

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Government's environmental goals need to support farmer's productivity goals, not work against them.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Farmers need to strengthen productivity to meet the increasing local and global demand for food. At the same time, agriculture has a lot of potential to contribute environmental goods and services through stewardship practices.

Where productivity and environmental goals are not aligned, problems often occur. Government should focus on areas that are "win-win," benefitting production and the environment at the same time.

Beneficial practices that improve soil health and reduce nutrient use can contribute to better yields and provide key environmental benefits like carbon sequestration, reduced GHG emissions, improved water quality and increased overall farm resiliency.

However, some beneficial practices, such as cover crops, may be costly to implement or challenging to manage. Grants and access to professional advice can support farmers to successfully implement environmental goods and services on their land.

Goals to reduce GHG emissions are good for the planet, but they currently have an outsized cost for farmers. The CFFO strongly encourages policy that will keep carbon pricing costs low for essential sectors like agriculture – at least until alternative technologies are more accessible.

WHAT DOES THE CFFO WANT TO SEE?

- 1 Build policy that focuses on improving production and environmental benefits together, including soil health and crop diversity.
- 2 Keep carbon pricing costs low, especially for essential things like food production.
- 3 Reward farmers' efforts to reduce GHGs and sequester carbon.
- 4 Offer greater support via funding and professional advice for beneficial practices that are challenging to initiate, such as cover crops.
- 5 Commit to implementing Ontario's Agricultural Soil Health and Conservation Strategy.
- 6 Recognize the 4R Nutrient Stewardship program as key to achieving emissions goals connected to fertilizer use.
- 7 Collaborate with industry to establish a baseline of current environmental farm practices and the benefits these practices are providing so we can demonstrate value and track our success.

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**GOVERNMENT GOALS
NEED TO SUPPORT
FARMERS' GOALS.**

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