



2021 RESOLUTION RESPONSES

Enclosed you will find the response letters to the 2021 resolutions

- 21-01 Increased Costs of Carbon Tax
- 21-02 Increased Funding for Risk Management Program
- 21-03 Business Risk Management
- 21-04 Dairy Producer Relations and Cull Cows
- 21-05 Incentive Program for Protecting Hay and Pastureland
- 21-06 Framework for Escaped Livestock Emergencies
- 21-07 County/District Organization Insurance Coverage
- 21-08 National Agriculture Policy
- 21-09 and 21-10 Procuring Roadside Safety Signage and Proper Use of Slow-Moving Vehicle Signage
- 21-11 Access to Broadband Internet
- 21-12, 21-13 and 21-16 Abattoir Capacity and Mobile Abattoirs, Funding Support for Local Abattoirs, and Provincial Abattoir Capacity and Funding
- 21-14 Boxed Beef Prices
- 21-15 Crop Insurance – Forage





June 22nd, 2021

Blair Williamson
President, Lambton County Cattlemen's Association

21-01 Increased
Costs of Carbon
Tax

Dear Blair,

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

WHEREAS CCA is the voice for BFO at the federal level and whereas Carbon Tax will add trucking cost to all livestock farmers

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO ask CCA to lobby the federal government to come up with a way to compensate livestock farmers for increased cost of transportation because of Carbon Tax.

BFO strongly supports efforts to help increase beef production efficiencies and the implementation of practices that will assist in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, but we do not believe a carbon tax is an effective tool to reduce emissions for Ontario's beef farmers. With a carbon tax in place, our position is for a blanket exemption for the agriculture sector.

As alluded to in the resolution, despite the carbon tax exemption for farmers through the Canada Revenue Agency for fuel (gasoline and light fuel oil) used in tractors, trucks or other farm machinery, other sectors are not exempt. This includes transportation companies that will likely pass their increased costs onto farmers. In addition, the exemption does not apply to grain drying or livestock barn heating. BFO's director who sits on the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) Environment Committee raised this issue and CCA has also taken the position that the carbon tax exemption for farmers for fuel should extend to natural gas and propane for use in grain drying and heating of livestock buildings.

At the federal level, legislation has been put forward to expand carbon tax exemptions for the agriculture sector. Bill C-206, a private member's bill titled *An Act to amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (qualifying farming fuel)*, was introduced in February 2020. It intends to exempt qualifying farmers from paying the carbon tax on propane and natural gas. The bill went to the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food in May 2021, where representatives from CCA were present to take questions from Committee members. The bill passed through the Committee with support from federal opposition parties.

A bill of a similar nature, Bill S-215 *An Act to amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (farming exemptions)*, was introduced in the Senate and passed first reading in February 2020, but has not progressed further. The bill would amend the *Act* to modify the definitions of eligible farming machinery



to include property for the purpose of heating and cooling a building and qualifying farming fuel to include natural gas and propane.

The federal government has not supported either of the above bills. The federal government in its 2021 budget announced its intention to return a portion of the proceeds from the federal carbon tax directly to farmers in provinces that do not have their own carbon tax, which includes Ontario, beginning in 2021-22. Within the budget, it is estimated farmers could receive \$100 million in the first year and rebates will increase in future years based on the carbon tax receipts and rate increases in those years. CCA has recommended the return should be 100 per cent of the portion producers paid in tax and should fully exempt farmers and ranchers from the price on carbon going forward.

CCA is a member of the Agriculture Carbon Alliance (ACA), which is a coalition of cross-commodity farm organizations from across Canada. The ACA advocates for exemptions in the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* for qualified fuel, such as natural gas and propane, and the inclusion of machinery used for grain drying and heating and cooling of livestock barns. The ACA also aims to engage with the federal government to see the Climate Action Incentive Fund (CAIF) return. The CAIF committed revenue from the carbon tax for rebates and retrofits that reduce carbon emissions for small and medium size enterprises, which includes farms, but has not been open for applications since the summer of 2019.

To gain a better understanding of how the carbon tax will affect farmers, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) in partnership with Agri-Food Economic Systems have conducted an economic study that will analyze the cost of the federal carbon tax on Ontario's agriculture sector. The results of the study will be used to highlight to the federal government how the carbon tax negatively impacts the agriculture sector and the ability of farmers to compete in domestic and international markets. The study will look to estimate the explicit costs of the carbon tax on the energy used in agriculture that is not exempt and an estimate of the implicit costs farmers pay for inputs.

BFO will continue to work with CCA to advocate for a blanket exemption from the carbon tax for farmers and will continue to follow initiatives and the progress of legislation related to the carbon tax, in addition to other carbon pricing initiatives.

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

Sincerely,



Rob Lipsett
President

cc: Tom Wilson (mover)





September 27, 2021

Blair Williamson
President
Lambton County Cattlemen's Association

**21-02 Increased
Funding for Risk
Management
Program**

Dear Blair,

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

WHEREAS Grain farmers and livestock farmers share a pool of money for RMP program with premiums paid by producers, whereas grain farmers also have a production insurance program with shared premiums paid by farmers, federal and provincial government.

WHEREAS the provincial government has announced an increase to ethanol mandate that will increase the demand for corn and increase the cost of feed for livestock producers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby the provincial government to increase the pool of money in the RMP program for livestock farmers.

Ontario's Risk Management Program has been one of the beef industry's most critical tools to manage risk since its inception, and it has always remained one of BFO's top priorities when in discussions with government.

The most recent increase to the program's budget was in July of 2020, when the government announced it would be adding an additional \$50 million. The additional \$50 million came a year earlier than originally promised in the current government's election campaign promise and was tied directly to supporting farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though this funding came at a critical time, it still does not meet the needs of our producers in most years which causes the regular proration of benefit payments. There has been a group lobby effort put forward for an additional increase to the RMP budget by the Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition (OASC), which is comprised of the commodity groups that the RMP involves. While no budget increase was announced this year, we will continue to advocate for the need for more funding for this critical program.

During 2021 the RMP program went through a comprehensive sector-by-sector review, which BFO and OASC partners participated in for several months this year. OASC was united in the position to maintain the current program structure, and to freeze premiums at 2020 rates. We were pleased that the newly appointed Minister, the Honourable Lisa Thompson, endorsed industry's recommendations on this front, ensuring the province remains committed to the RMP structure, that premiums would be held at 2020 levels for this year, and that program funding would remain at a minimum of \$150 million per year for all commodities.



Beyond Ontario's RMP program, BFO continued to advocate for the following enhancements in other BRM programs during 2021:

AgriStability

- Increase the trigger level from 70% to 85%
- Remove the Reference Margin Limit (RML)
- Increase/remove the per farm cap on program benefits
- Increase the compensation rate from 70% to 80%

Other Programs

- Increase AgriInvest funding back to pre-Growing Forward II levels
- Implement Yield-Based Forage Insurance for livestock producers
- Increase the interest-free portion of the Advance Payments Program (APP) from \$100,000 to \$500,000

Early in 2021, the federal government recommended to the provinces to support an increase to the AgriStability trigger level, the removal of the RML, and to increase the per farm payment cap. However, challenges arose based on the regulations around how any changes to the federal/provincial programs are implemented. To implement any changes, both the federal government and two-thirds of the affected provinces must vote in favor of the proposed change for it to come into effect.

The Province of Ontario committed to making these changes if other provinces agreed, but disagreement across the country led to a less than desirable outcome. In the end, the federal and provincial governments agreed to remove the RML retroactive to 2020 but could not come to a consensus on the other potential improvements. While the removal of RML represents a meaningful improvement for some sectors, such as cow-calf, it is much less meaningful for many other commodities, such as the feedlot sector.

In addition to RMP and AgriStability, BFO continues to push for meaningful improvements in coverage under the forage insurance program, AgriInvest, and the Advance Payments Program. On the forage insurance front, BFO is currently partnered with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, provincial crop insurance agencies, and the western provincial cattle associations on a satellite-based forage insurance research trial. The results of this pilot could help inform future improvements to forage insurance products in Canada, which are desperately needed and long overdue. We remain optimistic about the potential for improvements to forage risk management programming in the future.

The RMP will continue to be a high priority for BFO, and as it moves into the 2022 Provincial Election year, BFO will emphasize the importance to all parties for the need for an increase in funding into Ontario's Risk Management Program.

Thank you for taking the time to submit your resolution.

Sincerely,



Rob Lipsett
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Ralph Eyre (Mover)
Debbie Coke (Secunder)





August 30, 2021

Mike Jeffray
President
Bruce County Beef Farmers

**21-03 Business
Risk
Management**

Dear Mike,

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

WHEREAS BFO has worked with CCA and others on improvements to Business Risk Management programs for producers and,

WHEREAS unknowns like COVID 19 can greatly affect many links in the value chain,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO continue to work with CCA on enhancements to all BRM programs.

Enhancements to Business Risk Management (BRM) programs continues to be one of the top priorities for BFO.

With respect to the Ontario Risk Management Program (RMP), we were pleased by the additional \$50 million that was added to the program budget in July of 2020. Despite the increase in funding, the program remains critically underfunded given the regular proration of benefit payments that occurs in most years.

Throughout 2021 BFO lobbied the province with our Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition (OASC) partners for an additional increase to the RMP budget. While no budget increase was announced this year, we will continue to advocate for the need for more funding for this important program.

The RMP program also went through a comprehensive sector-by-sector review in 2021, which BFO and OASC partners participated in for several months this year. OASC was united in the position to maintain the current program structure, and to freeze premiums at 2020 rates. We were pleased that the newly appointed Minister, the Honourable Lisa Thompson, endorsed industry's recommendations on this front, ensuring the province remains committed to the RMP structure, that premiums would be held at 2020 levels for this year, and that program funding would remain at a minimum of \$150 million per year for all commodities.

With respect to the national suite of BRM programs, BFO continued to advocate for the following enhancements in 2021:

AgriStability

- Increase the trigger level from 70% to 85%
- Remove the Reference Margin Limit (RML)
- Increase/remove the per farm cap on program benefits
- Increase the compensation rate from 70% to 80%



Other Programs

- Increase AgriInvest funding back to pre-Growing Forward II levels
- Implement Yield-Based Forage Insurance for livestock producers
- Increase the interest-free portion of the Advance Payments Program (APP) from \$100,000 to \$500,000

BFO was pleased that the federal government recommended to the provinces to support an increase to the AgriStability trigger level, the removal of the RML, and to increase the per farm payment cap. However, to implement any changes, both the federal government and two-thirds of the affected provinces must vote in favor of the proposed change for it to come into effect. The Province of Ontario committed to make these changes if other provinces agreed, but disagreement across the country led to a less than desirable outcome. In the end, the federal and provincial governments agreed to remove the RML retroactive to 2020 but could not come to consensus on the other potential improvements. While the removal of RML represents a meaningful improvement for some sectors, such as cow-calf, it is much less meaningful for many other commodities such as the feedlot sector.

Despite the lack of meaningful changes to AgriStability at the national level, the provincial government announced on June 25, 2021 that the province would increase the compensation rate from 70% to 80% retroactively to the 2020 program year on the provincial 40% portion only. This change will continue through the end of the current FPT agriculture agreement which ends in 2022. Despite this falling short of BFO's asks, this change will increase payments to beef producers that trigger under the program moving forward, which is positive.

In addition to RMP and AgriStability, BFO continues to push for meaningful improvements in coverage under the forage insurance program, AgriInvest, and the Advance Payments Program. On the forage insurance front, BFO is currently partnered with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, provincial crop insurance agencies, and the western provincial cattle associations on a satellite-based forage insurance research trial. The results of this pilot could help inform future improvements to forage insurance products in Canada, which are desperately needed and long overdue. We remain optimistic of the potential for improvements to be made to forage risk management programming in the future.

Moving forward, BFO will continue to emphasize the need for improvements to the BRM suite of programs, both provincially and federally to ensure beef producers have access to bankable, predictable, and timely risk management solutions. Other program design models will continue to be evaluated by the beef sector, and as part of the broader livestock industry in Canada in consultation with federal and provincial governments.

Thank you for taking the time to submit your resolution.

Sincerely,



Rob Lipsett
President

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





October 25, 2021

Joost Van der Heiden
President
Perth County Beef Farmers
Association

21-04 Dairy
Producer
Relations and Cull
Cows

Dear Joost,

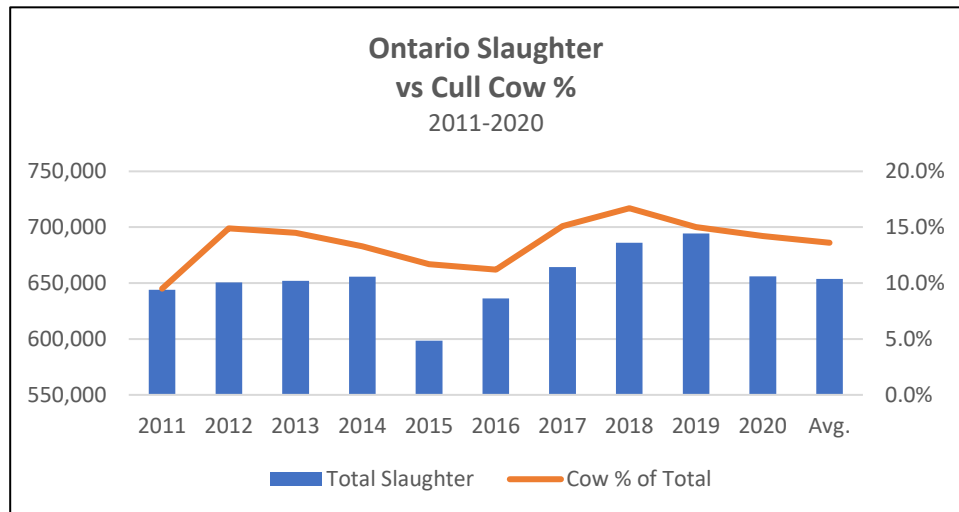
The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February:

WHEREAS the dairy industry has incentive days to cull cows and
WHEREAS there is limited processing capacity for just beef animals and
WHEREAS there are penalties to beef animals older than 30 months,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with the dairy industry to address the concern of the excess cull cows in the marketplace as a result of the dairy incentive days, and work to adjust the number of animals going to market at one time.

BFO has been closely monitoring dairy-to-beef slaughter ratios for several years, particularly since increases in Ontario slaughter utilization rates were noticed, increasing from approximately 71% in 2015 to 100% in 2020. With the rise in utilization rates and overall slaughter numbers BFO and many of our members have grown increasingly concerned about reduced marketing options, long wait times to get cattle processed, particularly at smaller provincial processors, and the share that dairy animals are taking of available processing space during peak periods of the year.

Chart 1

Chart 1 shows total Ontario slaughter numbers by year (2011-2020) and the percentage of total slaughter dedicated to cull cows. While the cow data has not been broken down by sector (dairy or beef), the majority of the cull cow slaughter is made up of dairy animals. As you can see, the trend in slaughter with respect



to cull cows has remained largely consistent for the last several years. 2021 has thus far not deviated from that trend, with cull cow slaughter comprising 14.4% of the Ontario kill (January – September).

We recognize that the timing of dairy culls coming to market does not always support the beef market or beef prices, which is a concern. As a result, BFO and Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO) have increased our engagement and communications, including regular updates and proactive discussions regarding the cull cow market, DFO's incentive program, and adjustments to quota. While this engagement has been productive, the reality is that marketing decisions are made solely by the producers themselves, and in our experience, incentive day adjustments have not been a very reliable indicator of potential dairy cull cow marketings. Quota reductions on the other are more problematic. However, DFO has a good working relationship with BFO and provides advance notice of these decisions. Fortunately, there has been a substantial increase in dairy quota for the last number of years and very few quota cuts.

In BFO's view, the larger concern for the Ontario beef sector is the lack of sufficient processing capacity available to producers in Ontario, the result of which has negatively impacted the competitiveness of the beef and dairy cull sectors in this province. On that front, we have reported at length to the membership the solutions we have been advocating for with governments and industry partners like the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, who are also working on our behalf on this issue. In April of this year BFO provided a list of processing capacity recommendations to the DFO Board of Directors for their awareness and to support their ongoing lobby efforts on this file.

With all of that said, cull cows, including dairy culls, represent an important part of the beef sector and beef supply chain, particularly with respect to the ground beef market. As such, BFO is not opposed to the inclusion of dairy animals in our processing sector and we recognize the important role dairy animals play in the health of the beef supply system.

We understand the concern regarding the availability of hook space and the beef-dairy dynamic, and we are committed to continuing to advocate for solutions to improve the amount of available processing capacity in Ontario, both with DFO and with our beef association counterparts across the country. This year, Dairy Farmers of Canada and Dairy Farmers of Ontario provided public support to CCA and BFO in our lobby efforts to the federal and provincial governments with regards to beef processing capacity in Eastern Canada, and we intend to continue to leverage that support moving forward.

On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, I would like to thank the Perth County Beef Farmers Association for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,

Rob Lipsett
President

Cc: BFO Board of Directors
Bill Jeffrey (Secorder)
Bob Dunsmore (Advisory Councillor)





September 27, 2021

Bob Dunsmore
Advisory Councillor
Perth County Beef Farmers' Association

**21-05 Incentive
Program for
Protecting Hay
and Pastureland**

Dear Bob,

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 price of field crops has increased and
WHEREAS the conservation groups wish to ban pasturing near creeks and some marginal land and
WHEREAS the cow-calf producers may see more financial benefit to give up pastureland,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO investigate the creation of an incentive program for beef producers in an effort to retain valuable hay, pasture, buffer strips and valley land in Ontario.

BFO continues to communicate with the federal and provincial governments about the drastic loss of grasslands used for pasture and hay production in Ontario, and continue to offer solutions and call for more action to preserve Ontario's grasslands. Much of the remaining grasslands in Canada exist due to beef farmers and, for a number of reasons, grasslands are at risk of being converted for urban development or annual cropping. Emphasizing the critical importance these grasslands have for not only beef production, but for sequestering and storing carbon, for conserving habitat for wildlife including a number of species at risk, for soil health, and for water cycling, highlights the role beef farming has in providing a number of ecological services for which they are not compensated for.

Carbon offset systems have been viewed as a tool that may provide beef farmers with incentives to keep grasslands intact. A carbon offset refers to an activity that reduces greenhouse gases (GHG) or activities that increase the removal of GHGs from the atmosphere. Individuals or companies can voluntarily choose to purchase carbon offset credits or may be required to purchase carbon offset credits to comply with existing legislation. Aspects of the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* will require energy intensive industries to either reduce GHG emissions or purchase carbon offset credits.

Through the Climate Action Reserve, an organization that develops standards for carbon offset activities, the Canada Grassland Protocol was developed in 2019 to allow carbon offsets to be generated for grassland preservation and for carbon storage in grasslands. The protocol is currently being piloted in Canada by the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association (CFGA). CFGA's Retaining Canada's Grasslands Using Carbon Offset Markets project will pilot the Canada Grassland Protocol with a number of landowners throughout Canada to better understand the challenges and opportunities associated with a carbon offset protocol related to avoided conversion of grasslands. The pilot is a two-year project

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and participants taking part in the pilot who sign a land conservation agreement to protect grasslands will generate revenue through carbon offsets.

The federal government, as part of the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*, is in the process of developing the *Greenhouse Gas Offset System Regulation*. This regulation would apply to all provinces and territories that do not have their own offset system already in place; therefore, the federal carbon offset system will apply in Ontario. The federal government intends to publish the final carbon offset regulation in the fall of 2021, and is also in the process of developing protocols, which will establish the approach for quantifying GHG emissions reductions from a given project. Once a protocol exists for a particular activity, it can generate credits in the federal offset system. A date for when protocols will be finalized has not been announced.

The first phase of protocol development includes four areas, including a protocol for projects related to enhanced soil organic carbon that will focus on sustainable agricultural land management activities that reduce GHG emissions and enhance soil carbon sequestration on agricultural lands. Environment and Climate Change Canada has communicated that a protocol for projects related to avoided conversion of grasslands is being considered for future protocol development.

Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) submitted comments on the proposed *Greenhouse Gas Offset Credit System Regulations* earlier this year outlining how Canada's carbon offset system can be more effective and support the environmental stewardship of Canadian beef farmers. CCA's comments provided recommendations to the federal government on ensuring the offset credit system and other GHG reduction initiatives do not unintentionally put further pressure on Canada's grasslands; ensuring that any costs associated with participating in carbon offset markets does not act as a barrier; and how to better enable eligibility and participation in the carbon offset system.

With the potential that carbon offset markets have for incentivizing grassland retention, BFO has also been following the development of the voluntary and regulated carbon offset systems outlined above. Within BFO's 2021 federal election toolkit for producers, a key priority was outlining beef farmers commitment to environmental stewardship and providing recommendations to ensure beef farmers have access to carbon offset markets that can incentivize the retention of grasslands.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank the Perth County Beef Farmers' Association for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,



Rob Lipsett
President

cc: Joost Van der Heiden (Secunder)





February 28, 2022

Bill Herron
President
Grey County Beef Farmers Association

**21-06 Framework
for Escaped
Livestock
Emergencies**

Dear Bill,

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

WHEREAS livestock escapes to public highways occur through misadventures such as highway collisions involving transporters, breaching of livestock confinement by trespassers, weather events, criminal activity, equipment failure or human error,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO engage with appropriate provincial Ministry's¹, municipal organizations, the insurance industry, and other relevant stakeholders to develop a workable legislative framework for best practices, and guidelines; this framework will be suitable for grassroots implementation towards the goal of protecting traveling public, welfare of the livestock, and the best interests of the industry including those responsible for the care of the involved livestock.

¹ Appropriate ministry may include solicitor general (OPP), OMAFRA, MTO

In Ontario, escaped or trespassing livestock are addressed, to some degree within the *Pounds Act* and the *Municipal Act*. The *Pounds Act* is in force in every local municipality and gives authority to municipalities to establish bylaws related to escaped livestock. It states that “[n]o cattle, goat, horse, sheep or swine shall be allowed to run at large...” and outlines the liability of animal owners whose escaped animals cause damage. It also establishes the role of “poundkeeper” and, where established, a poundkeeper can impound any farm animal for running at large or for trespassing and causing damage.

Section 103 of the *Municipal Act* also provides municipalities with the ability to create by-laws for regulating or prohibiting escaped or trespassing animals, and the ability to seize animals that trespass or are at large. It's important to note that the existence and/or scope of such bylaws that deal with escaped animals varies from municipality to municipality.

In addition to the above pieces of legislation, in 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) updated its online resources for dealing with escaped livestock, which includes information on relevant legislation and regulations to do with livestock and best practices for livestock owners and community members when dealing with escaped livestock and recapture situations.

The issue with escaped livestock becomes more complex when it is a result of a livestock transport rollover on public highways. BFO has been working to address this issue for a number of years. In 2017, in partnership with Farm and Food Care Ontario (FFCO), BFO and FCCO received funding to develop a Livestock Truck

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Emergencies Policies and Procedures Manual to assist first responders in preparing for and dealing with emergencies to do with livestock transport rollovers, as well as provided training to producers in various parts of the province who may be called to assist first responders in handling livestock. The project also involved purchasing four trailer and gates sets, which were located in strategic areas near Highway 11 and Highway 17 in northern Ontario to be used for possible rollovers involving cattle. The trailer and gates have since been donated to four different local fire departments in northern Ontario for such incidents.

In 2020, BFO also sent a letter to OMAFRA, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of the Solicitor General, and the Insurance Bureau of Canada to provide BFO's position on roles and responsibilities during emergency response to rollover accidents involving beef cattle. The letter expressed that such accidents require improved coordination between relevant provincial and municipal authorities.

This year, BFO and FFCO formed a new working group with members from livestock commodity organizations, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Ontario Livestock Truckers Alliance (OLTA), veterinarians, representatives from the insurance industry, and OMAFRA to discuss the issue and identify possible solutions. Part of those discussions included the efforts taken and resources provided by commercial livestock truckers involved with the OLTA, how to expand livestock emergency training for first responders, and the need for updated resources for private livestock haulers. FFCO is working to create an updated livestock transportation emergencies information manual for all commodities that can also be used by private livestock haulers.

FFCO also offers a Livestock Emergency Response Workshop specifically designed for first responders and emergency personnel. The workshop trains participants on important decision-making processes for accidents involving livestock transport trailers, including trailer design, extricating livestock, animal behaviour, laws and regulations, euthanasia protocols, and how to develop response teams. With a sponsorship from Trillium and Heartland Mutual Insurance companies, FFCO has been able to increase the number of sessions offered to first responders throughout the province in 2022. Several sessions have been held or are scheduled for first responders in Grey, Bruce, Wellington and Perth Counties.

Other efforts have also been taken to prepare first responders for livestock transportation emergencies. The Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance, in partnership with Collège Boréal, began its "Emergency Livestock Response Plan for First Responders in Northern Ontario" project in 2018. The project includes two phases. The first phase is complete and involved working with nine municipalities in northern Ontario to conduct a needs assessment related to emergency preparedness for livestock emergencies followed by developing livestock emergency preparedness guides specific to each municipality. The second phase is ongoing and involves developing online training modules for first responders related to livestock emergencies that will be made available across the province.

We understand the complexity of this issue and we will continue to investigate further solutions.



Rob Lipsett
President

cc: Don Hargrave (Mover)
Chris Strutt (Seconder)
Darrell Saunders (Advisory Councillor)





May 11, 2021

David McGonegal
President, Renfrew County Beef

21-07
County/District
Organization
Insurance Coverage

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 society is becoming increasingly litigious, volunteer directors, ACs, secretaries and treasurers could be placed at crippling financial risk should county/district organizations affiliated with Beef Farmers of Ontario be subjected to legal action.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO consider offering county/district organizations blanket insurance coverage to mitigate this financial risk, or at minimum allow it to be cost shared.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank Renfrew County Beef for bringing this resolution forward. BFO maintains general commercial liability coverage for all local associations, but our corporate director's insurance policy does not extend to local associations. Through our insurance provider, BFO has been able to offer a discounted group rate for Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance for local associations, if purchased through our provider.

At the April BFO Board of Directors meeting, the board discussed the above resolution and various options to provide local associations with D&O insurance. The board discussed maintaining the status quo, various cost-share options and providing full D&O coverage. After discussing the options, the board approved a fifty per cent cost-share initiative for D&O insurance premiums with local associations.

The appended memo outlines the 2021 discounted rates for D&O insurance and next steps for local associations that are interested in purchasing the insurance coverage through BFO's provider for the fifty percent cost share. We recommend any local association that does not currently maintain D&O insurance consider adding it to their insurance policy.

Sincerely,

Rob Lipsett
President

cc: Myles England (Mover)
David Campbell (Secunder)
Gerald Rollins (Advisory Councillor)

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January 25, 2022

Linsey Ingram
President
Beef Farmers of Thunder Bay

**21-08 National
Agriculture
Policy**

Dear Linsey,

The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Annual General Meeting in February of 2021:

WHEREAS during this current time of pandemic, it has become increasingly apparent the volatility of markets and insecurity of our food systems.

WHEREAS the stability of the beef industry is in uncertain times and subject to potential further and sustained decline in market pricing.

WHEREAS the food security and availability has been in question by Canadian consumers especially during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEREAS programs have been developed to help fill the gap between cost of production and actual market value but are not sustainable long term

WHEREAS challenges due to border closures and movement of product have been affected by increased costs and other barriers

WE RESOLVE, that a National Agriculture Policy would reduce significant market volatility for Canadian producers.

WE RESOLVE, that a National Agriculture Policy would reduce the strain on programs already in place to assist producers with gaps in cost of production and market values/incomes

WE RESOLVE, that a National Agriculture Policy can preserve Canadian products and create a more stable production environment.

WE RESOLVE, that a National Agriculture Policy is needed now more than ever to keep Canadians producing and to keep Canadians eating Canadian beef.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT a feasibility study be conducted on developing a National Agriculture Policy.

Canada's national agriculture policy is currently referred to as the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP), which is set to expire in 2023. CAP is a successor agreement to previous five-year agriculture policy frameworks such as Growing Forward 1 and 2, and Canada's Agricultural Policy Framework. The national policy frameworks have been in place for many years, with each five-year agreement negotiated between federal, provincial and territorial governments and incorporating industry input and comments received through public consultation. BFO and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) have provided input on every policy framework to date.

Funding is shared 60/40 federal/provincial with priorities split between two main areas: business risk management and other farm insurance programs on the one side, and strategic investments and initiatives on the other. The latter provides many of the funding opportunities made available to farmers and processors.

With CAP set to expire in 2023, federal and provincial governments have been in negotiations with each other and collecting feedback from stakeholders. Both CCA and BFO developed position documents this year, which have



been submitted for government consideration. A copy of BFO's submission has been appended to this letter for your review.

The six key issues we outlined in our submission include:

- Strengthening BRM programs, including creation of yield-based forage insurance and a beef specific revenue or margin-based insurance program
- Increasing investment and support for meat processing capacity
- Ensuring beef farmers have access to carbon credits, and are included as active participants in climate change and methane reduction discussions
- Improving on-farm strategic investment programs, including allowances for growth and expansion activities, manure storage funding, and perimeter fencing, among other priorities
- Increasing support for research and innovation, including the OMAFRA-University of Guelph funding agreement, and the national beef science cluster
- Improving support and access to grants and loan programs for new entrants and young farmers, including the creation of a national Capital Gains Deferral Fund

In addition to industry submissions, the first round of talks between the Provincial and Federal Ag-Ministers was held in Guelph this past November. During this meeting, the ministers decided on a collective direction for the next framework and its top priorities.

The top priorities from the Guelph Statement include:

- Tackling climate change and environmental protection to support GHG emission reductions and the long-term vitality of the sector while positioning producers and processors to seize economic opportunities from evolving consumer demands
- Continued and targeted investments in science, research and innovation to address key challenges and opportunities
- Supporting sustainable agriculture and economic growth by creating the conditions for Canadian businesses to meet evolving challenges of the interconnected domestic and global marketplace
- Building sector capacity and growth through realizing the potential of value-added agri-food and agri-products
- Enhancing resiliency to anticipate, mitigate and respond to risks, including a robust suite of Business Risk Management programs.

BFO will continue to monitor and engage in discussions regarding the development of the Next Agriculture Policy Framework, and submit additional information and priorities to government officials as issues arise. We would be pleased to welcome any feedback that you feel would strengthen our submission.

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

Sincerely,



Rob Lipsett
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Brent Cadeau (Mover & Advisory Councillor)
Lyndon Wagenaar (Seconder)





BEEF FARMERS OF ONTARIO NEXT POLICY FRAMEWORK

Priorities and Recommendations



For more information, please contact:
Beef Farmers of Ontario
info@ontariobeef.com | 519-824-0334

Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on both current and potential challenges and opportunities facing the sector and on prospective priorities and vision for the Next Policy Framework (NPF) - 2023-2028. This document outlines BFO's priorities including ways to build on and improve programming offered under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) and previous NPF's.

BACKGROUND

ONTARIO BEEF INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Agriculture is the backbone of our rural communities and is important to the quality of life of all Canadians and Ontarians. There are approximately 19,000 beef farmers in Ontario, representing 13.7 per cent of all farms in the province, most of which are multi-generational family-run operations. Beef farms and the broader beef cattle sector have a presence and economic impact in every county and district in Ontario.

ECONOMY

The beef industry is an important economic driver of Ontario's agri-food sector. Combining the revenue from primary production, processing and retail, the beef industry contributes \$2.69 billion to Ontario's GDP on an annual basis. Gross sales from Ontario beef production, processing and retail exceed \$13 billion, with revenue from farm gate sales reaching \$1.4 billion, processing at \$3.5 billion and retail surpassing \$9 billion. The income derived from the beef industry helps support a broad range of rural infrastructure such as hospitals, schools and community centres.

EMPLOYMENT

Ontario's beef industry is vitally important to the well-being and growth of families, businesses and communities, both rural and urban. As a significant job creator, Ontario's beef industry sustains more than 61,000 jobs in primary production, processing, and retail. Beef farms provide a wide variety of jobs between on-farm (equipment operation, breeding and feeding) and off-farm (farm machinery sales, grocer sales, meat packaging and processing, and transportation).



BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT

Grasslands used in beef production help store approximately 1.5 billion tonnes of carbon in Canada. We're proud to say that due to improved production practices, producing 1 kilogram of beef in Canada today emits 15 per cent fewer greenhouse gases than it did in 1981. The Canadian beef sector maintains one of the lowest GHG footprints of all beef production systems in the world –less than half of the global average. In addition, when Ontario farmers feed cattle surplus food, hailed-out crops, and food processing by-products such as distillers' grains, they are reducing food loss and diverting food waste from going to landfills where it produces methane emissions that intensify climate change.

ONTARIO BEEF SECTOR PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

The current suite of BRM programs plays a critical role in managing market and weather-related risks beyond farmer's control. However, while farmers are taking on much of the risk of growing food for Canadians, the current suite of BRM programs remain in need of critical updates. Currently, AAFC is working with the sector to explore beef specific revenue and margin programs. This is extremely important work that BFO fully supports. For low margin businesses like the beef sector, and the frequent and volatile shifts in global commodity markets becoming more normalized, it is more important than ever to modernize BRM programming on a sector-specific level to help farmers manage the risks of today and tomorrow.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Continue to place high priority on the development and evaluation of new revenue and/or margin-based insurance programs for the beef sector.
2. Implement a yield-based forage insurance program.
3. Increase the AgriStability trigger to 85 per cent.
4. Increase/remove AgriStability operational cap.
5. Increase AgriInvest funding back to pre-Growing Forward 2 levels.



PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6. Increase the interest-free portion and cash advance limit under the Advance Payments Program (APP).
7. Make Set-Aside programs a permanent tool that can be triggered under AgriRecovery to help address processing bottlenecks caused by labour disruptions, natural disasters, and other black-swan events.

In addition, BFO strongly encourages policymakers to assess and implement the recommendations stemming from the 2020 study released by the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food entitled *Facing the Unexpected: Enhancing Business Risk Management Programs for Agriculture and Agri-food Businesses*.

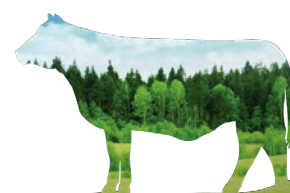
MEAT PROCESSING CAPACITY

In Eastern Canada, federal beef processing plant utilization has increased from 85 per cent in 2016 to 100 per cent in 2021, while provincially inspected slaughter volumes have averaged 20 per cent above the five-year average, resulting in limited processing availability for farmers and an uncompetitive market. Many processing plants are operating at or above capacity for significant portions of the year due to increased beef demand, production, and changes in the dairy sector.

Since the beginning of the pandemic this problem has intensified, resulting in depressed prices for beef producers, and long wait times to get animals processed, particularly at the provincial level.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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



PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

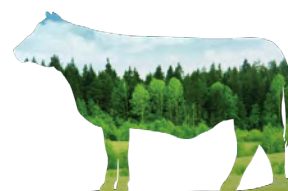
In addition, BFO strongly encourages policymakers to assess and implement the recommendations stemming from the 2021 study released by the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Food entitled *Room to Grow: Strengthening Food Processing Capacity in Canada for Food Security and Exports*.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS

Stewardship of natural resources is imperative to the success of beef farmers. Canada's beef industry is the single largest Canadian protector of grasslands, pastures, and hayfields which sequester carbon, and provide refuge for insects, pollinators, and many species at risk all the while providing feed and grazing space that produces some of the best beef in the world.

Canada's beef industry has recently set very significant and ambitious environmental goals including:

- Safeguarding the existing 1.5 billion tonnes of carbon stored on lands managed with beef cattle.
- Sequestering an additional 3.4 million tonnes of carbon every year.
- Reducing primary production GHG emission intensity by 33 per cent by 2030.
- Reducing food loss and waste (from secondary processing to consumer) by 50 per cent by 2030.
- Fulfilling the Global Methane Pledge by reducing methane emissions by 30 per cent below 2020 levels by 2030.



PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Carbon offset markets are an important tool to achieve the goals. However, it will also be imperative that the implementation of the carbon offset markets doesn't unintentionally drive grassland loss which would be devastating to climate change efforts, biodiversity within the agriculture ecosystem and the communities the grasslands support.

The ability to safeguard the existing 1.5 billion tonnes of carbon stored on lands managed with cattle is threatened by competing uses and the economic returns to annual crops versus beef production. With the significant crop prices increases, it will be difficult to prevent further land conversion and anecdotally we have heard from Canada's beef farmers of significant conversion of grasslands in 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Include in the regulations and subsequent protocols that any grasslands/pastures/hayfields recently converted cannot receive offset payments.
2. Develop offset protocols that reward producers for maintaining long-term carbon stocks.
3. Undertake a holistic policy analysis of how carbon markets and other federal policies will drive land use change.
4. Prioritize the development of beef sector relevant carbon offset protocols.
5. Reduce and simplify the annual monitoring reports for biological sequestration projects, recommend reducing to monitoring reports every two years and supporting largely automated reporting unless changes in the project require changes to the reporting.
6. Reduce requirements for on-site visits through enabling the use of technology (video, satellite monitoring) and/or enabling randomized audit processes.
7. Include the Canadian beef industry in policy and investment discussions as the Government of Canada works towards its goals of supporting the Global Methane Pledge to reduce methane emissions by at least 30 per cent below 2020 levels by 2030 and implementation of related domestic actions.



ON-FARM STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS

Cost-shared strategic investment initiatives funded under Canadian agricultural policy frameworks has provided significant benefits to Canadian farmers. Funding to help facilitate on-farm improvements through targeted programming should continue to receive high priority under the NPF.



PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Allow manure storage and perimeter fencing projects to be deemed eligible for cost-share funding.
2. Allow business expansion activities to be included as part of eligible activities or projects.
3. Create a technical industry-government working group to develop solutions to reduce the administrative burden for producers that apply for CAP funding, while ensuring the evaluation process supports the types of projects deemed valuable by producers, industry and government.
4. Remove the requirement for producers to have an approved Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS) before applying for manure storage and runoff cost-share funding, and allow producers to apply for a NMS and NPF funding for manure storage or runoff projects simultaneously.
5. Reinstate cost-share funding for the decommissioning of old facilities experiencing run off issues and for building new livestock facilities.
6. Increase investment in rural infrastructure such as irrigation, schools, health care, roads, bridges, broadband, and flood mitigation.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The ability of Canadian agriculture to address the threats posed by animal pathogens, and emerging antimicrobial resistance will have major implications for the short and long-term health of Canadian agriculture, both domestically and internationally.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Ensure the development of a stable, long-term funding framework for national animal health, disease, and antimicrobial surveillance.
2. Increase funding into partnerships including the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance to ensure agri-food research being conducted at new Ontario dairy, beef, swine and poultry research centres are maximized.
3. Continue to support the National Science Cluster model.
4. Continue to ensure investments are directed to long-term, high-risk areas of research including plant breeding and variety development, genetic improvement, and other areas to take advantage of new opportunities presented by emerging technologies.
5. Continue to support initiatives that improve the speed, reliability, accuracy, and cost-effectiveness of traceability solutions that advance both business and regulatory objectives.
6. Continue to invest in technological solutions that reduce costs, improve competitiveness and enable regulatory approvals and business functions that support trade and commerce.



PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

YOUNG FARMERS AND NEW ENTRANTS

Cost of entry remains one of the largest barriers for young farmers and new entrants. Herd building assistance programs, or loan program, are also in very limited supply which challenges new entrants and young producers from establishing or growing their operations. In 2020, the Young Cattlemen's Council (YCC) conducted a nationwide analysis on what programs were available in Canada to support young producers. The results indicated a limited number of support programs are available to support the startup or expansion costs for new, young or expanding farmers.

The cost of land is also a significant barrier to entry or expansion. The number one capital asset for most farmers is farmland which has significantly increased in value over the past 15 years. The increase in value will cause retiring farmers to face a sizeable up-front tax bill upon retirement. According to an MNP study facilitated by Beef Farmers of Ontario facilitated in 2015, one-third of farmers expected their farm to change ownership over the next few years, and 78 per cent of those farmers expect to be transferring ownership to a family member or business partner.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Enhance government supported grant and loan programs for young, beginning and expanding farmers.
2. Investigate the creation of a Capital Gains Deferral Fund which would allow for funds that usually get moved out of the agriculture sector via taxes and traditional retirement saving plans, to remain within the agriculture industry and provide help for the next generation of farmers.
 - The proposed Fund would allow farmers to deposit all or a portion of the proceeds from the sale of their land at retirement and receive a tax deferral on the capital gains.
 - The Fund would then be used to support beginning farmers as a pool of capital to acquire farmland.
 - The Fund would be set-up to provide favourable terms to beginning farmers compared to other financial institutions.
 - The Fund would act as an investment instrument for farmers that contribute the proceeds of their land sales as they would receive a return from the interest paid by beginning farmers on the loans granted by the Fund.
 - The Fund's goal would be to lower down-payment requirements compared to traditional farmland loans, which would free up capital for the young producers to enter elsewhere in their operation.

For more information, please contact:
Beef Farmers of Ontario
info@ontariobeef.com | 519-824-0334





February 1st, 2022

Earl Reading
President
Beef Farmers of Muskoka/East Nipissing/Parry Sound

**21-09 and 21-10
Procurement and
Proper Usage of
Roadside Safety
and SMV Signage**

Dear Earl,

The following resolutions were passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February 2021. and was recently discussed by the BFO Board of Directors:

WHEREAS traffic on rural highways are often times not recognizing the agricultural equipment.

WHEREAS education and warning signs are possible and seen in some communities.

WHEREAS that there is limited amount of information on how to apply Farm Machinery Ahead signs/ Caution Slow Moving Vehicles signage

WHEREAS at the recent OFA AGM, a resolution was passed to create/gather this process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with OFA and other commodity partners to develop a standard procedure on how to procure Caution Slow Moving Vehicle roadside signage.

WHEREAS that there is sign pollution due to improper usage of slow-moving vehicle signs and;

WHEREAS that OPP do not enforce proper use of slow-moving vehicle signs and;

WHEREAS that slow-moving vehicle signs are attach to fix objects visible from the road way;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO request WSPS and the general farm organizations (OFA, CFFO and NFU-O) to work with the MTO and OPP to ensure proper use of slow-moving vehicle signs on equipment and property.

BFO thanks Beef Farmers of Muskoka/East Nipissing/Parry Sound for the resolutions regarding roadside slow moving vehicle caution signage and the improper use of slow-moving vehicle signage.

The proper use of slow-moving vehicle signs is very important for both the safety of farmers operating equipment on public roadways and for other drivers using the same roadways. Vehicles that are not capable of reaching a speed greater than 40km/hour must display a slow-moving vehicle sign at the rear of the vehicle or object being towed. The purpose of these signs is to get the public to associate the sign with vehicles that are moving much slower than normal traffic and to reduce their speed. When used improperly, the public can be desensitized and misunderstand the intended meaning of the sign.

Within Ontario, there are clear rules within provincial legislation and regulations for farm implements on the road, which includes rules on slow-moving vehicles signs and their usage, as well as how not to use these signs. The Ontario *Highway Traffic Act* section 76 (4) explicitly states that “[n]o person shall place a slow-moving vehicle sign on or near a fixed object where it is readily visible from a highway”. The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) notes the prohibition of slow-moving vehicle signs on fixed objects within its communications, including in the MTO *Farm Guide: Farm Equipment on the Highway* and on its website. It is against the law to use a slow-moving vehicle sign on fixed objects like mailboxes or driveway markers if they can be seen from the road. MTO reiterates that slow-moving vehicle signs are for specific vehicles only and

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property owners or tenants displaying a slow-moving vehicle sign on fixed objects or vehicles that are capable of moving faster than 40km/hour may be subject to a fine. In speaking with the North Bay MTO Enforcement Office, it was communicated that if MTO notices or is notified of slow-moving vehicle signs being used for their unintended purposes, a MTO Officer would likely speak with the property owner regarding the improper use of the signage before issuing a fine.

Acquiring roadside slow-moving vehicle caution signs to increase awareness of slow-moving vehicles in particular areas or on particular roadways can also act as a means to prevent the improper use of slow-moving vehicle signs on mailboxes or fence posts. Municipal counties, districts or local municipalities are responsible for all roadside signage within their perspective jurisdiction. Some municipalities have developed policies around slow-moving vehicle caution signs and installed such signs alongside roadways to increase public awareness of potential slow-moving vehicles in rural areas. Because there is no provincial standard for a sign that cautions drivers of potential slow-moving vehicles or guidelines for what such a sign should look like, some municipalities have developed their own. Municipalities such as the City of Hamilton, Halton Region, Durham Region, Essex County and Elgin County have developed policies and installed slow-moving vehicle caution signs.

To know if one's municipality already has a by-law for slow-moving vehicle caution signs or something similar, contact your municipality's Clerk to inquire. If your municipality does not have a by-law or procedure in place for slow-moving vehicle caution signs, further discussions with the municipal Clerk and/or one's local councillor could be effective next steps to see something developed and implemented within one's area. Where possible, BFO can assist local associations that are interested in working with their municipalities on this issue.

BFO staff have discussed increasing communications around slow-moving vehicle safety and slow-moving vehicle signage and proper use of signs, including articles in the Ontario Beef magazine, adding resources to the BFO website, increasing communications to members via social media and by other means. We also recognize that more can be done to raise awareness and education around slow-moving vehicle safety, and have sent a letter to OFA encouraging them to continue to engage with MTO, the OPP, other agencies, and individual farm commodity organizations to bring increased attention to these issues. A copy has been appended to this letter.

As we understand, OFA is developing a campaign strategy for this year designed to increase public engagement and education around slow-moving vehicle safety, which will include continued social media content, radio ads, and plans to install billboards in select areas throughout the province to increase public awareness of slow-moving vehicles. BFO supports this initiative.

We thank the Beef Farmers of Muskoka/East Nipissing/Parry Sound for putting the above resolutions forward.

Sincerely,



Rob Lipsett
President

cc: Andrew Buchler





February 1st, 2022

Peggy Brekveld
President
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
200 Hanlon Creek Boulevard
Guelph, ON N1C 0A1

Dear Peggy,

Re: Slow Moving Vehicle Sign Use, Awareness, Education and Engagement

On behalf of the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO), I would like to commend you and your colleagues at the OFA for your continued leadership and advocacy on behalf of Ontario farmers on a number of key files. I would also like to thank you for making such a concerted effort to increase your collaboration and partnership with commodity groups on files of mutual interest.

Today, however, I write to you regarding farm safety when travelling on public roads, and the use and misuse of slow-moving vehicle (SMV) signs. I understand that OFA has been engaged in both of these related yet separate issues, and has been in contact with BFO and other commodity staff about possible actions the sector can take to increase education and public awareness. As these discussions evolve, I would like to take this opportunity to offer BFO's assistance, wherever we can, in support of actions that may help address these issues.

From our perspective, the issue is two-fold. First being public education about road sharing with farm equipment, and the second related to the use and misuse of SMV signs. As you know, planting and harvest season results in a significant increase in the number of farmers operating farm machinery on public roadways, which increases the risk of accidents and other conflicts. As a result, we see a strong need to increase public awareness and education efforts focused on slow-moving vehicles and road safety when it comes to public road sharing between farmers, farm equipment, and other vehicles. Resources like the MTO Farm Guide: Farm Implements on the Highway, information on the MTO website outlining slow-moving vehicle information, and media releases from the OPP during planting and harvest seasons are all great tools but more needs to be done by the ag sector in partnership with MTO, the OPP, and other agencies.

Similar to the road safety issue, we believe that more education and possible enforcement needs to be done to curb the improper use of SMV signs, such as use on fixed objects next to roadways, and to promote and educate the public and the agricultural sector on the meaning and proper use of SMV signs on farm equipment.



While we would encourage OFA to continue to work with MTO, the OPP, and other agencies on these related issues, we also see merit in an industry-led response. Whether one or both of these approaches are taken, we would like to state our support for this work, and to reiterate our commitment to providing assistance wherever we can.

We appreciate your attention to these issues and would be pleased to further discuss efforts to jointly increase awareness and education around slow moving vehicle safety and signage in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Lipsett". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rob Lipsett
President





June 24th, 2021

Earl Reading
President, Beef Farmers of Muskoka/East Nipissing/Parry Sound

21-11 Access to
Broadband
Internet

Dear Earl,

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 have be an increased demand for high-speed internet due to COVID-19 and;
WHEREAS that there is not equal access to high-speed internet in all of Ontario and;
WHEREAS that meetings and government grant applications are moving to strictly online;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with industry partners to lobby the federal and provincial government for increased access to high-speed internet for all areas of Ontario.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank the Beef Farmers of Muskoka/East Nipissing/Parry Sound for bringing this resolution forward. BFO strongly supports the need for every rural and remote community in Ontario to have access to broadband service that is reliable and affordable. It is widely known that those living in rural and remote communities in Ontario are much more likely to experience internet connection issues compared to those in urban communities. We know internet is essential for personal and professional communication in today's society, yet in many rural and remote communities broadband service is not up to today's standards. In addition, the lack of service providers in these areas inhibits people from accessing more affordable services.

Governments at all levels are aware of this issue and are making investments to ensure all Canadians have better access to reliable broadband and mobile connectivity. The Government of Canada in its *High-Speed Access for All: Canada's Connectivity Strategy* has made a commitment for 90 per cent of households in Canada to have internet speeds of 50 megabits per second (Mbps) for downloads and 10 Mbps for uploads by 2021, 98 per cent by 2026 and 100 per cent by 2030. In its 2021 budget, the federal government announced additional funding for accelerating broadband projects in rural and remote areas. Since 2015 the federal government has invested \$6.2 billion and has committed an additional \$1 billion over six years to the Universal Broadband Fund.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), an arms length agency of the Parliament of Canada that regulates and supervises broadcasting and telecommunications in Canada, states that 45.6 per cent of households in rural areas throughout Canada have access to internet speeds of 50/10 Mbps compared to nearly 100 per cent of households in large urban areas. The CRTC established a Broadband Fund of \$750 million to build new broadband infrastructure or upgrade



existing infrastructure, with a focus on underserved or unserved areas in Canada. The fund's contributions are made by telecommunications service providers in Canada.

In the Ontario government's *Broadband and Cellular Action Plan*, the province acknowledges the importance of broadband and cellular services for the agriculture sector as a means to remain competitive and have access to modern technologies. In its 2021 Budget, the province announced an additional \$2.8 billion in broadband infrastructure funding with a commitment to ensure every region in Ontario has reliable broadband by 2025. This builds on its investment in the Broadband and Cellular Action Plan made in 2019 of \$315 million over 5 years for building broadband infrastructure in unserved or underserved areas in the province, and its investments of \$830 million to the Improving Connectivity for Ontario program.

Specific to northern Ontario, the province provides funding to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation for broadband and cellular expansion projects for unserved and underserved areas, as well as provides funding to the Centre of Excellence in Next Generation Networks for its Northern Ontario Residential Broadband Program.

At the federal level, the Rural and Northern Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program provides up to \$2 billion to support various infrastructure projects in rural and northern communities. The Rural and Northern Stream addresses communities' specific infrastructure needs, including improved broadband connectivity.

BFO is encouraged to see all levels of government investing in broadband and cellular services in areas of the province that continue to deal with poor internet service, yet we know there is more work to be done to ensure all Ontarians have access to high-speed broadband. Appended to this resolution response you will find letters from BFO to the provincial and federal governments expressing such concerns and the need to ensure northern, rural and remote areas have access to high-speed broadband sooner than later.

The BFO Board of Directors would like to thank Beef Farmers of Muskoka/East Nipissing/Parry Sound for bringing this resolution forward.

Sincerely,



Rob Lipsett
President

cc: Jeremy Jeffrey (mover)
Andrew Buchler (Seconder and Advisory Councillor)





June 24th, 2021

The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities
180 Kent Street
Suite 1100
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 0B6

The Honourable Maryam Monsef
Minister of Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Ministers,

Beef Farmers of Ontario (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. I write to you today on behalf of the BFO Board of Directors and its grassroots membership regarding the needed improvements to broadband infrastructure in northern, rural and remote communities in Ontario.

As you are well aware, rural and remote areas in Ontario have been left behind when it comes to reliable and affordable broadband services for reasons related to low population density, landscape and lack of infrastructure. Despite these barriers, access to internet is essential and people who live and work in rural and remote areas should not be disadvantaged by unreliable internet. Many people in rural and remote communities face significant challenges as a result of poor internet, and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic heightened many of these challenges. The pandemic also further emphasized how essential access to reliable internet is for personal, professional and educational opportunities.

Farming is no exception when it comes to the need for reliable high-speed internet. High-speed internet is essential for farm businesses and is vital for rural economic development. Access to reliable internet allows farmers to better access information for their businesses, market farm products, access farm management information and educational tools, and better utilize modern on-farm technologies.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) states that 45.6 per cent of households in rural areas throughout Canada have access to internet speeds of 50/10 megabits per second compared to nearly 100 per cent of households in large urban areas. We understand the factors that have contributed to this disparity and the reality of building or upgrading infrastructure to bring high-speed internet to northern, rural and remote communities, but this disparity is unacceptable.

BFO is encouraged by your government's *High-Speed Access for All: Canada's Connectivity Strategy*, which acknowledges how essential reliable, affordable high-speed internet is for personal and

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professional communications, and how rural Canadians are faced with the daily challenge of slower and less reliable internet. We are also pleased by your government's commitments to ensure Canadians in rural and remote areas have internet speeds of 50/10 Mbps. Further, your government's additional investment in Budget 2021 of \$1 billion over six years for broadband infrastructure is very welcomed.

We applaud the efforts that have been made by all levels of government, but we request that your government continue to prioritize this issue and ensure that farmers and others in rural and remote areas of Ontario have the ability to access reliable and affordable high-speed internet. Improved access to reliable broadband services in rural and remote areas will greatly assist in the economic recovery of Canada, and will allow beef farmers in these areas to enhance their farm businesses and have improved access to information and various educational opportunities.

We thank you for the opportunity to share this letter with you and we are available to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Lipsett". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rob Lipsett
President





June 24th, 2021

Honourable Kinga Surma
Minister of Infrastructure
5th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister,

Beef Farmers of Ontario (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. I write to you today on behalf of the BFO Board of Directors and its grassroots membership regarding the needed improvements to broadband infrastructure in northern, rural and remote communities in Ontario.

As you are well aware, rural and remote areas in Ontario have been left behind when it comes to reliable and affordable broadband services for reasons related to low population density, landscape and lack of infrastructure. Despite these barriers, people who live and work in rural and remote areas should not be disadvantaged by unreliable internet. Many people in rural and remote communities face significant challenges as a result of poor internet, and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic heightened many of these challenges. The pandemic also further emphasized how essential access to reliable high-speed internet is for personal, professional and educational opportunities.

Farming is no exception when it comes to the need for reliable high-speed internet. High-speed internet is essential for farm businesses and is vital for rural economic development. Access to reliable internet allows farmers to better access information for their businesses, market farm products, access farm management information and educational tools, and better utilize modern on-farm technologies.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) states that 45.6 per cent of households in rural areas throughout Canada have access to internet speeds of 50/10 megabits per second compared to nearly 100 per cent of households in large urban areas. We understand the factors that have contributed to this disparity and the reality of building or upgrading infrastructure to bring high-speed internet to northern, rural and remote communities, but this disparity is unacceptable.

BFO is pleased to see your government address in its *Broadband and Cellular Action Plan* how important and necessary improvements to broadband and cellular services in northern, rural and remote communities is for the agriculture sector in order to remain competitive and have access to modern technologies. Your government's investment of almost \$4 billion over six years to focus on improving access to high-speed broadband in unserved and underserved areas of Ontario is extremely welcomed.

We applaud the efforts that have been made, but we request that your government continue to prioritize this issue and ensure that farmers and others in rural and remote areas of Ontario have the

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ability to access reliable and affordable high-speed internet. Improved access to reliable broadband services in rural and remote areas will greatly assist in the economic recovery of the province, and will allow beef farmers in these areas to enhance their farm businesses and have improved access to information and various educational opportunities.

We thank you for the opportunity to share this letter with you and we are available to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Lipsett". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rob Lipsett
President

cc: Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Hon. Todd Smith, Minister of Energy
Hon. Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry
and Minister Indigenous Affairs





October 25, 2021

Linsey Ingram
President/Advisory Councillor
Beef Farmers of Thunder Bay

21-12, 21-13, 21-16
Processing
Capacity

Earl Reading
President
Beef Farmers of Muskoka/East Nipissing/Parry Sound

Kim Weedmark
President
Grenville County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Linsey, Earl and Kim,

The BFO Board of Directors has reviewed the resolutions submitted by your county associations regarding funding support for processors, the need to increase processing capacity in Ontario, and the desire to investigate the creation of mobile abattoirs. Rather than respond to each resolution individually, the board has decided to provide a joint response given their similarity. We trust our response demonstrates the priority we have placed on these issues over the past couple of years. For reference, we've included a copy of your resolutions at the conclusion of this response letter.

The need to increase the amount of available processing capacity in Ontario, both provincially and federally, has been a key government relations priority for BFO for some time. Lack of sufficient processing capacity at both the local and provincial/regional level is a major limiting factor to a healthy competitive market in Ontario and across eastern Canada. We share the membership's concerns regarding processing backlogs, labour shortages, lost market opportunities, and depressed returns to producers resulting largely from the current processing availability, or lack thereof.

Some of the actions BFO has taken include:

- Creation of a Processing Capacity Working Group in collaboration with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA)



- Engagement with Dairy Farmers of Ontario, Dairy Farmers of Canada, National Cattle Feeders Association, Canadian Meat Council (CMC), Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Meat and Poultry Ontario (MPO) and Veal Farmers of Ontario
- Discussions with the major federal packers in eastern Canada and the northeastern U.S.
- BFO sponsored a motion at the Beef Value Chain Roundtable calling for Minister Bibeau to develop immediate solutions to help solve the crisis
- Made a motion at CCA's Domestic Agriculture Committee calling for immediate government support
- Letter-writing campaign to Members of Parliament (MPs)
- Joint call to action between BFO and the Quebec Beef Producers
- Social media campaign, letters to the editor, and advertising targeted to MPs and their political staff
- Dozens of meetings with key officials, including Ontario and Canadian agriculture ministers
- BFO, CCA and MPO made joint calls for government support to assist processors modernize and expand production, which helped push governments toward several processor-focused support programs that have been announced over the last year
- Request for an extension to the Emergency Processing Fund in collaboration with MPO
- Investigation into the feasibility of mobile abattoirs
- Participation on the provincial minister's Processing Capacity Roundtable

BFO was also very encouraged with the opening of TruHarvest Meats at the former Ryding Regency plant. Even though production numbers have not returned to Ryding Regency levels, having this facility back online is an encouraging sign for the sector. One of the challenges they are facing is the shortage of high-skilled labour to work in the plant. However, this is not unique to their plant as Food Processing Skills Canada conducted a study that showed the meat sector had a jobs vacancy rate of 13 per cent compared to other food processing sectors that had a vacancy rate of only 2-4 per cent.

BFO is advocating for the following key objectives with respect to the worker shortage:

- A domestic strategy to attract, train and retain highly skilled workers by providing investments and supports in training and education. Part of this could include a labour, skills and development component, through which processors could receive a wage subsidy to hire and train meat cutters and butchers, which are in extremely low supply. Funding priority could be placed on processors with the greatest ability to expand/increase production.
- A refocus of foreign worker programs into permanent worker programs.
- A strategy that would create new pathways to allow workers from countries with an ample supply of workers to come here and fill vacant jobs.

In terms of plant infrastructure, the provincial government provided \$4 million in funding for the *Meat Processors Improvement Initiative Program* in response to calls from industry for funding support. The provincial program provided up to \$150,000 per project for improvements to handling and processing equipment, and other infrastructure that would assist with increased capacity. This program was fully utilized and BFO has advocated strongly for additional funding intakes that support capacity expansion in both federal and provincial plants. The provincial program followed the federal Emergency Processing Fund, which provided substantial investment to several beef processors in Ontario in 2021.

BFO also recognizes infrastructure is not the only problem currently affecting processing capacity. There is a lack of high-skilled workers to fill the current volume of infrastructure across the province, which



prevents many processing facilities from taking advantage of current market demands. Our request to the provincial government through our proposed "Ontario Meat Processing Growth Fund" is that it must include a labour, skills and development component, such as a wage subsidy for processors to hire and train meat-cutters and butchers.

Those same concerns were also shared at the federal level when BFO was invited to speak in front of the federal Agriculture and Agri-Food (AGRI) Committee regarding ways to support an increase in beef processing capacity. From those committee meetings and additional research, the federal agriculture committee returned with a report outlining 18 different recommendations the federal government should act on to help strengthen and secure Canada's food processing sector. Several of BFO's recommendations were adopted by the AGRI Committee in their report. Some of those recommendations included:

- The committee recommends the Government of Canada, in collaboration with provinces and territories and the private sector, identify strategic funding opportunities to address regional processing capacity to strengthen Canada's agri-food supply chain.
- The committee recommends the Government of Canada consider food insecurity a priority, looking more precisely to northern and indigenous issues, and take the necessary measures to support Canadians in need.
- The committee recommends the Government of Canada evaluate the results of the Agri-Food Pilot program and consider increasing access to it in order to address labour shortages in the agri-food sector.
- The Committee recommends the Government of Canada revise the slaughtering regulations related to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), including those respecting Specified Risk Material (SRM), so they do not weaken the competitiveness of the Canadian beef industry.
- The Committee recommends the Government of Canada, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, seek further harmony between federal and provincial processing standards, so as to reduce barriers to inter-provincial and international trade, and encourage innovation through a focus on outcomes rather than prescriptive measures.
- The Committee recommends the federal government make available supports for those processors specifically seeking compliance with international trading standards, where these standards place a significant additional burden beyond provincial measures.

The full report can be found at the link below, which references BFO's recommendations:

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

In addition, BFO, CCA, CMC and others have long advocated and lobbied for SRM harmonization with the United States. The SRM removal requirement is a costly and timely process, especially for small and medium processing facilities. Canadian processors remove 58 kilograms of SRM on animals over thirty months (OTM), compared to the U.S., which removes approximately 900 grams. An SRM Task Force has also been struck with industry and government representatives to revise our SRM removal requirements. These revisions do take time, but we are optimistic positive changes will be made to these regulations as the OIE has downgraded Canada's BSE risk status to "Negligible risk."

With respect to mobile abattoirs, staff from the Ontario Cattle Feeders' Association (OCFA) and BFO began a preliminary investigation into the feasibility of a mobile abattoir pilot in Ontario earlier this year. Mobile unit designs obtained from private vendors were shared with OMAFRA who then



conducted a regulatory GAP analysis. The results of this analysis showed many issues would need to be addressed, or clarified, before licensing could be provided. In September, the BFO board instructed staff to obtain quotes for obtaining a technical consultant to help develop a plan to navigate the regulatory framework and to provide advice on the viability of various business plans for a mobile abattoir pilot.

This is a complex project. If regulatory barriers and a viable business plan can be established, BFO would then need to determine how this business could be funded on an ongoing basis. There are also geographic challenges that would be unlikely to be addressed by a single mobile unit. To be clear, BFO is in the early stages of this investigation; a fulsome investigation and analysis will take time to complete. With that said, the board recognizes the potential for mobile units to provide a valuable service to the industry in Ontario. As such, we will continue to explore this idea within the resources we have available.

We are committed to continuing to advocate for solutions to improve the amount of available processing capacity in Ontario, including funding support for plant expansion, infrastructure, and access to labour. Additionally, we will continue to investigate the feasibility of a mobile abattoirs pilot.

Thank you for submitting resolutions on these interrelated and important issues. As we continue to pursue solutions and funding to help address these concerns, we also encourage your associations to speak with your local elected members of parliament and provincial parliament to help keep it top of mind.



Rob Lipsett
President

cc: Brent Cadeau (Thunder Bay - Mover and AC)
Lyndon Wagenaar (Thunder Bay - Seconder)
Andrew Buchler (Muskoka - Seconder and AC)
Gordon Conklin (Grenville – Mover and AC)
Paul Ferguson (Grenville – Seconder)



Appendix

21-12 ABATTOIR CAPACITY AND MOBILE ABATTOIRS

Thunder Bay

MOVER: Brent Cadeau (Thunder Bay) **SECONDER:** Lyndon Wagenaar (Thunder Bay)

WHEREAS producers on every level are struggling to get their cattle through processing plants in a timely manner.

WHEREAS unavailable capacity directly impacts the movement of cattle and beef products

WHEREAS we have been voicing concern about this issue for years and it has not improved

WHEREAS the concept of mobile abattoirs would assist at local direct marketing levels and was voted on yet no movement on the issue

WHEREAS smaller farmers businesses are at stake as they cannot meet demand for their products when it's needed

WHEREAS reduced capacity is impacting growth in the beef sector

WE RESOLVE, that government funded and run facilities can be developed to meet the needs of industry as opposed to private business interests

WE RESOLVE, that government regulations can be easily attained through government managed plants

WE RESOLVE, that having increased capacity will reduce the amount of cattle waiting for slaughter and improve the dispersement of beef products

WE RESOLVE, that increased capacity or mobile abattoirs will reduce the travel of beef to and from processing four plus hours away from the intended customers

WE RESOLVE, that improving access will improve local beef sales and local beef farm growth in the future

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby for government-funded mobile abattoirs in Ontario.

21-13 FUNDING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ABATTOIRS

Muskoka/Parry Sound/East Nipissing

MOVER: Earl Reading **SECONDER:** Andrew Buchler

WHEREAS that there has been an uptick in local food demand and;

WHEREAS there is less transportation cost with local food and;

WHEREAS local abattoirs create a strong rural community and strong value chain,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO advocate to the provincial government to provide funding support for small and start-up abattoirs to help with staff training and infrastructure upgrades.

21-16 PROVINCIAL ABATTOIR CAPACITY AND FUNDING

MOVER: Gord Conklin (Leeds/Grenville) **SECONDER:** Paul Ferguson (Grenville)

WHEREAS Producers across the Province are struggling to gain access to kill facilities in a timely manner.

WHEREAS the current Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on processing facilities and their capacities.

WHEREAS wait times in some facilities are approximately 12 months.

WHEREAS facilities such as Ryding Regency are currently not in production and could be brought back into production with assistance from the Government.

WHEREAS small scale producers are losing a valuable income source as they are not able to meet the demands of their consumers during a large scale "shop local" movement.

WE RESOLVE, the Government provide much needed funding and incentives for small scale abattoirs to increase operating capacities to support small scale farmers and "shop local" movements.

WE RESOLVE, that the Government work to bring facilities such as Ryding Regency back into production to assist with the ever-growing backlog of cattle to be processed.

WE RESOLVE, that increased capacity of small- and large-scale abattoirs will directly improve on farm operations and alleviate the backlog of cattle waiting to be processed throughout the Province.

WE RESOLVE, that increased processing capacities will directly support "shop local" movements and allow area beef farmers to continue to provide quality Ontario Beef to their consumers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobbying the Government for large scale funding assistance to increase operating capacity at small, medium and large-scale abattoirs and to re-open facilities that are currently sitting vacant will directly support local farmers by alleviating the ever-growing backlog of cattle to be processed and allow small farms to meet the demand for locally grown and processed Ontario beef.





September 27, 2021

**21-14 Boxed
Beef Prices**

Kevin Krakar
President
Norfolk County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Kevin,

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

WHEREAS market updates are important,
WHEREAS the more local the information is the more useful it is for business decisions,
WHEREAS the BFO market report is currently using Canadian numbers except for the boxed beef cutouts,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO report Canadian/Ontario boxed beef cut-out numbers so it is more relevant for our use.

Transparency and price discovery are key to maintaining trust inside a supply chain which made the decision to suspend the reporting of box beef prices both frustrating and disappointing.

Since the loss of the boxed beef report in Canada, BFO has been working with CCA, CanFax, and our counterparts across the country to find solutions. BFO Director Jack Chaffe was appointed earlier this year to the national Boxed Beef Reporting Working Group to look at this issue. One approach that was taken by this group was to seek voluntary reporting commitments from packers in Canada. Reach out to medium and large packers occurred throughout the spring and summer in an effort to resume boxed beef price reporting. Although some packers expressed a willingness to report, industry was not successful in achieving sufficient voluntary participation from packers to allow the generation of a reliable report.

Given the failure of the voluntary approach, industry began to investigate mandatory reporting through the Statistics Act as a possible solution for beef industry. During the most recent CCA Semi-Annual meeting this past August, the CCA Domestic Ag Committee formally passed a resolution that CCA request Statistics Canada to establish a mandatory reporting of boxed beef and by-products values from federally inspected packers under the authority of section 13 of the Statistics Act. CCA and CanFax are now ensuring they request all information reported to be comparable to the previous voluntary reporting program.



Given the timing of the recent federal election, we do not anticipate a decision on our request for mandatory reporting will be made until sometime in 2022. However, we are optimistic that our request will be successful.

Thank you for taking the time to submit your resolution. BFO will be sure to update members on the status of this request once a decision by Statistics Canada has been rendered.

Sincerely,

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

Rob Lipsett
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Robert Peacock (Seconder & Advisory Councillor)





January 3rd, 2022

Mike Jeffray
President, Bruce County Beef Farmers

**21-15 Crop
Insurance -
Forage**

Dear Mike,

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

WHEREAS corn silage is a base in many rations including Ontario Corn Fed program rations
WHEREAS Agricornp converts corn silage yields using a formula to calculate dry bushels of corn grain
WHEREAS this converted number becomes your yield for crop insurance and RMP
WHEREAS the formula in question is very dated
WHEREAS new corn genetic grown on farm does not reflect the current Agricornp conversion formula
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with Agricornp to update the corn silage to dry grain formula.

Thank you to the Bruce County Beef Farmers for bringing this resolution forward. As the resolution notes, Agricornp converts silage yields using a standard conversion formula to calculate dry bushels of grain corn. The process Agricornp uses to calculate yield for grain corn harvested as silage is as follows:

- Determine silage yield by converting silage to grain corn using an industry standard conversion, which is seven bushels for each ton; apply an adjustment factor for little to no cob development, if applicable; and multiply yield by the number of acres harvested as silage.
- Determine grain yield by multiplying grain yield by the number of acres harvested as grain corn.
- Determine the final yield by adding the silage yield to grain yield.
- Use the final yield to determine any potential Production Insurance claim, as well as next year's average farm yield.

Of particular concern with the industry standard conversion formula is the seven bushels for each ton factor. Many producers understand the seven-bushel factor has been in use for many years, but question its relevance as grain corn yields have increased over time. Beyond basic information provided on the Agricornp website, there is little information outlining exactly how long this factor has been used for and the rationale for seven bushels. Overall, there is a real concern the silage conversion formula used to convert silage to grain corn for the purposes of determining a claim and future yield may not accurately reflect true yield.

This resolution was brought to the BFO Feedlot Committee to review. A motion was put forward to create a sub-committee consisting of three Committee members and staff to further analyze the conversion formula, and work with OMAFRA and Agricornp to gather more information and seek a

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solution, if possible. Following initial correspondence with BFO staff and Agricorp on the issue, Agricorp provided the following information on the conversion formula:

- Currently Agricorp uses a 7 bushels per ton of silage factor across the province to convert corn silage to grain yield for claim and average farm yield calculations (which is the basis of future coverage).
- The 7 bushels per ton factor was developed based on research trials and is reviewed on an annual basis. This factor is based on 65% harvest moisture, which can be adjusted to reflect actual moisture levels.
- The use of a standard conversion factor across the province allows for consistent adjustment of silage yield and allows for year to year, field to field and geographic area variation in silage and grain yield.

Unlike other crops, OMAFRA does not collect silage yield data. From discussions with the subcommittee and amongst staff, there was interest to conduct on-farm tests with OMAFRA and Agricorp and to connect with other producers to gather silage yield information. BFO staff have also connected with OMAFRA's beef, forage and corn specialists to discuss the conversion formula.

In November, a meeting was organized with the Feedlot subcommittee members, BFO staff, and staff from OMAFRA and Agricorp to discuss the silage conversion formula, Agricorp's review process, and to further express concerns. Agricorp noted the conversion formula was implemented in the 1970s and was set at five bushels. It was also explained that Agricorp uses a technology adjustment factor to ensure an average farm yield reflects changes in technologies over time. As noted above, Agricorp regularly reviews data to determine the seven-bushel factor, it was clarified that research from the University of Wisconsin and OMAFRA, in addition to other sources, are analyzed when reviewing the formula. Based on the research that is examined, Agricorp has long determined that changes to the formula were not necessary. Agricorp stated in the meeting that based on recent research, there is evidence that eight bushels may be more accurate today, but changes would not be immediate as there is a two-to-three-year window to implement changes.

Members of the subcommittee raised conducting on-farm tests with Agricorp and OMAFRA to weigh and calculate silage yield. Both Agricorp and OMAFRA were supportive of doing such tests and working with BFO and producers on this. In addition, Agricorp was also supportive of working with BFO to connect with producers to collect silage yield data.

Further work is required to see the silage conversion formula updated and BFO will continue to stay in contact with Agricorp on this file. We thank the Bruce County Beef Farmers for bringing this resolution forward and for kick starting this conversation.

Sincerely,



Rob Lipsett
President

cc: Steve Eby (mover and Advisory Councillor)

