

CFFO IS:

Christian: Committed to being up-front about the Christian value system that motivates our members. We look to the Christian scriptures for guidance for life and thought.

Professional: Committed to enabling our members as producers, as marketers and as citizens. Involved in a broad range of agricultural, rural and social issues that impact the quality of the family life and businesses of our members.

Family Farm: Committed to a farm culture that is entrepreneurial, collegial and family-worked.

Stewardship: Balancing the economic value that our culture places on food production with the enduring intrinsic value of our Lord's creation: people, family, land, plants and animals.

Compassionate: support for those who take the brunt of the economic and social change that stresses all participants in agriculture. Government policy for agriculture needs to focus on the people of agriculture as much as the profitability of farm businesses.

Targeted: Intervention in farm production and marketing is at times appropriate, but the purposes should be very clear and very specific. In the long-term, less intervention is better than more.

We believe... Faith guides all of life's activities, private and public. Faith and values are where we start. We are Interdenominational and invite the participation of those who see land, water, animals and plants - the source of agriculture's wealth - as gifts from God.

Our agenda... Helps our members work out their faith in their farming practices and helps governments in their policies and programs to honour our Creator and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Our Members

Farm Families: Our farm families operate their farm enterprises as both a way of life and a business. Many have two or more family members involved in the enterprise. Our membership currently stands at 4,337. It includes not only full-time commercial family farm entrepreneurs, but also part-time, hobby and lifestyle farmers - all those who have directed their farm organization fee to CFFO when they register through AGRICORP with OMAFRA as part of the farm business registration process (and not requested a refund).

Faith: Historically, most have been participants in Christian churches of the Reformed tradition. A growing number now come from a broad range of denominations, including: Anglican, Baptist, Roman Catholic, Mennonite, Pentecostal, Presbyterian and United.

Commercial: A good number of the members of CFFO are full-time commercial family farm entrepreneurs - dependent for our family incomes on the profits from our farm enterprises. We are part of the 25% of family-worked farms who produce 75% of Ontario's food.

Commodities: We are involved in a wide range of the commodities produced in Ontario. Only beef is not represented among our membership in a ratio comparable to the number of beef production enterprises in Ontario.

Size: Farm size is larger than the provincial average. An increasing number of the enterprises now involve more than one family member full-time or have become dependent on paid labour or custom work.

Location: We reach across Ontario from the Niagara Region to the Rainy River District and from the Ottawa Valley to Essex County.

Our Structure

District Associations: Our members have established 21 district associations across Ontario. These vary in size from 27 to 363 members. Each association has its own board and sends delegates to province-wide policy meetings.

Provincial Council: The setting of public policy is vested in a council made up of delegates from each of our district associations and our Executive Board. The Provincial Council meets at least four times per year at Gencor facilities on Hwy 6 north of Guelph, in the months of January, March, June, and October.

Executive Board: Day-to-Day activities are supervised by a board of eight family farmers. The Executive Board meets monthly at the CFFO offices in the Gencor East complex in Guelph.

Standing Committees: Think tanks on pork, sheep, supply management and stewardship issues meet regularly to draft positions and resolutions. Grains and oilseeds, poultry, dairy and greenhouse committees meet on an ad-hoc basis. All district associations are encouraged to have representation on each committee.

Convention: Once a year members gather for a celebration, the election of leaders and the adoption of a budget. The 2009 annual convention will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at the St. George Banquet Hall, Waterloo, Ontario.

Representation: We are members of the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition, Ontario Agricultural Human Resources Council, Ontario Rural Council, and the Water Quality Working Group. We are officially represented on a number of organizations within the farm community: AGCare, Ontario Farm Animal Council, Ontario, Ontario Farmland Trust, Agricultural Adaptation Council, Ontario Transportation Working Group, the President's Council and Ontario Agricultural Commodity Council.

Budget: Our budget is almost totally dependent on the fees from our members and associates. Our budget for 2009 is \$485,533 plus \$183,388 for our district associations, for a total of \$668,921. Our 2009 membership fee is \$150.00 plus GST.

2009 Executive Board

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CFFO Newsletter

The CFFO publishes a quarterly newsletter for members and friends. It is published in the months of February, May, August and November.

District Associations

Chatham-Kent
Dufferin-Wellington
East Central
Elgin
Essex
Grey-Bruce
Haldimand-Norfolk
Huron
Middlesex
Niagara
North Eastern Ontario
Oxford
Perth
Quinte
Rainy River
Renfrew-Lanark
Simcoe
St. Lawrence-Ottawa Valley
Thunder Bay
Wellington
Wentworth-Brant

Some of our members live in regions where there are, as yet, no district associations



*Long-Term Thinking
for Today's Issues*

Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario



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for Today's Issues*

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