developments regarding this issue.

Sincerely,



Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Nick Martin (Mover, Advisory Councillor)
Jordan Miller (Seconder)
Jim Martin (Secretary)
Jason Desrochers (Advisory Councillor, Cochrane)
Matt Bowman (Advisory Councillor, Temiskaming)



September 22, 2025

Jim King
President
Victoria Beef Farmers

Dear Jim,

Re: *The Protection of Livestock from Dogs Act 25-01 & Wildlife Damage Compensation Program 25-05*

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WHEREAS, beef prices have risen exponentially in recent years, and the current regulation imposes a \$2,500 non-registered cattle maximum rate,

WHEREAS, municipalities are required to adhere to the above regulation when determining maximum compensation values,

WHEREAS, municipalities should have the ability to use fair market rates in assessing domestic dog predation kills in the same manner that wild animal predation kills are valued,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO submit a request to the Minister responsible for Regulation 329/11 to remove the maximums altogether from the legislation and to explicitly permit fair market rates to be used in cases of Domestic Dog kills.

WILDLIFE DAMAGE COMPENSATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation program relies on municipal clerk offices to administer this program with farm experienced investigators conducting investigative work in the field,

WHEREAS, these investigators are being asked to sign a waiver exempting them from compensation should an accident or event occur while an investigation is taking place,

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To address the maximum compensation value limits for both the *Protection of Livestock and Poultry from Dogs Act* and the OWDCP, BFO alongside Ontario Sheep and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture sent the attached letter to Minister Jones of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) regarding the need to increase the maximum compensation as the current market prices have surpassed the current maximum prices set by the ministry.

In the letter, we also recommended streamlining the process of wildlife predation claims. Over the past number of years, BFO has received complaints from our members that the turnaround times for their predation claims were falling outside of the service standards put forward by OMAFA. In some cases, we heard of wait times up to six months after the claim was submitted before payment was received. We recommended the ministry look into the model they use in unorganized townships, where producers submit their own claims directly to OMAFA and receive their payment directly from the ministry. If this process was used province-wide, it would allow the program to eliminate the intermediary and create a more efficient process. This would also enable counties and townships to offload the program from their duties, as many municipalities struggle to find investigators or at times are even unaware that they are responsible for administering the program.

BFO participated in a roundtable for red tape reduction at the beginning of September, and one of the recommendations we brought forward was to replace the current predation compensation program with a self-reporting and central verification system. This would result in a program that is timely for our producers, will allow claims to be processed faster by the ministry and save time and money for the ministry and municipalities as there will no need for the municipality to have to investigate.

BFO is a member of OMAFA's Ontario Wildlife Conflict Working Group, which meets quarterly and is responsible for reviewing program stats and discuss potential improvements to the program. Be assured that BFO will bring your concerns forward to that group and push for change within the program so it can be timelier and more predictable for producers. If you have any further comments or concerns about the program, please contact the office to ensure they are addressed.

BFO would like to thank Victoria County for bringing these issues forward and we will update you on any further progress on this file.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig McLaughlin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Adam Shea (Advisory Councillor, Mover)
Lois Batty (Seconder)
Glenna Stephenson (Secretary)



July 15, 2025

The Honourable Trevor Jones
Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Agribusiness
77 Grenville Street
Toronto, ON
M7A 1B3

Sent via email: minister.omafa@ontario.ca

Dear Minister,

Re: Issues Regarding the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program

The Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program (OWDCP) is a valuable resource to livestock producers in Ontario. We have appreciated the responsiveness of your ministry in the past when issues have been identified and addressed.

Our organizations recently participated in a meeting of the provincial Agriculture Wildlife Conflict working group. At that meeting, we suggested improvements to the program we feel will reduce program costs, address producer concerns and improve the responsiveness of the program to our farmers. It was suggested at that meeting that we bring our concerns and solutions to your attention.

This year, our organizations received feedback from our producers that the amount of time between reporting livestock damage and a producer receiving compensation was over six months and, in some cases, almost a year. Additionally, inspectors in some municipalities are not responding in a reasonable time to producer reports of damage and livestock kills are having to be documented by producers rather than inspectors to capture the required proof of wildlife damage.

There is broad inconsistency in program delivery through municipalities that leads to inequity between farmers across the province. Some municipalities send inspectors right away and pay claims immediately. While others rarely send inspectors and hold money even when it is transferred by the province until council approves the transfer, which causes significant delay.

Our boards recommend the province administer the program equitably to all producers by introducing an online wildlife damage reporting form. We understand a form may already exist and be in use for farmers

in unorganized townships. Producers can submit their own photos and investigators can be engaged only when the province requires additional information.

This reduction of red tape will save the province and municipalities thousands of dollars in administration time and the cost of investigators for every claim.

The OWDCP does not accurately reflect the true valuation of commercial breeding sheep stock lost to predation. Presently, commercial breeding sheep stock is only compensated at the cull animal meat price. The cull animal value does not truly reflect any breeding stock value. There is no compensation value given for the many years and thousands of dollars of investment in a commercial breeding program and the future flock genetic improvement these animals represent. Commercial or non-purebred genetics does not mean they are of lower quality than purebred genetics. In many purchases, the commercial ewe genetics have a value premium due to hybrid vigor resulting from the genetic selection for specific traits inherent in other breeds.

To further improve the program, an annual survey of sheep breeders reporting actual values of commercial and purebred breeding stock sold should be conducted. The survey can also help identify the added value for specific breeds utilized for their quality wool or their dairy milk production. Similar to breeding stock, the actual value of these animals is significantly more than the cull meat price. The survey could also determine a value for livestock guardian dogs when they are also lost to predation.

In addition to concerns regarding wildlife predation, Ontario farmers also face losses from domestic dog attacks, yet the compensation framework for these incidents remains outdated and inconsistent with the support provided under the OWDCP. While the OWDCP provides compensation to poultry and livestock producers at market value based on industry-recognized pricing, losses caused by domestic dogs fall under the *Protection of Livestock and Poultry from Dogs Act*, which does not follow the same valuation approach. This discrepancy results in significantly lower compensation rates for producers who experience losses due to domestic dog attacks.

For example, under the OWDCP, non-registered cattle are compensated up to \$4,000, while the *Protection of Livestock and Poultry from Dogs Act* only provides up to \$2,500 for the same loss. The lack of regular updates to compensation rates under this separate legislative framework creates an unjust financial burden for affected producers. This disparity does not reflect the true economic loss suffered by farmers and fails to provide adequate support for their livestock protection efforts.

We recommend harmonizing the compensation structure for livestock losses caused by domestic dogs with the OWDCP model, ensuring that all producers receive fair and up-to-date compensation based on industry standards. Aligning these programs would create a more equitable system, recognizing that the source of predation—whether wildlife or domestic dogs—should not determine the financial viability of a farm business recovering from a loss.

We thank you for the opportunity to bring forward these recommendations that can strengthen the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program and we look forward to working with you to ensure the program is able to compensate producers in a fair and timely manner for predation losses.

Sincerely,

Craig McLaughlin *Drew Spoelstra*



Craig McLaughlin
Chair
Beef Farmers of Ontario

Drew Spoelstra
President
Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Art Alblas
Chair
Ontario Sheep Farmers



25-06

January 27, 2026

Karen Paszternak
President
Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Karen,

Re: *CFIA Transparency and Accountability 25-06*

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, CFIA is making and implementing rules in the agriculture sector, and
WHEREAS, CFIA was originally developed for food safety it was then decided that CFIA would not have to answer to anyone or be accountable for decisions made, to prevent interfering where food safety is concerned and that CFIA is doing more than food safety,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with CCA ensuring that CFIA is held accountable for the rules developed and enforced.

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

BFO has increased communication with CFIA and meets with them twice a year, which allows us to bring forward concerns from our members to ensure they are addressed. During our most recent meeting with CFIA, BFO brought forward the concerns raised in the resolution.

CFIA noted they report to the Minister of Health, work with the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, and are responsible for the administration and enforcement of 10 acts and their regulations that include food safety, animal health and plant protection in Canada. A full list of the acts and regulations they have oversight of can be found [here](#). They also suggested we forward along [regulatory interpretive guidance and resources](#) for the humane transport of animals designed to help stakeholders interpret and implement the regulations. They provide clarification and examples on what is required of those involved in the transport of animals.

Through these meetings, CFIA has asked BFO to capture more relevant information from our members during the filing of complaints, as specific and relevant information is key to finding actionable solutions to these concerns.

BFO is in the process of finalizing a form producers can fill out to provide more context to their complaint and concerns. The form will be accessible by our members on the BFO website. Through this form, BFO will be able to track the problem areas within the province. The form will provide BFO with areas of concern, and allow for practical solutions and items we can discuss with CFIA during our meetings.

CFIA let us know that if a producer is comfortable addressing a particular concern themselves, they can inform the CFIA inspector they would like to speak to their supervisor and the issue will be escalated to them. If a producer is not comfortable doing that, CFIA has a complaint process outlined on their [website](#) for individuals to follow. The process ensures all parties have the information they need to find a solution to the outstanding issue.

Ensuring a fair and transparent inspection process continues to be a priority for the BFO. We appreciate the Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association bringing this issue forward. If there are any ongoing concerns from your area, BFO staff are more than willing to discuss those issues provided specific information is brought forward allowing for actionable solutions.

Sincerely,



Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: John Lunn (Mover, Advisory Councillor)
Harry Ellis (Seconder)
Patricia Leahy (Secretary)



25-07

March 25, 2025

Calvin Anstett
President
Bruce County Beef Farmers

Dear Calvin,

Re: *Risk Management Program 25-07*

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:

MOVED BY: Mike Jeffray

SECONDED BY: Scott MacDonald

WHEREAS, profitability in the beef sector is completely market driven from input costs to cattle prices;

WHEREAS, the Risk Management Program is an excellent tool to help beef producers manage risks that are beyond their control

WHEREAS, government budgets are under constant pressure;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that BFO keep RMP as a top priority – applying pressure in all lobbying efforts to ensure government realizes the significant economic spinoff that comes with a healthy beef sector.

The BFO Board of Directors agrees with Bruce County Beef Farmers that Ontario's Risk Management Program (RMP) is a highly effective tool to mitigate risk within the beef sector, which will help keep the industry financially sustainable into the future.

On January 28, 2025, the Ontario government announced it is increasing annual funding for RMP from \$150 million to \$250 million to enhance support for farmers and the province's \$51 billion agri-food sector. The \$100 million increase will support farmers in responding to market challenges while boosting their long-term business confidence and competitiveness.

The \$100 million increase will be phased in over three years, starting with a \$30 million increase for the 2025 program year, leading to an annual total of \$250 million by the 2027 program year. This investment builds on the \$50 million annual increase to RMP in 2020 to \$150 million and reforms that allowed unused program funds to be rolled over to future year claims, ensuring the program is responsive in times of greatest need.

BFO and other commodity groups in the Ontario Agriculture Sustainable Coalition (OASC) have been lobbying on behalf of its members and very much welcomed the announcement, thanking the government for their continued commitment and investment into RMP.

The RMP request has been our top lobby priority for a number of years and was discussed routinely at meetings with MPPs. BFO understands the need to continue to ensure the government maintains its promise outlined in the January 28, 2025, announcement and showcases to the government why there is value within RMP for taxpayers, government and Ontario farmers.

The current Canada-United States trade environment has created much uncertainty and volatility in the market that programs like RMP likely cannot effectively respond to, even with the recent increase in program spending. As a result, BFO has recommended the provincial government consider several changes to RMP to be used as a vehicle to respond to the current trade war and risks in the market. Those recommendations include:

1. That the province considers temporarily uncapping the RMP and freezing producer premiums.
2. That the RMP operational cap, which has been set at \$1.2 million, be increased to \$3 million to account for inflation, the rise in commodity prices since the program's inception, and the potential for large payments to be triggered as a result of significant market losses.
3. That producers not enrolled in RMP and those who have left the program and are currently ineligible for re-enrolling be permitted to re-enroll in RMP without penalty.
4. That Ontario pushes for federal contributions to premiums and/or administration support to deliver the RMP program.

Be assured that BFO will continue to make the Ontario government aware of the necessity of RMP, the benefits it provides to the Ontario economy, and the value the program has to producers across the province when it comes to risk mitigation.

Thank you for taking the time to submit this resolution and reinforcing the value of RMP for beef farmers in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Scott MacDonald (Advisory Councillor, Seconder)
Mike Jeffray (Mover)
Jennifer Legge (Secretary)



25-08

August 20, 2025

Chad Anderson
President
Lambton County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Chad,

Re: *RMP Program Guidelines - Resolution 25-08*

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 RMP Program became permanent in 2011 with maximum weights for steers 1500 lbs live or 900 lbs dressed and heifers 1400 lbs live and 820 lbs dressed, and
WHEREAS, carcass weights have increased because of many factors such as pandemic, Cargill Strike, Ryding closing and shortage of replacements, and
WHEREAS, now the average carcass weight is over the maximum that the RMP pays, which means over half of the cattle are over RMP maximum, and
WHEREAS, now many dressed steers and heifers are being deemed OTM and are not allowed in the RMP Program but are still graded AAA or Prime but were not OTM when they reached the RMP maximum weight,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby to have an OTM over the maximum weight allowed in the RMP program if it grades AAA or Prime.

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

This issue was reviewed and discussed by the BFO Feedlot Committee at a meeting on April 23rd, 2025. The committee agreed the weight limits within the program categories under RMP, particularly the feedlot program, could be reviewed and updated to reflect current industry practices. However, the committee did not recommend the OTM prohibition be removed to allow OTM cattle to be covered under the program. The primary justification from the committee was that the RMP program was designed to reflect best management practices and allowing inclusion of OTM cattle would represent a deviation from that principle.

Notwithstanding the feedback received from the BFO Feedlot Committee, this issue was also discussed by members of the RMP Beef Cattle Reference Committee at a meeting on June 17th,

2025. The Reference Committee is made up of 11 members, five of whom are current BFO Directors, six of whom are non-board members. Seven of the 11 members are feedlot operators.

While the committee understood the frustration many producers have when OTM cattle are discounted on price and excluded from RMP coverage, despite cattle grading Prime, AAA or AA, they too could not support a recommendation to remove the OTM exclusion as a parameter of the program for the following reasons:

- 1) First and foremost, similar to the views expressed by the BFO Feedlot Committee, allowing coverage for OTM animals would deviate from the initial program principle of reflecting best management practices within the industry.
- 2) Age is only established at slaughter and therefore the age of the cattle during the program coverage period is not relevant or verifiable, e.g. age of cattle in the 900-1,500 pound window.
- 3) How an animal grades is outside the scope of the program.

It was also noted that the Ontario Corn Fed Beef Program does not qualify OTMs for program inclusion.

It should be pointed out that the temporary inclusion of OTMs within the RMP program during the Cargill Guelph labour disruption in 2024 was permitted on a time-limited basis. This was done to ensure producers who had to delay the marketing of their cattle were not penalized through the program, through no fault of their own. BFO advocated strongly for this during that time and was equally supportive of reinstalling the program requirement that all cattle must be under thirty months of age to be covered under RMP.

Although neither the BFO Feedlot Committee or the RMP Beef Cattle Reference Committee could support a recommendation to allow OTMs to be covered under RMP if they grade Prime or AAA, your resolution did spur discussion about the need to increase the weight coverage limits within the program.

As a result, BFO submitted a formal request on June 24th to OMAFA to conduct an analysis on the programming requirements, cost of production adjustments, and administrative costs of increasing the weight coverages by 50 pounds within each respective category to better reflect current industry practices. BFO will continue to work with OMAFA on this proposal and will, in consultation with the BFO Feedlot Committee and the RMP Beef Cattle Reference Committee, assess the benefits and costs of proceeding with a potential adjustment to coverage weights.

Sincerely,



Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Blair Williamson (Advisory Councillor)
Hanneke Mills (Secretary)

Tom Wilson (Mover)
Ralph Eyre (Seconder)



25-09

December 10, 2025

Darrell Russett
President
Beef Farmers of Hastings County

Dear Darrell,

Re: *Ontario Building Code 25-09*

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 building codes have changed as of January 2025 that apply to agriculture buildings
AND WHEREAS, the codes require increased costs and unrealistic requirements,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work towards more reasonable building codes that are adapted to livestock and agricultural conditions.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank Beef Farmers of Hastings County for bringing this resolution forward.

Given building codes affect the broader agricultural community, I have forwarded this resolution to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and asked that they take action to respond to the issue, and to report back on progress made. BFO is supportive of assisting OFA through advocacy efforts.

BFO will be sure to keep the local associations apprised of any developments and progress regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Jake Palmateer (Mover)
Paul Kinlin (Advisory Councillor and Seconder)
Al Govier & Marg Turnbull (Secretary)



December 10, 2025

Drew Spoelstra
President
Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Dear Drew,

Re: *Ontario Building Code Resolution*

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 building codes have changed as of January 2025 that apply to agriculture buildings
AND WHEREAS, the codes require increased costs and unrealistic requirements,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work towards more reasonable building codes that are adapted to livestock and agricultural conditions.

The updated building code requirements are far more extensive than initially anticipated. While many of the new standards may provide long-term benefits in terms of safety, they also impose significant upfront costs and practical challenges for livestock producers. For instance, the updated codes now mandate sprinklers in barns over a certain square footage, exhaust fans for each compartment of manure pits, emergency lighting to address power outages, and readily accessible generators. Each of these requirements adds complexity, installation costs and ongoing maintenance obligations that many farms may find difficult to implement.

Although the new measures could improve safety over the long term, they represent a substantial burden for farms, particularly smaller operations. There are concerns regarding the feasibility of uniform application of these standards and whether they fully account for the realities of agricultural operations.

Given that the building code affects the broader agricultural community, BFO respectfully requests the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) consider taking a leadership role in addressing this issue with regulators. BFO is committed to supporting OFA in any advocacy efforts and will collaborate in finding solutions that balance safety, practicality and cost-effectiveness for producers.

BFO looks forward to receiving updates on any discussions, analyses or actions undertaken by OFA regarding these new building code requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig McLaughlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig McLaughlin
President



25-10

January 27, 2026

Kim Weedmark
President
Grenville Cattlemen's Association

Dear Kim,

Re: Provincial Abattoir Capacity and Wait Times 25-10

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, access to provincial abattoirs has become increasingly more difficult with no movement on the vacant Joyceville Penitentiary facility.

WHEREAS, the devastating fire at Quinn's meats has only further exacerbated the processing backlog.

WHEREAS, government red tape and astronomical start-up costs prevent most interested parties from opening a new facility.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby the Government for large scale funding assistance and training incentives to significantly increase operating capacities at small, medium and large-scale abattoirs as well as pursue new operating facilities where expansion is not feasible in order to address the current backlog.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT BFO continue to put pressure on the provincial and federal governments to fast track the reopening process for the abattoir located at Joyceville Penitentiary.

The BFO Board of Directors thanks the Grenville Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. Directors recognize the significant impact limited processing capacity has on beef producers' ability to market cattle in a timely and cost-effective manner. Improving access to meat processing capacity remains a top advocacy priority for BFO and was a key issue raised during meetings with Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP) at Queen's Park in May and again in November.

BFO has consistently raised concerns with elected officials that current cost-share funding models are often inaccessible to small businesses that provide essential services within the beef supply chain, due to limited cash flow and upfront capital requirements. From a producer perspective, BFO continues to recommend targeted government investments aligned with the provincial agri-food strategy, *Grow Ontario*, that would strengthen processing capacity and improve producer market access.

These include:

- Continued investment in expanding beef processing capacity;
- Broader eligibility windows for funding programs;
- Higher funding limits to support meaningful infrastructure and equipment upgrades;
- Adjustments to tax classifications impacting small and medium-sized facilities; and
- Increased emphasis on labour availability and skills training.

In collaboration with the Canadian Cattle Association (CCA), BFO met with Members of Parliament and Senators in Ottawa this past October to highlight the urgent need to reopen the Joyceville Institution abattoir. BFO formally requested the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) proceed with a full Request for Proposals (RFP) following an Expressions of Interest process that demonstrated industry interest in operating the facility. As of November, CSC advised the initiative has been paused due to competing infrastructure priorities. BFO continues to work with MP Mark Gerretsen to advocate for restarting this process, emphasizing the ongoing shortage of beef processing capacity in Eastern Ontario and its direct impact on producers.

BFO will continue to advocate on behalf of beef producers for improved access to processing capacity and will keep members informed of any developments related to the Joyceville facility and government programs that may support expanded beef processing in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Don Scott (Advisory Councillor)
Paul Ferguson (Seconder)
Erin Theriault (Secretary)



25-11

January 19, 2026

Craig Scott
President
Middlesex County Cattlemen's
Association

Dear Craig,

Re: Overweight Carcass Discounts - 25-11

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, in the 1960s the average weight of beef cows was 945 pounds, and in 2024 the average weight of beef cows is now 1450 pounds which produce larger framed animals that to be finished at a higher weight to reach optimum finish, which means; because the animals now finish at a higher weight (1100+ lbs dressed) there are more being discounted at a cost of 20 cents per pound on total weight. With the current smaller number of beef cows and the fact that more beef is required.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO and CCA work to correct this unfair situation.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank you for bringing this resolution forward. Cattle are being finished at higher weights than in the past. Over the last 25 years, carcass weights in Ontario have increased significantly—from approximately 834 lb to 980 lb, which is an increase of 146 lb. It is also key to note that the Ontario region produces the largest carcasses, on average, in North America.

We understand the frustration producers feel when they receive discounts for carcasses exceeding the weight thresholds set by processors. These discounts directly affect a producer's bottom line and can be discouraging, especially when the added weight was intended to maximize value. The BFO Feedlot Committee discussed this resolution and understands the purpose and frustration behind it. As these discounts are clearly defined by processors to producers, it is the responsibility of the producer to ensure their cattle fall into the specifications the individual processors have detailed.

To better understand this issue, BFO engaged in direct conversation with processors across the province. Through these discussions, three consistent concerns emerged regarding the challenges heavier cattle present to processing operations.

First, as carcass weights increase, the physical infrastructure of processing plants comes under greater stress. Heavier carcasses require reinforced rails, hoists and cooler systems. For example, Cargill, which processes approximately 1,750 head of cattle per day, has an extra 255,500 lb of carcass weight their building has to support compared to 25 years ago. This is equivalent to handling the weight of 306 more cattle than the plant handled in 2000. Putting this extra pressure on buildings and equipment requires significant infrastructure upgrades requiring hundreds of thousands of dollars to ensure the plants continue to be operational.

The second concern revolved around equipment and worker safety as larger animals accelerate wear and tear on equipment and increase physical strain on employees. The carcasses now are roughly 17 per cent larger than they were 25 years ago, which requires more intensive handling, but also raises the risk of injury and fatigue for workers. This not only impacts worker well-being, but also affects operational efficiency and cost.

Lastly, marketability and consumer preferences have changed and the larger carcass can lead to beef cuts that exceed consumer and retailer preferences. Oversized steaks and roasts are less attractive to the average buyer due to cost, portion size and meal enjoyment. This limits the ability to market and sell these products effectively, further impacting the overall value chain.

It's important to note that other agricultural sectors (i.e., grains) routinely face discounts when products fall outside of specific quality parameters—like moisture content or grade. These realities point to the need for greater alignment between how we finish cattle on-farm and what processors are looking for.

In addition to BFO's informal conversations on why processors discount overweight animals, we have been in contact with a number of processors outlining the concerns with the business practice of discounting. BFO outlined this business practice is burdensome to our feedlot operators as beef demand is high and overall cattle numbers are down. We also indicated that feedlot margins are tight and need all the returns they can get to continue their operations.

BFO will update the county on any further developments regarding this resolution, including any potential solutions that result in an equitable approach benefiting both producers and processors. We appreciate your engagement on this important topic and look forward to continued dialogue on how to ensure a sustainable and profitable beef industry in Ontario for our members.

Sincerely,



Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Steve Bannister (Advisory Councillor, Seconder)
Edward Fox (Mover)
Craig Scott (Secretary)



25-12

January 26, 2026

Jim King
President
Victoria Beef Farmers

Dear Jim,

Re: 25-12 Provincial Abattoir Condemnations

The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Annual General Meeting in February and reflects an issue that has been discussed extensively and repeatedly over the past year by BFO directors and staff:

WHEREAS, a high proportion of animals slaughtered at Provincial abattoirs are being condemned,
WHEREAS, the Carcass Condemnation Discussion Request mechanism that is available to producers is not an appeals process,
WHEREAS, it seems as though there are inspection and condemnation inconsistencies between inspectors,
WHEREAS, there is food waste occurring where there are arguably carcasses that should not have been condemned,
WHEREAS, unnecessarily condemned carcasses are a substantial cost to the producer and abattoir operator,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO assesses the situation of condemnations at provincially inspected abattoirs and look at the possibility of lobbying for an appeals process, for inspection standards/processes to be modified such as to require extensive physical and laboratory testing before a carcass is condemned.

The issue of carcass condemnations at provincially inspected abattoirs remains one of significant and growing concern for Ontario beef producers, and BFO shares the frustration expressed by your association and others across the province.

BFO is extremely concerned with the outcomes of the current provincial inspection and condemnation system, particularly the proportion of condemnations at provincially inspected abattoirs compared to federal facilities, the absence of a meaningful or formal appeals process, inconsistencies in interpretation and application of inspection standards, and the substantial and immediate financial consequences borne by producers and processors when an animal is condemned.

These concerns have been clearly and repeatedly raised by BFO with senior officials at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA), as well as directly with the current Minister, the Honourable Trevor Jones, and previously with Ministers Lisa Thompson and Rob Flack. While food safety remains paramount, BFO has consistently emphasized the current system lacks transparency, consistency, and producer confidence, and that meaningful reform is required.

BFO is actively participating in the Ontario Government-Industry Disposition Working Group, which includes representation from auction markets, veterinarians, producer organizations, academics, OMAFRA meat inspection and food safety staff, and provincial processors. Through this forum, BFO continues to press for improvements to inspection consistency, clearer communication, better data collection, and enhanced accountability within the provincial system.

In parallel, BFO continues to work closely with Meat and Poultry Ontario (MPO) and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) to ensure producer concerns are aligned, amplified, and clearly communicated to government decision-makers. This coordinated approach reflects the seriousness of the issue and the broad impact it is having across the livestock and processing sectors.

BFO is also developing additional tools, including a producer reporting mechanism, to better document condemnation outcomes and support evidence-based discussions with OMAFRA. While existing processes such as the Animal Health Discussion Request Form may provide some technical clarification, they do not address the fundamental shortcomings of the current system, nor do they offer producers a fair avenue for review or redress.

Given the importance of this issue, BFO strongly encourages local county and regional beef farmer associations to engage directly with their local Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs). Hearing directly from producers at the community level is critical to reinforcing the urgency of reform and ensuring elected officials understand the real-world consequences of the current approach.

Where helpful, BFO would also be pleased to work with local associations to explore opportunities for OMAFRA officials to present directly to county or regional boards, allowing for direct discussion, transparency, and accountability.

BFO will continue to push for improvements to the provincial inspection and condemnation system. We remain committed to advocating on behalf of producers for a system that upholds food safety while delivering fairness, consistency, transparency, and confidence for those raising cattle in Ontario.

For awareness, please see the appended letter addressed to Minister Jones outlining our concerns and frustrations with the lack of progress on this file.

Thank you again for bringing this important resolution forward and for your continued leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig McLaughlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Adam Shea (Advisory Councillor, Mover)
Lois Batty (Seconder)
Glenna Stephenson (Secretary)



January 29th, 2026

Hon. Trevor Jones, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
11th Floor
77 Grenville Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1B3

Dear Minister Jones,

Re: *Carcass Condemnations in Ontario*

On behalf of Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO), we are writing to reinforce our longstanding and escalating concerns regarding carcass condemnations at provincially inspected abattoirs in Ontario.

Despite years of engagement, repeated correspondence, and sustained efforts by industry to work constructively with the Ministry, BFO continues to receive a steady and growing volume of complaints from both beef producers and provincially licensed processors regarding condemnation outcomes, inconsistencies, and the lack of transparency and accountability within the current provincial inspection system.

We would like to acknowledge and thank you and your office for supporting the creation of the Ontario Government-Industry Disposition Working Group. We appreciate the opportunity this forum provides to bring government and industry together to discuss these issues in detail. However, based on BFO's participation in the initial meetings, we are increasingly concerned that ministry officials appear reluctant to acknowledge that a systemic problem exists, or that current processes, protocols, or resourcing models may be flawed. There has been little indication to date that meaningful change to the current system is being contemplated, despite the outcomes it continues to produce.

Of particular concern are repeated remarks by ministry officials suggesting or implying that provincially inspected plants would see fewer condemnations if producers did not send "poor quality animals" to those facilities. There is no evidence to support this assertion. Producers regularly send animals from the same lots to both federal and provincial plants, yet condemnation rates at provincially inspected facilities remain consistently higher. This narrative is not only unsupported by data, but deeply troubling to producers and processors who are doing their best to operate within the system.

BFO is deeply troubled by outcomes that suggest perfectly good, safe food is being discarded under a system that provides no ability to test and hold carcasses to determine whether they are, in fact, unsafe. The absence of such mechanisms is serving to increasingly undermine confidence that condemnation decisions are always proportionate, evidence-based, or necessary.



Recent examples further underscore the seriousness of the situation. We were informed that 24 cattle slaughtered on January 7, 2026 were condemned solely because a post-mortem inspection was not completed by the assigned inspector. The estimated lost value of this meat alone exceeds \$120,000, not including wages, salaries, operational disruptions, or downstream business losses borne by both the processor and producer/marketer.

In another instance shared with us by a plant operator, one inspector—who had previously been unsuccessful in obtaining employment at that facility and now works there as a ministry inspector—appears to condemn animals' higher rate than other inspectors working in the same plant. BFO is not suggesting this is fundamentally an "inspector problem," although in some circumstances it clearly is. Rather, these examples highlight a system that lacks adequate safeguards, consistency checks, oversight, and accountability, and one that appears resistant to self-examination or improvement.

Despite good-faith efforts by industry and ministry officials over the past several years, the system is not improving. We are increasingly concerned that discussions remain focused on data analysis, anecdotes, and justification of current practices, rather than on solutions, structural reform, and new processes that would bring provincial inspection outcomes more in line with federal standards and public expectations.

Minister, producers and processors share the government's commitment to food safety. What we cannot accept is a system that produces disproportionate economic harm, unnecessary food waste, and eroding confidence, while offering no meaningful mechanism for review, appeal, or corrective action.

BFO urges the Ministry to move decisively beyond discussion and toward concrete reforms, including—but not limited to—test-and-hold provisions, improved inspector oversight and support, transparent access to inspection guidance, and a fair and credible review or appeal mechanism. We stand ready to work with your office to advance practical solutions, but the current trajectory is untenable.

Minister, BFO continues to engage with the province in good faith and remains committed to a collaborative approach to resolving these issues. We look forward to your leadership in ensuring Ontario's provincial meat inspection system is fair, transparent, and science-based for the producers and processors it regulates, and the consumers and public it protects.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig McLaughlin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Craig McLaughlin
President



December 10, 2025

Craig Scott
President
Middlesex County Cattlemen's
Association

Dear Craig,

Re: CAN-AM CARCASS WEIGHT DISPARITY 25-13

The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Annual General Meeting (AGM) in February and was recently discussed by the BFO Board of Directors:

WHEREAS, the dressing percentage of cattle marketed in Canada will differ that of similar animals marketed in the United States, (on a dressed basis) the United States carcass weight includes the weight of internal meats which is NOT included in the Canadian carcass weight. Dressing percentages for the equivalent animals are therefore dressing 2.5 to 3.0 per cent higher in the United States than Canada.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO and CCA work to correct this situation.

The BFO Board of Directors recognizes and understands the frustration among Canadian producers regarding this issue.

As noted, the variance arises from differences in carcass weight determination. Under U.S. practice, the hot carcass weight includes internal fat deposits—specifically kidney, pelvic and heart fat—whereas Canadian regulations require these internal fats be removed before the official carcass weight is established. Consequently, dressing percentages for comparable animals appear 2.5 to 3.0 per cent higher in the United States than in Canada, despite no material difference in production efficiency or carcass merit.

While we share and appreciate the concerns raised, we do not believe pursuing regulatory changes at this time would be in the best interests of cattle producers. Specifically, we believe any change to the current practices may prompt packers to begin enforcing yield grades 4 and 5 standards, which are not currently applied in Ontario. Introducing those standards could result in new carcass discounts without providing meaningful benefits to producers.

In our view, the current marketplace is functioning effectively in terms of pricing, and there is no clear evidence that adjusting carcass weight regulations would improve outcomes or prices for Ontario cattle producers. In all likelihood, any changes to carcass weight standards would simply be reflected in the prices paid by packers.

While we do not intend to take this issue forward at this time, we will continue to monitor the situation closely to ensure Ontario producers remain competitive in the marketplace. We appreciate your engagement on this important issue and remain committed to supporting accuracy, fairness and competitiveness within the Canadian beef sector.

Please feel free to contact us if you would like to discuss this matter further or provide additional input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig McLaughlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Steve Bannister (Advisory Councillor, Seconder)
Edward Fox (Mover)
Jim Scott (Seconder)
Craig Scott (Secretary)



25-14

December 15, 2025

Karen Paszternak
President
Peterborough County Beef Farmers' Association

Dear Karen,

Re: *REGULATION 950 TICKETING 25-14*

The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Annual General Meeting (AGM) in February and was recently discussed by the BFO Board of Directors:

WHEREAS, the Ontario government is trying to implement regulation 950 that is duplicating CFIA rule and can fine producers under that umbrella and whereas the parameter of the ability to fine producers is vague and poorly written,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby the government so that it does not have the authority to fine producers.

Attached is a copy of BFO's submission to the *Proposed Amendments to Regulation 950 to expand the ability to issue tickets* consultation from December 2024. BFO has been engaged with staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) following our submission and the membership approving this resolution at the AGM.

In reviewing what the ministry proposed and what CFIA enforces, we were reassured there would be no duplication when it comes to what OMAFA would enforce and with what CFIA currently enforces. In our submission, we did note the following:

- education and awareness should remain as the primary compliance tools when working with industry
- existing enforcement mechanisms are sufficient, and adding ticketing could create inefficiencies without clear benefits
- resources should be used to support industry and educate producers instead of being diverted toward ticket management
- recommend the ministry pause their compliance modernization - proposed amendments to Regulation 950 to expand the ability to issue tickets and conduct more consultation with industry

At this time, the ministry has indicated they continue to await a decision from the government as to whether or not any of the proposed amendments to Regulation 950 might move forward. We

will continue to reach out to the ministry in the new year and let you know once a decision has been made to proceed or not proceed with any of the proposed amendments.

Thank you for bringing this resolution forward and please feel free to contact us if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig McLaughlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: John Lunn (Advisory Councillor, Mover)
Gavin Faught (Seconder)
Patricia Leahy (Secretary)



December 19, 2024

Andrea Martin
Director, Food Safety and Environmental Policy Branch
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA)
1 Stone Road West
Guelph, ON N1G4Y2

Dear Andrea,

Re: Proposed Amendments to Regulation 950 to expand the ability to issue tickets

Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) appreciates the opportunity to comment on proposal to amend Regulation 950 – Proceedings Commenced by Certificate of Offence (Reg. 950) under the *Provincial Offences Act (POA)*. BFO represents the 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.

We appreciate the ministry's desire to improve the current risk-based regulatory enforcement approach by having an additional tool to ensure compliance. That being said, based on feedback from our members, we have some concerns and believe more consultation with industry and stakeholders take place prior to considering implementation of the proposed amendments.

There are too many unknowns regarding the range of fines for the offences noted on the proposed list of provisions under current legislation for which a ticket could be issued. Education and awareness should remain as the primary compliance tools when working with industry and more specifics regarding how the ability to issue tickets will fit into the progressive compliance approach. A punitive approach risks eroding trust and cooperation between OMAFA and industry, undermining progress on shared goals.

Existing enforcement mechanisms are sufficient, and adding ticketing could create inefficiencies without clear benefits. Resources should be used to support industry and educate producers instead of being diverted toward ticket management.

We recommend that the ministry pause their compliance modernization - proposed amendments to Regulation 950 to expand the ability to issue tickets and conduct more consultation with industry. This could be achieved with each individual association or collectively during a round table with industry and stakeholders.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments and we welcome the opportunity to discuss in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig McLaughlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig McLaughlin
BFO President

Cc: BFO Board of Directors
Dr. Robert Blenkinsop, Manager Protection & Assurance Policy



25-15

May 14, 2025

Chris Riach
President
Beef Farmers of Cochrane District

Dear Chris,

Re: Crown Land Access Resolution 25-15

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 ability to access to Crown land continues to be a limiting factor for producers;
and

WHEREAS, access to Crown land is one option to increase the beef herd in the province; and

WHEREAS, BFO has made access to Crown land a lobby priority for the last few years;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO continue to make access to Crown land for the production of beef in the province of Ontario a top priority in the lobby efforts.

On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, I would like to thank the Beef Farmers of Cochrane District for bringing forward this resolution. Agricultural access to Crown land and promoting policies that improve the Crown land disposition and access process remains a key priority for BFO.

Now that the provincial election has concluded and Ministers and Parliamentary Assistants have been appointed, staff from BFO have engaged staff from the Ministry of Natural Resources to continue our discussions from last year regarding the process to access Crown land.

A guide has been developed for applicants interested in accessing Crown land, which has been attached for your reference. An internal staff guide has also been developed by the ministry to ensure applications are being reviewed in a consistent manner and to provide the different tenure options to applicants when inquiring, which include access via Land Use Permit, Lease and Patent. We are working with the ministry on ways this information can be passed along to our members and we will keep you apprised of our progress.

BFO recently met with the Executive Director of the Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance (NOFIA) to discuss Crown land access and ways we can collaborate on our lobby efforts on behalf of our members.

We will continue to engage the provincial government to improve the process for accessing Crown land for agriculture and ensuring it is defined and transparent. Once again, thank you for bringing this resolution forward and we will keep you apprised of any relevant developments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig McLaughlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig McLaughlin

President

cc: Mark Liznik (Mover)
Jodie Rusell (Seconder)
Jason Desrochers (Advisory Councillor)
Kyla Riach (Secretary)

Applicant's Guide to Apply for Crown Land for Agricultural Purposes in Northeastern Ontario



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***Disclaimer:** This guide is a summary of the Crown land disposition process for agriculture and the role of the applicant and various government ministries and agencies. It is not to be used as a legal reference. The relevant statutes, regulations and policies must be referred to for complete direction.*

Preface

Supporting the growth of the province's agri-food industry and diversifying the economies of Northern Ontario communities is a government priority. As lead ministry for Crown land planning, the Ministry of Natural Resources has an important role to play in the sustainable development of Crown lands. The **Applicant's Guide to Applying for Crown Land for Agricultural Purposes in Northeastern Ontario** (to be referred to as 'the Guide') has been prepared as a summary of existing Crown land policies and procedures that will be considered during requests for dispositions related to agriculture development.

Although many of the processes described in the Guide (e.g. Environmental Assessment, consultation, etc.) may be applied to other requests for Crown land authorizations, the purpose of the Guide is to assist those proponents interested in traditional crop/livestock projects where Crown land may be required.



Crown Land Management

Crown land in Ontario is managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources — this includes shore lands and the beds of most lakes and rivers.

Approximately 77% of the province's land mass is made up of Crown land managed under the *Public Lands Act*, with an additional 10% of Crown land held as provincial parks and conservation reserves.

More than 95% of northern Ontario is Crown land. There is little Crown land remaining in southern Ontario, primarily due to historically high levels of population settlement and resulting development. Crown land protects key elements of our natural heritage, supplies land for renewable energy, tourism and recreation. Many valuable resources such as forests, aggregates, minerals, prime agricultural soils, and fish and wildlife populations are located on Crown land. These resources may be used for subsistence, recreational, or commercial purposes, and managed to the benefit of many communities as well as the province. The province recognizes that Crown land can support local economic development and diversified economies in Northern Ontario.

When requests for Crown land are received, they are reviewed to determine if they conform to existing Crown land use policy. The request for Crown land

will include consideration of many other factors, which may warrant the land's restricted use and/or retention (e.g. anticipated ministry land needs, local community interests, environmental risk, compatibility with adjacent land uses, or other existing interests).

The process to acquire Crown land is initiated when the ministry receives an application and begins the disposition review process. In these situations, the applicant or proponent leads the process and is required to provide information and undertake tasks (e.g. wildlife habitat study) that will enable the ministry to fulfill its obligations under policy and legislation (e.g. *Public Lands Act*, *Environmental Assessment Act*, etc.).

Every Crown land-related decision made by the ministry must take into account a number of factors, including environmental, ecological, social, and economic effects as well as Indigenous rights, claims or assertions.



Crown Land for Agricultural Development

Diversifying economies in the north is a government priority. The province's **Grow Ontario Strategy, Rural Economic Development Program** and the **Ontario Agri-Food Strategy** provide the foundation to advance the government's efforts towards agriculture and food as providing meaningful economic opportunities in Ontario's north. Through these initiatives, agriculture is recognized as a key contributor towards economic diversification.

Requests for Crown land dispositions are considered in the context of the Ministry of Natural Resources land management goals, objectives and principles; while balancing multiple Crown land interests and uses, as well as environmental, social and economic considerations.

The provincial government is committed to working with Indigenous partners and strengthening new relationships with Ontario's Indigenous people.

All Crown land dispositions will be valued in a manner consistent with associated policies and based on the occupational authority or land tenure arrangement utilized.

The ministry will consider the disposition of Crown land for agriculture both within and outside of municipal boundaries.

Crown land development within municipally organized areas can contribute to the economic development objectives of municipalities, subject to the applicable provincial policies (e.g.

Provincial Policy Statements under the *Planning Act*) and legislation which the ministry must take into account and municipal official plans and bylaws. The province recognizes that Crown land for agriculture can form part of a successful undertaking when applicants have financial capital, sound agricultural development and business plans, expertise and community support.

The Ministry recognizes challenges facing the agricultural sector with increases population and urbanization of agricultural land. Farmland loss occurs when farmland is transitioned to non-agricultural uses. Urbanization is one of the main culprits, as new subdivisions with low density rates are constructed on farmland.

The loss of farmland has a negative impact on both people and the planet. Over 860,000 Ontarians are employed by the agri-food sector. Additionally, farmland provides habitat for species at risk and ecosystem services that benefits the environment both now and for generations to come.

Food is one of the most important aspects of Provincial development. We need to protect and grow our food sources at the same rate as population growth and urban

development. Once farmland is gone, it can't be recreated. Farmland losses in southern Ontario puts pressure on farming development in other areas of the province. Other parts of Ontario can support agriculture however, the soil quality, length of growing season and distance to markets is not an equal trade off. In order to ensure that farmland is protected from urbanization, Crown land for agricultural development maybe disposed by sale in certain circumstances, otherwise the preference will be short and long term tenure (e.g. land use permit or lease), rather than permanent disposition (e.g. sale/patent) which has proven to be ineffective at ensuring continued use for agricultural purposes.

Section 1 – Initial Inquiry

As a first step, training modules, mapping tools, and business plan resources, provided by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness can assist you in deciding whether agriculture is right for you.

If after investigating the availability of open market properties and underdeveloped patented lands are finding that lands are not readily available. You should confirm the suitability of the land based on soil mapping information before applying to your local Ministry of Natural Resources district office to discuss your request. Contact information can be found online at: [MNR Regional Boundaries and Work Centre Contact Information](#).

During the initial inquiry, you will need to:

- identify the location of the land you are interested in (e.g. lot, concession and township, or provide a topographical map with the area identified);
- describe the property or properties that you currently own or lease and the current condition(s) (e.g. description of area owned, % under crop production, forested, etc.), where applicable;
- describe your intentions/plans for business growth and land development.

After having received the information noted above, the ministry will discuss your proposal with you to identify any immediate factors that may limit or preclude your proposal from proceeding. Examples of incompatible lands uses include Crown land use policy restrictions or prohibitions, existing patents, lands in a provincial park or conservation reserve, current agreements, or dispositions to other third party interests or Indigenous land claims.

Crown land use policy in central and northern Ontario is housed within the **Crown Land Use Policy Atlas**, which is publicly available as a web-based mapping tool at: [Crown Land Use Policy Atlas](#).

The Crown Land Use Policy Atlas contains links to the policy reports for specific areas of Crown land and will provide you with a preliminary understanding of what uses of

land are permitted within the defined policy areas. The policy reports include 'Crown Land Disposition, Agriculture' as a listed activity and the associated direction provides a starting



point for your proposal development.

The Ministry of Mines should be consulted early in the process, by the applicant regarding mineral development interests on the proposed agricultural lands.

After the ministry has confirmed there are no factors that would preclude the application from proceeding further (i.e. incompatible land uses, patents, dispositions, etc.), it is recommended that the applicant set up a scoping meeting with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness and the Ministry of Natural Resources to further discuss the proposal.

Local Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness representatives will be included in the scoping meeting and must be consulted in the development of a business plan.



Section 2 –Scoping Meeting

At the scoping meeting, the Ministry of Natural Resources will advise you on what constitutes a complete application, what to expect from the application process, including timelines and any requirements and obligations you may have to fulfil as part of the application process.

Where you have identified a specific area of interest, the ministry will provide you with preliminary information on values and constraints for the location. This may include:

- known natural heritage values such as: bird nesting sites, fish spawning areas, and species at risk habitat areas
- known or potential natural hazard lands (e.g. floodplains, contaminated lands)
- watercourses (e.g. warm water lakes, Lake Trout lakes, cold water streams)
- resource allocations, such as: trap lines, baitfish areas, bear management areas, resource

based tourism, forestry allocations

- indigenous land claim areas
- compatibility with adjacent land uses.
- compatibility with Municipal planning and bylaws, where applicable
- adherence to existing land use policy

During the scoping meeting, the Ministry of Natural Resources will provide an overview of the process to establish the fair market value of the land through a client-initiated appraisal (if necessary), as well as land survey requirements (if necessary).

Note: *some values information such as the nature and location of species at risk habitat, cultural heritage sites, or pending land claims is considered sensitive and would not be made publicly available.*



Section 3 – Preparing the Application

After attending the scoping meeting, should the applicant wish to proceed with the proposal, a formal application for Crown land will need to be prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The following is an outline of what should be included in an application submission. You should provide sufficient detail to give the ministry a clear understanding of the proposed operation and lands required.

General Information Requirements

The following items are required in your application submission:

1) An application form for Crown land needs to be completed in full, including required mapping. The application form is available here: [Crown Land Application](#) (guidance outlined below) and submitting it to the [MNR Work Centre](#) nearest to the Crown land you wish to use or, submitting your application online using the [Natural Resources Information Portal](#)

2) A map is required with the CL application; mapping requirements are provided on the Crown Land Application page

Note that the map should be sufficiently detailed so that the required land base can be determined. Standard reference map templates can be accessed using the ministry's **make a topographic map** tool online at: [Topographic Maps](#)

- the map should indicate land size in hectares



- 3) A detailed site plan of the proposed development:
- a. the site plan must be drawn to scale. Note that this includes the location of proposed lots and permanent structures.
 - b. include north arrow and major features (e.g. existing roads, lakes, streams, wet lands, etc.) and boundary of proposed development
 - c. location of proposed non-permanent/mobile structures
 - d. areas to be cleared, including size
 - e. identify areas for crops and livestock, including the size of these areas
 - new and existing roads and turn around areas
 - fencing/gating proposals
 - nutrient storage facilities
 - fuel storage facilities
 - other site improvements (e.g. tiling, wells, draining ditches, holding

ponds, etc.)

- indicate the need for a drainage plan, outlining where the discharge water will go (drainage pond, municipal outlet, natural watercourse, petitioning the local municipality for a municipal drain). Refer to this link: [OMAFA Drainage Plan](#)
- consideration for how manure run-off will be addressed in the design of the nutrient management system. Refer to this link: [OMAFA Nutrient Management](#)
- area that may be open by the landowner for continued recreational use

4) Proposed time frame – please include, as a minimum, the following:

- a. timeframe for each milestone in the agricultural development (e.g. clearing the land, crop development or livestock)
- b. completion of financial arrangements
 - i. schedule of contact with ministries/agencies/boards if applicable
 - ii. schedule for public consultation if applicable
Note: the Ministry of Natural Resources will provide guidance to the applicant on consultation requirements as well as additional studies or reports to be completed.
 - iii. obtaining applicable licenses or permits as required

5) Rationale for the land:

- a. if the application is for expansion of an existing farm explain why additional lands are required. Details of existing land holdings and current use should be included.
- b. for new farms, explain the reasoning for the proposed location and the rationale of purchasing the proposed Crown land over available private land.
- c. provide a list of properties currently owned or leased, its size and location, and the percentage of currently owned agriculturally suitable land that is being used for agriculture

6) Summary and assessment of potential environmental impacts and how they will be addressed. For example:

- a. impacts on water bodies in proximity to the property and proposed mitigation measures (e.g. fencing for livestock, buffer areas, etc.)
- b. nutrient management
- c. an Environmental Farm Plan can be used to help describe how potential environmental impacts are to be mitigated. Refer to this link: [OMAFA Environmental Farm Plan](#)
- d. a description of species at risk in the area. The Natural Heritage Information Centre provides an online mapping tool illustrating species and areas of natural and scientific interest. The mapping tool can be found at the following link: [Natural Heritage Information](#)

- e. existing uses of the land by the public (e.g. recreational trails, snowmobile trails). Through a review of values information, the Ministry of Natural Resources can provide assistance on determining existing uses.
- f. the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas policy report(s) for the land



- 7) A preliminary assessment of applicable approvals. (Please note: the applicant may have to consult with



other agencies, ministries or municipalities to understand what, if any, additional approvals are

required).

8) Business Plan

- a. A business plan is required as part of the application process.
- b. Please contact your local Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness office for business plan requirements. Their business plan resources can be accessed online at:

[Starting a Farm in Ontario](#)

Additional resources can be found at the Small Business Enterprise Centre:

[Small Business Enterprise Centre](#)

- Applicants that are currently farming must provide their Farm Business Registration number.
- Applicants that are new farmers can apply for a Farm Tax Income Exemption Certificate. Please contact the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424- 1300.

The Ministry of Natural Resources strongly recommends that you discuss your proposal with the local municipality, stakeholders and provincial ministries/agencies in order to better inform your application.

Early communication is good practice, which results in a better application and increases the chance of a successful outcome.

You are encouraged to review information available online when identifying potential areas for agricultural development.

The [Ontario.ca Website](#) has a number of useful tools, including:

- Crown Land Use Policy Atlas: [Crown Land Use Policy Atlas](#)
- Make a Topographic Map: [Topographic Map](#)
- Make a Natural Heritage Map: [Natural Heritage Map](#)
- Mining Lands Administration System (MLAS): [MLAS Map Viewer](#)
- Nutrient Management, Environmental Farm Plan, Preparing a Business Plan, Business Information Bundles: [OMAFA Website](#)
- Agmaps: [AG Maps](#)
- Land Information Ontario: [Land Information Ontario](#)
- How to Start a Farm in the North: [How to Start a Farm](#)

Natural heritage information can also be obtained through [Land Information Ontario](#).

Section 4 – Submitting the Application

Once you submit a complete application to the local district Ministry of Natural Resources district office, the ministry will date stamp the application form (Application for Crown land).

The ministry will check that all required attachments are provided in the application (*i.e. all items listed in Section 3 – Preparing the Application*). It is also recommended

that you provide a copy of the application to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness, who will determine if all the requirements for the business plan have been satisfied.

Note: If any of the attachments are missing or incomplete, the application will be returned to you for completion along with instruction on what is missing and a timeline for submitting the missing information back to the Ministry of Natural Resources and/or the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness.

Once the required information and attachments have been provided to the Ministry of Natural Resources, the application will be deemed complete and the ministry will proceed to review your application.

During the review of the application more



information may be required depending on the location and site specific requirements; for example, requirement for studies for species at risk or cultural heritage assessments.

The ministry has a standard procedure for any disposition of Crown land which is outlined in the Application Review and Land Disposition

Process policy PL 4.02.01 (see link below) which includes completion of requirements under the ministry's Class Environmental Assessment for Resource Stewardship and Facility Development Projects.

The Class Environmental Assessment is intended to provide Environmental Assessment Act coverage for resource stewardship and facility development projects, including their planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance, rehabilitation, and retirement or decommissioning, as conducted by the ministry or the ministry in co-operation with its partners.

Dispositions of Crown land, such as for agricultural purposes, is subject to this Class Environmental Assessment process. The ministry may request further information to completely satisfy these requirements.

For more information regarding Crown land management policies and the Class Environmental Assessment, visit:

[Crown Land Management](#)

[Class EA_RFSD](#)



Section 5 – Reviewing and Evaluating the Application

The Ministry of Natural Resources will review and screen the application in accordance with the Class Environment Assessment for Resource Stewardship and Facility Development Projects.

Applications will be evaluated and screened to one of three possible categories based on the level of anticipated environmental impacts. The extent of public consultation and technical studies or reports is guided by how the project is screened and categorized by the ministry.

The ministry will provide, in writing, what category your application is screened too and outline any consultations and studies to be undertaken. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that you have met all obligations and requirements, including appropriate documentation of environmental effects, mitigation measures and consultation efforts as may be required by the category screening, and that these are provided to the ministry once completed.

The ministry will ensure that all appropriate notifications are provided to other ministries or agencies as appropriate (e.g. notification to the Ministry of Mines of the pending disposition).



Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness will also be involved in the review of your application in terms of your business plan to determine feasibility of the proposal.

It should be noted that Environmental Assessments and consultation processes can take considerable time and may be at the expense of the applicant.

To clear new land your application may trigger the need for more than one type of permit and/or approval from the Ministry of Natural Resources or other agency (e.g. Forest Resource Licenses for harvesting Crown timber, building permit from the municipality, etc.). The identification of these ancillary authorizations will be done through the scoping and application review process and should be taken into account when considering timelines. You will be informed of the decision to approve or deny the application for Crown land in writing by the local ministry district office.

Section 6 – Issuing

Occupational Authority

If the Ministry of Natural Resources approves your application for Crown land, you will need to complete the following steps:

- 1) You will need to verify the lands to be disposed of and the name in which the lands are to be granted. A corporate profile report will be required if the application is made by a business rather than an individual.
- 2) Proceed with an applicant-initiated appraisal, (if requested), for the Crown land parcel. The ministry will provide the terms of reference for an appraisal, to be conducted by an accredited Ontario land appraiser of the applicants choosing. As the applicant, you will be responsible for all costs related to the appraisal.
- 3) Once the market value has been finalized you may be required to proceed with preparation of a plan of survey for registration at the local Land Registry Office Surveys. A legal description is required for all registered documents (licence of occupation and lease). If necessary, the ministry will issue survey requirements to you as described in “*Instructions Governing Crown Land Surveys and Plans*”. **Note:** Crown land cannot be surveyed without authorization from MNR, as per Section 7 of the *Public Lands Act*, and the applicant is responsible for the cost of the survey.
- 4) A tenure document will be issued for the land. The document will contain conditions

for land preparation required for the agricultural proposal as well as rehabilitation requirements.

- 5) Once the survey has been completed and the land is ready to be transferred you will be required to submit payment to the ministry for the annual rent and any applicable administrative fees. Upon receipt and acceptance of the above, the ministry will issue the appropriate instrument.

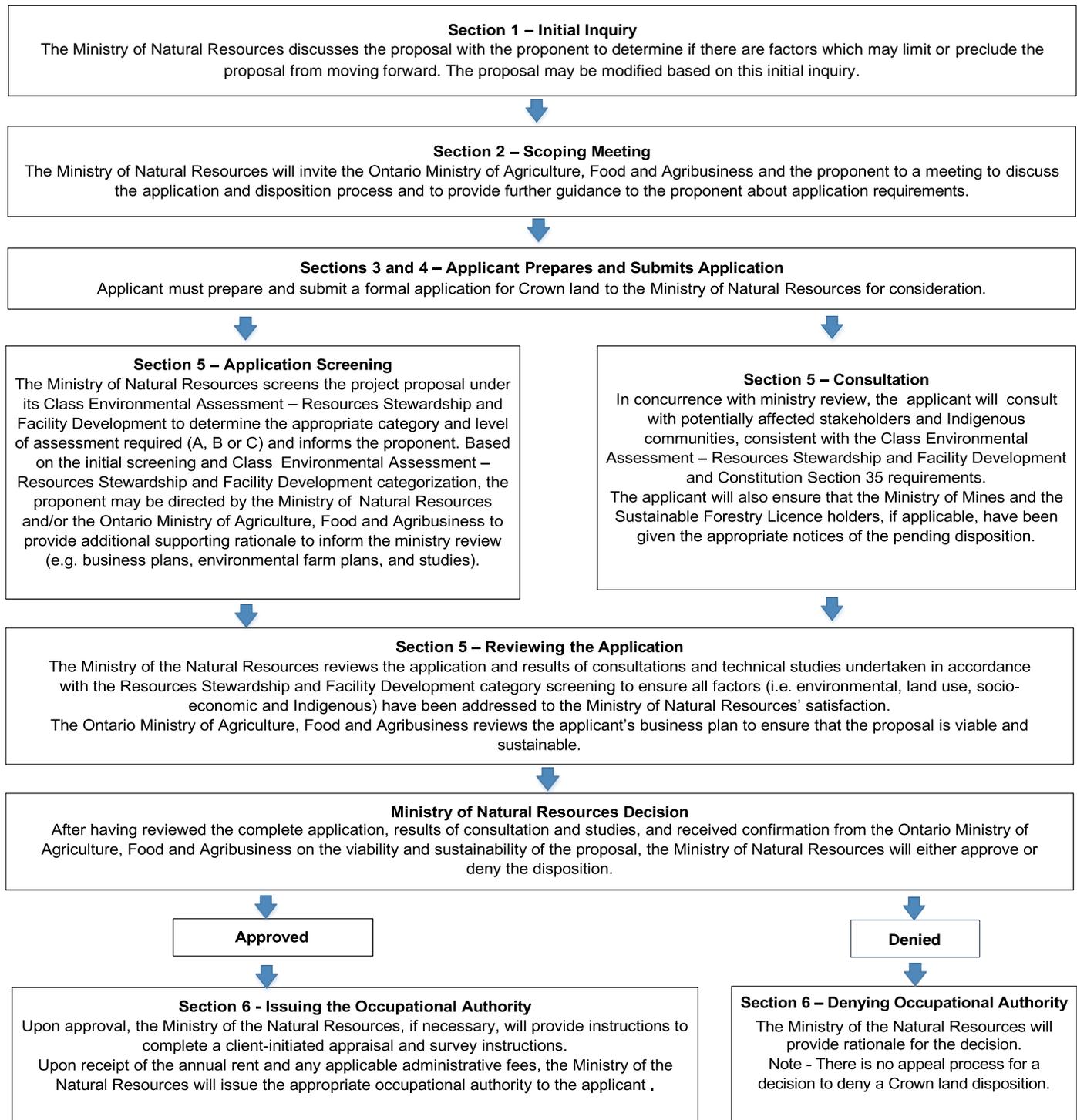
For more Information

This guide and links to online resources is an introduction to Crown land management and are factors to consider when applying for Crown

land for agricultural projects. If you have any questions about this process, we encourage you to contact an Integrated Resource Management staff member at the local Ministry of Natural Resources district office for more information:

[MNR Regional Boundaries and Work Centre Information](#)

Appendix A – Disposition Process Flowchart



NOTE: We are committed to providing [accessible customer service](#). If you need an alternative accessible format of this flowchart, please contact the Integrated Resources Management Technician at the local Ministry of Natural Resources district office: [MNR Regional Boundaries and Work Centre Information](#)



25-16

December 15, 2025

Mark Cain
President
Beef Farmers of Durham Region

Dear Mark,

Re: BREEDER FINANCE PROGRAM 25-16

The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Annual General Meeting (AGM) in February and was recently discussed by the BFO Board of Directors:

WHEREAS, the number and size of beef cow herds within Ontario have been diminishing for years, and

WHEREAS, current breeder finance programs are not bankable options, particularly for young or beginning producers,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with the necessary finance groups such as FCC and ACC to make a breeder finance program as attractive as the current feeder finance program.

BFO's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan identified Sector Growth as one of its key focus areas with growing the size of the Ontario cow herd as a key benchmark.

At our Queen's Park BBQ held this past May, one of our key provincial priorities we spoke with Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP) about was helping the next generation of beef farmers by supporting a government-backed Breeder Loan Guarantee Program modeled on the successful Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program.

Establishing a government guarantee for the Ontario Beef Breeder Co-operative Program would result in more competitive financing from lenders, help farmers purchase breeder cattle, support expansion of Ontario's cow herd, and attract new, young beef farmers who see the opportunities for profitability and sustainability in Ontario's beef sector.

To support our ask, we launched a producer survey requesting feedback on access to financing and interest in an enhanced Breeder Loan Guarantee Program. With over 150 respondents, the results were positive, which helped build our ask. As a result, we have submitted our formal proposal to government to support a \$10 million government guarantee under the program. This would unlock approximately \$40 million in affordable financing for breeder cattle across the province.

Discussions with MPPs continued throughout the summer and in September at the International Plowing Match in the Niagara Region. We also held a lobby day at Queen's Park in November with the establishment of a government-backed guarantee for the breeder loan program being the main purpose of our meetings.

We have been encouraged by the support received for our request from MPPs, which includes some letters of support. We have had meetings with staff at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, lenders from the Ontario Beef Breeder Co-operative Program and the Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program that have all been positive.

As you can imagine, establishing a government guarantee for a program takes time. We are hopeful we will see movement on this file in the new year. Thank you for bringing this resolution forward and we will be sure to keep you apprised of any updates.

Sincerely,



Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Florian Wassenaar (Advisory Councillor)
Tim Rudkin (Mover)
Arthur Schickedanz (Seconder)
April Hackner (Secretary)



25-17

October 24, 2025

Scott Cochrane
President
Brant County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Scott,

Re: Guaranteed 1st Year Residence at the University of Guelph - 25-17

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 only one agricultural degree program in Ontario located at the University of Guelph; and

WHEREAS, first year undergraduate students are not guaranteed residence, and may choose a different University to attend where residence is guaranteed; and

WHEREAS, BFO spends approximately \$200,000 per year on research a year, and \$0.30 per head goes to the BCRC (Beef Cattle Research Council) for research that potentially is completed at the University of Guelph and BFO has donated in the past \$1.5 million for the new beef research barn at the University of Guelph;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby the University of Guelph along with other industry, and commodity partners, to ensure that first year students enrolled in the OAC at the University of Guelph are guaranteed first year residence.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank you for bringing this resolution forward. We can understand the uncertainty and frustration with applying to a post-secondary institution, being accepted, but residence not being guaranteed for first-year students. Based on the feedback received by the university with students beginning their studies during the 2024/25 academic year, the University of Guelph did make changes for the 2025/26 academic year.

If you were an Ontario high school applicant, residence was guaranteed if you received an offer of admission on or before March 1, 2025, and you submitted your residence application and deposit of \$750 by April 15, 2025. If you received an offer of admission after March 1, 2025, or submitted your residence application and deposit after April 15, 2025, you were entered into a residence lottery.

Starting on May 1, 2025, and continuing through June 2, 2025, Ontario High School applicants who submitted a completed residence application were notified within 48 hours of submission if they have a confirmed residence offer, or if they will be placed on a residence waitlist.

While this is not an outright guarantee of residence for all first-year students, it did provide incoming students, and their parents, with a little more certainty regarding on-campus student housing.

The University of Guelph's Board of Governors recently approved the Real Estate Land Use Vision and Strategy that will create new housing, public spaces, research and commercialization on University-owned land. This includes the addition of more than 4,000 new student housing beds by 2035. Hopefully this will allow the university to once again guarantee residence for not just first-year students enrolled in the Ontario Agricultural College, but all first-year students wanting to live on-campus.

We appreciate you bringing this resolution forward and will be sure to reiterate the contributions BFO is making in the area of research and the importance of agriculture at the University of Guelph when meeting with its senior officials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig McLaughlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Mark Eddy (Advisory Councillor)
Sandra Vos (Seconder, Secretary)