

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Hay, We Did It!

The Beef Farmers of Ontario Winds Down the Feed Component of the Northwestern Livestock Emergency Assistance Initiative

October 14, 2021 (Guelph, Ont.) – The Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) is pleased to share the Feed Component of the Northwestern Livestock Emergency Assistance Initiative has officially concluded. BFO was named as the administrator of the initiative when the announcement was made by the Government of Ontario on July 27 to provide emergency aid to producers in the Rainy River and Kenora Districts who were deeply impacted by devastating drought conditions throughout this year’s growing season. On August 3, BFO launched the application process for affected producers, and quickly began sourcing feed and transport to provide much-needed forage relief to those in need in the two districts. Through collective efforts, the initiative provided over 5.8 million pounds of hay to 129 livestock farmers to feed over 11,000 head of beef and dairy cattle, sheep and goats in the Rainy River and Kenora Districts. Over the course of 60 days, the hay travelled to those in need on a total of 120 trucks, by CN Rail, and endured a collective voyage of over 200,000 kilometers from regions in southern and northeastern Ontario.

“On behalf of our members in the northwest, we are so grateful for the response from Minister Thompson and the Government of Ontario to help Ontario’s livestock farmers navigate the drought of 2021,” says Rob Lipsett, BFO President. “When we work together, we can accomplish great things and we sincerely appreciate the efforts of all of our partners and donors who played pivotal roles in providing an incredible amount of hay to the producers of Rainy River and Kenora in such a short time.”

“I very much appreciate the impact this drought has had on farmers, as well as their candor when discussing this issue. That is why our Government acted quickly to provide the emergency assistance to those affected by it,” shares Lisa Thompson, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. “Certainty is paramount when people work 365 days a year to produce quality food close to home, so when the farmers in northwestern Ontario needed assistance, we listened and took appropriate action. This emergency initiative was a great success thanks to BFO and we are grateful for their willingness to partner with our government.”

Aside from providing relief through the government-supported Northwestern Livestock Emergency Assistance Initiative, BFO was overwhelmed by the response from fellow farmers who wanted to lend a helping hand by providing either donated forages or offers of surplus hay for sale. On behalf of farmers in the northwest, BFO humbly accepted over \$64,000 in financial donations to support its efforts, and used the funds to purchase and transport additional feed for the region.

BFO would like to thank this incredible list of generous financial, feed and transport donors, and especially those who provided their valuable time to help BFO execute this initiative with extreme professionalism and precision:



- Chris Martin, Marhaven Agri Inc., hay and transport procurement
- Fritz and Gise Trauttmansdorff, Dunlea Farms Ltd., hay and transport procurement
- Jeff Pollard, Stratton drop site management
- Evan Debney, Kenora drop site management
- The many hay suppliers, transport companies, and drivers from across the province

Forage Donations

Frew Family
 Mark Horst, Marcrest
 Lucknow Kinsmen Club
 Jason Fuerth
 Larry Miehls
 George Dickenson
 Roger Thurston
 Brian Pelleboer
 Robert Halliday
 Ken and Marie McNabb
 Dan and Greg Schantz
 Nathan Fried
 James and Francis Johnston

Transport Donations

Titan Trailers Inc.
 Jerry Martens
 Mark Horst, Marcrest

Financial Donations

Ontario Federation of Agriculture
 Essex Federation of Agriculture
 Hastings Federation of Agriculture
 Kent Federation of Agriculture
 Lambton Federation of Agriculture
 Niagara Federation of Agriculture
 Simcoe Federation of Agriculture

BACKGROUND

The Government of Ontario provided \$1,005,000 in emergency funding to BFO to help deliver emergency feed relief to all impacted livestock farmers in the Rainy River and Kenora Districts. The intent of the Northwestern Livestock Emergency Assistance Initiative was to help protect and maintain the breeding herd while the federal-provincial AgriRecovery assessment was being completed in the province.

Eligible livestock producers (ruminants, camelids and equine) who received support through this initiative were required to be residents of the Rainy River and Kenora Districts, have a valid premises identification number and farm business registration number, and attest to experiencing an immediate livestock feed shortage as a result of the extreme dry conditions of the 2021 growing season. The intake for applications closed on August 23, 2021.

The Beef Farmers of Ontario represents 19,000 beef farmers in Ontario by advocating in the areas of sustainability, animal health and care, environment, food safety, and domestic and export market development. BFO's vision is help foster a sustainable and profitable beef industry, and have Ontario beef recognized as an outstanding product by our consumers.

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