



*Long-Term Thinking  
for Today's Issues*

## **Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario**

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February 12, 2008

Hon. Leona Dombrowsky  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Legislative Assembly of Ontario  
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Hon. Leona Dombrowsky:

### **Re: Support for Diversified Farms when Designing Support Payment and Programs**

The Provincial Council of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) would like to take this time to thank the Ontario Government for showing its support for Ontario's pork, beef and horticulture sectors. Providing emergency support in a time of great need for the industry is the first step in preserving these industries.

The current emergency support payment for beef, pork and horticulture fails to support diversified farms. We believe these programs fundamentally differ from the government's message that encourages diversified farm operations.

At the same time, we do believe support payments should be reflective of need. We are also aware of the necessity to avoid trade action on the part of other countries.

The current payment provides a 12% ANS payment for farms with at least 51% percent of their operation dedicated to pork or beef. For Horticulture, this payment is 2% with at least 51% percent of their operation dedicated to horticulture.

There needs to be a way to provide support for those who are involved in beef, pork and horticulture production but fail to meet the 51% criteria. The CFFO proposes that there be a sliding scale of support, perhaps divided into quadrants of support. Using the recent pork and beef payment as a guide, we would have preferred to see the following:

- a. 76-100% of ANS at 14%
- b. 51-75% of ANS at 12%
- c. 25-50% of ANS at 10%
- d. 0-24% of ANS at 8%

The sliding scale provides diversified farms with a measure of support, while dividing the support structure into quadrants allowing the government to better provide assistance to where it is needed most.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Kikkert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John Kikkert, President  
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario