

# Predation and Crop Harvesting by Wildlife

## A CFFO Policy Statement

**Whereas** wildlife is on the rise throughout our farming countryside;

**Whereas** the cost of predation and crop harvesting by wildlife<sup>1</sup> increases as the numbers of wildlife increase;

**Whereas** many members of the public value a healthy landscape that supports abundant wildlife even though these wildlife consume or destroy farm production;

**Whereas** a significant part of the increase in wildlife throughout our farming countryside is the result of deliberate government policies;

**Whereas** the costs of wildlife predation and crop harvesting are distributed very unevenly among farmers, some facing significant losses;

**Whereas** existing compensation and wildlife management programs were not designed for today's circumstances;

**Whereas** wildlife management by farmers results in direct costs in addition to the loss of crops and livestock;

**Whereas** farm enterprises that target niche and value-added markets often lose much more than average values assigned to predation and crop harvesting by wildlife;

**Whereas** the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan delivers inadequate support for beneficial management practices (BMPs) for preventing wildlife damage;

### **Therefore be it resolved**

**That** we endorse the predation compensation program through municipalities where municipalities pay reimbursement based on market value<sup>2</sup>.

**That** the expansion of production insurance (APF pillar) include compensation at market value rates for the loss of crops to wildlife and the destruction of farm infrastructure by wildlife<sup>3</sup>.

**That** beneficial management practices (BMPs) for preventing wildlife damage (protective fencing for livestock, guard animals, decoy crops, scaring devices) be supported by a 90% cost share program (60-40 federal/provincial participation).

**That** MNR vigorously publicize its policies re deer removal and protection of property.

### **Further be it resolved**

**That** the loss of crops to wildlife be recognized as an environmental good and service as future safety net programs become payments for environmental goods and services.

*Adopted*

*Provincial Council*

*Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario*

*November 9, 2005*

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<sup>1</sup> Includes roaming dogs.

<sup>2</sup> This means removal of the current cap on predation compensation.

<sup>3</sup> This should be set up as a specific peril rider, similar to the riders used for hail on the prairies.