



*serving agriculture  
since 1954*

## **Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario**

5653 Hwy 6 North, RR5 Guelph Ontario N1H 6J2

Voice (519) 837-1620 Fax (519) 824-1835

E-mail: [cffomail@christianfarmers.org](mailto:cffomail@christianfarmers.org)

Web site: [www.christianfarmers.org](http://www.christianfarmers.org)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Subject: **Ontario's grain farmers need an improved safety net**

Guelph, October 2005. A proposed risk management program put forward by Ontario's grain and oilseed groups has been endorsed by the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario.

"The CFFO believes the grain and oilseed proposal has a number of encouraging features," said John Kikkert, the CFFO's president. "Federal safety net programs aren't working well for our crop producers who have to compete with the government treasuries of Quebec and the United States. We're optimistic this proposal will help address those problems."

Endorsement of the grain and oilseed risk management program came at the CFFO's Provincial Council, a meeting of delegates from the Federation's 22 district associations. But while they endorsed the risk management proposal, delegates did make their endorsement dependent on changes to one main feature of the program --- the size of a proposed cap on government payouts.

"The CFFO wants to see no more than \$100,000 of government money paid out per farm business or person," said Kikkert. "Farm businesses also shouldn't be able to receive more than one payment annually, and the cap on those payments needs to be indexed to the current price of growing a crop."

CFFO delegates found a host of good reasons for supporting the risk management proposal put forward by Ontario's grain and oilseed groups. For example, in addition to providing support for the economies of rural communities, delegates spoke positively about the fact that the proposed program encourages each farmer to manage his or her own risk in grain production.

"Some of the key design features of the proposed program either encourage farmers to enroll in training programs, or require them to participate in other government programs that help cut their production or price risk," said Henry Stevens, a CFFO vice-president. "Those design features show a real concern for a responsible use of public financial support."

CFFO delegates also agreed to give further study to some of the implications of the proposed risk management program.

“Ontario has been a net importer of grain and oilseed for quite awhile,” noted Jenny Denhartog, a CFFO vice-president. “One of our key concerns is how the program will need to be adjusted if Ontario ever moves towards an export position.”

For a detailed copy of the CFFO position statement on the proposed risk management program, please visit the CFFO’s website at [www.christianfarmers.org](http://www.christianfarmers.org). You’ll find it under a link to Policies and Issues.

- 30 -

*For more information, please contact:*

John Kikkert	CFFO President	(905) 957-7766
Jenny Denhartog	CFFO Vice-President	(519) 848-2283
Henry Stevens	CFFO Vice-President	(519) 343-5883
Elbert van Donkersgoed	Strategic Policy Director	(519) 837-1620