



*Long-Term Thinking  
for Today's Issues*

## Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

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## NEWS RELEASE

### Subject: **CFFO Urges for Reasonable Limits to Public Support Payments**

Guelph – Members of the Provincial Council of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) recently expressed their concerns about the possible increasing of limits on Canadian agricultural support programs, AgriInvest and AgriStability.

The CFFO has always been in favour of focusing public policy and support programs on the needs of family-based farms, described as “farm operations where the majority of the labour, capital and management are in the hands of the farming family”. Members of the Council agreed that raising the cap to a level where one individual would be able to collect four or five million dollars is not prudent use of taxpayers’ money. It is the members’ opinion that farms that have access to enough land to support their livestock, and that produce a variety of commodities, are more likely to succeed without government support in the long term, and that those farms are more likely to exist with lower limits. Only a few farmers will benefit from the higher caps.

According to Henry Stevens, Vice-President, “Those who choose to specialize by getting larger actually contribute to the destruction of the market place for those farm families who choose to have moderate size farms on which a variety of crops and livestock are grown. Land based diversification has historically been the business model for agriculture.” CFFO Director Lorne Small added that granting large sums of taxpayers’ money to those large operators allows them to create further distortions in the local rural community by allowing them to outbid their smaller neighbours for resources, such as land rents.

The amount of funding available to agricultural support programs is a fixed amount. In reaction to the request by a number of commodity groups to drastically increase, or even remove the limit on government support payments per farm, a letter has been written to federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz. It urges the Minister to cap the AgriStability program support at \$300,000 per farm, thereby ensuring that, when needed, a greater number of dollars would be available to a greater number of farmers.

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