



*Long-Term Thinking
for Today's Issues*

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FARMS NEED UNHINDERED ACCESS TO WATER SUPPLY

GUELPH, Ontario - The Provincial Council of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) recently reconsidered a previous position statement with regards to the amount of water an agricultural operation should be allowed to take without being required to have a permit or put a monitoring and reporting system in place.

The discussion that led to the decision to support the proposal to allow water taking without additional fees and monitoring systems for agricultural purposes, (as well as fire protection and drinking water) up to 100,000 liters took into consideration modern-day family farm sized operations, and the water requirements for the different commodities. Participants recognized that there is not an unlimited amount of water available to us in Ontario. At the same time, it is not uncommon for farms to require more than the previously supported amount of 50,000 liters per day, especially when irrigation is necessary.

"Between livestock water use, wash water and crop spraying, it isn't hard to use more than 50,000 liters a day at certain times of the year," mentioned John Markus, a mixed livestock and cash crop producer who also provides custom work. And while there is some notion that the need for a permit could encourage conservation, participants agreed that an incentive-based approach will work better than the regulatory method.

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