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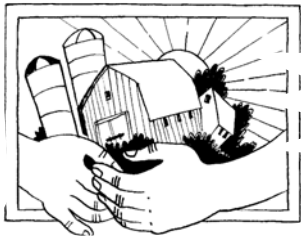
# The CFFO Newsletter

*Published for members and friends of the  
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario*

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## Celebrating 50 Years of Making a Difference

**F**ive decades ago a small group of people met in Strathroy to begin working towards a type of agriculture that supports family farms, contributes to local communities, and provides care for the world and its creatures.



They created the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario to give voice to their vision of a type of agriculture that is truly closer to the heart.

Recent immigrants from Holland, and new to farming in Canada, their gathering filled a very practical need a sharing of the latest "how to farm" in their new setting.

But they were not new to a faith tradition, one both

Calvinist and Reformational, which claims that faith makes a difference in all of life. For them, it made a difference to their farming and to their involvement in the agricultural community.

The minutes of that initial meeting record: "Everyone feels the great need for this. But a big difficulty is that there are no people among us who are able to lead and who are able to explain the principles behind the idea. Nevertheless, all believed that we must begin. Even if we only establish the basis, then the next generation can already profit from this. The proposal of the chairman to establish a federation was adopted by everyone, and with it the following basis `The society is based on the conviction that the Holy Scriptures, as infallible Word of God, is the basis for the development of social life.'" (translation)

There was no fanfare, no public announcement, no detailed plan of action, no articulate rationale for existence, no immediate impact on the development of community life. There was only the fervency of a great need: a need to establish their work in agriculture as God's work.

Today, the CFFO still strives towards the founding vision of our original members. Through the steady efforts of our members, we're still working for family farms by developing policy options on marketing legislation, safety net design, and stabilization programs. We're also making contributions in the preservation of farmland, proper land use planning, and equitable taxation approaches for farming. Finally, we've been at the forefront of studying and proposing environmental stewardship programs that provide benefits to society and reward farmers for their efforts.

Whether it's through the development of policy statements, working alongside others in farm organization coalitions, or helping our members with community causes, we've been driven by the desire to create long-term health and prosperity for Ontario farm families. We believe that God has been faithful to us over our 50 years and we strive to be faithful to him through our work in agriculture.

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## Change Needed in Contract Rules

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario believes that new legislation is needed to ensure farm families can profitably maintain control of their farm businesses.

More specifically, the CFFO is calling for new legislation that will protect farmers' financial and management interests when they make contractual arrangements with input suppliers, processors, wholesalers and retailers.

"Farmers need new legislation that will create a balance of marketplace clout between buyers and sellers when making contractual arrangements," said John Kikkert, president of the CFFO. "While contracts can offer opportunities for farm families, we are concerned about increased concentration amongst big agribusiness allowing these firms to unilaterally change contracts to their benefit."

Here are a number of concrete examples of rules needed to balance marketplace clout:

- The establishment of conditions and procedures for the creation and renewal of contracts;
- The setting of terms for the cancellation of a contract that are comparable and equitable for both parties;
- The requirement of payment for a farm product within a specified time of delivery of the product (10 days for example);
- The establishment of financial protection programs when payments are not made within the required period of time (10 days for example); and
- The establishment of procedures and responsibilities in the case that either party to a contract should become insolvent and unable to complete the contract.

The CFFO also believes that farm groups need to establish a working group mandated to draft legislation to protect farmers' financial and management interests when they make contractual arrangements with others in the food chain.

"The CFFO believes that a renewed commitment needs to be made to fairness in the marketplace," said Kikkert. "We need new measures which will allow farm families to be equal partners when they agree to a contract."

In addition to changes regarding contracts, the CFFO is also calling on the Ontario government to strengthen food marketing legislation so that farmers can negotiate a fair share of the retail price of consumer food purchases.

"Ontario's existing farm products marketing legislation enables farmers to organize, manage production, and negotiate prices with their immediate buyers," said John Kikkert, president of the CFFO. "We want to see that mandate broadened so that all players in the food chain can negotiate payments based on the idea of everyone getting their fair share."

The CFFO wants to see a Fair Share Working Group developed to document the fair share of the retail food dollar of selected farm commodities. In addition, this group would recommend amendments to the Farm Products Marketing Act, and make recommendations regarding the creation of a system for distributing fair share payments. Ideally, this group should receive broad participation from farmers, consumers, processors, wholesalers and retailers.

## New Executive Board Members



Three new directors are joining the Executive Board of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario.

Joining the CFFO board are Clarence Nywening, Terry Kuipers and Peter Payne. Jane Kapteyn, an incumbent director, was also returned to the Board. All were elected during a recent meeting of the CFFO's Provincial Council.

Clarence Nywening, a 40-year-old broiler-breeder operator and cash-cropper from Thamesville, will be serving his first term on the CFFO board. Nywening has been actively involved in the Federation, serving as a district association president and as a member of several Federation provincial committees. Nywening has also been active in his municipality through involvement in the Chatham-Kent Agricultural Task Force Committee.

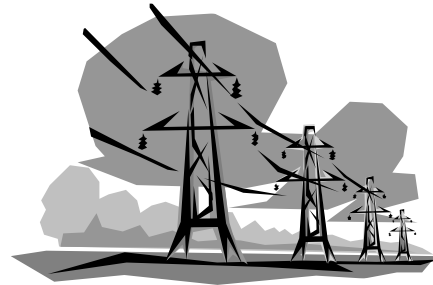
Terry Kuipers, a 45-year-old layer and pullet grower from Alymer, will also be serving his first term on the CFFO board. In addition to serving as a zone counsellor for the Ontario Egg Producers Marketing Board, Kuipers has served as a CFFO district association president and as a member of several Federation provincial committees.

Peter Payne, a 62-year-old cow-calf farmer from Reaboro, is also serving his first-term on the CFFO board. Serving in the Canadian Armed Forces for 25 years, Payne spent two decades teaching a wide range of courses at Sir Sandford Fleming College. Payne has also been active in 4-H and as a Wolf Cub leader.

Jane Kapteyn, a 48-year-old dairy, veal and cash-crop farmer from Coburg, returns for her fourth term on the CFFO board. Actively involved in Federation provincial committees and with her local district association, Kapteyn has also served as a CFFO representative to various farm community coalitions.

The four directors join incumbent director Jack Kroes from Clinton. Rounding out the CFFO board are President John Kikkert, from Smithville, Vice Presidents Jenny Denhartog, from Arthur, and Henry Stevens, from Palmerston. Kikkert, Denhartog and Stevens were elected late last year at the annual CFFO convention in Cambridge.

## Reducing Electrical Price Spikes



The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario is supportive of continued regulation of the electricity market but welcomes marketplace incentives to encourage both conservation and new electrical generation.

“Access to reliable electricity has become a necessity in today’s farm economy,” said John Kikkert, the CFFO’s President. “But we need to even out price spikes and encourage entrepreneurs to develop additional power generation.”

The CFFO affirmed its commitment to continued regulation in the electricity market at its recent meeting of delegates from across the province. A position statement adopted at that meeting calls for a three-step graduated scale of pricing for electricity, incentives for energy conservation, and additional incentives for environmentally friendly generation facilities.

“We need to move away from subsidies that encourage electrical consumption,” said Jenny Denhartog, a CFFO Vice-President. “Subsidized energy prices tend to encourage the industrialization of agriculture at the expense of the family farm.”

“Price spikes in response to peak load demand or generation difficulties create too much instability and destroy confidence in the electrical system,” added Henry Stevens, a CFFO Vice-President. “A graduated scale of price levels, starting at a family and working upwards, will help to create reliability and effectiveness.”

## Executive Board



The CFFO Executive Board regularly deals with a wide variety of items regarding the governance of the organization. Over the last few months those items have included:

- Reports from Board members who serve as CFFO representatives to the various agricultural and rural coalitions in which the organization is involved.
- Conducted a self-evaluation of actions the Board is performing well or requiring improvement. Overall, the Board is pleased with its own performance, but decided to draft an action plan for continual improvement. The plan will be implemented throughout 2004.
- As part of its action plan for continual improvement, the Executive Board has developed a new standing committee. The committee's purpose is to advise the entire Board on the best choices for the CFFO to pursue regarding public policy. Meeting quarterly, the committee puts forward a number of options for new position statements, along with specific research requirements and timeframes. For the immediate future, the Board has accepted the committee's recommendations to develop position statements on on-farm electricity costs and contracts between farmers and processors. Also, the CFFO will be making contributions to the provincial government's public consultations on the Ontario budget, and provincial plans to create a permanent greenbelt around the Golden Horseshoe.



## Consider Serving on a Local Board

Most district associations are busy planning annual business meetings, local seminars, or even summer socials. Elections are also taking place for new board members, with some district associations experiencing difficulties in finding members willing to stand for nomination. If you have

been approached to serve on the board of a district association, please give the matter serious and prayerful consideration. Serving on a district association board is an excellent opportunity to work towards solving some of the issues facing farm families.

## East Central CFA

Late last year, East Central CFA received solid information on BSE from Bobby Seeber, OMAF's expert on the issue. Seeber shared his perspective on the effects this devastating incident is having on beef, dairy and ruminant producers. His outlook and analysis of the situation were rather sobering. Re-opening of the US border was the number one concern at that time and continues to be uppermost in the minds of many today. Unfortunately, there are no easy, ready-made answers. Bobby is available to speak to any district association with the latest information on this timely topic.

East Central's next meeting, held in early February, featured Nils Semmler, owner and operator of Rentec Renewable Energy Technologies in Trenton. He spoke on new challenges and opportunities for on-farm energy production. His company manufactures anaerobic bio-digesters, designed to operate on-farm electricity production from organic residuals. Semmler's presentation drew considerable discussion at the 2003 CFFO Convention.

## Elgin CFA

Elgin's annual banquet was held late last year and was attended by approximately 70 members and friends. The district association has honed a reputation for delivering a top-notch event and this year was no exception. The evening included a delicious, professionally prepared and served, gourmet meal with sparkling non-alcoholic 'wine', compliments of a local winery. The labels on the bottles even displayed the CFFO logo. Eight other local agriculture-related businesses helped in defraying some of the costs. Motivational speaker, Kevin Stewart, from AgVision Network, showed how "action always follows belief."

## Grey-Bruce CFA

The Keady Sales Arena was the location of the annual business meeting on January 21, 2004. Some 25 members and guests attended this daytime meeting over lunch. Outgoing CFFO Vice-President, Peter VanderZaag, shared his up-beat presentation of 'CFFO's Vision for Farming'. This vision was developed over the past few years and was officially launched at the 2002 CFFO Convention. A lively discussion followed.

## North Eastern CFA

The 2004 Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for the end of March and early April and coincides with the Northeastern Ontario Agricultural Trade Show in New Liskeard. The CFFO once again plans to have a booth. President John Kikkert will be the speaker for the three meetings planned for Thessalon, Little Current, and New Liskeard on consecutive days. Details will be worked out in the near future. Because the District covers such a vast area, it is necessary to have the annual business meetings in three installments and locations, in order to enable a maximum number of the approximately 140 members to attend.

## Perth CFA

President John Kikkert was the speaker at the district association's annual business meeting late last year. As Kikkert spoke about CFFO's role in today's agriculture, he shared his own experiences and involvement on behalf of CFFO often behind the scenes and at meetings in the public arena of agriculture and politics. At the conclusion of the meeting he invited everyone to name one issue or concern uppermost on his/her mind.

## Quinte CFA

Jim Ross, founder of Grand Valley Fortifiers, Cambridge, was the guest speaker at a meeting held late last year. In his talk, entitled "Living Your Faith in Your Business" Jim shared his life's story and how he integrates his faith into his life and work. In today's competitive world, where profit maximization - often

at any cost - appears to be the norm, Christians have a big responsibility to maintain their own integrity and to be an example for neighbours and their own family. In order to live out their faith commitment, especially under difficult circumstances or in stressful times, CFFO members, and their organization, must be there to keep an eye out for their neighbour.

## Simcoe County CFA

Since its official beginning in the mid-1990's, this District Association has once again planned a very ambitious meeting schedule, including an "Agknowledge" Forum, complete with a free dinner for the first 100 applicants. Also planned is a seminar, an annual business meeting, and a summer social event. Call President Peter VanderZaag or any of the Simcoe County board members to see how they provide such consistent leadership.

## Wellington CFA

The newly formed District of Wellington, formerly Wellington North and Centre Wellington, held their inaugural meeting on January 15, 2004. One of the main reasons for the merger was to pool the joint resources of the two neighbouring membership groups for potential board activities and other opportunities. These opportunities include participating in the local farm show, having a more visible presence in Wellington County, and playing a more active role in CFFO activities. At this meeting, members voted in a renewed seven-member board. Congratulations to both districts for taking such decisive measures. CFFO President John Kikkert was the guest speaker. He explained CFFO's role in agriculture - from his own personal perspective. Most members felt free to share their own experiences and/or concerns about farm life.

## Annual Business Meetings by April 15

This is a reminder to District Association Boards that the Farm Business Registration legislation requires that each District hold at least an annual business meeting, and that a copy of the official minutes be on file at the CFFO office. District association constitutions, and CFFO Bylaws state that such meetings must be held no later than April 15 each year. If you need assistance contact Martin Oldengarm, Manager of Field Services, directly or Brenda O'Connor, District Support, at the CFFO office.

## At the Farm Shows

Upcoming farm shows in which the CFFO will be participating include: the Canadian International Farm Equipment Show in Toronto in February; the East Central Farm Show in Peterborough & the Ottawa Valley Farm Show in March; the Midwestern Farm Show in Chesley; and the Northeastern Ontario Agricultural Trade Show in New Liskeard.

In addition to being there to meet the farming public and others, we are inviting all visitors at most of these shows to participate in our "2004 Name-the-Logo" contest. As usual, we will be offering a number of worthwhile prizes, thanks to our sponsors.

Individual participants will be required to answer a qualifying question at the end of the contest, if they wish to be eligible for winning a prize. We expect that their collective responses to the question will provide meaningful and interesting data on issues of importance to farming.


## CFFO Seminar Series

The 2004 CFFO Seminar Series is entitled Out of an Abundance of Caution. Our members and friends are challenged to examine why we tell consumers that our food is safe for health and the environment, but load on the regulations.

At the time of the newsletter publication, the series is already up and running. Check the CFFO website at [www.christianfarmers.org](http://www.christianfarmers.org) for more details on dates and locations, or contact our office at 519-837-1620.

## Annual Convention

The dates for the 2004 CFFO Annual Convention have been set for November 25 & 26, 2004. The location, most likely in the Guelph-Woodstock area, will be announced in the near future. The main focus of this year's Convention will be on "Celebrating 50 Years of Faithfulness." Be sure to highlight those dates on your calendar today. Watch for more details, as they become available.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| S & P WEST- GENCOR, GUELPH                                     | MARCH 3, 2004          |
| S & P EAST- NAPANEE  | MARCH 5, 2004          |
| EXECUTIVE BOARD - GUELPH                                       | MARCH 9, 2004          |
| PROVINCIAL COUNCIL - GUELPH                                    | MARCH 24, 2004         |
| PORK PRODUCERS - TENTATIVE (GENCOR-WOODSTOCK)                  | APRIL 2, 2004          |
| ANNUAL CONVENTION<br>LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED                  | NOVEMBER 25 & 26, 2004 |
| <b>2004 SEMINAR SERIES</b>                                     |                        |
| CHESLEY (GREY-BRUCE)   | THURSDAY, MARCH 11     |
| FERGUS (WELLINGTON, DUFFERIN-<br>WELLINGTON & HALTON-WATERLOO) | FRIDAY, MARCH 12       |
| ANCASTER<br>(WENTWORTH-BRANT, NIAGARA)                         | TUESDAY, MARCH 23      |
| RICHMOND (ST. LAWRENCE-<br>OTTAWA VALLEY, RENFREW-LANARK)      | FRIDAY, MARCH 26       |

Help celebrate our  
*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
Donate 50 bushels for 50 years



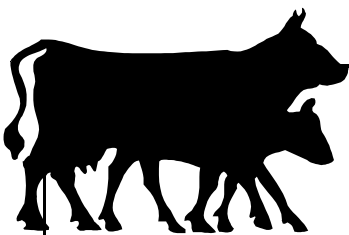
The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario heartily encourages each member to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by donating 50 bushels of corn or grain to the Canadian Food Grains Bank.

Although the prospect of feeding the world's hungry people is overwhelming, remember that 50 bushels of grain will feed a family of five for one year. In addition, the federal government will match donations on a 4:1 ratio.

You can make a difference through your donation! We plan to celebrate the donations of our members by announcing the total donations at the 2004 CFFO Convention.

Here's what you need to do:

1. On your Grain Delivery Ticket from your local elevator add: '**CFFO 50 for 50**' behind your name.
2. Fill in the NET WEIGHT OF GRAIN DONATION with the amount of your choice.
3. Problems with the elevator? Call Dave or Kathryn Mayberry, Ontario Coordinators at **519-485-3642**.



### The BSE Crisis

The CFFO remains extremely concerned about the desperate and uncertain situation facing Ontario's farming communities because of the BSE crisis. Farm families, trucking companies, auction facilities and a myriad of other service providers are all experiencing the fallout from disastrous low prices in the livestock sector. Farmers need long-term solutions and economic relief. To that end, the CFFO is working alongside its members, industry partners and government in broad discussions aimed at helping develop new options for compensation, cull cows, deadstock and other items. If you are looking for some of the best information on the BSE crisis, log on to the Ontario Cattlemen's Association site at [www.cattle.guelph.on.ca](http://www.cattle.guelph.on.ca).

## CAIS is a Good Program – Plan to Participate

### Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization



#### OMAF is scrambling to roll it out

- The program is being administered in Ontario. Details will come to you from OMAF.
- New information is appearing on the OMAF website almost daily.  
Visit: [www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/policy/cais/index.html](http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/policy/cais/index.html)

#### What you can expect

- A package in your mailbox before the middle of February: application form, deposit option form, inventory schedule, an estimate of your reference production margin if you participated in NISA/OFIDP since 1998.
- Information about your operation will have to be submitted annually: a) inventory and production records, accounts receivable and accounts payable on an accrual basis; and b) a statement of farming income (or loss) using whatever method of accounting you use for tax purposes.
- Think production margin: production revenue minus production expenses.

#### What to do to participate

- **Open** a CAIS account with your financial institution.
- **Decide** the level of coverage that you want. A deposit option form will be provided.
- **Deposit** at least the minimum deposit required in your CAIS account by April 30, 2004. (You can roll over monies from NISA Fund 1 with a telephone call.)
- **Complete** the application form by April 30, 2004. It will be a joint application for 2003 and 2004. (Miss the deadline and you are out of the program for a year!)
- **Submit** a schedule of inventory, receivables & payables for 2003 by April 30, 2004. (Schedule 2 – no eligibility without it!)
- **Submit** a statement of farming income (or loss) for 2003 by June 15, 2004 (individuals) or June 30, 2004 (corporations). (No late submissions accepted!)
- **Go** to a CAIS information meeting. Dozens are scheduled from mid-February through March. Visit: [www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/policy/cais/documents/agent\\_meetings.html](http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/policy/cais/documents/agent_meetings.html). Call CFFO for the session nearest you: 519-837-1620.

#### Five reasons why you should participate

1. This will be **the** safety net for the next five years.
2. This program is meant for **everyone** – big and small, all commodities.
3. It is based on **need**. If your farm income declines from past averages – defined as a decline in production margin – you will collect.
4. Persuading governments to do **ad hoc** programs when calamity strikes will be much harder
5. **You can't lose!**

Call the CAIS Program at 1-877-838-5144.  
Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

