



# 2026 BFO County & District Grant Program

## PROGRAM BACKGROUND

In 2026, the BFO County & District Grant Program will provide a **maximum of \$1,500** to help support ongoing activities of local associations. The incentive structure of the program will continue to reward proactive associations with additional funding by incentivizing participation and support for important programs and awards, and encouraging local associations to have a representative at BFO's summer and fall meetings. The program is reviewed each fall by the BFO Board of Directors so that changes to funding levels or eligibility criteria can be communicated in advance of the funding year.

## FUNDING FRAMEWORK



## INCENTIVE STRUCTURE

- Base Funding** – To obtain the base funding grant of \$500, county/district associations must submit a copy of their AGM minutes and a copy of their financials prior to November 30<sup>th</sup> of each funding year.  
Note: AGM minutes do not need to be approved or final.
- Records Submission Incentive** – To obtain the records submission incentive of \$300, county/district associations must submit a copy of their AGM minutes and a copy of their financials prior to March 31<sup>st</sup> of that funding year.  
Note: BFO will not be auditing financials.
- Nominations/Program Participation Incentives:**
  - To obtain the nominations incentive of \$100, county/district associations must submit **fully completed** nominations package(s) for any of the following committees and awards within the funding year:
    - The Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA)
    - Canadian Cattle Young Leaders (CYL) Program
    - Ontario Mapleseed Pasture Award
    - Ontario Agriculture Hall of Fame
    - Canadian Agriculture Hall of Fame
    - Ontario's Outstanding Young Farmer's Award
    - BFO Board of Directors (including youth position)
    - BFO Feedlot or Cow-Calf Committees  
Note: Please refer to Appendix A for more information on the awards and committees.
  - To obtain additional funding, county/district associations will be granted \$100 for every member who attends/is involved in one of the following programs within the funding year, up to maximum of \$300:
    - BFO Cow-Calf Management Tour
    - BFO Feedlot Management School

- Ontario Beef Youth Alliance Summer Tour
- BUILD Leadership Program
- Market Security Forum

Note: local association members do not have to be nominated to attend or participate in the above programs. Please refer to Appendix B for further information.

4. **Meeting Attendance Incentive** – To obtain the meeting attendance incentive of \$300, each local association must have a representative present, either in person or virtually, at each BFO AC Meeting (AGM, Summer & Fall).

## COMPENSATION SCHEDULE

### March:

County/district associations must submit their AGM minutes and financials to be eligible for the records submission incentive, in addition to base funding.

### April:

Base funding and the records submission incentive (\$800 total) will be paid to the eligible county/district associations.

### September:

County & District Grant Program to be reviewed by BFO Board of Directors for upcoming funding year.

### November:

Deadline for county/district associations to submit their AGM minutes to be eligible for the base funding.

### December:

Base funding will be paid to county/district associations that submitted a copy of their AGM minutes between April 1<sup>st</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup>. The nominations/program participation will also be paid to eligible county/district associations based on nominations and participation from December 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous year to November 30<sup>th</sup> of the current year.

## SUBMISSION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Submit county/district association AGM minutes and financials via email, fax or mail to Lisandra Lima at the BFO office.

Beef Farmers of Ontario  
 130 Malcolm Road, Guelph, ON N1K 1B1  
 Toll Free: 1.866.370.2333  
 Fax: 519.824.9101  
 Email: [lisandra@ontariobeef.com](mailto:lisandra@ontariobeef.com)

If you have any further questions about the County & District Grant Program, please contact LeaAnne Wurmler at the BFO office by email, [leanne@ontariobeef.com](mailto:leanne@ontariobeef.com) or by phone, 519.824.0334 ext. 230

## APPENDIX A – PROGRAMS, COMMITTEES AND AWARDS ELIGIBLE FOR NOMINATIONS INCENTIVES

**BFO Board of Directors** – The Board of Directors is comprised of 12 elected positions and one (1) appointed youth representative position. The elected positions represent the following: three cow-calf producers, three feedlots producers, one background producer, one southern producer, one eastern producer, one northern producer, and two at-large producers. Elections are held annually at the BFO AGM. Director terms are for three years to a maximum of three consecutive terms (nine years). The role of the board directors is to promote the best interests of the beef sector in Ontario and work to fulfill the objectives of BFO. The board's responsibilities include fulfilling the mandate given to BFO in accordance with the provisions of the *Beef Cattle Marketing Act*, the BFO constitution and by-laws, and the BFO policy manual; hiring and overseeing BFO's executive director; setting strategic direction, and establishing policies for BFO; overseeing the sound financial management of BFO and striving to provide producers with value for their license fees; exercising leadership; making effective, responsive and informed decisions; operating within legal and ethical guidelines; ensuring that all board decisions and actions are made in the best interests of cattle producers and the Ontario beef sector; fostering a positive image of BFO and the beef sector for producers, industry partners and the broader community.

**BFO Cow-Calf Committee** – The role of the Cow-Calf Committee is to undertake duties and review policy issues of importance or relevance to cow-calf producers in Ontario. This committee provides a forum for discussion on issues related to cow-calf production, in addition to serving an advisement role on policy matters for the BFO Board of Directors. The Cow-Calf Committee may work in concert with the Feedlot Committee on relevant issues. The Cow-Calf Committee responsibilities may include, but are not limited to: identifying issues/concerns and proposed actions for the Ontario cow-calf sector; discussing sector issues and making policy recommendations to the BFO Board of Directors; reviewing projects that are of relevance to the sector and making recommendations to the BFO Board of Directors; promoting and providing information on BFO programs and services to producers across Ontario; supporting BFO policy and strategic direction. The Cow-Calf Committee consists of 12 members. At the BFO AGM, voting delegates identified as cow-calf elect, from among themselves, three persons to the Cow-Calf Committee for two-year terms (for a total of six cow-calf representatives on the committee). One voting delegate identified as a background producer is also elected to the committee from their respective sector's voting delegates for a two-year term. A feedlot representative is chosen and appointed to the Cow-Calf Committee for a one-year term from amongst the elected feedlot representatives on the Feedlot Committee at their first meeting each year. One youth representative is elected by the Ontario Beef Youth Alliance for a two-year term. The three cow-calf directors on the BFO Board of Directors are also members of the Cow-Calf Committee.

**BFO Feedlot Committee** – The role of the Feedlot Committee is to undertake any duties and review policy issues of importance or relevance to feedlot producers in Ontario. This committee provides a forum for discussion on issues related to feedlot production, in addition to serving an advisement role on policy matters for the BFO Board of Directors. The Feedlot Committee may work in concert with the Cow-Calf Committee on relevant issues. The Feedlot Committee responsibilities may include, but are not limited to: identifying issues/concerns and proposed actions for the Ontario feedlot sector; discussing sector issues and making policy recommendations to the Board of Directors; reviewing projects that are of relevance to the sector and making recommendations to the Board of Directors; promoting and providing information on BFO programs and services to producers across Ontario; supporting BFO policy and strategic direction. The Feedlot Committee consists of 12 members. At the BFO AGM, voting delegates identified as feedlot elect, from among themselves, three persons to the Feedlot Committee for two-year terms (for a total of six feedlot representatives). One voting delegate identified as a background producer is also elected to the committee from their respective sector's voting delegates for a two-year term. A cow-calf representative is chosen and appointed to the Feedlot Committee for a one-year term from amongst the elected cow-calf representatives on the Cow-Calf Committee at their first meeting each year. One youth representative is elected by the Ontario Beef Youth Alliance for a two-year term. The three feedlot directors on the BFO Board of Directors are also members of the Feedlot Committee.

**Canadian Agriculture Hall of Fame (CAHF)** – The CAHF was created in 1960 to recognize persons who have made outstanding contributions to Canadian agriculture. The CAHF aims to honour and celebrate Canadians for outstanding contributions to the agriculture and food industry and to publicize the importance of their achievements to Canada. Each year, an induction dinner and portrait unveiling ceremony is held. Applications to the CAHF are made annually. The nominees are judged on their contribution to Canadian agriculture through their chosen work and leadership, and inductees are chosen by the CAHF Board of Directors. Candidates are chosen for induction based on their career and volunteer contributions to Canadian agriculture. To be eligible for recognition, candidates must have made significant contributions on a national or international basis (not just provincially) and have demonstrated a clear vision for the future of agriculture in Canada. Nominators must document this vision, outline successes towards achievement of this vision, and identify any obstacles that were overcome to achieve this vision.

For more information visit the CAHF [website](#).

**CCA Cattle Young Leaders (CYL) Program** – The CYL development program provides industry-specific training and mentorship opportunities to young beef producers. The program provides a combination of formal and informal opportunities to learn from existing beef cattle industry leaders and other youth organizations. Producers between the ages of 18 and 35 years have a chance to participate in provincial, national and international high-level discussions that define the direction and future of the Canadian cattle and beef industry. CYL provides participants with a chance to explore a potential career choice or rewarding provincial/national producer organization involvement, while gaining essential business connections and learning tools along the way.

For more information visit the CYL [website](#).

**Ontario Pasture Award** – BFO, Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF), DLF and the Ontario Forage Council work together to recognize individual producers who are doing an outstanding job of pasture management. The Ontario Pasture Awards encourage producers to implement pasture management strategies that maximize production per acre. For the beef category, DLF contributes to a cash award of \$500 for the winner.

For more information visit the Ontario Forage Council [website](#).

**Ontario Agriculture Hall of Fame (OAHF)** – The OAHF opened June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1980 with the induction of nine pioneer agriculturists (all deceased) who represented more than 100 years of combined efforts and initiatives in building a better agriculture industry for the province. Over 200 individuals have been inducted into the OAHF. It is the mission of the OAHF to acknowledge, record and preserve the contributions made by leaders to the growth and development of Ontario's agriculture and agri-food industry. The OAHF Board of Directors reviews all nomination packages submitted and selects inductees based on the information provided. Successful candidates will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the induction ceremony held the second Sunday of June each year.

For more information visit the OAHF [website](#).

**Ontario's Outstanding Young Farmer's Award** – The Outstanding Young Farmers program is designed to recognize young farmers who exemplify excellence in their profession. Eligible nominees must be farm operators between the ages of 18 and 39 who derive a minimum of two-thirds of their income from their farm operations. Each year, one farming couple is selected from each of the program's seven regional recognition events to represent their respective region at the national recognition event.

For more information visit the Ontario's Outstanding Young Farmer [website](#).

**The Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA)** – As stewards of a vast portion of the Canadian landscape, Canada's beef cattle producers play a significant role in protecting and enhancing the environment. They continuously strive to improve existing stewardship conservation practices to create a sustainable future – always farming for tomorrow. Since 1995, TESA has recognized producers who go above and beyond standard industry conservation practices and set positive examples for other cattle producers and the general public. At the local level, a producer receives provincial recognition for their outstanding contributions. These recipients move forward as nominees for national recognition from the Canadian Cattle Association. The national TESA recipient is announced during the Canadian Beef Industry Conference. Each nominee exemplifies significant innovation and attention to a wide range of environmental stewardship aspects in their farm operation. Such innovations extend beneficially to areas far beyond their land, including water, wildlife and air.

For more information visit the TESA [webpage](#).

## APPENDIX B – PROGRAMS AND EVENTS ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION INCENTIVES

**BFO Cow-Calf and Feedlot Management Programs** – The Cow-Calf and Feedlot Management programs provide Ontario beef farmers with a practical on-farm experience where they can learn and explore various management systems and sectors of the industry. The events typically feature farm tours, speaker sessions and provide ample time for networking.

**Ontario Beef Youth Alliance** – The Ontario Beef Youth Alliance (OBYA) is comprised of individuals between the ages of 18-35 who have subscribed to become a member of the OBYA. Members must have an active interest in the Ontario beef industry, but do not need to be BFO check-off paying members. The OBYA will aim to provide the following benefits to members: networking and engagement opportunities, youth-based programming and events, mentorship connections, access to information and resources, a platform to share career opportunities and a complimentary subscription to the *Ontario Beef* magazine.

**Ontario Beef Youth Alliance (OBYA) Summer Tour** - Designed for young beef farmers and industry leaders interested in connecting with farmers from across Ontario and expanding their knowledge about the sector. Participants will learn from experienced industry speakers, take part in farm tours, and offer an opportunity to network with other young producers who share a similar passion and interest in the beef industry or agri-food sector.

For more information, visit the Beef Farmers of Ontario [website](#).

**BUILD Leadership Program** - The Beef Farmers of Ontario offers the BUILD Leadership program to identify and support a group of visionary organization leaders capable of moving the Ontario beef industry forward. The knowledge and skills developed through participation in the program included a focus on the individual, on effective meetings, and on the association.

**Market Security Forum** – In partnership with the Ontario Cattle Feeders' Association, Beef Farmers of Ontario offers a forum for beef farmers that focuses on risk management tools and strategies to help mitigate the ebbs and flows of the cattle cycle.