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since 1954

The CFFO Newsletter

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

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ACTION NEEDED ON RAILWAY LINE FENCING

The CFFO believes there is room for fresh thinking between farmers and their municipalities when considering issues about fencing abandoned rail right-of-ways.

The federal Railway Safety Act requires the owners of rail right-of-ways to maintain fences in perpetuity. However, many right-of-ways have been turned over to municipalities, with many finding new life as public trails. Municipalities have found the requirement to maintain fences too costly and have been looking for better alternatives.

In response to these concerns --- and ensuring that farmer interests are protected --- the CFFO recently adopted a new position statement on fencing and rail right-of-ways. The statement strikes a balance between the needs of farmers and municipalities.

The key elements of the CFFO position statement are as follows:

- 1) Section 20 of the Line Fences Act needs to be retained and municipalities are required to maintain fences along right-of-ways with the following qualifiers:
 - The fence is requested by the adjacent landowner.
 - The municipality can phase the construction/maintenance to manage budget implications.
 - A mutual agreement can modify the need for a fence or the type of fence.
 - Landowners, other than farmers, have a reasonable need for the fence.
 - Creation of an appeal process to establish reasonableness.
- 2) Base standards for fence and crossing construction and maintenance need to be established and should remain the responsibility of municipalities. If a landowner requests more than the base, the landowner should pay.
- 3) The agricultural and municipal sectors need to develop a Best Practices Manual for right-of-ways that have been turned into trails. Those practices should include:
 - Municipalities create a permit system to raise funds for fencing.
 - Municipalities create a local committee with responsibility for determining the reasonableness of a request for a fence and the timing of construction to manage budget implications.
 - Municipalities purchase liability insurance that extends to adjacent lands so that the municipality has liability coverage if trail users leave the trail and come to harm on adjacent property or trail users cause damage on adjacent property.
 - Municipalities restrict motorized vehicles from trails.
 - Development of a trail user's booklet that urges respect for adjacent landowners.

Inside this issue:

CFFO Re-Accredited	2
Working with the Premier	2
Modifying MDS	2
Former CFFO President Awarded	3
Farm Show Winners	3
Executive Board Business	4
CFFO & Commodity Boards	4
District News	5
Audited Financial Report	6
Grain & Oilseeds Proposal	7
CFFO Convention 2005	8

- 4) The province needs to amend appropriate legislation (e.g. Trespass Act) so that landowners have no liability to persons who come to harm while trespassing except where the landowner consciously plans to cause injury.

CFFO Re-Accredited

The CFFO has been re-accredited for another three-year period.

The CFFO made its application for re-accreditation in May before the Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Appeal Tribunal. Making the presentation were President John Kikkert, Vice Presidents Henry Stevens and Jenny Denhartog, and General Manager John Clement. The Tribunal noted that the CFFO met all of the required re-accreditation criteria and is granted accreditation until November 8, 2008.

The successful re-accreditation application allows the CFFO to continue collecting membership fees under the auspices of the Farm Registration and Farm Organization Funding Act.

District board members or individual members wishing a copy of the application for re-accreditation can do so by contacting the CFFO office.

Working with the Premier

CFFO President John Kikkert has been an active participant in the Premier's Summit Advisory Committee. The committee was formed at the request of Premier Dalton McGuinty to develop a process to find a shared vision for Ontario's agri-food sector.

As part of the process, the committee hosted several focus groups across Ontario this summer. Participants were asked to center their discussions on six key factors that shape Ontario's agri-food sector. Those factors include the influence and impact of suppliers and buyers, new entrants, substitute products, existing rivalry and competition within the sector, and the influence of stakeholders and government.

The committee plans to meet later this year with Premier McGuinty to present and discuss the resulting vision statement. Kikkert is joined on the committee by Jane Graham, Greg Hannam, Don Mills, Carol Tyler and Deb Lethbridge.

Modifying MDS formulae

The province developed Minimum Distance Separation formulae to prevent land use conflicts and to minimize nuisance complaints about the business of farming. In essence, the formulae are all about keeping a minimum distance between barns and houses. Lately, the formulae have been up for discussion.

The CFFO has noted that some of the details of the MDS formulae have created conflicts in the countryside, rather than resolving them. In addition, some of the details of the formulae are making it difficult for farmers to modernize their operations.

At a recent CFFO Provincial Council meeting, delegates from the Federation's district associations adopted a position statement on MDS formulae. The 21-point statement examines some of the nitty-gritty details that have been debated in government staff consultations.

The CFFO position statement gives support for integrating MDS 1 and 2 formulae into common formulae that treats livestock uses and non-farm development the same. It also supports higher setbacks for severances and homes, more training for planning authorities and a number of other details related to establishing benchmarks. A large number of other proposals were rejected in the CFFO position statement.

If you'd like to learn more about this subject, call the CFFO office and ask for your own copy of *Proposed Modification to MDS (Minimum Distance Separation) 2005 --- A CFFO Response*.

Former CFFO President Awarded

Former CFFO President Bob Bedggood was recently awarded the Ontario Agricultural College Outstanding Service Award. The award was established in 1983 to recognize individuals outside of government and university employment who have provided outstanding service to Ontario's agri-food industry and/or to research, teaching and service programs of the Ontario Agricultural College. The award is based on service provided over an extended period (normally at least 10 years).

A selection committee appointed by the Dean of the OAC is responsible for soliciting nominations for the Award and selecting nominees for recommendation to Dean's Council. Award(s) are presented at the annual OAC Recognition Banquet.

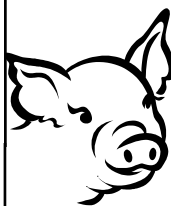
Bedggood has represented the CFFO on the Agricultural Adaptation Council since 1999, serving on the Executive since 2000. He was elected Vice-Chair in 2001 and Chair in 2003 and 2004.

In addition to being a former president of the CFFO, Bedggood is also a trustee and elder of St. George's Presbyterian Church in London, Ontario. He has served as Vice-Chair of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, was a member of the Agricultural Policy Framework advisory committee on the environment and the Agricultural Odyssey Group.

In June 2004, the Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food, Steve Peters, appointed Bedggood to the Agricultural Advisory Team to explore specific issues of concern to Ontario's agri-food sector and to provide advice to the government on these matters.

Together with his wife, Sandy, Bedggood operates a 350-acre cash crop farm just east of London, Ontario. The couple have two married children and seven grandchildren.

Congratulations go out to Bob on outstanding service to both the CFFO and the larger Ontario agricultural community!



Ontario Pork Congress

At this year's Ontario Pork Congress in Stratford, the CFFO ran its popular "Name The Logo" contest. Participants view a display board with a number of agricultural and other logos and then write down their best guess of which company or organization the logo represents. Agricultural questions are also included in the process and participants must provide answers or opinions in order to qualify.

Here are the names of this year's winners, along with the names of those companies that generously supplied prizes.





Farm Show Winners

- First Prize** **\$60 Maxi Pan Feeder for Piglets**
 *Donated: *Farmers Farmacy, Cambridge*
 Winner: *Jasper Vanderbas, Woodstock*
- Second Prize** **\$50 Gift Certificate~Blacks Photo**
 *Donated: *Blacks Sunrise Centre, Kitchener*
 Winner: *Josh Boerse, Sebringville*
- Third Prize:** **\$50 Gift Certificate**
 *Donated: *Colour Paradise Greenhouses*
 Mannheim, ON
 Winner: *Tonya Roobroeck, Gadshill*
- Fourth Prize** **\$50 Hyland Seeds fall/spring Jacket**
 *Donated: *Jasper Vanderbas, agent, Hyland*
 Seeds, Woodstock, ON
 Winner: *Raina Vingerhoeds, Hensall*
- Fifth Prize** **T-shirt & 2 Caps**
 *Donated: *Bosman Agri Inc., Moorefield, ON*
 Winner: *Steve Eilers, Zurich*
- Sixth Prize** **\$25 Gift Certificate for Pizza Hut**
 *Donated: *Ridgetown Feed & Supply,*
 Ridgetown, ON
 Winner: *Tim Thalen, Palmerston*
- Seventh Prize** **\$25 Gift Card for Swiss Chalet**
 *Donated: *Ridgetown Feed & Supply,*
 Ridgetown, ON
 Winner: *Wanda Spruyt, Strathroy*
- Eighth Prize** **\$20 TSC Gift Certificate**
 *Donated: *TSC Store, Stratford*
 Winner: *Mary Ann Hendrikx, Strathroy*

Executive Board Business




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



-  Reviewed a number of draft CFFO position statements (MDS formulae, Line Fences Act, Environmental Payments) that were circulated to the Board's stewardship and commodity committees. After review, the position statements were either sent back to committees for further work or circulated to Provincial Council for debate and potential adoption.
-  Reviewed and endorsed a business plan from Agricorp for the delivery of the 2006 Farm Business Registration program. The service fee for administering each cheque will remain at \$8.90 per cheque next year.
-  Heard reports from Board members who serve as CFFO representatives to the various agricultural and rural coalitions in which the organization is involved.
-  Reviewed correspondence from the farm community and heard reports on operational details from staff members.

CFFO and Commodity Boards

The CFFO has been busy discussing issues of the day with various Ontario commodity boards. Here is where some of the action has been:

-  In response to persistent member reports about new business structures arising among dairy farmers, a CFFO delegation met with the quota committee of Dairy Farmers of Ontario. According to the reports, retiring dairy farmers have been approached to "invest" their quota in return for a fixed interest rate or a share in the profits of a new business entity. In this arrangement, retiring dairy farmers retain the

ownership of the quota but turn it over to the new business entity and receive ongoing payments. Members of the CFFO are concerned that this type of business entity amounts to quota leasing and is destructive of a family farm approach to dairy farming. At the meeting with DFO, the CFFO delegation was informed that the new type of business arrangement does not meet the current requirements of DFO's quota policy and as such would not be approved. However, current quota policies do allow certain forms of joint ventures that help to transfer assets from one generation to the next.

-  A CFFO delegation met with Ontario Pork recently to discuss issues of mutual concern. The main topic of discussion involved how and whether farmers --- and their marketing boards -- - can push for value chains that compensate farmers adequately for changes requested by processors.
-  The CFFO recently adopted a set of resolutions regarding small poultry farms and the manner in which quota policies should be applied. In particular, the CFFO's Provincial Council adopted resolutions recommending the Chicken Farmers of Ontario reduce the minimum farm size to 4,000 units and that certain allowances be made for non-quota farms that wish to raise and sell chicken as part of a direct marketing campaign. Those allowances include the following: permits must be obtained for low volume production (102 to 500 per farm business per year); the poultry must be direct marketed from either the farm or at a farm market; the poultry must be produced on the premises of the permit holder and processed in inspected facilities; and the poultry must be raised under direct market food safety protocols and utilize cost recovery. The CFFO resolutions have been forwarded to the Chicken Farmers of Ontario for comment.

District News



Lots of Summer Activities

A number of District Associations have already enjoyed their local summer get-together in the form of a picnic or a BBQ. A few more are either in the planning stage or are about to take place. As well, several local boards have started the process of planning their meetings for the up-coming autumn season. If you have an interest in getting involved at the local level, contact your local President and offer your services.

Chatham-Kent

The annual summer picnic, held in mid-June in the park in Thamesville, served as a fund-raiser and was enjoyed by well over 50 members and their families. Those in attendance had opportunities to meet their local federal political candidates. A professionally prepared pig roast was featured for this special event. Proceeds of the evening went toward the Chatham-Kent Christian Farmers' scholarship fund. The first two \$500 scholarships will be awarded in the coming school year.

Dufferin-Wellington

The Dufferin-Wellington Christian farmers and their families plan to meet in August for their annual summer social at the home of Katie Aukema, just across the road from the family home farm near Shelburne.

East Central

East Central CFA often splits their meetings between the east and west sides of their large district association. More than 40 members, friends and children enjoyed an evening of great fellowship, good food and hearty singing at the *(Western)* summer picnic, hosted by Stephen & Carol Kelly, near Little Britain in early July. The *(Eastern)* summer social is set for early August, at Brinky's farm near Grafton.

Grey-Bruce

The annual Grey-Bruce picnic was enjoyed by 60-plus family members and friends at the home farm of Ron & Ingrid De Visser near Chesley.

Halton-Waterloo-Wellington

A small group of members and their children spent a pleasant evening getting acquainted over good food.

The menu included leg of lamb, raised on the host farm of Glen & Sharon Duff, located just outside of Rockwood. A decision will be forthcoming on whether to start a new district association in the area.

Huron

The Huron CFA plans to have its annual barbecue for families at the family farm of Othmar & Brenda Roth, just outside of Clinton.

Oxford

Well over 100 members and children attended the annual picnic & sports night. The evening was hosted by John & Helen Ysselstein, whose family farm is just south of Curries in Oxford County. The evening's activities included great food, swimming and games and ended with a time of fellowship around the campfire.

Perth

Perth CFA is making plans for a summer social or corn roast sometime in September.

Quinte

The Quinte CFA annual summer picnic will be held at Don & Greta Prins family dairy farm in late August.

Simcoe County

Nearly 100 members, friends and children had a wonderful evening at the home farm of Ron & Karon Mills. The annual picnic featured plenty of local food, including organically grown vegetables, local beef and lamb. In addition, three speakers gave informative and interesting presentations on local food production and marketing. A local professional singer, a neighbour to the Mills, provided musical entertainment.

St. Lawrence-Ottawa Valley

The annual corn roast, scheduled for late August, will be hosted by Ron & Doris Murphy at their family farm, just outside of Lyn, west of Brockville.

Wellington

In late July, more than 60 members, friends and children took advantage of a beautiful evening of fellowship, fun, and quality outdoor cuisine. Hosts for the evening were John & Jennifer Katerberg and family, whose family hog farm is just west of Palmerston.

Auditor's Report

February 2, 2005

To the Directors of
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario
(Federation des Agriculteurs Chrétiens de l'Ontario)

I have audited the balance sheet of Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (Federation des Agriculteurs Chrétiens de l'Ontario) as at December 31, 2004 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at December 31, 2004 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.



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CHRISTIAN FARMERS FEDERATION OF ONTARIO (FEDERATION DES AGRICULTEURS CHRÉTIENS DE L'ONTARIO)
BALANCE SHEET ~ DECEMBER 31, 2004

ASSETS		2004	2003
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash		\$92,480	\$99,108
Accounts receivable		4,891	3,688
Prepaid expenses		5,163	3,348
		<u>102,534</u>	<u>106,144</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS			
		<u>7,353</u>	<u>9,974</u>
		<u>\$ 109,887</u>	<u>\$ 116,118</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		5,952	12,791
NET ASSETS			
Invested in capital assets		7,352	9,973
Unrestricted (available for general purposes)		96,583	93,354
		<u>103,935</u>	<u>103,327</u>
		<u>\$109,887</u>	<u>\$ 116,118</u>

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004

	2004	2003
REVENUES		
Farm organization funding fees	\$766,050	\$781,950
Less: refunds	(130,185)	(141,858)
Net farm organization funding fees	635,865	640,092
Membership fees - other	7,034	8,216
Annual convention	20,773	17,310
Interest income and other	6,400	6,652
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>670,072</u>	<u>672,270</u>
EXPENSES		
ADMINISTRATIVE		
Amortization	8,758	6,012
Bank charges and interest	1,020	1,244
Equipment repairs and maintenance	7,215	6,376
Insurance	2,278	2,119
Farm business registration administration fees	45,452	46,396
Office and printing supplies	8,622	9,865
Postage and courier	12,456	14,401
Professional and consulting fees	3,775	5,971
Rent	34,080	34,080
Salaries and benefits	255,263	242,127
Staff travel and expenses	10,951	9,492
Telephone	10,694	8,899
	<u>400,564</u>	<u>386,982</u>
PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES		
Annual convention	20,486	14,307
Board and Committee expenses	43,843	41,971
Farm community activities	19,161	17,956
Farm media/newsletter	10,458	8,902
Promotion and advertising	11,137	8,113
	<u>105,085</u>	<u>91,249</u>
CONTRIBUTIONS TO DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS		
Meeting and travel expenses	49,288	37,967
Newsletter	14,019	12,202
Projects	14,897	21,082
Salaries and benefits	85,611	80,709
	<u>163,815</u>	<u>151,960</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>669,464</u>	<u>630,191</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$608</u>	<u>\$42,079</u>

New Program Deserves Serious Analysis

The latest proposal by Ontario's Grain and Oilseed Safety Net Committee deserves some serious attention from CFFO members. It is a more creative proposal than many past safety net proposals but it also asks governments to create a more generous program than any we have supported in the past.

There are some clearly positive aspects to this new proposal from grain & oilseed groups:

- It matches the generosity of governments in the U.S. and Quebec to their grain and oilseed sectors.
- It provides public support for the grains and oilseed sector comparable to the support for supply managed commodities.
- Participation requires a premium. You pay the premium - if not, you are out of the benefits for some time to come.
- Support payments are based on 10-year average yields, not the current year, making it possible to make payments on a timely basis.
- An individual farmer's long-term average yield is a factor in the amount of the premium to be paid and the level of support provided.

But there are just as many reasons to be concerned about the program:

- It is not founded on a good reality check. The blame for low grain and oilseed prices is entirely placed on "trade injury" linked to US subsidies. No recognition is given to the rising value of the Canadian dollar or the emergence of low-cost, non-subsidized production in South America.
- It is totally production based. The more you produce the more you collect.
- Calling it "risk management" is misleading. It is a price protection program – a guaranteed price program.
- There are no penalties for producing more based on the price guarantee. There is no commitment to manage supply in return for the support.
- Part of the rationale for the program is the declining average production margins that many

farmers are experienced as documented by participation in the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization program. But that analysis shows that medium and large farms have increasing production margins. There are just not very many of these farms in Ontario, even though they are responsible for the lion's share of production.

When CFFO discussed the federal governments buyout of the Crow Rate transportation subsidies for grains moving off the prairies, we supported the resulting decline in commodity grain returns to prairie farms and supported spending the public money saved on diversification (into livestock production). This new concept for Ontario grains and oilseeds will camouflage needed diversification in Ontario.

CFFO is planning an Ad Hoc Grains and Oilseeds meeting to discuss the proposal on September 1 and a further discussion will follow at Provincial Council on September 28. Please attend these meetings if you wish to contribute to the conversation.

Read the program details at www.ontariocorn.org/risk/riskMgmtProgSummary.htm



2005

UPCOMING MEETINGS

GRAINS & OILSEEDS	SEPT 1 - LONDON
SUPPLY MANAGEMENT	SEPT 7 - GUELPH
PORK COMMITTEE	SEPT 9 - WOODSTOCK
S & P WEST	SEPT 15 - GUELPH
S & P EAST	SEPT 16 - NAPANEE
CANADA'S OUTDOOR FARM SHOW	SEPT 13-15 - WOODSTOCK
INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH	SEPT 20-24
PROVINCIAL COUNCIL	SEPT 28 - GUELPH
TEMISKAMING PLOWING MATCH	SEPT 30 - OCT 1
SHEEP COMMITTEE	OCT 4 - GUELPH

~Convention 2005~

Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario



Friday, November 25, 2005
Holiday Inn ~ Markham

Increased government regulation and fluctuating financial returns for many farm products has created uncertainty in the farming community. It's time to change all that! Join with us at our annual convention as we explore how Ontario farmers can take control of their own destinies.

We'll learn from those who are already taking charge in other provinces or countries, plus reflect on the changes needed in our communities.

Mark Friday, November 25, 2005 (D.V.) on your calendar and plan to attend the CFFO Annual Convention at the Holiday Inn in Markham. Further details will be posted on the CFFO Website and circulated to members as they are developed.



*serving agriculture
since 1954*

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RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO

*The CFFO Newsletter is published four times per year by the
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