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## **Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

Subject: **Action against subsidized U.S. corn supported by the CFFO**

Guelph, October 2005. Delegates to the Provincial Council of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario gave strong support to attempts by Canadian corn producers to reduce the impact of subsidized American corn on the Ontario farm economy.

“Subsidized U.S. corn causes depressed prices, lower incomes for Ontario farm families and higher payouts from our government’s assistance programs,” said John Kikkert, the CFFO’s president. “Our farmers are tired of planting corn for which they can’t expect a decent return from the marketplace. In addition, our government support programs aren’t adequate for the task.”

In a statement of support adopted at the Provincial Council meeting, CFFO delegates from across the province noted that subsidized American corn works against long-term economic and environmental sustainability for family-based farms in Ontario. The statement goes on to say that the long-term sustainability of Ontario agriculture is on a much firmer basis when grain production and livestock production are managed together in a land-based agriculture.

“Part of Ontario’s livestock sector is being propped up by cheap, subsidized American corn,” said Henry Stevens, a CFFO vice-president. “In our view, that’s not sustainable and it also reduces the competitiveness of more stewardly, land-based, small and moderate size family farms.”

Delegates also noted that any resulting import duties on subsidized U.S. corn will cause price increases for ethanol plants, livestock farms that don’t produce their own feed and other industrial processors. However, the adopted statement said that these businesses should base their business plans on the real cost of producing corn in Ontario.

“Some of the affected businesses can’t short-change Ontario corn growers and rely on U.S. taxpayers to make their inputs affordable,” said Jenny Denhartog, a CFFO vice president.

By way of backgrounding, the Canadian Corn Producers (corn groups from Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec) have started a three-part action against subsidized U.S. grain corn coming into Canada:

- A request to the Canadian Border Services Agency to put countervailing and anti-dumping duties on U.S. grain corn;
- A request to the Canadian government to start a World Trade Organization dispute settlement proceeding about the adverse effects of subsidized corn production; and

- A second request to the Canadian government to include corn on the list of target products for retaliation against the U.S. policy that allows individuals and corporations to profit from the duties collected on their successful anti-dumping activities.

- 30 -

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