



2024 RESOLUTION RESPONSES

Enclosed you will find the response letters to the 2024 resolutions

24-01	MDS Guideline Enforcement
24-02	Access to Crown Land
24-03	Advance Payments Program (APP) Loan Limits
24-04	E-Logs and Animal Welfare in Transporting Cattle
24-05	Animal Care Advisor Protocol for On-Farm Visits
24-06	Deadstock Collection Issues
24-07	Livestock Inspection Consistency
24-08	Veterinary Assistance Program Review
24-09	SRM Harmonization with U.S.
24-10	Feeder Finance Limits
24-11	Separate Animal Welfare Legislation for Livestock
24-12	Provincial Abattoir Funding
24-13	Securing Ontario Conservation Land for Rental to Beef Farmers
24-14	Funding Program Application Assistance
24-15	FMD Compensation Program
24-16	Renewal Process for APP Loan Applications through ACC
24-17	Provincial Tax Classifications for Abattoirs
24-18	Breeder Finance Program Enhancements
24-19	Program Delivery & Application Process



September 3, 2024

Darrell Russett
President
Beef Farmers of Hastings County

Dear Darrell,

Re: *MDS Guideline Enforcement Resolution 24-01*

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, Minimum Distance Separation guidelines (MDS) are not consistently enforced by municipalities; and

WHEREAS, rural lot severances and new house builds/buildings are impacting the “if and where” a new barn or manure storage can be built on the original or neighbouring agricultural land which is involved in raising livestock; and

WHEREAS, farmers have a small window of time to object to new lots or zoning changes, or in the case of a new house build, have no opportunity to object with regards to minimum distance separation; and

WHEREAS, nuisance complaints increase from rural neighbours that have built too close to livestock housing or manure storages;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO consider working with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to ensure better enforcement of Minimum Distance Separation guidelines and ensure more accountability for municipalities and land planners that approve development that is in violation of MDS guidelines.

BFO thanks the Beef Farmers of Hastings County for bringing this resolution forward. Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) continues to be an important tool to prevent land use conflicts and to minimize nuisance complaints related to normal farming practices between farming operations and surrounding residential land uses. With that said, producer concerns with the application of MDS by their municipality, in addition to this resolution, have been raised in the past.

BFO has long supported the use of MDS policies across the province and has regularly communicated to the provincial government the importance of MDS. In regards to the matter addressed in this resolution, BFO has also previously communicated that the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) should support municipal planners with educational and training opportunities related to MDS, particularly for those planners who have little understanding of livestock operations.

In 2023 and 2024, the provincial government held consultations around creating a new, consolidated provincial land use plan, titled the *Provincial Planning Statement* (PPS). The proposed PPS included a number of changes related to agricultural and rural lands, including provisions related to MDS. BFO clearly communicated our strong belief that MDS should continue to apply across the province and our opposition to any proposals that would weaken MDS. The new PPS has been finalized, which maintains MDS as a tool.

It should also be noted the provincial government made changes to the *Planning Act* that limited third party appeals for a number of planning matters, including consents and minor variances, in an effort to address the backlog at the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT). BFO recognizes the need to address issues at the OLT, but communicated our opposition to this change as it has removed a crucial tool for farmers to use when planning-related mistakes are made that impact their farm property.

For background, MDS applies in rural and prime agricultural areas throughout Ontario, as outlined in the PPS and other provincial land use plans. Despite MDS existing within provincial land use plans, OMAFA states municipalities are responsible for MDS setbacks when reviewing land use planning applications or building permits. OMAFA outlines that while municipalities are responsible for ensuring the requirements of MDS are met, municipalities may implement this requirement in different ways. Specifically, some municipalities may ask an applicant to provide the information necessary for the municipality to complete the calculation of MDS while others may request an applicant provide a calculated MDS setback.

To assist municipalities and others who may work with MDS, OMAFA created a technical guidance document in 2017 titled *Minimum Distance Separation Document*, which outlines the MDS formulae and implementation guidelines in great detail. The document stipulates its intended use is for those with a basic understanding of livestock agriculture and to provide support and clarification.

To assist in the calculation of MDS setbacks, OMAFA's *AgriSuite* software can be used in conjunction with the guidance document. In the guidance document, it states it is the responsibility of the person using the MDS Document and the *AgriSuite* software to verify the accuracy and correctness of the data and information used, and that OMAFA is not responsible for "errors due to inaccurate or incorrect data or information, mistakes in calculation, errors arising out of modification of the software or errors arising out of incorrect inputting of data." OMAFA recommends all data and calculations be verified before acting on them. Despite the existence of these tools to support the accurate use of MDS, issues have been encountered by producers in various municipalities around the improper application of MDS.

BFO is engaging with OMAFA to discuss concerns around improper application of MDS at the municipal level and efforts to ensure planners understand MDS, its importance, and steps that can be taken when there are valid concerns with the implementation of MDS by municipalities. BFO has also been in communication with OFA to share the concerns addressed in this resolution and gain an understanding of OFA's position on this matter and opportunities for our organizations to collaborate to advance this issue.

Thank you, again, to Beef Farmers of Hastings County for bringing this resolution forward. We will keep Beef Farmers of Hastings County apprised of our discussions with OMAFA and next steps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig McLaughlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Craig" being more prominent than the last name "McLaughlin".

Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Jim McComb (mover)
Paul Kinlin (Advisory Councillor)
Al and Marg Govier (Secretary)



September 5, 2024

Greg Seed
President
Beef Farmers of Temiskaming

Dear Greg,

Re: *Access to Crown Land Resolution 24-02*

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, 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 Temiskaming for bringing forward this resolution. The Board recently reviewed its federal and provincial lobby priorities, and agricultural access to Crown land and promoting policies that improve the Crown land disposition and access process remains a key priority for BFO.

In May, we held a lobby day at Queen's Park. Helping to grow Ontario's agri-food land base through investments in community pastures and policy flexibility that allows Crown land to be accessed by farmers for food production was an issue we raised with Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP) that we met with.

In early August, I met with Deputy Minister John Kelly from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness to discuss BFO's key priorities for Ontario's beef sector. Agricultural expansion in northern Ontario and improving the Crown land disposition process for agriculture was discussed during our meeting. We strongly believe further developing farms in northern Ontario is one of the most significant economically sustainable plans for the region and will contribute substantial economic base activity for decades. Improving access to Crown land for agriculture use is a key component of this objective.

We intend on meeting with officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) in the coming weeks to discuss the process for accessing Crown land for agricultural purposes, specifically those targeted for grazing, and if there are ways of making it less onerous. The Northern Livestock Pilot and Beef North initiative are two projects we would like the current government to revisit as viable options for consideration.

BFO 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: Amy Hiscock (Mover)
Matt Bowman (Seconder and Advisory Councillor)
Carol Anne Regele (Secretary)



April 29, 2024

Jasper Munro
President, Bruce County Beef Farmers

Dear Jasper,

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

WHEREAS, under the current federal fiscal year, \$350,000 is available to be interest free under the APP program, it will end as of March 31, 2024 and revert to the original amount of \$100,000;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO request that the current amount of \$350,000 interest free under the APP program be sustained and established as a consistent amount going forward and not subjected to a year-by-year decision.

On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, I would like to thank the Bruce County Beef Farmers for putting forward this resolution. The Board fully supports your resolution that the Advanced Payments Program (APP) interest-free portion be maintained at \$350,000 for the 2024-2025 program year. Over the past number of years, the interest-free portion has been at different levels: 2021 - \$100,000; 2022 - \$250,000; 2023 - \$350,000. All signs from federal officials were pointing towards reverting back to the \$100,000 interest-free level.

In February, BFO signed on to the attached letter with Canadian Cattle Association (CCA) and numerous federal and provincial agriculture organizations to the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Finance, to maintain the interest-free portion of the loans under APP at \$350,000. By doing so the federal government would demonstrate it recognizes the needs of producers who have been facing escalating input costs including the cost of raising capital to invest into the next crop or purchase livestock.

On March 25, 2024, the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, announced ahead of the federal budget being tabled that the interest-free limit of the APP would be set at \$250,000 for the 2024-25 program year. This was as a result of producers facing significant challenges, including elevated input prices and interest rates, which have impacted cash flow.

On April 9, 2024, BFO had its annual federal fly-in meetings in Ottawa where Ontario's CCA directors held meetings with Members of Parliament (MP) and Senators, including MP Francis Drouin, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. During these

meetings, we discussed the importance of the APP program to our members and thanked the government for its recent announcement.

The federal budget was officially announced on April 16, 2024, and it confirmed the interest-free portion of APP for the 2024-25 program year will be \$250,000. While we were disappointed the interest-free portion was not maintained at the \$350,000 level, we were pleased it did not revert back to \$100,000.

Ontario has seen strong demand for APP through the Feeder Finance Program and BFO will be sending a letter to Minister MacAulay thanking him setting the interest free portion of APP at \$250,000 and will take the opportunity to further explain the importance of the program and why the interest-free portion needs to be maintained or increased in future years.

Ensuring the industry has access to predictable, timely, and effective BRM programs continues to be a critical pillar of BFO's government relations priorities. Even though the program guidelines have been set with respect to the APP for the upcoming year, BFO will continue to press this issue with CCA and the federal government as we know the importance of this program to Ontario producers.

Thank you for bringing forward this resolution and for serving the beef farmers in Bruce County.

Sincerely,



Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Calvin Anstett (Mover)
Nicole Blake (Seconder)
Jarrett Johnson (Advisory Councillor)
Jennifer Isber-Legge (Secretary)

Hon. Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.
Department of Finance Canada
90 Elgin St
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G5

February 9, 2024

Dear Minister Freeland:

We are writing to you today on behalf of Canada's agriculture groups, who together comprise a significant part of the Canadian economy and who are contributing to domestic and global food security while being integral to the fight against climate change. Specifically, we are writing regarding the interest-free portion of the loans under the Advance Payments Program (APP).

We recognize and support the temporary increases to the interest-free portion of the loans under Budgets 2022 and 2023. Now, unless permanent changes are made, the amount will revert back to \$100,000. This number is unfeasible, does not account for inflation and interest-rate increases, and does not provide adequate support for Canadian producers. We therefore urge the federal government to keep the limit at \$350,000. Doing so would mirror the recommendation by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-food in report entitled *Grocery Affordability: Examining Rising Food Costs in Canada*. Specifically, the committee made the following recommendation:

"The Committee recommends that the Government of Canada support agricultural producers and others in the agri-food industry to mitigate their costs and ensure they have sufficient cash flow during this period of high inflation by:

- ensuring companies have access to short-term, low-cost credit,
- and maintaining the increased threshold for interest-free payments under the Advance Payments Program."

By maintaining the increase to interest-free portions of loans under the Advance Payments Program, the federal government can demonstrate that it recognizes the needs of producers who have been facing escalating input costs including the cost of raising capital to invest into the next crop. This was precisely what the APP was designed for, and we believe this action will be aligned with not on the needs of farmers but also with the intent of the program. At a time when all producers, and young farmers in particular, require all financial levers at their disposal, maintaining the increase would go a long way in making our sector more economically competitive.

The need to maintain the increase to interest-free portions of loans under APP reflects new economic realities and risks producers have to face. Furthermore, by extending the increase, producers are better able to plan ahead, invest into innovation, and stay financially sustainable.

As Budget 2024 approaches during an unsteady economic environment, we urge you to maintain the increase to the APP and to consider making the increase permanent which will permit greater stability and support to our producers who work tirelessly to increasing Canada's food security and economic competitiveness.

Thank you in advance for considering our request. We would be pleased to discuss with you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,





Cc: Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food



June 25, 2024

Darrell Russett
President, Beef Farmers of Hastings County

Dear Darrell,

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, Electronic logging devices (ELDs or E-Logs) pose an animal welfare issue in the humane transport of livestock; and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of awareness of the consequences E-Logs have on the beef industry; and

WHEREAS, a resolution concerning the exemption of livestock trucks was put forward last year;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO put greater emphasis on informing our federal politicians on the animal welfare and industry issues that E-Logs place on transporting our livestock.

The BFO Board of Directors understands and shares your concerns regarding Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs) and their potential impact on animal welfare during transportation. BFO recognizes the significant challenges posed by the Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations, and has been actively addressing them with federal and provincial officials.

At the federal level, BFO has been an active participant in the National Working Group – Animal Transport, collaborating with organizations such as the Canadian Cattle Association (CCA), Canadian Livestock Transporters' Alliance, and other provincial and national entities. This group has engaged in discussions with Transport Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Canadian Food Inspection Agency advocating for regulatory flexibility to ensure that unforeseen delays do not compromise the welfare of livestock during transport. Specifically, we have requested the federal government harmonize Canadian live animal transport regulations with U.S. legislation, which includes an exemption for livestock and insect haulers from hours-of-service regulations within a 150-air-mile radius from the origin and destination of the animals. Such an exemption would provide necessary flexibility for the timely and safe delivery of livestock.

Additionally, CCA and National Cattle Feeders' Association (NCFA) brought forward concerns regarding ELDs' impact on animal welfare from the beef industry to the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food (AGRI) during its study on ELDs and their impact on the livestock transportation industry. During their presentations to the committee, they highlighted the impact of the ELD regulations on animal welfare and industry operations. Their advocacy aligns with our efforts, reinforcing the need for regulatory adjustments. From those meetings [AGRI developed a report on ELDs](#) that aligns with industry viewpoints by addressing key concerns and making recommendations that BFO see as positive. The committee acknowledges the operational challenges livestock haulers face and identified the need for more flexible ELD regulations that accommodate industry's unique demands. A notable recommendation was to provide commercial drivers carrying livestock or insects greater flexibility at the beginning and end of their trips to limit compromising animal health or safety, while considering local conditions and distances. This proposed

recommendation would aim to provide added flexibility for livestock haulers when unforeseen circumstances arise, ensuring they can maintain efficiency and compliance without compromising safety. This alignment underscores a collaborative effort to balance regulatory compliance with the practical needs of the industry, promoting both safety and efficiency in agricultural transportation. The government response to the report can be found [here](#).

Following AGRI's recommendations on ELDs, MP Martin Shields introduced Private Members' Bill C-385 An Act to amend the Motor Vehicle Transport Act, which aims to address these concerns. The bill seeks to codify the proposed 240 km exemption at the beginning and end of trips, providing livestock haulers the flexibility to effectively manage unforeseen circumstances. BFO sent a letter of support to MP Shields thanking him for bringing this bill forward and taking action on the recommendations that came out of AGRI's report on ELDs. We offered our support and assistance as the bill works its way through the House. BFO will also be sending a letter to all Ontario MPs regarding the bill, indicating our support and detailing how the bill will strike a balance between animal welfare and road safety.

While the regulations are federal, their enforcement is managed provincially. BFO has met with provincial officials to discuss the grassroots impact these regulations have on the livestock sector. BFO then sent a letter to the provincial Minister of Transportation, outlining our concerns and requested immediate guidance to enforcement officers clearly stating that certain scenarios should be classified as "emergency situations" when dealing with livestock transportation. BFO received a response from the Minister of Transportation regarding this request, which can be found in last year's resolution response, [23-03 on the BFO website](#).

BFO will continue to monitor this issue and push for inclusion of clear and more distinct language around animal welfare in the emergency exemption clauses. We appreciate your engagement and input on this matter and assure you of our continued efforts to safeguard animal welfare during transportation. Thank you again for bringing this resolution forward.

Attached you will find the letter BFO sent to MP Shields supporting his Private Members' Bill C-385 and the letter BFO is sending to all Ontario MPs requesting their support of this bill and ensure its passage within the House of Commons. We will keep you apprised of any updates.

Sincerely,



Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Paul Kinlin (Advisory Councillor, Seconder)
Al & Marg Govier (Secretary)



May 23, 2024

Martin Shields
Member of Parliament
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Email: Martin.Shields@parl.gc.ca

Re: Bill C-385 An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Transport Act – Electronic Logging Devices

Dear Mr. Shields,

On behalf of the 19,000 members that the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) represent, we would like to thank you for bringing forward the Private Member's Bill, *C-385 An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Transport Act – Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs)* that was introduced on March 19, 2024. We are strongly supportive of this bill and believe it provides a common-sense approach to address some of the concerns and unique needs the livestock sector has raised in regards to the humane transportation of livestock in Canada.

If passed, this bill would work to harmonize the Canadian approach with our U.S. neighbours, striking an appropriate balance between ELD allotted hours-of-service and the humane transportation of livestock. Given the inherently integrated nature of our North American cattle and beef supply chain, this would represent a very positive improvement for our sector.

BFO commends you on taking action from the recommendations found in the report from the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food (AGRI) titled: *Striking A Balance: Electronic Logging Device Requirements Impacting Animal Transportation*, specifically the second recommendation. In our view, the AGRI Committee conducted a thorough study of this issue, something that policymakers should take into strong consideration as the bill progresses through various stages of debate.

The issue of humane livestock transportation and e-logs is complex, as showcased within the committee report. BFO believes that the 240-km radius of the point of origin and destination of the journey would provide the needed flexibility to reach destinations safely without jeopardizing the health and wellbeing of either the drivers or the animals in transit.

Unlike other goods transported in Canada, livestock have unique needs. Trucks with live cargo simply cannot stop anywhere for rest periods, and there are very few livestock rest stations in Canada. Requiring a driver and their livestock loads to stop in non-livestock rest areas when they are in close proximity to their destination only increases the risk of poor animal welfare outcomes, something that could be avoided with the passing of this bill.

The Ontario beef sector is particularly sensitive to this issue given the frequency and volume of long-haul shipments of cattle from western Canada into southern Ontario, a critical component of the Canadian beef sector for both Ontario producers and western Canadian cattle sellers. A workable solution to the existing regulatory requirements and their limitations, like what you have suggested in Bill C-385, strikes the best balance in our view.

BFO will be encouraging Ontario MPs to support this bill, and should this bill make it to the committee stage, we would be pleased to appear before the committee to discuss its merits and impact on our sector.

Mr. Shields, thank you again for putting forward Bill C-385.

Sincerely,

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

Craig McLaughlin
President



January 30, 2025

Mike Fallis
President
Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Mike,

Re: *Animal Care Advisor Protocol for On-Farm Visits 24-05*

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, when an Animal Care Advisor visits a premise and that at times those visits can become tense and safety can become an issue; and

WHEREAS, it is now common that most visits by PAWS inspectors, police officers and other enforcement officers are done in pairs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO ensure that Animal Care Advisors bring a second person with them for on-farm visits.

The BFO Board of Directors recognizes the importance of safety when it comes to Animal Care Advisors (ACA) and/or staff going on-farm to investigate issues regarding animal welfare.

BFO staff have created an ACA Program Guide that will serve as a manual for our animal care work with Animal Welfare Services (AWS) Inspectors. It covers when BFO gets involved in AWS inspections, the role an ACA plays in these inspections, how ACAs are assigned, biosecurity protocols, safety factors on farm, reporting requirements, conflicts of interest, and confidentiality.

A virtual ACA training session is being scheduled for the end of February at which the content of the ACA Program Guide will be reviewed in detail and we will discuss our work with AWS. We are also in the process of planning two virtual *In the Know* training sessions for ACAs this spring. *In the Know* is a four-hour mental health literacy training that covers the topics of stress, depression, anxiety, and substance use in the context of agriculture.

We also wanted to let you know that in June 2024, we delivered basic beef cattle production training to over 100 AWS Inspectors. The AWS team have requested we plan on-farm training sessions for some of their inspectors who are more commonly involved in livestock inspections. BFO staff are planning two on-farm training sessions this spring that will also include biosecurity protocols and safety factors on farm.

Currently, BFO does not have the resources to allow for a second ACA to attend all inspections. In most instances, ACAs attend an inspection with an Animal Welfare Services (AWS) Inspector. Should there be an instance when an ACA feels a situation warrants having a second person accompany them, they should contact Chris Millar, BFO Manager of Compliance, to discuss how best to proceed.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig McLaughlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Craig" being more prominent than the last name "McLaughlin".

Craig McLaughlin

President

cc: John Lunn (Advisory Councillor)
Glenn Darling (Seconder)
Patricia Leahy (Secretary)



January 30, 2025

Dave McKillop
President, Elgin Beef Farmers

Dear Dave,

Re: *Deadstock Collection Issues 24-06*

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, beef farmers are required to dispose of deadstock in accordance with Ontario

Regulation 106/09 as made under the Nutrient Management Act; and

WHEREAS, a suitable option under Ontario Regulation 106/09 for disposal for beef farmers is to use a licensed deadstock collector; and

WHEREAS, in Elgin County, there are currently no licensed deadstock collectors that will service all Elgin County Beef Farmers; and

WHEREAS, Elgin County Beef Farmers are being forced to consider alternative solutions to disposing of deadstock which are less than ideal (e.g. burying in manure piles in winter months) and put farmers at risk of improperly disposing of deadstock;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby the provincial government to increase catchment areas for existing deadstock collectors to include those underserved rural areas of the Province, and should additional fees be charged to the farm, lobby the government to provide compensation to farmers for complying with the regulations and accessing deadstock collectors and invest a portion of Beef Farmers check-off dollars into fixing this problem, as this is a service our industry greatly needs.

BFO thanks Elgin Beef Farmers for bringing this resolution forward. The board recognizes the importance of ensuring beef farmers have options readily available to deal with deadstock in a timely manner.

We were pleased the government launched the Increasing Deadstock Capacity Initiative in late 2023 to provide cost-share funding support for deadstock management to address immediate and short-term deadstock capacity needs at businesses, including new or existing deadstock service providers, and municipalities in Ontario through increasing capacity and improving sustainability. The \$1.5 million Initiative was funded by the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP). The Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC) delivered the initiative on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA). In November

In speaking with a couple of existing deadstock service providers that service our members, they indicated they were successful in securing funding through the initiative allowing them to expand their service area radius, including Elgin County. One of these providers launched a membership incentive program allowing beef farmers to access their service and have their sales tracked. At the end of the year, each member will receive a two per cent dividend cheque to spend how they wish with a zero-return limit. Please contact the office for more information and a full list of licensed deadstock operators can be found here: [Licensed deadstock operators in Ontario | ontario.ca](#)

Thank you, again to Elgin Beef Farmers for bringing this resolution forward.

Craig McLaughlin

President

www.ontariobeef.com



February 24, 2025

Bob Bennett
President
Huron County Beef Producers

Dear Bob,

Re: Livestock Inspection Consistency 24-07

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:

WHEREAS, beef farmers continue to experience inconsistencies in the inspection of cattle and incur administrative monetary penalties (AMPS) from CFIA for improper transport of cattle to federal processing plants; and

WHEREAS, beef farmers continue to have concerns about the lack of accountability and consistent criteria being used for inspecting the condition of cattle at auction barns and processing plants by CFIA and OMAFRA inspectors;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO advocate that CFIA and OMAFRA harmonize their inspection processes and criteria to support a fair and transparent enforcement process across Ontario, and request that both agencies broadly communicate their processes and criteria to beef farmers, veterinarians, auction barns and processing plants so that all parties understand the expectations and livestock transport enforcement process in Ontario.

The BFO board supports the resolution and agrees consistency in the livestock inspection process and the criteria used will foster a more fair and transparent enforcement process across Ontario's beef industry. BFO would like to take this time to provide an update to the Huron County Beef Farmers on the progress of this resolution as all steps in our action plan to address this resolution have not been carried out and BFO will follow up again with the county when all elements have been completed. Clear communication of these processes and criteria used is essential for ensuring all parties understand the regulatory expectations and the enforcement procedures in the province.

BFO has increased communication with Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) inspection staff regarding our members' concerns by meeting with them on a regular base to discuss and address them. 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.

To address the lack of relevant information coming to BFO regarding livestock inspection complaints, BFO will create 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 for both CFIA and OMAFA. The form will provide BFO areas of concern and allow for practical solutions and items we can discuss with CFIA and OMAFA during our meetings. BFO would like to note this is currently not available on the BFO website, but when it is, be assured we will follow up with the Huron County Beef Farmers.

If producers are comfortable addressing their concerns themselves, both [CFIA](#) and [OMAFRA](#) have a complaint process outlined on their websites for individuals to follow. The process ensures all parties have the information they need to find a solution to the outstanding issue.

In the most recent meeting in January with CFIA, BFO was informed CFIA livestock inspectors will be required to take a new animal training course, which is being rolled out in March. This course aims to refresh the knowledge of current staff and bring any new staff up to equivalency with their veteran colleagues, allowing more consistency across all inspectors.

Ensuring a fair and transparent inspection process continues to be a priority for BFO. We appreciate the Huron County Beef Farmers for bringing forward their concerns regarding this matter and BFO is committed to updating you once the online form is operational on the BFO website. If there are any ongoing concerns from the Huron County area, BFO staff are more than willing to discuss those issues provided that specific information is brought forward allowing for actionable solutions.

Sincerely,



Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Harvey Hoggart (Advisory Councillor)
Ron Stevenson (Mover)
Terry Greidanus (Seconder)
Kittie MacGregor (Secretary)



June 4, 2024

David Wolgemuth
President, Algoma District Cattlemen's Association

Dear David,

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, it is recognized that there is a looming crisis with respect to the availability of food animal veterinary services in parts of Ontario and particularly in areas covered by the Veterinary Assistance Program (VAP); and

WHEREAS, given that the funding for the VAP has not increased in many years and that there are currently vacancies within the VAP where local vet service is not available;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby the province to initiate a review of the VAP with a view to increasing funding so that food animal veterinary services continue to be available in all potentially underserved areas of Ontario.

BFO thanks the Algoma District Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. BFO remains committed to working with the Government of Ontario and our industry partners to implement solutions to address food animal veterinary capacity and access issues in Ontario. Of the many short and long-term solutions that are needed to ensure livestock producers can access vet services for their animals, improving aspects and ensuring the longevity of the Veterinary Assistance Program (VAP) is a piece of that puzzle.

VAP is a well-regarded program that has existed for many years and has supported veterinary clinics and the provision of large animal veterinary medicine in the areas that are covered by the program through access to financial support for mileage expenses, continuing education and locum assistance. In communication with the Northern Producer Animal Health Network (NPAHN), the Designated Area Veterinarians Association (DAVA), and producers in areas covered by the program, there was a strong recognition that this program is extremely important and necessary, but has lacked updates by the Ministry of Northern Development, which has prevented the program from being as effective as it can be. As the program's key stakeholder groups, NPAHN and DAVA have been in contact with Ministry staff, for some time, requesting program updates. These groups have also requested a formal program review be conducted looking at every component of the program and to engage with stakeholders to understand how best to improve VAP. It should also be noted, the program had not been reviewed since 2004.

It was communicated with program stakeholders the formal program review would be initiated in the spring of 2022, which did not occur. BFO and other interested groups, like NPAHN, DAVA, and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), continued to stay in contact with Ministry staff for updates on the review throughout this time. In early February 2024, BFO met with the Minister of Northern Development's staff to discuss VAP and other topics. At this meeting, we asked for the program review to be initiated and outlined the rationale for the review. The following week, the Minister's staff communicated to BFO they would be moving ahead with the review, and the Minister of Northern Development and Indigenous Affairs during his speech at BFO's AGM in February publicly announced their plans to conduct the VAP review.

The Ministry organized various engagement sessions beginning in late February. The Ministry's review consisted of two phases. Phase one focused on engagement with large animal vets who have participated in VAP over the last three years; producers who have received service from a large animal vet involved in VAP in the last three years; and groups that assist in administering the program, such as NPAHN, DAVA, and the Veterinary Service Committees (VSC). The engagement consisted of virtual sessions and an online survey.

On March 12, the Ministry confirmed the details of phase two of the review, which expanded the scope of engagement to vets who had received VAP funding over the last five years; organizations that represent vets and livestock producers; and an additional sample of livestock producers who have received services from a VAP-funded vet over the last three years. Similarly, this phase consisted of virtual sessions with stakeholders and an online survey. BFO participated in the virtual session for livestock and agriculture organizations on April 3, 2024, in addition to submitting responses to the VAP survey.

In the Ministry's communications, it was stated the Ministry was seeking feedback on: VAP's effectiveness in helping maintain a viable livestock industry by providing financial support to large animal veterinary services in applicable communities and VAP design and delivery opportunities to improve, streamline, and create program efficiencies. The Ministry also stated increases to VAP funding and broader large animal vet access challenges that were not directly related to VAP were out of scope.

Through the engagement sessions and surveys the Ministry asked:

- Is the program effectively supporting the viability of the livestock industry by supporting large animal vet services?
- Has VAP allowed livestock producers to increase their ability to access large animal vet services?
- Has VAP allowed veterinarians to increase their ability to provide care to large animals in rural and/or northern areas?
- Are there opportunities to enhance the design of the program?
- Are there opportunities to enhance the delivery of the program?
- Has VAP been effective at attracting large animal vets to VAP covered areas?

Despite stating increases in VAP funding were out of scope for this review, BFO, as well as a majority of other participants in this review, communicated that a number of the program components that required updates to make the program much more effective, such as the cost of travel cap and mileage rates, would require an increase in the overall program budget.

BFO program delivery recommendations aligned with positions of other stakeholder groups. In summary, these included:

- increasing cost of travel reimbursements including moving the cost of travel cap per designated practice from \$40,000 to \$60,000, and increasing the mileage reimbursement rate to better reflect current costs.
- At year end, allowing unspent financial allocations by some clinics to be dispersed to clinics who maxed out their allocation.
- Removing overly restrictive, inefficient and/or unnecessary program guidelines to make the program more flexible.
- Opportunities for telemedicine.
- Continued support for continuing education and locum assistance.
- Increasing the program budget to reflect inflation and above recommendations.

In regards to program design, BFO provided comments and recommendations that touched on:

- Improving communications between VAP stakeholders.
- Examining the VAP decision making processes and areas for improvement or streamlining.
- Considerations for expanding eligible program areas.

We also provided our perspective and additional recommendations related to how the program can be more effective for both livestock producers and vets, and how the program can be improved to attract vets to northern Ontario and other areas covered by the program.

The Ministry communicated to stakeholders that, following further analysis of stakeholder feedback, they intend to have their VAP recommendations finalized this spring/summer. BFO will continue to stay involved in this process and stay engaged with our industry partners who have participated in this review. We are eager and hopeful to see the Ministry move forward with changes that will make the program more effective to better support the farmers and vets who rely on it.

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

Sincerely,



Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Ryan McLeod (mover and Advisory Councillor)
Kristen Taylor (Seconder)
Mikala Parr (Secretary)



24-09

September 5, 2024

Mark Cain
President
Beef Farmers of Durham Region

Dear Mark,

Re: SRM Harmonization Resolution 24-09

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 SRM issue has been a deterrent to profitable Canadian beef production and exports;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO request that the Canadian Cattle Association (CCA) allocate \$1M to legally resolve the SRM harmonization issue with the U.S. within six months.

BFO would like to thank the Beef Farmers of Durham Region for submitting this resolution. We also wish to acknowledge the letter that was sent to our attention on August 3rd, requesting an update and progress report on the status of this resolution, and your request to receive quarterly updates regarding progress on this file.

Firstly, as we have stated many times previously, BFO shares your concerns regarding SRM requirements in Canada and the industry-wide desire to see our practices harmonized with the United States. For many years, BFO, other provincial cattle associations, the Canadian Meat Council (CMC), the Canadian Cattle Association (CCA), and the National Cattle Feeders' Association have pressed federal and provincial officials and elected representatives at both levels of government to address this issue.

In May of 2021, Canada's BSE risk status was upgraded from controlled to negligible, which finally paved the way to engage in meaningful discussions with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), and more specifically, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), regarding the SRM requirements. Prior to the risk status change, the likelihood of Canada amending the SRM requirements was low. Since that time, industry groups, including BFO, have ramped up advocacy efforts in an attempt to have the federal government initiate a formalized review of our SRM removal practices with the hope they could eventually be harmonized with those in place in the United States.

Some of BFO's efforts in this regard have included motions and resolutions to the CCA Board and Animal Health and Care Committee, requests for updates from CCA and CFIA to the BFO Board, formal requests of Ministers Thompson and Flack to raise this issue with their Federal-Provincial-

Territorial (FPT) counterparts at their annual FPT meetings, and discussions with individual MPs and political staff during regular lobby days in Ottawa. Regarding the latter, SRM harmonization has been one of our top federal priorities for the last several years and as mentioned, our advocacy and attention to this issue has increased dramatically since Canada's BSE risk status was changed in the spring of 2021. This issue was formally discussed by FPT ministers of agriculture this past July in Whitehorse, Yukon.

In addition, BFO had previously requested that CCA request that the Canadian Meat Council update the estimated costs of the Canadian SRM removal requirements to support our advocacy efforts. This request was responded to as CMC updated the cost estimates in 2020, something that was last done in 2009. The updated analysis found that on average, SRM disposal costs had increased from \$128/Mt, to \$167/Mt between 2009 and 2020, that total costs for animals under thirty months of age had increased from \$4.52 to \$5.88 per head, and finally, that costs for animals over thirty months of age was now costing industry approximately \$29 per head. Overall, the updated numbers demonstrated that current SRM removal practices cost industry, on average, approximately \$31 million per year in lost value. The results of this study were shared with decision-makers at both levels of government, and continue to be used in our messaging with officials.

Aside from the updated cost study, an extensive risk assessment was recently completed by an outside firm to compare Canada's current SRM system to the system used in the United States. The assessment sought to address the following:

1. The likelihood of a susceptible animal species or human being exposed to a BSE agent under the current and proposed (U.S.) scheme
2. The likelihood of the BSE agent being recycled in the cattle population under the current and proposed scheme.
3. The likelihood of domestic or international market impacts as a result of the changed policy.
4. The likelihood of a changed policy having a negative impact on Canada's BSE negligible risk status.

I am pleased to report the study is now complete and is currently in the process of being reviewed by international experts. Once this peer review process is complete, it will be up to the Agency to determine the development of potential new regulations to support SRM policy, consult with industry and the public, and implement the changes, hopefully. This process will take additional time but our view is that industry has helped position the need for change and the risk of doing so in a manner that will hopefully lead to positive changes for the Canadian sector. BFO acknowledges the speed of this work is less than desirable but we are pleased to see progress being made. It was not that long ago we were very much less optimistic of the potential for harmonization or something close to it.

In summary, our interpretation of the risk of moving to a United States model is that the risks are very low, the economic impact is significant, the consumer impact is unknown, and to risk to our negligible risk status is low. The risk assessment study was a necessary step to support potential regulatory change.

With respect to your request to direct up to \$1 million dollars toward this pursuit, we would argue this is not a financial issue and that ultimately, progress on this file will be made based on available data and science to determine risk across a number of different areas, some of which I noted in

this letter. On this front, industry has worked hard to support that process to ensure decision-makers have access to the best data to help inform their decision on potential regulatory change.

While we will not commit to provide quarterly updates to you, we will commit to updating the Beef Farmers of Durham Region and our broader membership when meaningful progress has been made, or if additional setbacks occur. At a minimum, BFO has been updating members on this file at our AGM, summer and fall meetings for the last number of years. We will continue to provide updates at those meetings until this issue is finally resolved.

I hope this provides a sufficient response and update on the current status of the SRM harmonization issue.

Sincerely,



Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Dale Mountjoy (Mover)
Florian Wassenaar (Advisory Councillor & Seconder)
Mary Ann Found (Secretary)
Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association
Rainy River Cattlemen's Association



August 8, 2024

Jasper Munro
President, Bruce County Beef Farmers

Dear Jasper,

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

WHEREAS, demand for funds has increased for a number of reasons – including higher cattle prices, and linkage to the Advance Payments Program;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with the Feeder Finance Provincial Council to lobby for an increase to the overall funding cap as well as increases to individual loan limits.

BFO thanks the Bruce County Beef Farmers for bringing this resolution forward. At the Feeder Finance Annual General Meeting in Guelph on March 7, 2024, a motion was passed by the Provincial Feeder Finance Council for the executive to work with BFO to lobby for an increase to the overall funding cap and for increases to individual loan limits.

On March 25, 2024, at the BFO Board of Directors Meeting, the board approved asking the government to increase the Ontario government guarantee under the Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program (OFCLGP) from \$65M to \$130M to allow total program lending to grow to up to \$520M. Regarding individual loan limits, the board approved asking the government to allow the loan limit per individual member or corporation to be negotiated between each co-operative and its lender.

BFO met with staff from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) and its Minister's Office on a number of occasions in early April to discuss our request, which was followed up with a formal submission. On May 15, 2024, some BFO directors and staff held a lobby day at Queen's Park and discussed our request with Members of Provincial Parliament that we met with.

We were pleased that, on July 29, 2024, in Carleton Place, OMAFRA Minister Flack announced an increase of the Ontario government guarantee under the Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program (OFCLGP) from \$65M to \$125M to allow total program lending to grow to up to \$500M. Individual loan limit for experienced individuals is increasing from \$1M to \$2M and for experienced corporations from \$1.5M to \$3M. The loan limit for inexperienced individuals is increasing from \$100K to \$200K. All of the changes announced will allow the program to better respond to the escalation in cattle prices, and growing interest from new and existing beef farmers who value the program for its reliable access to affordable credit.

BFO is appreciative of all the work the feeder finance co-operatives put in, especially the administrators, to ensure the program is responsive to its members. We know this was an extremely difficult year managing each co-operative's allocation as the program neared the \$260M ceiling cap.

BFO remains committed to working with the Provincial Feeder Finance Council and Ontario government to ensure the feeder finance program continues to provide reliable competitive financing for Ontario producers and support new entrants and young farmers.

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

Sincerely,

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

Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Jarrett Johnson (Advisory Councillor)
Scot Legge (Mover)
Curtis Calhoun (Seconder)
Jennifer Legge (Secretary)



January 30, 2025

Mike Fallis
President
Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Mike,

Re: Separate Animal Welfare Legislation for Livestock 24-11

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, the legislation continues to recognize livestock as pets and not equity;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO continues to lobby the provincial government for a separate legislation for livestock.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward as a follow up to your resolution from 2023. BFO continues to raise serious concerns with elected officials and ministry staff with respect to Animal Welfare Services as it relates to animal welfare concerns on farms. 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.

In 2024, BFO prioritized the following activities:

- Met with senior staff from the Office of the Solicitor General to discuss our concerns on several occasions.
- Requested as a part of BFO's provincial lobby documents a full review of the PAWS Act for more appropriate response to animal welfare concerns on farms.
- At our Queen's Park lobby day held May 15, 2024, we met with MPP Glen McGregor, then Parliamentary Assistant to the Solicitor General, to request amendments to the PAWS Act that would differentiate companion animals from commercial livestock and to address concerns around animal seizure and removal processes and costs well above industry standards.
- On June 4, 2024, BFO staff conducted mandatory training for over 100 Animal Welfare Services (AWS) Inspectors on generally accepted beef farming practices to help support their work at AWS and enhance our relationship with them.
- Participated along with other Ontario livestock commodity group representatives to meet jointly on June 10, 2024, with representatives from the Ministry of the Solicitor General/AWS and OMAFA to discuss important issues in regard to animal welfare.

- On June 24, 2024, a senior official from AWS attended the BFO Board of Directors meeting to provide an overview of animal welfare enforcement, key elements of the PAWS Act, and statistics regarding animal welfare calls received to date.
- At our Queen's Park lobby day held November 20, 2024, BFO met with MPPs and senior staff from the Office of the Solicitor General requesting a review of the PAWS Act and amendments to the Act to address our concerns.
- On March 8, 2024 and November 22, 2024, BFO met with senior staff from Animal Welfare Services (AWS) to discuss our Memorandum of Understanding, AWS inspector training and concerns regarding the PAWS Act enforcement practices. We also discussed on-farm training for AWS Inspectors slated to take place this spring.

There is a roundtable being planned following the provincial election with other Ontario livestock commodity group representatives along with representatives from the Ministry of the Solicitor General/AWS and OMAFA to provide updates on our 2025 animal welfare priorities, our plans for industry education and resource development, and any other animal welfare issues we would like to discuss. We will be sending a joint letter to the Solicitor General ahead of this meeting requesting a review of the *Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act, 2019* and the steps necessary to enhance the effectiveness of the PAWS Act, specifically:

- The distinction between commercial animals/livestock and companion animals,
- Inspector training and the Specialized Compliance Unit,
- Large animal veterinarians as part of the Animal Welfare Services team,
- Costs and Statement of Accounts,
- Animal welfare data,
- Using mental health services, and
- Future collaboration and consultation.

Despite a working relationship that has been formed with the enforcement branch, BFO and many of our farm organization counterparts remain concerned with components of the current system and will continue to lobby for 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,



Craig McLaughlin

President

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



November 27, 2024

Murray McDonald
President, Rainy River Cattlemen's Association

Dear Murray,

Re: Provincial Abattoir Funding 24-12

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, small community abattoirs are finding it financially challenging to keep the doors open; and

WHEREAS, we appreciate the Government programs that have been offered to our plants but cost-share is not always achievable with the financial difficulties these small plants are currently in;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby our provincial government for some type of base funding for these abattoirs that are meeting the demands of locally grown and processed Ontario Beef.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank Rainy River Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. The BFO Directors can appreciate the challenges small community abattoirs are faced with. It should be noted that, since this resolution was brought forward, BFO has raised these concerns at both the provincial and federal levels of government.

In June of this year, BFO attended an agriculture roundtable focused on key topics impacting small businesses hosted by the Honourable Associate Minister of Small Business, Nina Tangri. BFO expressed that it is difficult for small businesses, such as small community abattoirs, to take advantage of cost-share programs due to a lack of available cash flow.

We recommended strategic investments that align the government's provincial agri-food strategy, Grow Ontario. These include a combination of no-interest, non-repayable loans and funding programs with a higher cost-share percentage that would allow abattoirs to meet the growing demand for Ontario beef while enhancing their financial stability.

Earlier this month, we had meetings in Ottawa with Members of Parliament and held a lobby day at Queen's Park in Toronto where we met with Members of Provincial Parliament to discuss a number of our priorities. The recommendations noted above were brought up along with a request for simplified programming and a sufficient funding window that will allow businesses the ability to plan, build and execute their growth strategies.

We will continue to advocate on behalf of community abattoirs and again, thank you for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,

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

Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: James Gibson (Mover)
Delton Martin (Advisory Councillor and Seconder)
Kim Jo Bliss (Secretary)



October 15, 2024

Jasper Munro
President, Bruce County Beef Farmers

Dear Jasper,

Re: *Securing Conservation Land for Rental to Beef Farmers 24-13*

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

WHEREAS, Ontario beef farmers continue to lose available grazing land to other farming practises and urban development; and

WHEREAS, conservation land can be used for grazing while still supporting and promoting other conservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, much of Ontario's excess conservation land was previously used as productive pastureland; and

WHEREAS, the rental income received from beef farmers can be used by Ontario Conservation Authorities to support ongoing conservation efforts; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with the appropriate conservation authorities to evaluate the potential to establish a process/application for beef farmers to rent Ontario Conservation Land for grazing purposes.

BFO thanks Bruce County Beef Farmers for bringing this resolution forward. A pillar of BFO's strategic plan focuses on growing Ontario's beef sector by promoting pasture development through the expansion and improvement of existing community pastures, the creation of new community pastures and by working with conservation authorities and different non-governmental organizations like land trusts and other organizations.

In 2022, BFO worked with Conservation Ontario, which represents all of Ontario's conservation authorities, to distribute a survey to each conservation authority to understand their process for leasing land for agriculture. Of the 20 responses we received from the 36 conservation authorities, three indicated they do not lease land for agriculture purposes and the process for how the remaining conservation authorities lease land to farmers and the size and number of land parcels available varied greatly.

We recently met with Conservation Ontario to talk about this resolution. Following our discussion, BFO was asked to prepare a letter that could be distributed to each conservation authority regarding opportunities to rent land to beef farmers for grazing purposes. The letter shared with Conservation Ontario has been appended to this response for your awareness. In the

letter, we ask interested conservation authorities to contact BFO regarding land that can be rented to beef farmers for pasture use or land that could be developed into pasture. For the conservation authorities who contact BFO about such opportunities, BFO will contact the respective local association regarding next steps.

In addition to conservation authorities, BFO will continue to engage other conservation focused organizations, such as land trusts and other non-profit organizations like Ducks Unlimited to explore other opportunities to promote pasture development and partnerships with beef farmers.

We encourage producers to also engage and build relationships with their local conservation authorities, land trusts or other organizations that may own land for conservation purposes and discuss opportunities to access agriculture land or improve underutilized land for pasture use.

Thank you, again, to Bruce County Beef Farmers for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,

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

Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Ken Schaus (Mover)
Don Grant (Seconder)
Jarrett Johnson (Advisory Councillor)
Jennifer Legge (Secretary)



September 12, 2024

Jo-Anne Rzaccki
Manager, Business Development and Partnerships
jrzadki@conservationontario.ca

Dear Jo-Anne,

Thank you for the recent opportunity to discuss a resolution passed by Beef Farmers of Ontario's (BFO) membership at our 2024 Annual General Meeting earlier this year, which focused on fostering relationships between Ontario beef farmers and conservation authorities.

The resolution speaks to the continued loss of grasslands and available grazing land in Ontario. It asked for BFO to engage with Ontario's conservation authorities to share our members' interests in partnering with them and to explore the potential for beef farmers to rent conservation authority owned land for cattle grazing.

We certainly see this as an opportunity to promote communication between conservation authorities and local beef farmers seeking additional pastureland to graze their cattle while supporting the management of grasslands. We also see this as an opportunity to provide additional benefits to the land itself, thereby helping conservation authorities achieve their mandate. We know that managed grazing practices can have a number of environmental benefits, including improved soil health, carbon sequestration, biodiversity and supporting species at risk.

We would be happy to have further conversations or answer any questions with interested conservation authorities who may have land available for grazing purposes or in working with beef farmers to support the restoration of suitable areas for grasslands.

For more information or questions, please email darby@ontariobeef.com or call 613-360-4020.

Sincerely,

Darby Wheeler
BFO Policy Advisor

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.



24-14

November 27, 2024

Peter VanStaveren
President, Simcoe County Beef Farmers

Chad Anderson
President, Lambton County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Peter and Chad,

Re: *Funding Program Application Assistance 24-14 and Program Delivery and Application Process 24-19*

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

WHEREAS, accessing Climate Change Funding through Soil and Crops can be frustrating; and
WHEREAS, for each of the funding opportunities it is difficult to access and decipher that information; and

WHEREAS, the intake window is fairly short and at a somewhat difficult or busy time of the year;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO provide greater assistance with the clarity and requirements and be able to assist with the process and ensure it is accessible on the BFO website.

WHEREAS, the government cost share and grant programs are meant to improve/ incentivise all targeted farms in regards to program design; and

WHEREAS, many Ontario farmers have had difficulty navigating and applying for provincial government programs or opt instead to hire a private individual/ company who specialize in grant writing; and

WHEREAS, the Beef Farmers of Ontario often promote these programs such as OMAFRA's biosecurity enhancement initiative;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with the other farm organizations to better understand the hurdles farmers face when applying for government programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT BFO work on recommendations to those responsible for program delivery that would make application processes not as complicated and less difficult for all farmers to be able to participate in these government programs.

BFO thanks Simcoe County Beef Farmers and Lambton County Cattlemen's Association for bringing these resolutions forward. As these resolutions speak to similar concerns, we have included them both in this response.

BFO has long advocated for various funding initiatives to support producers with on-farm enhancements to support biosecurity and traceability, processing capacity, environmental stewardship, etc. When speaking with government representatives and program delivery agencies, BFO routinely emphasizes the importance of ensuring program applications are not overly complicated and administratively burdensome, are easily accessible, and are broadly and clearly communicated with producers.

Concerns with how funding application processes are designed and implemented continues to be an issue for many producers. As noted, some of these concerns relate to the complexity of the applications, time commitment required to effectively complete some applications, questions around who to contact for assistance, and the inability to or confusion on how to discuss and receive feedback on denied applications. In addition, with programs being delivered by different bodies, such as government or other organizations like Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) and the Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC), the application process and customer support options vary, which can add to the confusion of the funding application process. Many producers have also raised the growing role of third parties who can be hired to assist producers to find funding opportunities and complete funding applications, which many view as concerning and largely a result of the complexity and competitiveness of some funding opportunities.

With the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), the federal, provincial and territorial five-year agreement, coming into effect in the spring of 2023 to support agriculture programming and cost-share programs and activities, a number of funding programs have been developed, including the Resilient Agricultural Landscapes Program, the Biosecurity Enhancement Initiative, the Agricultural Stewardship Initiative, and the Agri-Tech Innovation Initiative. Although the funding opportunities that have become available for producers are extremely welcome, navigating through program details, intake periods and deadlines, applications, etc., for numerous programs can be overwhelming and confusing for most people.

To speak to these resolutions and the concerns highlighted above, BFO staff met with funding program staff at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA), and with staff at AAC and OSCIA, who are currently responsible for delivering various producer funding programs. In these discussions, the concerns raised were certainly not lost on those responsible for designing and delivering these programs and the feedback was welcomed. In these discussions, it was clear there is an effort and a desire to continuously improve the funding program application experience and to address or remove barriers to accessing funding; however, what that looks and the pace in which these changes are made, looks different depending on who is delivering the program and the design of the program. BFO will continue to speak to producer concerns and provide feedback and recommendations to those responsible for designing and delivering funding programs for producers.

BFO has also recently hired Barb Caswell as the BFO Provincial Programs Supervisor who will eventually succeed Cheryl Russwurm when she retires in early 2025. Barb has worked in the agri-food sector for close to 20 years, with stops at the Turkey Farmers of Canada, the Canadian Sheep Federation, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA), and most recently

with Elite Agri Solutions. During her 10+ years with OSCIA, Barb helped develop and oversee the delivery of numerous on-farm cost-share and other grant programs. She joins BFO with significant depth of knowledge and experience in program delivery and support, as well as experience in food safety, traceability, biosecurity, and environmental best practices. While Barb will take over primary responsibility for the supervision of the finance programs BFO administers, she will also provide advisory support to staff, the board and producers on government programming related to the on-farm needs of beef farmers, and more broadly, the Ontario beef sector. While Barb's role will not include writing applications for individual producers, she will be able to share insights and help producers navigate the funding program process. She will also work closely with BFO's policy, communications, and producer engagement teams.

Lastly, BFO encourages producers who have experienced issues or challenges with funding programs to contact BFO staff, in addition to the organization delivering the program. For more information related to Ontario's Sustainable CAP programs, please visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership>.

Thank you, again, to Simcoe County Beef Farmers and Lambton County Cattlemen's Association for bringing these resolutions forward.

Sincerely,



Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: David Millsap (Mover)
Jim Whitley (Advisory Councillor)
Lori Chalmers (Secretary)
Joe Dickenson (Mover)
Blair Williamson (Advisory Councillor and Seconder)
Hanneke Mills (Secretary)



December 19th, 2024

Mike Fallis
President
Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Mike,

Re: *FMD Compensation Program 24-15*

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, there seems to be a real concern about Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and there has been money allocated to establishing a vaccine bank if there were an FMD outbreak; and **WHEREAS**, the border will be closed and from past experience of coming through BSE challenges;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby CCA to work on a monetary compensation package other than set-aside programs.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is one of the largest threats to the Canadian beef industry from an animal health perspective, and the outcomes of an FMD outbreak in Canada would be devastating and long-lasting. The federal government estimates the economic impacts in Canada are between \$20.9B and \$65.2B depending on the mode of introduction and extent of spread.

You can be assured that during federal lobby days we participated in with the Canadian Cattle Association (CCA) and the National Cattle Feeders Association (NCFA), we brought this to the attention of our elected officials. During these meetings, we outlined the need to have a plan in place before FMD comes to Canada, as it has a wide-reaching impact on our trade status, consumer confidence, and farmers' financial and mental well-being.

In the event of an outbreak on a farm, CFIA would order the animal destroyed on that particular farm. The affected farms that CFIA issued orders to destroy their animals could be eligible for compensation for one or more of the following:

- animals ordered destroyed
- costs related to the disposal of the animals ordered destroyed
- other things ordered destroyed, such as contaminated feed or animal products
- costs related to the disposal of the following list of things ordered destroyed:
 - animal food (such as feed)
 - non-commercial freezers and refrigerators
 - cages, crates, and nesting boxes

- feed troughs
- their own personal labour used in carrying out destruction orders
- vaccination costs for animals ordered to be treated

Note that CFIA will not compensate animal owners for loss of future revenues, and things ordered to be cleaned and disinfected are not eligible for compensation. Also, note compensation is only for CFIA's orders, and they are not responsible for an additional impact on the overall marketplace.

While there is no dedicated program for FMD response, BFO and groups like CCA and NCFA would fight aggressively to ensure timely and robust support was provided to industry. From our vantage point, a robust support response from federal and provincial governments would be an expectation.

Further, the Canadian government has contributed \$57.5 million over five years, with \$5.6 million ongoing, to CFIA to establish an FMD vaccine bank for Canada and develop FMD response plans. A vaccine bank is vital in the event of an FMD outbreak and will only be used during an outbreak to protect animals and help stop the spread of disease.

Lastly, in response to a potentially large-scale emergency, BFO staff have been trained in Incident Management System (IMS)-100, which is a framework used to manage and respond to incidents, disruptions, or emergencies in various settings. IMS is a global framework used worldwide, especially here in Canada, by both the federal and provincial governments, and will ensure the effective use of resources and maintain a reliable communication pathway to respond to any emergency.

We will continue to work with CCA and NCFA to keep emergency preparedness top of mind for our elected officials and keep our members apprised of any relevant updates. The board thanks the Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,



Craig McLaughlin
President

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



December 23, 2024

Jasper Munro
President
Bruce County Beef Farmers

Dear Jasper,

Re: *Renewal Process for APP Loan Applications Through ACC - 24-16*

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 APP loan is an important tool for many beef farmers; and
WHEREAS, businesses use the APP loan as part of their business plan; and
WHEREAS, the lag time between paying it back and renewing a new loan can take upwards of 5 weeks;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) to see if there are ways to streamline and speed up the renewal process for APP loan applications.

BFO thanks Bruce County Beef Farmers for bringing this resolution forward. The board recognizes the importance of ensuring a quick and seamless process for renewing loans that allow beef farmers to purchase cattle at the most opportune time for them.

BFO staff have discussed this issue with ACC representatives who were appreciative of making them aware of the issue. From our discussions with ACC leadership, we were informed that in most instances, it takes 10 days for payment to clear on an existing loan and four days for a new loan to be issued for a total of 14 days, or two weeks.

There are instances when this process could be delayed, which include additional time required to obtain information from the credit bureau, or the existence of a bank priority agreement. A bank priority agreement is a document that establishes the order in which debt or collateral claims are ranked. Priority agreements can be used in a variety of situations, including when a producer is using APP.

ACC recognizes this delay can lead to frustration from clients. In response, ACC has been working with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), who oversees APP, to try and improve the loan turnaround time for clients and minimize the instances when a bank priority agreement is required.

Once we have a more fulsome update to provide regarding ACC's efforts with AAFC to help minimize renewal delays, we will be sure to communicate to Bruce County, and to our local association members more broadly. Please keep our office apprised if members in the area continue to experience significant approval delays during renewal, or if improvements in response time have been reported.

Thank you, again, to Bruce County Beef Farmers for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,

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

Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Calvin Anstett (Mover)
Scot Legge (Seconder)
Jarrett Johnson (Advisory Councillor)
Jennifer Legge (Secretary)



December 20, 2024

Murry McDonald
President
Rainy River Cattlemen's Association

Dear Murray,

Re: Provincial Tax Classifications for Abattoirs 24-17

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, abattoirs fall under the “industrial zone” with MPAC putting them into the highest possible tax bracket; and

WHEREAS, these small abattoirs are struggling to keep the doors open and high taxes play a role in their struggles;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby our provincial government to change the classification that these abattoirs fall under to help lower the costs of doing business to ensure they will stay open to provide safe, Ontario beef to all communities.

BFO shares your concerns regarding the challenges placed on abattoirs from a tax burden perspective. We are in full support of more affordable rates for food producers, or some other financial support measure to help address these challenges. As you have noted, the tax burden on some of our rural abattoirs makes it difficult to conduct business and keep the doors open. Ensuring the financial sustainability of our small rural abattoirs is critical to the overall health of the Ontario beef sector, and as an association we must do whatever we can to ensure that capacity continues.

Between 2010 and 2020, meat processing production at provincially inspected plants increased by 27 per cent, with many of these plants operating at or above capacity for significant portions of the year due to the increased demand. Many abattoirs are working within a tight profit margin and continue to experience significant challenges associated with accessing labour while also operating in a complex regulatory environment, all of which affect the financial sustainability of their operations.

During our most recent provincial lobby day in November, we emphasized this with our elected officials with a vested interest in this issue, such as the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Minister of Rural Affairs, and the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of

Municipal Affairs and Housing. During these meetings, it was outlined that small rural abattoirs are the cornerstone of our rural communities, another outlet for our producers to sell their livestock, a keystone of the local food movement, and essential in providing food security in our rural communities. We also relayed that the current funding programs for food processing capacity are vital and that BFO continues to support calls for government support for food processing infrastructure and access to labour. However, BFO did point out that when these abattoirs are working on such tight margins, the cost share portions of these programs make them out of reach for some provincially inspected plants as they do not have the resources or cash flow to effectively utilize them. One contributing factor is the level of taxation these businesses face, which in many areas is based on the industrial rate, which typically represents the highest tax rate of all other land use classes.

As a result, BFO is in the process of drafting a joint letter with other Ontario livestock associations to highlight the negative impact current property tax rates are creating for many abattoirs in Ontario, and to call on the provincial government to implement relief solutions, be that a new food production rate or subsidy, or some other financial assistance program. The letter will be addressed to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Minister of Rural Affairs, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and other relevant elected officials.

BFO will continue to update you on the progress made on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: Delton Martin (Mover, Advisory Councillor)
James Gibson (Seconder)
Kim Jo Bliss (Secretary)



24-18

November 18, 2024

Mike Fallis
President, Peterborough County Cattlemen's
Association

Dear Mike,

Re: Breeder Finance Program Enhancements 24-18

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 cow herd in Ontario continues to decline even in better economic times in the cattle industry and that it is difficult for cow-calf operators to start up or grow;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with the government to build a better breeder finance program that works parallel to that of the Feeder Finance program which would allow cowherd expansion or heifer retention to grow Ontario cow herds.

The decline of the cow herd in Ontario remains a significant challenge, even in times of relative economic stability in the cattle industry. The difficulty many cow-calf farmers face in starting up or expanding their operations has been an ongoing concern for BFO. It is clear targeted financial programs, such as those proven effective in the feeder cattle sector, are essential to facilitate cowherd expansion and heifer retention, which are critical to the long-term health of the beef sector.

BFO recognizes the importance of addressing this issue, and we are committed to working with the Ontario government, industry stakeholders, and financial institutions to develop and implement a breeder finance program that mirrors the successful aspects of the Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program (OFCLGP). Our goal is to create a mechanism that enables producers to expand their herds and improve the long-term viability of their operations while contributing to the overall growth of Ontario's cattle industry.

Over the past year, BFO has met with various government officials and financial stakeholders to explore solutions for the challenges cow-calf farmers face, particularly around herd expansion and access to capital. We would like to make note of the Advanced Payments Program (APP), which is administered by the Agricultural Credit Corporation in Ontario for the cow-calf sector. Currently, APP has an interest-free portion of up to \$250,000, allowing producers to access funds interest-free to improve cashflow during times of the year when they are not selling their cattle. Each year, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada sets the maximum amount producers can receive per head in advance. For 2024, the advance for calves weighing 400-700 pounds was set at a maximum of \$1,298 per head.

BFO understands the APP for the cow-calf sector does not operate as seamlessly as it does on the feeder cattle side through the OFCLGP, but we do believe this is an option for Ontario cow-calf farmers to access funds at a reduced rate.

BFO will continue to work with our Cow-Calf Committee to investigate ways the Beef Breeder Co-op Loan Program can be improved and how it can work better for our farmers. With that, we are confident that with the industry's collective support, we can build a financial program that addresses the needs of Ontario's cow-calf farmers and contributes to the expansion of our cattle herd.

We value your input and remain committed to advocating for the interests of beef farmers across Ontario. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions or wish to discuss this issue further.

On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, I would like to thank the Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association for submitting this resolution and for your ongoing support of the Ontario beef industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig McLaughlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Craig" being more prominent than the last name "McLaughlin".

Craig McLaughlin
President

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



24-19

November 27, 2024

Peter VanStaveren
President, Simcoe County Beef Farmers

Chad Anderson
President, Lambton County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Peter and Chad,

Re: *Funding Program Application Assistance 24-14 and Program Delivery and Application Process 24-19*

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

WHEREAS, accessing Climate Change Funding through Soil and Crops can be frustrating; and
WHEREAS, for each of the funding opportunities it is difficult to access and decipher that information; and

WHEREAS, the intake window is fairly short and at a somewhat difficult or busy time of the year;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO provide greater assistance with the clarity and requirements and be able to assist with the process and ensure it is accessible on the BFO website.

WHEREAS, the government cost share and grant programs are meant to improve/ incentivise all targeted farms in regards to program design; and

WHEREAS, many Ontario farmers have had difficulty navigating and applying for provincial government programs or opt instead to hire a private individual/ company who specialize in grant writing; and

WHEREAS, the Beef Farmers of Ontario often promote these programs such as OMAFRA's biosecurity enhancement initiative;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with the other farm organizations to better understand the hurdles farmers face when applying for government programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT BFO work on recommendations to those responsible for program delivery that would make application processes not as complicated and less difficult for all farmers to be able to participate in these government programs.

BFO thanks Simcoe County Beef Farmers and Lambton County Cattlemen's Association for bringing these resolutions forward. As these resolutions speak to similar concerns, we have included them both in this response.

BFO has long advocated for various funding initiatives to support producers with on-farm enhancements to support biosecurity and traceability, processing capacity, environmental stewardship, etc. When speaking with government representatives and program delivery agencies, BFO routinely emphasizes the importance of ensuring program applications are not overly complicated and administratively burdensome, are easily accessible, and are broadly and clearly communicated with producers.

Concerns with how funding application processes are designed and implemented continues to be an issue for many producers. As noted, some of these concerns relate to the complexity of the applications, time commitment required to effectively complete some applications, questions around who to contact for assistance, and the inability to or confusion on how to discuss and receive feedback on denied applications. In addition, with programs being delivered by different bodies, such as government or other organizations like Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) and the Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC), the application process and customer support options vary, which can add to the confusion of the funding application process. Many producers have also raised the growing role of third parties who can be hired to assist producers to find funding opportunities and complete funding applications, which many view as concerning and largely a result of the complexity and competitiveness of some funding opportunities.

With the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), the federal, provincial and territorial five-year agreement, coming into effect in the spring of 2023 to support agriculture programming and cost-share programs and activities, a number of funding programs have been developed, including the Resilient Agricultural Landscapes Program, the Biosecurity Enhancement Initiative, the Agricultural Stewardship Initiative, and the Agri-Tech Innovation Initiative. Although the funding opportunities that have become available for producers are extremely welcome, navigating through program details, intake periods and deadlines, applications, etc., for numerous programs can be overwhelming and confusing for most people.

To speak to these resolutions and the concerns highlighted above, BFO staff met with funding program staff at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA), and with staff at AAC and OSCIA, who are currently responsible for delivering various producer funding programs. In these discussions, the concerns raised were certainly not lost on those responsible for designing and delivering these programs and the feedback was welcomed. In these discussions, it was clear there is an effort and a desire to continuously improve the funding program application experience and to address or remove barriers to accessing funding; however, what that looks and the pace in which these changes are made, looks different depending on who is delivering the program and the design of the program. BFO will continue to speak to producer concerns and provide feedback and recommendations to those responsible for designing and delivering funding programs for producers.

BFO has also recently hired Barb Caswell as the BFO Provincial Programs Supervisor who will eventually succeed Cheryl Russwurm when she retires in early 2025. Barb has worked in the agri-food sector for close to 20 years, with stops at the Turkey Farmers of Canada, the Canadian Sheep Federation, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA), and most recently

with Elite Agri Solutions. During her 10+ years with OSCIA, Barb helped develop and oversee the delivery of numerous on-farm cost-share and other grant programs. She joins BFO with significant depth of knowledge and experience in program delivery and support, as well as experience in food safety, traceability, biosecurity, and environmental best practices. While Barb will take over primary responsibility for the supervision of the finance programs BFO administers, she will also provide advisory support to staff, the board and producers on government programming related to the on-farm needs of beef farmers, and more broadly, the Ontario beef sector. While Barb's role will not include writing applications for individual producers, she will be able to share insights and help producers navigate the funding program process. She will also work closely with BFO's policy, communications, and producer engagement teams.

Lastly, BFO encourages producers who have experienced issues or challenges with funding programs to contact BFO staff, in addition to the organization delivering the program. For more information related to Ontario's Sustainable CAP programs, please visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership>.

Thank you, again, to Simcoe County Beef Farmers and Lambton County Cattlemen's Association for bringing these resolutions forward.

Sincerely,



Craig McLaughlin
President

cc: David Millsap (Mover)
Jim Whitley (Advisory Councillor)
Lori Chalmers (Secretary)
Joe Dickenson (Mover)
Blair Williamson (Advisory Councillor and Seconder)
Hanneke Mills (Secretary)