



2018 RESOLUTION RESPONSES

Enclosed you will find the response letters to the 2018 resolutions

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| 18-01 Support for National Check-Off Increase | 18-14 Information Flow |
| 18-02 Ontario Beef Cattle Marketing Act | 18-15 Data Collection and Management |
| 18-03 Imported Beef Labelling | 18-16 Environmental Impact of Agriculture Research |
| 18-04 Beef Promotion at Retail | 18-17 Hot Iron Branding |
| 18-05 Local Abattoirs | 18-18 Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program Lobby |
| 18-06 Traceability Implementation | 18-19 Support for Cow Herd Expansion |
| 18-07 Access to Veterinarian Services | 18-21 Timing of Ineligible Sharecost Expenses |
| 18-08 Livestock Medicines Course | 18-22 Humane Euthanasia of Livestock In Emergency Situations |
| 18-09 Age Verification Methods | |
| 18-10 CCIA Pins | |
| 18-11 Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program | |
| 18-12 Predation Management | Referred to General Farm Organizations |
| 18-13 Farm Products Marketing Commission – Dairy Bob Calves | 18-20 Emergency Identification |





August 30, 2018

Dave Cavanagh
President
Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Dave,

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

WHEREAS, the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) organization continues to set marketing of Ontario beef as a major priority; and

WHEREAS, BFO is raising more dollars for marketing and other projects by requesting an increase in check-off; and

WHEREAS, the Canadian Beef Check-Off Agency (the Agency) allocates the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off (national check-off), as per the request of each province through agreements, to:

- research (Beef Cattle Research Council)
- marketing (Canada Beef)
- issues management (Canadian Cattlemen's Association)

WHEREAS, the Agency is currently assisting all other provinces with the implementation of the national check-off increase from \$1.00 per head to \$2.50 per head; and

WHEREAS, in order for the Agency to pursue an increase the import levy paid by importers of beef and beef products coming into Canada and receive approximately \$1.5 million in additional funding for generic beef marketing, all provinces need to have increased the national check-off to \$2.50 per head; and

WHEREAS, the Agency allows for national check-off dollars to be redirected back to Ontario for continued support of provincially driven marketing, research and issues management programs as outlined in the agreements,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO support the increase to the national check-off from \$1.00 per head marketed to \$2.50 per head marketed for marketing, research and issues management, and that BFO take the required action necessary to implement as soon as possible.

I would like to thank Peterborough County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. The BFO Board of Directors treats discussions about raising the Ontario checkoff very seriously. For more than two years we have carefully weighed the advantages and disadvantages of an increase to national checkoff against the needs of Ontario's beef farmers, and the vision the BFO Board has for the Ontario beef industry. Similarly, we have also evaluated the merits of pursuing an increase to provincial



checkoff. Through these discussions the Board stands united in its position that the best decision for Ontario is the one that best allows BFO to serve provincial interests in support of provincial and national initiatives that provide the most value to beef farmers in this province.

With this goal in mind, BFO firmly believes that the best path forward for Ontario's beef industry is to pursue an increase to the provincial checkoff. At this time we do not intend to request support for an increase to the national checkoff. From our perspective, pursuit of an increase to the provincial checkoff provides a number of advantages:

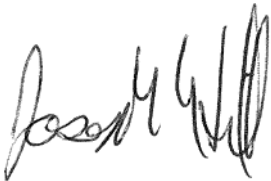
- all funds will stay within BFO control, which will allow BFO to fund provincial and national initiatives that best serve Ontario's interests;
- with oversight of funding allocations, BFO can ensure better accountability for the funds BFO does allocate to national initiatives;
- BFO can be more responsive to funding needs provincially and nationally; and
- BFO will not be forced to apply to have national checkoff funds returned to Ontario for provincial projects and initiatives, which will lower administrative costs and allow more money to be spent in priority areas.

The plan to increase the provincial checkoff will have no bearing on BFO support for the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA). BFO will continue to fund its share of CCA through provincial checkoff, including annual contributions to the CCA legal fund, which is used to support the Canadian beef industry in major trade disputes such as Mandatory Country of Origin Labelling (COOL) and NAFTA. In addition, BFO has committed to fund components of the National Beef Strategy using provincial funds, which other provinces plan to fund using their increase to national checkoff. This includes a commitment by BFO to fund the Beef Cattle Research Council at the full amount requested, new dollars to support public and stakeholder engagement, and continued support to Canada Beef for domestic and international marketing.

BFO is committed to ensuring the best value for Ontario producers' checkoff investment. We believe that pursuing a provincial increase in checkoff best positions us to satisfy that commitment and ensure that Ontario's interests are well-served. Further details of our plan will be communicated broadly in the coming months, and we hope your county will support it.

BFO is appreciative of your strong engagement on this issue. Our hope is that the BFO membership will support our plan to put Ontario first, and we welcome any and all feedback or suggestions about how we can best achieve this goal.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: Larry Jinkerson (mover)
Glenn Darling (secondar)
John Lunn (Advisory Councillor)
BFO Board of Directors





September 13, 2018

David McGonegal
President
Renfrew County Beef

Dear David,

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

WHEREAS, Regulation 54 of the Ontario Beef Cattle Marketing Act states that abattoirs who purchase cattle from a seller are required to deduct the BFO check-off from the proceeds payable to the seller and remit said fees to the BFO; and

WHEREAS, the Farm to City marketing model and Collaborative Partnership Program, which BFO is promoting often means that the abattoir is not required to collect a check-off fee for those producers who are selling directly to the consumer as they maintain ownership of the animal throughout the process,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby to make changes to the Ontario Beef Cattle Marketing Act that all animals entering an abattoir will trigger a check-off event.

Ontario's beef collection system was designed to collect levies on all sales of cattle in the province, and a shift to collect check-off on animals at slaughter without a change in ownership would represent a fundamental shift in Regulation 54 of the Beef Cattle Marketing Act (BCMA). As such, BFO has a duty to ensure that any decision to potentially alter the check-off collection system is made only after due consideration and a full assessment of potential impacts on stakeholders in the beef supply chain, BFO revenues, implementation requirements, etc.

To date, BFO staff have presented preliminary analysis to the Board of Directors that has included:

- a rough estimate of the number of additional animals that may be captured if a change to the BCMA was made,
- an overview of checkoff systems in other provinces that currently collect check-off on every animal slaughtered, and
- a ballpark estimate of expected board and staff time required to implement the change, including time required for analysis and engagement with the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission, consultation and communications outreach with affected and potentially affected parties, and lobbying efforts to ensure the proposed changes make it on and through the Cabinet agenda in an expedient manner.

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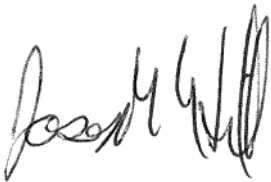
Despite the preliminary work that has been completed further analysis is still needed before the BFO Board will be in a position to make a well-informed decision about whether to pursue changes to the BCMA.

Before taking any proposal to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs or to the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission we need to be confident that our analysis is accurate and that our arguments are well-supported by good information. Part of this will need to include a deeper investigation of check-off systems in other provinces that currently collect check-off on all animals at slaughter, from both an operational and enforcement point of view. Investigation of potential regulatory language that would accomplish this change is another task that should be completed before proceeding with a formal proposal. Legal consult may also be required, which will add time and create additional cost considerations.

In summary, BFO is actively investigating the request outlined in your resolution. However, this is a complex proposal that will take time to fully evaluate and potentially execute. Alternative options, such as new requirements for producers or companies that apply for and/or receive funding from BFO, may also be considered.

We hope this provides a satisfactory update of the work that has been completed to date in response to your resolution. Ultimately, any progress or decisions made in response to this resolution will be communicated to you and the broader membership in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: Gerald Rollins, Advisory Councillor (mover)
David Campbell (seconder)





January 31, 2019

David McGonegal
President
Renfrew County Beef

Dear David,

Please accept this letter as a follow up to the letter that was sent to you in September providing an update on the work completed to date in response to resolution 18-02 – Proposed Changes to the Beef Cattle Marketing Act - originally submitted by Renfrew County Beef for debate at the 2018 BFO AGM and passed.

As a recap, BFO staff presented preliminary analysis to the Board of Directors earlier this year in response to the resolution that included:

- a rough estimate of the number of additional animals that may be captured if a change to the BCMA was made,
- an overview of checkoff systems in other provinces that currently collect check-off on every animal slaughtered, and
- a ballpark estimate of expected board and staff time required to implement the change, including time required for analysis and engagement with the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission, consultation and communications outreach with affected and potentially affected parties, and lobbying efforts to ensure the proposed changes make it on and through the Cabinet agenda in an expedient manner.

In the update we provided you in September we explained that further analysis was needed before the BFO Board would be in a position to make a well-informed decision about whether to pursue changes to the Beef Cattle Marketing Act (BCMA). So far, obtaining an accurate estimate of the number of animals that may be captured if a change to the BCMA was made has proven more difficult than originally envisioned. There exist certain gaps in the data, which add uncertainty to our estimation. The volume of Ontario cattle exported through auction markets and the number of Quebec cull cows and fed cattle being slaughtered in Ontario are not directly available due to limitations in government data as well as issues respecting buyer/seller confidentiality. Understanding these factors is key to ascertaining the number of new checkoff-eligible events that may be created by making changes to the check-off fee collection system under the BCMA, and these ambiguities have ultimately limited our ability to provide an accurate assessment of the potential impact that such a change may have.

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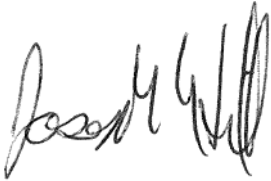


In January, the BFO Board of Directors instructed staff to continue working on the analysis so that a well-informed decision could be made to support the use of resources needed to pursue a change, if the analysis supported it and if the board saw fit. With the 2019 AGM fast approaching the Board has decided to defer the decision about whether to pursue changes to the BCMA until after the new slate of BFO board directors is elected on February 20th.

It should be noted that the BFO Marketing and Promotions Committee created a new policy earlier this year requiring all marketing program funding recipients to be checkoff paying members of the Association. This requirement was developed in response to the concerns outlined in your county's resolution.

In summary, BFO has been actively investigating the request outlined in your resolution. However, this is a complex proposal that will take time to fully evaluate and potentially execute. In the meantime, any progress or decisions made in response to this resolution will be communicated to you and the broader membership in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

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Joe Hill
President

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David Campbell (seconder)





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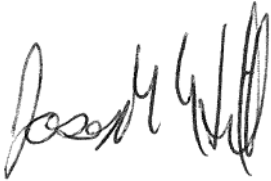


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Joe Hill
President

cc: Gerald Rollins, Advisory Councillor (mover)
David Campbell (seconder)





January 3, 2019

Dave Perry
President
Beef Farmers of Frontenac

Dear Dave,

The following resolution was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February, 2018 and was recently discussed by the BFO Board of Directors:

WHEREAS, imported beef can be further processed in Canada; and
WHEREAS, this imported beef can be legally labelled as Made in Canada; and
WHEREAS, this label could be misinterpreted as Canadian beef by some loyal consumers,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby CFIA to make labelling these imported beef products less confusing for the consumer.

The BFO Board of Directors agrees and recognizes that consumers can often be confused or even misled about the origins of the beef products they purchase. In retail environments, consumers often look for labels like "Made in Canada" or "Product of Canada", which can easily be misinterpreted. Using the "Made in Canada" and "Product of Canada" labels are optional marketing tools, and there are regulations in place that restrict their usage, as well as regulations that outline other labelling requirements for meat sold in Canada. However, despite the existing regulations there is still beef imported into Canada that can be found with a Canadian label once it hits grocery shelves.

Meat that is processed and packaged in federal plants must be labelled in accordance with Canada's Meat Inspection Regulations, Food and Drug Regulations, Consumer Packaging and Labelling Regulations, and regulations under the *Canadian Agricultural Products Act*. While the CFIA's guidelines for labelling imported meat products are essentially the same as those for Canadian meat products, there are two notable exceptions. With imported meat, the statement "Product of [country of origin]" is to appear in close proximity to the product description on the label, and the official inspection mark of the country of origin must replace the Canadian meat inspection legend on the label.

The "Product of Canada" claim can only be used when all or virtually all major ingredients, processing and labour used to make the product are Canadian. In the case of beef, the "Product of Canada" claim can be applied if the beef comes from cattle born, raised and slaughtered in Canada, or from cattle that



spent a period of at least 60 days in Canada prior to slaughter. The "Made in Canada" claim can be used on further processed food when the last substantial transformation of the product occurred in Canada, even if some or all ingredients are from other countries. However, this claim must include a qualifying statement to indicate that it has been made from or with imported ingredients. In this scenario, imported beef that has been transformed into another product (packaged burgers from cattle slaughtered in the United States, for example) can be labelled as "Made in Canada" with the statement that it has been made with imported ingredients from the exporting country.

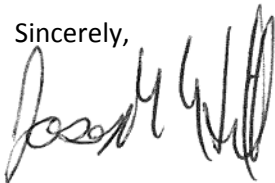
The BFO Board of Directors does not believe that regulatory changes regarding the labelling of beef are required at this time given the highly integrated nature of the North American beef industry and market, as well as the specific labelling requirements already enforced by the CFIA. However, there are other actions that the Ontario beef industry can take to assist consumers in identifying Canadian and Ontario beef in retail stores.

Ensuring that consumers can both find and identify Ontario beef is a key factor in marketing Ontario beef. Further to this, outreach and awareness campaigns with retailers and the general public are important for ensuring consumers understand beef labels and can decipher not only the product's origin, but also any other potential characteristics of the product. Specific actions that BFO plans to pursue include resources and outreach to consumers on how to find Ontario beef and how to decipher beef labels, in order to combat potential misinformation about the origin of the beef they purchase. Another priority will be relationship-building with retailers who play an important role in communicating with consumers as they shop for beef, to develop increased transparency about how beef is marketed and labelled. The development of these relationships with retailers will be an objective of the planned new joint marketing committee of BFO and Ontario Cattle Feeders Association (OCFA) over the next few years.

Although BFO does not intend to make a request to the federal government for more stringent labelling requirements for imported beef at this time, we understand and agree that driving demand for Ontario and Canadian beef will be most effective and valuable if consumers can easily source and identify the product in stores and on labels. BFO will continue to partner with Canada Beef, OCFA, retailers and other organizations on resources and outreach activities to consumers that help achieve this.

On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, I would like to thank Beef Farmers of Frontenac for bringing this resolution forward. Ontario's beef industry must play a larger role in promoting Ontario beef to retailers and consumers, which includes ensuring that there is transparency in how beef is labelled.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Jeff Peters (mover)





August 30, 2018

Michael Pedlar
President
Grey County Beef Farmers Association

Dear Michael,

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, producers are concerned that the sale of beef is not being promoted through local vendors, **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** communicate with merchant chains who sell beef, encouraging them to give the product a higher profile for the consumers to consider.

The BFO Board of Directors shares the belief that promotion and marketing of beef, including at point-of-purchase locations, is necessary and important for increasing consumers' awareness and demand for beef. Marketing beef to retailers and consumers creates more interest and drives sales, which ultimately results in a more stable market and stronger Ontario beef industry. This has become a major priority for BFO over the past several years, as evidenced by the focus of the Regional Marketing Initiative's (RMI) three core objectives, which include: increasing market penetration for Ontario beef brands, maximizing value of Ontario beef products, and enhancing consumer confidence in the Ontario beef industry.

While the Ontario market is the largest consumer market in Canada, our provincial beef industry faces ever-increasing and diverse competition from domestic and imported proteins. The RMI includes strong linkages to industry partners, including retailers, restaurants and food service companies. These relationships are vital for communicating with the retailers and restaurants that sell beef, so we can work collaboratively on creating demand for beef from Ontario producers and brands.

Promoting beef in the locations that consumers are making their purchasing decisions is an effective method of generating interest and demand. A great example of this is the labeling, signage and events that Ontario Corn Fed Beef utilizes in grocery stores across Ontario. Ontario Corn Fed Beef products are labeled to differentiate themselves as an Ontario product from other beef, and stores often also use signage at the meat counter. In addition, barbecue events with the Ontario Corn Fed Beef truck or tent in front of grocery stores has been successful in gaining consumer attention. These types of activities and tools can be an effective strategy for promoting Ontario beef. Part of the RMI includes funding available to Ontario beef brands, retailers, restaurants, food service companies and other industry



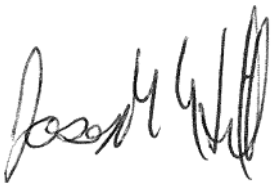
partners through the Collaborative Partnership Program (CPP) to develop their own marketing materials and strategies for promoting beef to consumers.

Through the RMI and CPP, BFO has supported and implemented a variety of projects that promote beef at point-of-purchase and help drive demand. For example, Flanagan Foodservice, one of Canada's largest food distributors, developed their own Ontario beef brand with CPP support from BFO. Flanagan's promotes their "Carve Premium Ontario Beef" to retailers and restaurants, and also supports them in promoting the beef directly to customers with signage, handouts, branded shirts and other materials. The development and marketing of Carve Beef has exceeded expectations since its launch in the spring of 2017. As of the end of March 2018, Carve sales totaled over \$2.4 million, which significantly exceeded their \$1.8 million in projected sales. Based on first year volumes, the brand has already generated increased demand for an additional 1,800 head of verified Ontario cattle.

Aside from RMI and CPP activities, BFO also works closely with other organizations to promote beef directly to consumers, including Beef Advocacy Canada, Canada Beef, Canadian Meat Council and the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef. As a member of the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, for example, BFO is able to collaborate with not only industry organizations, but also retailers and restaurants like Tim Hortons, Wendy's, McDonald's, Sobeys, Costco and Loblaw. This forum allows us to discuss marketing strategies and collaborate and share knowledge about the most effective methods for reaching consumers.

On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, I would like to thank the Grey County Beef Farmers Association for bringing this resolution forward. Ontario's beef industry must play a larger role in marketing beef to retailers and consumers, and BFO is committed to telling the positive story of Ontario beef and raising its profile as a delicious, nutritious and sustainable protein. As we continue with this work, we will keep our members updated on our activities on our website, social media and in the *Ontario Beef* magazine.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Don Hargrave (mover)





January 28, 2019

Michael Pedlar
President
Grey County Beef Farmers Association

Dear Michael,

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) Board of Directors has reviewed the following resolution from the Grey County Beef Farmers Association:

WHEREAS, there is concern for the lack of beef processing options in the province, which poses a detriment to new entrants in the beef industry,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO promote a resurgence in local abattoirs.

BFO would like to thank the Grey County Beef Farmers Association for bringing this resolution forward. The BFO Board of Directors would like to affirm the importance we place on the ability of Ontario beef producers to have access to nearby, independently owned abattoirs. We recognize how a decentralized, multi-scaled system of abattoirs benefits the Ontario beef industry both financially and logistically. Because of this, and prompted by multiple resolutions on this matter, we have constructed many of our programs and initiatives with an emphasis on creating an environment that will enable abattoirs to thrive. Components of this effort include:

- Partnership programs with existing abattoirs
- Enhancing carcass value through beef brands and scientific research
- Promoting a processor-friendly regulatory system
- Supporting organizations focused on processor issues
- Reducing food origin fraud.

Since 2017, BFO's Collaborative Partnership Program (CPP) has offered 50-50 cost share for farmers and processors for projects that align with our Regional Marketing Initiative's (RMI) strategic objectives, including increasing market penetration for Ontario beef brands, maximizing the value of Ontario beef products, and enhancing consumer confidence in the Ontario beef industry. This program supports collaboration between BFO, beef farmers, and processors, providing assistance for processing projects as well as encouraging crucial producer-processor relationships. One processor project has already been completed under the CPP, with another ongoing.

In addition to the CPP, BFO's RMI funding program has placed an emphasis on supporting the development of regional and Ontario brands that can add value to the supply chain by marketing higher value beef products to different consumer segments. This will include the development of materials for retail/foodservices as well as providing technical services to producers and processors to enhance communication about carcass values.



In addition, BFO has made funding available through the RMI to support farmers and processors who want to establish or grow beef brands in the province.

We believe that with branded beef targeting segments of the consumer market, and support for processors and retailers in developing and growing these brands, we can add value to the beef produced in Ontario, which in turn will stabilize processors and may incentivize growth in processing capacity.

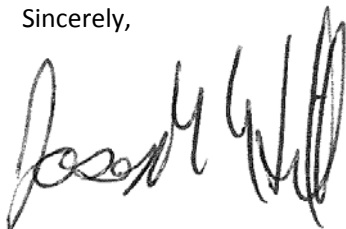
On the regulatory front, BFO has continued to advocate for outcome-based regulations and enforcement during our regular discussions with OMAFRA's Meat Inspection Branch. As the Ontario government has indicated a desire to cut red tape and reduce regulatory burdens, we hope that our continued pressure to improve the regulatory framework surrounding abattoirs will result in fewer barriers to establishment and operation. Recently, the province released several proposed changes to provincial meat inspection regulations for public comment. A copy of the proposed changes has been attached to this letter for your reference. In BFO's view, the proposed changes represent a positive step in the right direction.

BFO also recognizes the importance of supporting organizations that are focused on addressing processor issues. BFO is a member of, and provides funding for, both the Ontario Independent Meat Processors (OIMP) and the Labour Issues Coordinating Committee (LICC). The primary objective of OIMP is to protect, grow, and strengthen the processing industry in Ontario. LICC is a coalition of agricultural commodity and farm organizations representing the interests of agricultural employers.

Another issue that may have a substantially negative impact on our provincial processors is food origin fraud. Food fraud dilutes the market our provincial processors must sell to, with negative implications for profitability and expansion efforts. To address this issue, BFO has been engaged in a food origin research project with Oritan, an analytical company and global leader in scientific traceability. To date, we have demonstrated the viability of a scientific technique that will determine the regional origin of beef, giving Ontario a potential tool to identify fraudulently labeled beef products. Our next step in this project is to grow our genetic database and complete a market audit where purchased samples from retail will be tested against our established Ontario genetic footprint. We believe this will provide a useful tool to guard against fraudulent products that undercut Ontario beef.

I hope the Grey County Beef Farmers Association see value in the multifaceted approach BFO is taking to support the health of local abattoirs. We recognize that operational and financial challenges persist across this sector of our industry, and we will continue to work on finding different ways to support their viability and sustainability. Thank you for putting forward this resolution. If you would like to further discuss our efforts to support processing in the province, please do not hesitate to contact the BFO office or a BFO director.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: Don Hargrave (Mover / Advisory Councillor)
Brad Robart (Secunder)
BFO Board of Directors





June 21, 2018

Jason Richardson
President
Haldimand County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Jason,

The following resolution from Haldimand county was brought to the floor and passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February of this year:

WHEREAS, the Canadian beef industry implemented mandatory individual animal identification in 1997 and then, in 2004, with the promise of receiving valuable information on animals, moved to mandatory and more expensive RFID tags; and

WHEREAS, the cost of tags to date to the Canadian beef industry is more than \$300 million and total cost to date, including various programs, OnTrace/CanTrace and staff time at producer organizations and at many levels of government is hundreds of millions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, traceability, including all premises identifications and movement of animals and products is far from fully implemented;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO adopt a position that traceability, including the flow of information such as carcass data, be fully implemented within five years or be abandoned.

BFO has long held a position that access to traceability information should be made available on a shared basis to provide actual value, and not just costs to producers for their investments in traceability tags and other related infrastructure. BFO supports producer sharing of value-added information between sectors so long as producer confidentiality is maintained or voluntarily disclosed.

However, the Canadian Livestock Traceability System (CLTS) does not, nor is being positioned to, allow producers to share or access information across the supply chain. CFIA and CCIA have been clear that information housed on national traceability databases must remain confidential and exists only to provide timely, accurate and relevant information to mitigate the impact of a sanitary issue or a natural disaster, and to support market access and consumer confidence goals on a broad, sector-wide basis.

The creation of BIXS was designed to provide a solution to this need by facilitating the flow of value-added information, such as carcass data, across users that would agree to share their information. Other herd management systems like Go360bioTrack offered by AgSights could also serve as a potential platform to upload and share value-added information across the supply chain.

With respect to traceability in general, BFO supports the advancement of traceability for the cattle industry but does not support any move to implement further regulations until plans to offset the costs

to both producers and the broader industry at-large for the establishment, operation, and maintenance



of a movement reporting system and all the associated technologies and training is outlined. This must go beyond support for a national database. This doesn't mean BFO is opposed to traceability but rather that we are opposed to traceability without significant support from government to offset the costs that will accrue across the beef supply chain.

Beef producers should be aware that, yes, mandatory traceability will be implemented at some point and will require producers to register and periodically validate Premises Identification (PID) numbers, report cattle movements, and individually identify cattle using approved RFID tags, a regulation already in place. While we don't know the exact details of what will be required we do know that data sharing is unlikely to be offered to users of the system that are providing the traceability data. Again, there is opportunity for third-party platforms like BIXS and bioTrack to help manage traceability reporting requirements while also simultaneously facilitating information sharing amongst users. Once the regulatory requirements are in place the potential value that third-party service providers can provide will become undoubtedly clearer.

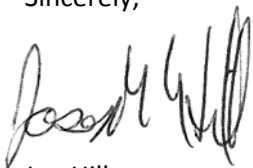
On the regulatory side, CFIA recently published their intentions to release the proposed traceability requirements for cattle in Canada Gazette I (CG1) Part I later this year. This may or may not happen as CFIA has made multiple commitments of intent to publish regulatory requirements before to no avail. Working under the assumption that the regulations will be published in CG1 in the near future, a 75-day period for stakeholders to review and provide comment would follow publication. The CFIA will then review and consider all comments received prior to finalizing the regulatory amendments and publishing them in Part II of the Canada Gazette. Once published in Part II, the regulations will be considered final. We will continue to share information on the regulatory development process as it becomes available.

As full-chain traceability creeps closer to implementation producers are encouraged to look at traceability funding opportunities under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (or CAP) as 35% up to a maximum of \$10,000 can be obtained for project costs associated with the acquisition, installation and upgrading of equipment directly linked to the implementation or improvement of a traceability system. For more information, please call the OSCIA office at 1 800-265-9751 or visit their website www.ontariosoilcrop.org.

If you have additional questions about BFO's position on traceability I would encourage you to visit the traceability section under the Issues tab on the BFO website at: www.ontariobeef.com/policy-issues/issue/traceability.aspx or contact the BFO office directly for more information.

Thank you for taking the time to raise your concerns regarding the costs and benefits of traceability, and the importance of information flow up and down the beef supply chain. BFO will make sure that the desire for information flow is included in our comments once the regulatory framework for traceability is published in Canada Gazette Part I.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Will Stoneman (Mover)
Elizabeth MacDonald (Seconder)
Wilbert Rowntree (Advisory Councillor)





January 3, 2019

Adrian J. Verhoeven
President
Sudbury-West Nipissing Cattlemen's Association

Dear Adrian,

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 new federal antimicrobial use regulations and the Ontario Livestock Medicine Act regulations restrict the availability of antimicrobials by requiring that beef producers have a veterinarian-client relationship; and

WHEREAS, there are areas of the Province of Ontario that have no veterinarians available or are underserved; and

WHEREAS, this will become an animal welfare issue,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby the provincial government to solve the problem by ensuring that all areas of the province have an available veterinarian and are sufficiently serviced.

The BFO Board of Directors shares your concerns that the new antimicrobial use regulations and restrictions on purchasing prescription livestock medicines will leave beef producers in some parts of the province with reduced access to antimicrobials, which could result in potential animal welfare issues. BFO has actively participated in federal and provincial consultations on the regulatory changes, and has discussed the need to ensure suitable access to veterinarians for livestock producers across the province with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (MENDM), the College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO), the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA), the Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners (OABP), and the Northern Producer Animal Health Network (NPAHN).

Based on our discussions, we believe that addressing this issue will require a combination of short-term and long-term actions. In the short term, we are encouraging all beef producers to immediately seek to establish a veterinarian-client-patient-relationship (VCPR) in order to access prescription livestock medicines, which now include medically important antimicrobials. Part of the VCPR criteria includes a requirement for a veterinarian to have "recent and sufficient knowledge" of an operation, which includes options for telemedicine. For example, a veterinarian could visit a farm once every year or two (depending on the veterinarian and the needs of the farm) but could communicate with the producer by phone or email between visits. Under this arrangement, prescription medications could be mailed



directly to the farm from the veterinarian, Farmers Pharmacy (which has recently announced that it has become an official pharmacy) or Vet Purchasing. These options allow for prescription medications to be shipped to farms within 24 hours in most cases. Producers can also obtain prescriptions for the medications they expect to need at their farm in the future after discussing their antimicrobial use patterns and standard operating procedures with their veterinarian, and keep those medications on hand for future use for the specific intended purpose.

BFO is committed to helping producers without sufficient access to a local veterinarian, and can assist county and district associations by connecting groups of producers in underserved regions with veterinarians from other parts of the province who are willing to engage with these producers in order to initiate and establish a VCPR. Planning a group of farm visits from non-local veterinarians will be more cost and time effective for both veterinarians and producers. In the short term, this will ensure that all beef producers are able to establish a VCPR and access prescription livestock medicines. We encourage all county and district associations and individual producer members to immediately contact BFO Senior Policy Advisor, Katherine Fox, with access to veterinary services issues.

BFO also recognizes the underlying need for more large animal veterinarians in Ontario, particularly in the north, to ensure adequate access to emergency veterinary services and to maintain healthy market competition among veterinary service providers. BFO has investigated the existing programs and funding sources that help incentivize veterinarians to work in northern Ontario and other remote parts of the province. It is apparent that in some cases, the existing incentive programs can be ineffective at attracting and retaining large animal veterinarians. This includes MENDM's Veterinary Assistance Program, which provides veterinarians with financial assistance for travelling to clients and continuing education costs. However, despite the potential shortfalls of existing initiatives, BFO has identified several potential long-term actions that could assist with increasing the number of large animal veterinarians.

The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC), an agency of the provincial government under MENDM, provides strategic economic development programs in northern Ontario. Their Northern Ontario Internship Program has provided funding for one-year placements in northern Ontario for veterinarian students from the Ontario Veterinarian College (OVC). BFO believes there could be potential benefit from amending the program to make it more attractive to veterinary students, such as allowing for two-year work placements. The internship program for veterinary students has had some success in attracting students and encouraging them to consider establishing practices in the north, and opportunities to expand this program are well worth further exploration and advocacy by BFO, which we intend to do.

Another NOHFC program that has potential to help with veterinarian access in northern Ontario is the Northern Business Opportunity Program, which provides business start-up and expansion grants. However, veterinarian services are currently ineligible for this funding. BFO believes that opening this stream to veterinarians with plans for establishing or expanding practices in the north could help improve the availability of veterinary services in the north.

The current NOHFC programs are set to expire on March 31, 2019, and we believe this could be an opportunity for the Ontario beef industry to engage in their review and potential renewal. BFO will request the opportunity to participate in the review of these programs and will provide input on how NOHFC's economic development programs can be improved and better utilized to help attract and

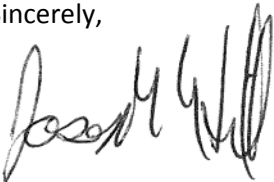


retain veterinarians in the north. We would welcome any input from county and district associations on how NOHFC's programs could be revised or improved for this purpose.

Programs or strategies to target recruitment of students interested in specializing in large animal medicine at OVC is also something that could be further explored. BFO plans to continue investigating opportunities to work with OVC and other stakeholders to identify or help create potential recruitment, endowment or incentive programs that support the education and training of large animal vets in Ontario.

On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, I would like to thank Sudbury-West Nipissing Cattlemen's Association for bringing this important and timely resolution forward. BFO is committed to investigating and providing both short-term and long-term solutions that help mitigate or resolve concerns with access to veterinary services and antimicrobials.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Maria Cerilli, Secretary
Ian Lalonde (MENDM)
Carole Boucher (OMAFRA)
Dr. Maureen Anderson (OMAFRA)
Dr. Dan Shock (OABP)
Gord Mitchell (NPAHN)
Jan Robinson (CVO)





June 21, 2018

Greg Seed
President
Beef Farmers of Temiskaming

Dear Greg,

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

WHEREAS, changes to the sale of medications in Ontario are making it important for farmers to use them prudently; and

WHEREAS, due diligence is important; and

WHEREAS, a vet-client relationship is required to access medications,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby for the creation or reintroduction of the Livestock Medicines course to provide training/certification for farmers.

Due to federal regulation changes from Health Canada that come into effect this year, there will be increased veterinary oversight of antimicrobial use in food-producing animals across Canada. One of these changes is that, as of December 1st, producers will need a veterinary prescription to use medically important (Category I, II, and III) antimicrobials, which will only be available from a veterinarian, registered pharmacist or as a mixed medicated feed from a feed mill.

The aim of these changes is to fight antimicrobial resistance in humans by increasing veterinary oversight of how medically important antimicrobials are used in food-producing animals and encouraging more prudent use. As noted in your resolution, there must be a valid vet-client-patient-relationship for a veterinarian to prescribe medications, which will require veterinarians to be familiar with their clients' on-farm standard operating procedures. Producers will need to work with their veterinarians to establish standard operating procedures and become more knowledgeable on why, when and how medically important antimicrobials should be administered to their animals in specific situations. However, obtaining training or educational certification does not facilitate access or provide another pathway for producers to access livestock medicines.

BFO strongly supports the call for increased education and training in the safe and responsible use of livestock medicines, and we have previously pushed for the reinstatement of the Livestock Medicines Education Program with funding for the tuition cost made available to producers. Ontario offered the

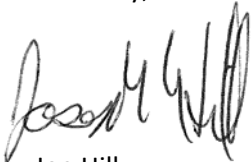


Livestock Medicines Education Program to help promote responsible use and safe handling of antimicrobials on farms, but the program ended several years ago. The curriculum is now available as a 1-day in-person course at Ridgetown College, albeit without government funding. The cost is \$100/person, and a minimum of 10 producers must register for the course to be offered.

While the Livestock Medicines Course can assist in furthering producer education and help improve or validate on-farm practices for audits of verification programs like Verified Beef Production Plus, the course will not provide streamlined access to livestock medicines. The federal and provincial governments have not pursued regulations that would have required or allowed producers to have certification to purchase livestock medicines, and instead the requirements are for veterinary oversight and prescriptions.

On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, I would like to thank Beef Farmers of Temiskaming for bringing this resolution forward. BFO has been actively involved in numerous consultations and discussions with government, the College of Veterinarians of Ontario and other agricultural groups regarding the regulatory changes on antimicrobial use and accessing livestock medicines, and we have shared our serious concerns that producers may have difficulty accessing veterinarians, and therefore prescriptions, in a timely and economical manner. BFO is continuing to work on this file, and we will keep our members updated on any developments.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Greg Seed (as above, Mover)
Paul DeJong (Secunder)





January 14, 2019

Lacey Frizzell
President
Dufferin County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Lacey,

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) has reviewed the following resolution from Dufferin County Cattlemen's Association:

WHEREAS, producers are presenting loads of cattle at processing plants with documented age verification; and
WHEREAS, that verification is being denied in favour of the examination of dentition, causing a loss of revenue to the farmer,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO consider a review and investigation of the regulations surrounding determination of over thirty-month (OTM) age cattle, and that there be enforcement of documented age verification over dentition.

I would like to thank Dufferin County for bringing this resolution forward. Ensuring cattle are not incorrectly assessed as OTM is an important issue that we recognize bears significant financial implications for producers. BFO has investigated the current process for determining the age of cattle in Canada and has and will continue to bring forward individual complaints by producers with that process to both the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs.

The complicating matter with regard to this issue is how to minimize incorrect OTM classifications for Ontario beef producers while fulfilling Canada's obligations under "Controlled BSE Risk" guidelines by the World Organisation for Animal Health. In adhering to these guidelines Canada provides instructions for inspectors when receiving date of birth documentation in order to encourage fair treatment of producers when it comes to accurate age verification of their cattle. However, circumstances exist where dentition will take precedence.

Date of birth documentation may be rejected or otherwise result in OTM classification in one of three circumstances:

- failure of the inspector to receive documentation that has been submitted by the producer,
- an error in the date of birth documentation,
- identification of a fifth incisor during post-mortem examination, a definitive OTM indicator.



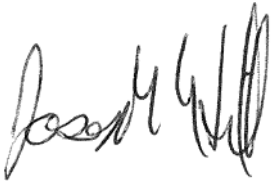
We do not believe the third item on this list to be an endemic issue. However, circumstances undoubtedly arise wherein a transporter, through human error, may fail to provide a producer's date of birth documentation to an abattoir employee when delivering a lot of cattle. Similarly, an abattoir employee may fail to provide documentation to an inspector, or communicate to the inspector that documentation is available. If this occurs, cattle will have their age estimated by the inspector through dentition. Because of natural biological variation, a young animal nearing thirty months of age may be classified as OTM in this case, resulting in an unfair discount.

BFO does not disagree with the way dentition is used in the absence of date of birth documentation. Similarly, we do not disagree with dentition taking precedence in cases where an animal is without a doubt OTM, such as when a fifth incisor is identified during dentition. While we recognize the critical importance of having a robust system that minimizes the risk of BSE entering the food chain, we also consider the failure to accept valid age documentation to be unacceptable. We have communicated this to senior CFIA and OMAFRA veterinarians on several occasions.

Despite this, there are steps producers can take to minimize the likelihood that their date of birth documentation may be overlooked or rejected. We intend to publish recommendations in the next Ontario Beef magazine highlighting what producers can do to minimize potential issues with age documentation at slaughter. Additionally, for your information, we have enclosed a reference document that provides an overview of dentition and date of birth documentation practices used to determine age of cattle in Canada.

On behalf of the Beef Farmers of Ontario membership, thank you for taking the time to raise your concerns regarding the unfair OTM classification of UTM cattle.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

Encl: 1

cc: Diane Griffith (Mover)
Mike Swidersky (Secunder, Advisory Councillor)
BFO Board of Directors



MEMO



TO: Dufferin County Cattlemen's Association
FROM: Michael Campbell
DATE: January 14, 2019
RE: Cattle Age Determination

This memo contains an overview of beef cattle age determination, as a supplementary reference as relates to resolution 18-09, submitted to the Beef Farmers of Ontario Board of Directors by Dufferin County Cattlemen's Association.

Since 2007, Canada has been classified as a "Controlled BSE Risk" country by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). This classification comes with conditions under the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code that are costly for Canadian beef exports, and do not apply to Countries classified as "Negligible BSE Risk".

One of the OIE conditions stemming from being classified as a negligible BSE risk country is to demonstrate that infected domestic animals were born more than 11 years prior. Previously, the most recent birth date of a BSE-infected animal in Canada was 2004, but with a case detected in 2015, six months before Canada would have become eligible for an upgrade in its BSE risk status, Canada will be classified as a controlled risk country at least until 2026.

As part of Canada's adherence to OIE guidelines, the skull and vertebral column from cattle older than 30 months is kept separate from fresh beef and beef products. In order to determine which cattle require this additional processing, Canada verifies the age of cattle through Date of Birth Documentation and/or estimation by examining the animal's tooth development. These guidelines also contain the implementation of anti- and post-mortem inspections.

The World Organization for Animal Health has determined 30 months of age to be a statistically sound benchmark for the point at which BSE in cattle is fully developed and poses a risk of transmission. This is considered the international standard for BSE risk in cattle. Canada and Ontario adhere to the Over Thirty Month (OTM) Rule for the dual purposes of indicating that we align our processing sector with global standards and to minimize the likelihood of an industry-crippling instance of BSE entering the Canadian food supply. Federal rules outline guidelines for using dentition in federal processing plants to estimate whether cattle are older or younger than 30 months of age, and provincial plants adhere to these guidelines.



When is dentition performed?

Dentition is performed up to two times at an abattoir – once during live inspection, and once during post-mortem inspection. If appropriate date of birth documentation is provided indicating the animal is under 30 months of age, live inspection dentition may not be performed. However, in this case dentition should still be expected as part of post-mortem inspection.

What is the process for determining OTM status without date of birth documentation?

The third permanent incisor emerges from the gumline at roughly 30 months of age. It is a coincidence that this takes place at the same age as the cutoff age for BSE risk, and the third incisor is consequently used in federal regulations as an indicator that a bovine is OTM if there is no accompanying date of birth documentation.

There is natural variation between breeds and between individuals in the emergence of the third incisor. The attached table in the Appendix summarizes some of the available literature on the relationship between chronological age of cattle and the emergence of the third incisor.

In speaking with OMAFRA veterinarians, this natural variation has been acknowledged. It is understood as inevitable that some cattle without age documentation will have experienced the emergence of the third incisor before the age of 30 months. However, there is no other reliable measure by which the age of a bovine can be determined to the level of precision that will account for this natural variation; there is no way to verify that a bovine is, for example, 28 months old. The decision to use the third incisor as an OTM indicator is made with probabilities in mind to conservatively prevent larger losses to the industry and impacts on public health. It is considered less costly to the industry for UTM cattle without age documentation to be occasionally classified as OTM, than a loss in confidence in Canadian beef or BSE entering the food supply, resulting in significant trade loss and potential public health consequences.

What is the process for determining OTM status with date of birth documentation?

Although eruption of a third incisor is taken as a general indicator that an animal is older than 30 months, CFIA's policy is to accept birth documentation as proof of the animals' age even if the third and fourth incisors have emerged. The age indicated on date of birth documentation is used as the animal's official age even if the third and fourth incisors have emerged. This is to account for natural variability in when these incisors emerge. However, according to federal regulations, if the fifth permanent incisor has emerged from the gumline, the animal will be deemed OTM regardless of what the animal's date of birth documentation says. From speaking with a veterinarian at OMAFRA, it is almost a biological impossibility that the fifth permanent incisor will emerge before thirty months of age. As a result, it's statistically sound to reject a birth date document that suggests a younger age if this tooth is present.

If the emergence of a fifth incisor does not align with the animal's date of birth documentation, the inspector will note the discrepancy. If it's considered appropriate, an observation report may be forwarded to the area CFIA individual responsible for identification and traceability. This is intended to



identify patterns of improper or accidental date of birth documentation by producers, to allow for follow-up actions on a case-by-case basis. The province does not look for patterns of improper age reporting such as may be done federally.

What constitutes valid date of birth documentation?

According to CFIA guidelines, abattoirs will accept three types of date of birth documentation: CCIA documents, breed registry documents, and ATQ documents.

CCIA Documents

These documents are issued by CCIA once a producer provides their log of calf birth dates and a unique CCIA tag number assigned to each calf. An animal's CCIA tag must match their CCIA documentation.

Breed Registry Documents

These must be consistent with identification of the animal at the time of slaughter via the CCIA tag number, tattoo, line drawing, or photo. The process for obtaining these documents may vary depending on the breed organization.

ATQ Documents

These are documents from Quebec's traceability program. ATQ documents allow for some birth dates to be estimated. In these instances, the documentation will not be accepted as valid.

How is date of birth documentation submitted?

Date of birth documentation is typically provided to the driver transporting the cattle to the abattoir, who is then meant to submit the documentation to the abattoir staff who accepts the shipment. The abattoir staff, in turn, provides the documentation to the inspector. Alternatively, a producer may submit date of birth documentation to an abattoir by email.



APPENDIX

Source: A comparison of the USDA ossification-based maturity system to a system based on dentition, T.E. Lawrence, J.D. Whatley, T.H. Montgomery, and L.J. Perino

Eruption of permanent incisors into oral cavity (mo)

Author(s)	Cattle type	Second pair	
		Mean	SD
Andrews (1973)	Beef and dairy	26.4	0.3
Andrews (1974)	Dairy	27.6	2.2
Andrews (1975)	Beef and dairy	27.5	2.5
Brooks and Hodges (1979)	Beef and dairy	29.5	1.8
Brown et al. (1960)	Dairy	29.8	1.0
Brown et al. (1960)	Beef	30.6	—
Carles and Lampkin (1977)	Zebu (Boran)	30.4	2.7
Dotd and O'Rourke (1988)	Shorthorn	30.2	—
Dotd and O'Rourke (1988)	Brahman × British	32.7	—
England (1984)	Hereford and Brahman	30.0	—
Graham and Price (1982)	Beef	32.1	2.5
Lall (1948)	Indian	36.0	—
Steenkamp (1970)	Hereford and African	32.9	—
Tulloh (1962)	British	—	—
Weiner and Donald (1955)	Dairy	29.3	1.9
Weiner and Forster (1982)	Dairy	30.4	2.1
	Arithmetic mean	30.4	



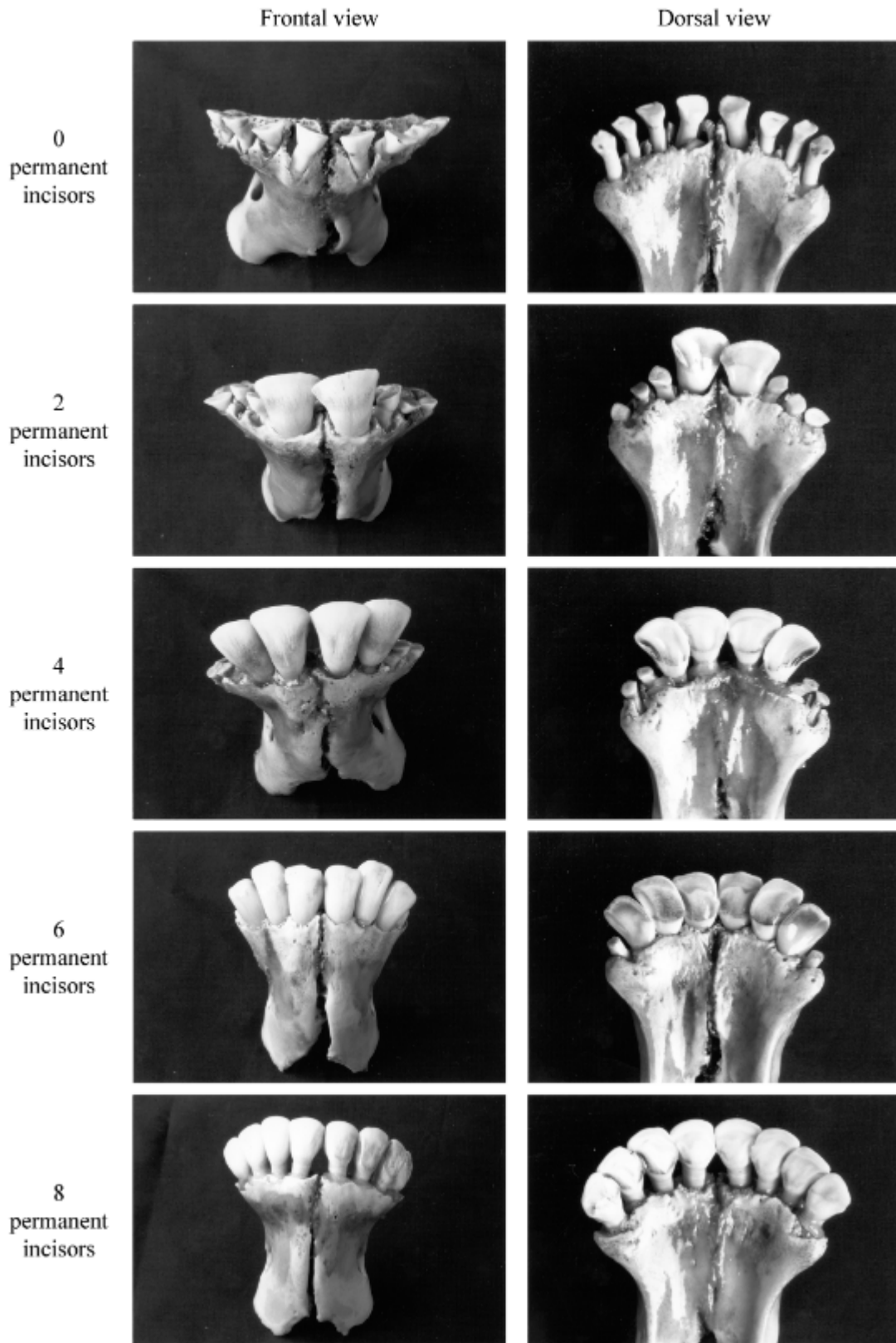


Figure 1. Frontal and dorsal views of the lower jaw, with each set of incisors up and in wear.





June 21, 2018

Elliott Miller
President
Huron County Beef Producers

Dear Elliott,

The following resolution was brought to the floor and passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February of this year:

WHEREAS, applying missing CCIA tags is dangerous and can cause unnecessary carcass bruising just prior to slaughter; and

WHEREAS, most farm chutes are designed for lighter and younger animals; and

WHEREAS, on direct to packer sales of cattle, carcasses maintain their identification to the point of grading; and

WHEREAS, individual PINs are or will be assigned to all cattle farms,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with CCA and CCIA to investigate the feasibility of using CCIA packer PINs for direct to packer sales on shipping manifests as an alternative to applying missing RFID tags to cattle.

This resolution has been presented, debated, and carried at the BFO AGM on several occasions over the last many years. Like previous BFO boards, the current BFO Board of Directors wholeheartedly supports the resolution's intent. We have sent letters to the national organizations and have advocated for a more workable practice that would allow cattle with missing tags to travel directly to a processor without requiring the need to physically retag the animal.

As you know from our previous responses to this issue, there has been no appetite on the part of CFIA or CCIA to help us advance this request within the current regulatory framework. It remains a requirement that all cattle must be tagged with an approved RFID tag prior to departure. Transporting an animal without an approved RFID represents a contravention of Health of Animals Regulations under the *Health of Animals Act*. We have also had conversations with CCA and AAFC about incorporating an allowance under the *Act* to better protect both workers and animals from the undue safety risks associated with retagging, again to no avail.

As we shared in our last update to BFO's membership in 2016, we are pleased that the current proposal for traceability includes language that would repeal the existing requirement preventing the reception of animals not bearing an approved tag, in order to recognize that tags can and often do get lost in

transit. In addition, the proposed changes also include a commitment to repeal the requirement that



currently prevents the shipment of animals not bearing an approved tag, in order to recognize that 100% compliance is difficult to achieve due to the challenge of identifying tags in ears while cattle are being loaded onto a truck.

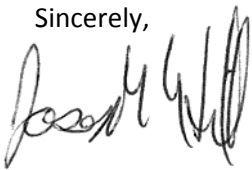
While the plan for cattle traceability does not specifically address the burdensome, costly and often dangerous practice of retagging an animal that has lost its tag, it does acknowledge and attempt to adjust current regulations that fail to recognize the broader tag retention problem.

As we shared with members in the May 2018 edition of Ontario Beef, CFIA has announced their intention to finally release the proposed traceability requirements for cattle in Canada Gazette Part I (CG1) sometime late this year. Working under the assumption that the regulations will be published in CG1 this year, a 75-day period for stakeholders to review and provide comment would follow publication. CFIA will then review and consider all comments received prior to finalizing the regulations and publishing them in Part II of the Canada Gazette. Once published in Part II, the regulations will be considered final. An enforcement date when the new regulations would formally apply would likely be outlined at this stage as well.

Most recently, BFO's Board Director Kim Sytsma brought this issue forward to CCIA's April Board meeting. CCIA responded that since they are not a lobby group, they would defer to CCA to lobby for that change. Although we feel we have exhausted efforts to convince CFIA and our other industry partners to support the producer PIN concept, there will be a new opportunity for BFO to raise this issue as part of our comments that will be submitted to CFIA after the regulatory package is finally released in CG1 for public comment.

We will continue to share information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Doug Scott (Mover)
Matt Shortreed (Secunder)
Harvey Hoggart (Advisory Councillor)





June 21, 2018

David McGonegal
President
Renfrew County Beef

Dear David,

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

WHEREAS, the new Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program has demonstrated flaws in its current process; and
WHEREAS, the on-site livestock investigator should have the authority to make the judgement call on whether compensation is warranted, and
WHEREAS, photos may not adequately portray the severity of the injury resulting in too many legitimate claims being rejected; and
WHEREAS, the current appeal process is onerous and prolonged and lacks transparency when a final decision is made; and
WHEREAS, when compensation is awarded it should be given in a timely manner,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby on behalf of beef producers to have the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program process be more transparent in how damage claims are dealt with and to provide timely payments when approved.

I would like to thank Renfrew County Beef for bringing this resolution forward. As you are aware, the

Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program (OWDCP) provides financial assistance to producers whose livestock, poultry or honey bees have been damaged or killed by wildlife. The OWDCP is an important program for livestock producers in Ontario, particularly for those in the beef and sheep sectors where conflicts with wildlife are common and result in significant economic losses for producers and the broader Ontario agri-food economy.

Although the OWDCP provides livestock producers with an important financial backstop by helping to mitigate predation-related losses, program changes introduced in January 2017 have resulted in a far less accessible and effective program compared to previous versions. In the first full year under the new program rules, the number of declined applications rose from approximately 5% to close to 23%. In addition, 94% of the appeals made by applicants resulted in the initial decision being upheld.

As *Table 1* shows, the overwhelming majority of declined applications were due to insufficient evidence. Results from 2017, the first year under the new program rules, suggest two things in particular:

- 1) Evidence requirements appear to be rigidly applied and narrowly defined, and the scrutiny of application claims has increased significantly.

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- 2) There is a lack of knowledge and awareness of the standards of evidence and other program requirements being used to assess applications.

Table 1

Reason for Decline (2017)	No valid Farm Business Registration Number	No valid Premises Identification Number	OMAFRA insufficient evidence	Investigator insufficient evidence	Predator not eligible	Poultry under min weight	Vet bills missing
# of Applications Declined	43	14	283	47	5	10	13

To address these issues, BFO, Ontario Sheep Farmers and Ontario Federation of Agriculture have been actively lobbying for program changes to ensure producers with valid predation-related claims receive compensation in a fair and timely manner. We were pleased with Minister Leal's response to the push made by industry groups, producers, livestock investigators and municipalities to initiate a program review in 2018. Although the review process is ongoing, Minister Leal recently announced that program changes regarding standards of evidence, market price establishment, training and communications, and the appeals process would be introduced by January of 2019, which is encouraging. The concerns stated in your resolution – specifically with the heavy importance of livestock investigators' assessments in the application review process, the limitations of photo evidence, the transparency and fairness of the appeals process, and the timeliness of payments – have all been noted and communicated to OMAFRA and the Minister's staff.

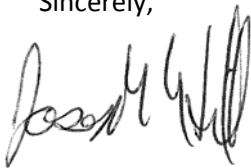
BFO and our partner organizations will continue to work with OMAFRA on developing program enhancements that best serve the needs of beef and other livestock producers in Ontario. It is our hope that OMAFRA will honour the timeline commitment made by Minister Leal despite the uncertainty that a new minister and government bring.

In addition to pursuing formal program changes, BFO has been in active discussions with OMAFRA program staff in an effort to better understand how applications are assessed under various scenarios so we can inform and advise our members. Using this information, BFO hosted a webinar for producers and livestock investigators on May 28th that focused on evidence-gathering requirements and provided recommendations on how to best position future applications for success. That presentation can be viewed on BFO's YouTube channel at any time: www.youtube.com/user/OntarioBeef.

We have heard loud and clear from our membership that the current operation of the OWDCP is producing frustrating and unpredictable results. We recognize that producers are dissatisfied with the current program and we have committed significant staff and board resources to lobby for improvements that we believe will address many of the current program's shortcomings. It is our hope that meaningful program changes will be implemented in the near future.

On behalf of the Beef Farmers of Ontario, thank you for taking the time to raise your concerns regarding the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program. We will keep the membership apprised of any progress and news on this file as it develops.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Gerald Rollins (Mover & Advisory Councillor)
David Campbell (Seconder)





August 7, 2018

Scott Honey
President
Northumberland County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Scott,

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

WHEREAS, predator pressure has increased with a higher population of coyotes, wolves, bears and now cougars in some areas of the province; and

WHEREAS, with little or no hunting or trapping the only population control is starvation or disease in predators; and

WHEREAS, the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program has evolved to the point that farmers are being denied claims for lack of proof or lack of prevention, and

WHEREAS, farm losses go beyond animals being killed and eaten by predators, the stress from being chased and harassed by predators does affect the productivity of a herd or flock.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO lobby the provincial government to enhance the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program and put incentives in place to remove nuisance wildlife.

I would like to thank Northumberland County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. As you are aware, the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program (OWDCP) provides

financial assistance to producers whose livestock, poultry or honey bees have been damaged or killed by wildlife. The OWDCP is an important program for livestock producers in Ontario, particularly for those in the beef and sheep sectors where conflicts with wildlife are common and result in significant economic losses for producers and the broader Ontario agri-food economy.

We have heard loud and clear from our membership that the current operation of the OWDCP is producing frustrating and unpredictable results. We recognize that producers are dissatisfied with the current program and we have committed significant staff and board resources to lobby for improvements that we believe will address many of the current program's shortcomings. It is our hope that meaningful program changes will be implemented in the near future. Enclosed with this letter is a copy of a letter sent in response to a similar resolution brought forward by Renfrew, which provides current OWDCP statistics as well as additional information on the OWDCP program review process initiated by former agriculture minister Jeff Leal.

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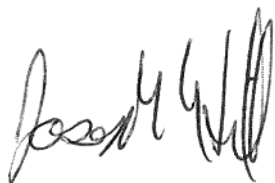


With respect to population control measures, BFO has long advocated for provincial efforts to focus not only on providing fair and timely compensation for losses and injuries but also funding for mitigation tools and infrastructure, hunting and trapping services, and fewer restrictions for implementing population control measures in high density livestock areas and in other parts of the province where conflicts with livestock are high.

Ultimately, BFO will continue advocate for an enhancement to, and expansion of, the suite of programs and tools available to producers in order to address the on-going problem with wolves, coyotes, and other livestock predators.

On behalf of the Beef Farmers of Ontario, thank you for taking the time to raise your concerns regarding Ontario's livestock predator problem. We will keep the membership apprised of any progress and news on this file as discussions move forward with the new provincial government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Hill". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Joe Hill
President

cc: Doug Gray, Advisory Councillor (mover)
Dave Denure (secondar)





November 6, 2018

Jason Richardson
President
Haldimand County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Jason,

The following resolution from Haldimand County Cattlemen's Association was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February:

WHEREAS, the Veal Farmers on Ontario (VFO) collects check-off ("license fee") on the sale of veal cattle and on dairy bob calves sold at sales barns; and
WHEREAS, many dairy bob calves are destined for the beef value chain; and
WHEREAS, BFO does not support the continued status quo of the VFO collecting license fees on dairy bob calves;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO continue to appeal to the Farm Products Marketing Commission that the license fee collected on dairy bob calves is the property of BFO.

For more than three years BFO has been engaged in discussions with the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission (the Commission), and the Veal Farmers of Ontario (VFO) regarding the license fee system for the collection of check-off on dairy bob calves. In our view, the current system is flawed and in need of revision. Bob calves are neither veal animals nor beef animals until they leave their birth farm and for some the final market destination cannot be determined based on their first buyer. It is equally appropriate to consider a bob calf as a future beef animal as it is to consider it a future veal animal. BFO has continually advocated for a more equitable checkoff distribution system for dairy bob calves that reflects this reality.

While we are optimistic that improvements to increase the fairness of the current system will be made, we have nothing substantive to report at this time. The Commission recently stated that it expects BFO and VFO to work together toward an industry solution that resolves this issue in a timely manner and that it will not be in position to make an amendment to the *Farm Products Marketing Act* that includes any change to the definition of veal cattle in the absence of an industry solution on the sharing of bob calf licence fee revenues. Discussions with the Commission and the VFO remain ongoing.

When there is more progress to report we will be sure to inform the membership.

Sincerely,

Joe Hill
President

cc: Will Stoneman (Mover)
Elizabeth MacDonald (Seconder)
Wilbert Rowntree (Advisory Councillor)
BFO Board of Directors

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November 6, 2018

Jason Richardson
President
Haldimand County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Jason,

The following resolution from Haldimand County Cattlemen's Association was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February:

WHEREAS, the beef industry suffers greatly by being a highly divided group of sectors with little information flow; and

WHEREAS, the objectives of the Canadian Beef Industry Strategy simply cannot be met with the current level of information flow; and

WHEREAS, accurate price discovery is all but impossible; and

WHEREAS, investments in voluntary information sharing platforms such as BIXS have not been successful;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO actively pursue options that would incentivize or, if necessary, mandate the flow of information (including, for example, price and carcass data) to all sectors in the supply chain.

BFO agrees there is need for improved price reporting within the Ontario cattle market. We acknowledge that producers require timely, reliable price information to make production and marketing decisions, and that the current system of price reporting provides a quantity of price data which is not adequate for either producer use or price analysis. As a result, we have identified this as a priority area for improvement in the Ontario beef industry and have approached the issue from multiple fronts.

In January of this year, the BFO Board of Directors approved a collaboration between BFO and Canfax to offer a monthly Canfax East publication, which will provide in-depth Ontario-specific market analysis. Over an initial trial period, this publication will be offered for free, before moving to an incentive offering for producers who provide BFO with price information. We believe this added market analysis, paired with increased price reporting, has the potential to doubly improve producer access to information to aid in the management of their operations.

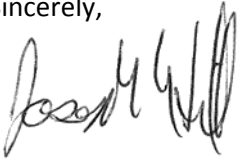
We recognize, however, that there is potential for multiple incentive systems to feed into the flow of information in the Ontario cattle market. Similarly, the need for improved price reporting has been



identified across the country. Consequently, BFO has been in discussion with provincial and federal ministries, industry groups, and other cattle associations regarding areas where opportunity exists to enhance access to cattle market information. We are optimistic these discussions will yield additional improvements to the status quo. If and when this occurs, we will provide an update to the membership. In the meantime, discussions will continue to take place.

I would like to thank the Haldimand County Cattlemen's Association for emphasizing this crucial need within the Ontario beef industry. The BFO Board will continue to be engaged on this issue, and will provide updates on any developments to your county association and the membership at large.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Hill". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Joe Hill
President

cc: Wilbert Rowntree (Seconder & Advisory Councillor)
BFO Board of Directors





January 31, 2019

Jason Richardson
President
Haldimand County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Jason,

The following resolution from Haldimand County Cattlemen's Association was passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February, 2018:

WHEREAS, Beef Farmers of Ontario have long held the position that data capture and sharing should be easy and affordable for producers; and
WHEREAS, beef farmers will soon be required to capture movement and most likely drug use data; and
WHEREAS, there is an opportunity to direct some of the new Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) funding to help with efficient and easy data capture; and
WHEREAS, there is an opportunity to benefit from group buying,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO act to provide producers with access to a comprehensive data capture and management system.

I would like to thank Haldimand County for putting forward this resolution. The ability to accurately measure and manage production data is an important component of a healthy and profitable beef sector.

To assist producers, BFO has provided financial support on several occasions over many years toward the development and enhancement of data capture systems, such as AgSights' bioTrack and Bix Systems national Business Information Exchange Systems (BIXS) software. In September of this year, BFO supported an Agri-Risk Initiatives proposal submitted by AgSights that would help fund improvements to their producer-focused platform. No funding decision on this proposal has been announced to date. Although we believe that tools like bioTrack and BIXS offer comprehensive and affordable means of herd record keeping that can be used to assist and improve on-farm management decisions, we also recognize that more work needs to be done to facilitate the flow of information up and down the chain.

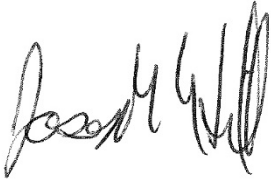
In addition to herd management tools, BFO believes that increased price transparency and improved carcass information flow from abattoirs to cow-calf producers would improve producers' ability to make informed management decisions. Over the past number of months, BFO has been in discussions with provincial and federal ministries, CanFax, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA), and other provincial cattle associations to investigate feasible options for enhancing market price information and reporting. In July, BFO sent a letter to CCA and all other cattle organizations in Canada urging them to



support a proposal for increased price reporting. We will continue to promote this need until a more transparent and effective system of reporting cattle prices in Canada is developed and implemented.

In closing, the BFO Board will continue to provide support for producer herd management tools where funding is available, and where need and opportunity exist. We will also continue to promote the need for improved access to market price data to support Ontario beef producers. BFO would welcome additional recommendations about how BFO can better serve or support the data capture and management system needs of Ontario beef producers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Hill". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Joe Hill
President

cc: Wilbert Rowntree (Seconder & Advisory Councillor)
BFO Board of Directors





January 31, 2019

Bob Dunsmore, President
Perth County Beef Farmers' Association

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 consumer concern with the environment and environmental impact of business; and
WHEREAS, agriculture gets a unfair bad name for its environmental impact; and
WHEREAS, it is hard to educate the public without research and the results of that research on the impact of agriculture on the environment,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO does the research and builds the base of knowledge of agriculture's effect on the environment in Ontario.

BFO's Board of Directors shares your concern that consumers have become increasingly skeptical of the environmental impacts of food production, with beef specifically targeted for its perceived contributions to water pollution, climate change and natural land degradation. Beef is typically depicted as having extremely negative environmental impacts, though there is ample science to the contrary – it is called “the greatest contributor to climate change”, amongst other things.

Conducting research that helps our industry continuously improve its environmental footprint is a research priority for BFO and other organizations that organize or fund beef research, including the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) and the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB). Research on the environmental impacts of beef production and specific production practices, such as rotational grazing or manure management, provides producers with information that helps us remain innovative and progressive.

The agriculture sector has conducted research on a wide array of environmental topics: water quality, land use, greenhouse gas emissions, pollinator health, and wildlife habitat, amongst others. The BFO Board of Directors agrees that the results of this research must be adequately distributed and shared with producers, so accurate information on environmental impacts of agriculture can be better understood. BFO works closely with its partners on communicating research results – for example, BFO is a member of the Livestock Research Innovation Corporation (LRIC), which prioritizes the extension of research results to the livestock sectors. Information on beef-related research is shared with producers through the *Ontario Beef* magazine every issue, and is also shared through BFO's other communication channels, such as its website, social media and e-newsletter, the *Bull-etin Board*. Additionally, BCRC has an active blog and e-newsletter, as well as a regularly updated website with research results.



While BFO, BCRC, LRIC and other organizations prioritize the extension and communication of research results to producers, the BFO Board of Directors also recognizes that more work needs to be done on gathering research results and evidence of the environmental value of Ontario beef production and communicating this information with consumers. BFO's recent consumer research project with Hill + Knowlton Strategies revealed to us that the number one place that consumers look for information on beef production, including environmental impacts, is documentaries. Documentaries that cover beef production consistently take an extremely negative view of beef production that highlights the worst of the global beef industry and do not share information on beef production's environmental value or improvements.

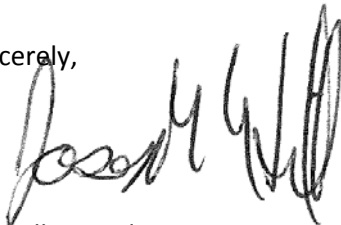
BFO's consumer research also showed us that there is extremely low awareness of any existing messaging or supporting facts regarding the environmental value of beef production and grasslands. When presented with the information, consumers tend to be skeptical, especially if it's not communicated clearly or if it comes directly from the beef industry with no obvious credible sources. This has led BFO to a new project, "Environmental Value of Ontario Beef Production and Agricultural Grasslands", which is funded in part through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. The project will take place in 2019, and will provide the Ontario beef industry with thorough, credible and relevant research and data to support our claims of environmentalism on Ontario beef farms and the ecosystem goods and services provided by beef producers.

In this project, existing research that is relevant to Ontario's climate, beef production systems, soil types, wildlife, etc. will be reviewed, and information and data on the environmental benefits/ecosystem goods and services of Ontario beef production will be gathered and reported to BFO. With assistance of third-party communications and marketing expertise, the gathered information and data on topics such as carbon storage and wildlife habitat will then be used to craft marketing materials, resources and other communications. The messaging and materials developed will aid our industry in marketing Ontario beef, lobbying, policy development, and empowering producers to tell their own stories about how they provide ecosystem goods and services while producing beef.

With credible data and information in hand, the Ontario beef industry will be better equipped to convincingly communicate the environmental value of beef production and debunk myths about the industry's environmental costs. The information gathered and communicated through BFO's project will help differentiate Ontario beef to consumers and illustrate to society the value of pasture and forage production and the Ontario beef industry as a whole. The project will also provide producers with resources to aid in conversations with their communities and customers about what happens in their own backyards on grasslands and beef farms.

On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, I would like to thank Perth County Beef Farmers Association for bringing this important and timely resolution forward. BFO is committed to continuing its support of research that helps our industry understand and continuously improve its environmental impacts, as well as continuing to work with partners to share this research with producers so they are empowered to tell their own stories of environmental stewardship on their farms.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill, President

cc: Murray Brodhagen, Advisory Councillor (mover)
BFO Board of Directors





August 7, 2018

Curtis Calhoun
President
Bruce County Beef Farmers

Dear Curtis,

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

WHEREAS, hot iron branding of cattle in Ontario serves no purpose without brand inspection and registration; and

WHEREAS, it is a cruel and dated practice of identification that has become increasingly harder to justify the practice for identification,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO move to ban the use of hot iron branding in Ontario for all types of cattle in the province.

The BFO Feedlot Committee and the BFO Board of Directors have discussed and evaluated the merits of pursuing a ban on cattle branding in Ontario. BFO staff also consulted with staff from OMAFRA's Animal Health and Welfare Branch, and with representatives from the OSPCA. Through these discussions a number of implementation concerns were raised that, in our opinion, severely challenge any realistic pursuit of this request at this time. Examples of such challenges include:

- conflict with existing U.S. export requirements;
- conflict with some existing breed requirements;
- conflict with the current approved standards of care for the care and handling of beef cattle under the National Farm Animal Care Council's Beef Code of Practice;
- a high prevalence of branded cattle in Ontario sourced from provinces where branding is more prevalent, which could hinder enforcement efforts; and,
- conflict with OSPCA inspection practices that use approved National Farm Animal Care Council Codes of Practice as the standard of care for which enforcement is based.

According to the National Beef Code of Practice, branding remains a necessary form of permanent identification in some parts of Canada. Brands provide proof of ownership and easy identification of cattle at a distance and may be required in some situations (e.g. some community pastures, in remote locations, for export, and by some lending institutions). Face branding is not legal in Canada. Freeze branding is an alternative to hot branding on dark-coloured cattle. However, it is more difficult to do properly. Scientific



evidence indicates branding by any method causes short-term acute pain and stress. Practical methods of local anesthesia during branding are lacking. Until practical alternatives to branding are available, producers can minimize the impact of branding on the animal by using correct techniques.

While we agree with the intent of the resolution we also acknowledge that the integrated nature of our sector, which is closely linked to production systems in other provinces and the United States that more heavily rely on branding, creates a distinct challenge for pursuing Ontario restrictions against the practice, challenges that cannot be immediately addressed until practical alternatives to branding become readily available, and/or the practice is removed as a required or approved practice under the various examples noted in the previous two paragraphs.

BFO's position on branding is that unless required for export or a requirement of a breed association or other program requirement, producers should avoid branding cattle in Ontario entirely. If producers do choose to brand cattle, we strongly recommend that both the recommended and required practices for branding outlined in the National Beef Code of Practice be followed. The good news is the incidence of branding in Canada (hot iron or freeze) has decreased significantly over time as less than 10% of Canadian cattle were branded in 2010-11 compared to more than 25% in 1999.

Branding requirements under the Code of Practice include:

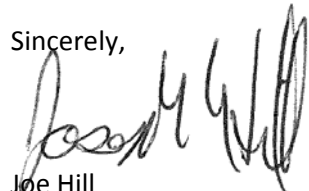
- All cattle must be identified using an approved ear tag as stipulated by applicable regulations
- When branding is required for export, by policy, or as permanent proof of ownership, it must be performed with the proper equipment, restraint and by personnel with training or sufficient combination of knowledge and experience to minimize pain to the animal
- Do not brand wet cattle due to risk of scalding.

Branding recommendations under the Code of Practice include:

- brand size must be appropriate to the size of the animal
- avoid re-branding cattle
- replace surgical alterations of cattle for identification purposes (such as wattling, ear-splitting) with less invasive practices. Note that these are very rare practices
- consult your veterinarian for advice on the availability and feasibility of controlling pain associated with branding
- maintain all cattle identification equipment in good working order.

On behalf of the Beef Farmers of Ontario, thank you for taking the time to raise your concerns regarding cattle branding in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: Ken Schaus (Mover)
Jarrett Johnson (Seconder)
Steve Thede (Advisory Councillor)





June 21, 2018

Curtis Calhoun
President
Bruce County Beef Farmers

Dear Curtis,

The following resolution from Bruce county was brought to the floor and passed at the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) annual general meeting in February of this year:

WHEREAS, the current Order in Council for the Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program has resulted in undesired changes which increase Administrator work load (cost to member) and potential tax problems for members,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with the Ontario Feeder Finance Committee to continue lobbying the Minister of Agriculture and OMAFRA for positive changes to the Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program in a timely manner.

The BFO Board of Directors acknowledges that some of the changes that were made to the Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program at the last program review created additional and unnecessary administrative burdens and other undesirable new requirements that need to be reconsidered.

BFO, in cooperation with the Feeder Finance Executive Committee, has been working with OMAFRA for over a year in an attempt to address many of the concerns that have been raised, including:

- 1) the frequency of credit checks;
- 2) assurance account top-up requirements;
- 3) assurance account uses and deposit return;
- 4) minimum co-op membership;
- 5) member interest in remaining cattle after loan has been cleared; and
- 6) recognition of member interest in financed cattle from a tax perspective (beneficial ownership).

Progress with OMAFRA has been slow but positive. We have arrived at a general consensus with OMAFRA on feasible changes that serve to address many of the issues identified above. However, before the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs can sign off on the proposed suite of changes the Ministry of Finance must vet the package to ensure the changes do not significantly increase the government's liability under the program nor conflict with any existing financial statutes. Unfortunately, the election slowdown has significantly delayed completion of this process.



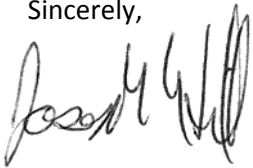
While we are optimistic that positive changes will be made to the program, the timetable for implementation is rather uncertain given there will be a new government and likely a new Minister in place charged with overseeing this process.

In addition to the specific changes BFO is seeking under Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program we also continue to support the Ontario Co-operative Association, of which BFO is a member, in their lobby efforts to modernize the *Ontario Co-operative Corporations Act* (CCA). One of the most important changes the Ontario Co-operative Association has been pursuing is an exemption for certain co-operatives from the requirement to conduct an annual external audit. Providing additional flexibility to co-ops about how and when an audit should be conducted would provide an opportunity for co-ops to greatly reduce their annual operational costs. Again, despite the provincial government's commitment to initiate a comprehensive review of the CCA, the change in government has created uncertainty around if and when this will take place.

Finally, BFO will continue to work toward the completion of a Terms of Reference with the Feeder Finance Executive Committee to formalize our working relationship with the goal of increasing cooperation between the BFO Board of Directors, OMAFRA, individual feeder cattle loan co-operatives, and agricultural lenders toward the betterment of the program.

Thank you for taking the time to raise your concerns with the Ontario Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program. BFO will continue to pursue changes that will benefit Ontario feeder co-operatives and the members they serve.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Jarrett Johnson (Mover)
Mike Jeffray (Secunder)
Steve Thede (Advisory Councillor)





October 1, 2018

Edward Fox
President
Middlesex County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Ed,

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

WHEREAS, there are significant government program dollars invested in expanding and supporting the beef industry in Northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS, the Beef farmers in Southern Ontario experience exactly the same challenges, **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** lobby for and coordinate similar funding to allow all Ontario beef producers to be on a level playing field with access to similar funding for industry growth and expansion to promote sustainability.

All Ontario beef producers experience a multitude of challenges and opportunities, many of which are shared across the province and some of which can be more specific to the operation, its location or other factors. BFO's Board of Directors agrees that industry growth and expansion are needed for the long-term sustainability of Ontario's beef industry, and BFO strongly supports any and all initiatives aimed at increasing the cow herd in all parts of Ontario.

It is BFO's long-standing position that policies and regulations, in general and whenever possible, should be consistent across the province in order to provide a level playing field for all beef producers. For example, BFO typically advocates for regulations to be standardized across Ontario so no producer is disadvantaged by where he or she lives, and/or advocates for appropriate funding or support programs to be provided to the producers affected by increased regulation, in order to help counteract any negative impacts. However, the nature of the beef industry is different in northern Ontario from southern Ontario, with different challenges and opportunities between the regions. Accordingly, BFO's cow herd expansion initiatives in both northern and southern Ontario have been designed to address different challenges, audiences and regions, as producers in the south may need different programs and tools for expansion than those in the north.

Government support programs for agriculture are typically consistent across the province, with some exceptions. Northern Ontario farmers have access to some funding programs that are not available

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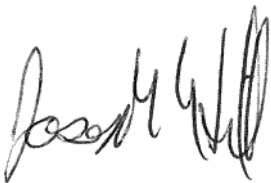
elsewhere in the province through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC), which is an agency of the provincial government. NOHFC offers business expansion and small business start-up grants to many different industries, as well as funding for land clearing and tile drainage. There are also some environmental programs that only offer cost-share funding to producers in specific watersheds or regions, often around the Great Lakes or Lake Erie (such as the Lake Erie Agriculture Demonstrating Sustainability program).

There are currently no grants or cost-share programs from government or industry that are targeted specifically to beef farmers or the beef industry in northern Ontario, and BFO will not be providing any funding to individual producers for expanding the cow herd in any region. The board commissioned the cow herd expansion projects for northern and southern Ontario to address serious concerns for Ontario's beef industry infrastructure and sustainability, and sees these projects as good investments in the long-term health of the industry.

Looking to the future, BFO will continue to promote and drive province-wide herd expansion, as the board remains committed to promoting industry growth through expansion as identified in BFO's strategic plan. The BFO board has prioritized a lobby request to take to the new provincial government for a program for the Ontario beef industry that would provide funding assistance for perimeter fencing, water systems and land clearing. There are also a large number of programs and services already available to all Ontario beef farmers, including the Risk Management Program, Beef Breeder Co-op Program, Feeder Cattle Loan Guarantee Program, Canadian Agricultural Loans Act, Forage Rainfall Production Insurance, AgriStability, AgriInvest, and the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program.

On behalf of the BFO Board of Directors, I would like to thank the Middlesex County Cattlemen's Association for bringing this resolution forward. We would welcome any opportunity to discuss the contents of this letter in more detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Jamie O'Shea (Advisory Councillor, mover)
Wade Graham (seconder)





November 6, 2018

Rob Unsworth
President
Wellington County Cattlemen's Association

Dear Rob,

In July, a letter was sent to the Wellington County Cattlemen's Association to your attention providing an update on discussions regarding resolution 18-21 - *Timing of Ineligible Sharecost Expenses*. As the letter indicated, the Board deferred the resolution to the BFO Governance Committee for further discussion.

At the October Governance Committee meeting, a recommendation was made in response to the request outlined in resolution 18-21, which was subsequently adopted by the Board of Directors at the October 29th meeting. As a result, beginning with the 2020 program year (December 1, 2019 to November 30, 2020), Sharecost program decisions will be moved from March of the current program year to September of the prior year to allow program details to be communicated annually in October to counties and districts in advance of the start of the program year (December 1). Currently, program details are confirmed by the Board each March after the start of the program year on December 1. The decision-making process for the upcoming 2019 Sharecost program year, which will run from December 1, 2018 to November 30, 2019, will remain status quo with decisions being made in March of 2019 and communicated in April.

I hope you find this to be an adequate response to your resolution. BFO staff would be happy to answer any questions you may have surrounding the process that will be implemented for the 2020 Sharecost program year.

Sincerely,

Joe Hill
President

cc: Karen Bertin (mover)
Michael Cook (secondar)
BFO Board of Directors

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November 12, 2018

David McGonegal
President
Renfrew County Beef

Dear David,

The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) received the following resolution from Renfrew County Beef in July:

WHEREAS, it has been reported that during catastrophic events like barn fires, highway accidents, etc.; onsite law enforcement personnel have been unwilling or unable to adequately euthanize suffering livestock and have been unwilling to allow qualified civilian personnel to capably euthanize suffering livestock. **WHEREAS**, many people in Beef Farmers of Ontario have been trained in euthanizing animals through courses such as Rollover Rescue Course and training to become Animal Care Advisors through OSPCA. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO** work with other agencies, organizations, and authorities to develop a protocol that will address the necessity of humanely euthanizing livestock.

I would like to thank Renfrew County Beef for bringing this resolution forward. BFO fully recognizes the current gaps in cattle emergency response and has invested time and resources on a number of initiatives aimed at improving preparations and response to emergencies involving cattle.

In the fall of 2017, BFO partnered with Farm & Food Care Ontario (FFCO) to create and distribute a Livestock Truck Emergencies Manual to 450 fire departments across the province as well as establish the Ontario Cattle Emergency Network (OCEN), a widespread network of Ontario beef producers willing and able to lend their time and expertise to first responders of livestock truck rollovers. In many cases, these producers have taken responsibility for euthanizing cattle at the site of accidents, a role we recognize creates safety and liability concerns. BFO believes increased training of first responders and access to appropriate euthanasia equipment is desperately needed in order to help relieve the current burden being placed on volunteer producers assisting in the euthanasia of compromised cattle. To this end, we have committed to working with Farm & Food Care Ontario and the Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance (NOFIA) to provide training and information on cattle emergency situation management – including proper euthanasia methods and procedures – to first responders.

Following the establishment of OCEN, there has been demand, from numerous first responders, for training in the management of livestock emergency situations. As a result, FFCO initiated a project to provide training to first responders along the major transportation corridors in Southern Ontario. BFO provided support for this application, and has agreed to provide input on the development of cattle euthanasia protocols, which will be incorporated into first responder training.



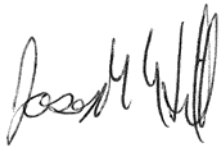
Similarly, NOFIA recently submitted a multi-year project proposal with the support of BFO focused on Northern Ontario. The proposed project will provide hands-on livestock handling and euthanasia training, develop an online training course, and the create an emergency livestock response preparedness guide specific to municipalities in the region. We are optimistic that the proposed project will receive the funding approval necessary to begin implementation.

In addition, BFO continues to support the development of OCEN's capacity to assist in the response to cattle truck rollovers across the province. We recently submitted a proposal for funding to develop operating procedures and purchase emergency response equipment for targeted locations in Northern Ontario.

BFO will continue to encourage active communication between organizations working on this issue to ensure knowledge and experience is developed and shared, and that efforts to address livestock emergencies, including proper euthanasia practices, are coordinated and complementary. Additionally, we will follow up on a recommendation to pursue a meeting with the leadership of the Ontario Provincial Police to help improve OPP's involvement in future incidents.

On behalf of the Beef Farmers of Ontario membership, thank you for taking the time to raise your concerns regarding the humane euthanasia of livestock in emergency situations. BFO will continue to seek ways to further the development of a robust, sustainable system for the management of livestock emergencies so that incidents can be resolved quickly, safely, and humanely.

Sincerely,



Joe Hill
President

cc: Myles England (Mover)
David Campbell (Seconder)
Gerald Rollins (Advisory Councillor)
BFO Board of Directors





June 21, 2018

Keith Currie
President
Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Clarence Nywening
President
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

Dear Sirs,

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

WHEREAS, the cost of installing 911 numbers on vacant farmland is up to \$450.00 per entrance; and
WHEREAS, there were gaps in the original installation process, and the absence of these signs has implications for safety concerns in emergency situations,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BFO work with municipalities to ensure that signs can be installed at no cost if requested by property owners

We are forwarding you this resolution given the general nature of the issue. It would be helpful to know, from our leading General Farm Organizations, if either board has identified entrance permits and/or 911 address sign installation costs as a concern and what advice or recommendations, if any, have been offered to the respective municipal and/or provincial authorities to address the inequity in cost burden across the province.

Based on our understanding, not all rural property entrances have civic address signs or an emergency address that can be found through the Geographic Information System (GIS) used by first responders. This is especially true for vacant rural land and farmland that has multiple entrances. In the event of an emergency, first responders may have difficulty locating rural properties without signs or determining where on the property the emergency is taking place.

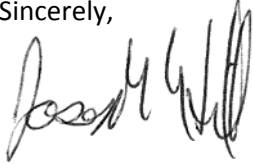
We further understand that each municipality has its own process and fee structure associated with obtaining a civic address and the signage to accompany it. Some municipalities provide signage for free whereas others charge for the cost of the sign, which typically costs around \$30. Depending on the property and the municipality, some entrances may require an entrance permit in order for an entrance to be registered and sign installed. An entrance permit may greatly add to the costs of installing signage. Total costs for installing signs on rural land can range from \$0 to \$400+ depending on the municipality and whether a new entrance permit is required.



While the cost of a sign or an entrance permit could be viewed as a normal, and relatively low cost of doing business, the variability in price creates an uneven playing field for a service that should be viewed as an essential component of effective emergency response.

On behalf of the Beef Farmers of Ontario Board of Directors, thank you for taking the time to consider this issue. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Hill". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Joe Hill
President

cc: BFO Board of Directors
Paul Kinlin (Mover)
Jim McComb (Secunder)
Darrell Russett, Advisory Councillor, Beef Farmers of Hastings County
Darren Farrell, President, Beef Farmers of Hastings County

