



## **2010 OSCIA RESOLUTIONS**

August 20, 2010

### **Resolution #1 – EASTERN VALLEY – Proposed Amendment to OSCIA Constitution**

WHEREAS the Golden Horseshoe Regional Soil and Crop Improvement Association has requested an amendment to the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association's constitution, and

WHEREAS this change will give the GHSCIA more representation than other regions of the OSCIA, and

WHEREAS the present structure gives fair representation to all regions of the province, and

WHEREAS the provincial annual meeting has previously dealt with this issue and rejected the request by GHSCIA, and

WHEREAS the GHSCIA has circumvented the annual meeting's direction and has appealed to the OSCIA Board to allow them another director.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA follow the approved restructuring process recommendations and operate within the newly-established Board as approved by the changes to the constitution at the 2008 OSCIA Annual Meeting.

### **SENT TO OSCIA EXECUTIVE**

### **Resolution #2 – DUNDAS – Grading of Corn Hybrids**

WHEREAS the 2009 corn crop was challenging throughout the province, with respect to bushel weight, maturity and mold, and

WHEREAS corn seed companies are on the honour system in placing hybrids in proper heat unit zones, and

WHEREAS many farmers had very negative experiences with hybrids that were supposed to be suited to their heat unit zone.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA work with GFO and Ontario Corn Committee to have dialogue with the seed companies to more accurately place hybrids with different traits in proper heat zone areas; note that the alternative is to bring back licensing trials.

**SENT TO CEO, GRAIN FARMERS OF ONTARIO  
SENT TO CHAIR, ONTARIO CORN COMMITTEE  
COPY TO PRESIDENT, CANADIAN SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION**

***REPLY BY DON KENNY, CHAIR, GRAIN FARMERS OF ONTARIO***

*Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned OSCIA resolution.*

*Grain Farmers of Ontario have reviewed the letter and resolution. We recognize that the Corn Heat Unit System was designed to assist farmers in matching their choice of corn hybrids with their specific area of the province.*

*This system was recently updated and is based on a 30-year average of weather (1971-2000). As a result of this system being based on a long-term average, year-to-year fluctuations can cause the system to be less than perfect. 2009 was a year where many areas of the province had challenges with corn meeting maturity.*

*Grain Farmers of Ontario is represented on the Ontario Corn Committee with voting status. We will continue to encourage corn seed companies to provide accurate ratings for maturity of hybrids to ensure farmers have access to reliable and accurate information for hybrid selection.*

***REPLY FROM PATTY TOWNSEND, VICE-PRESIDENT  
CANADIAN SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION***

*Thank you for copying the Canadian Seed Trade Association (CSTA) on your letter to the Chair of the Ontario Corn Committee regarding the placement of corn hybrids in heat unit zones.*

*CSTA's Corn and Soybean Committee has been having ongoing discussions around the new Corn Heat Unit Map and the placement of hybrids. Your letter demonstrates the need to continue those discussions. Therefore, your letter and the resolution that is part of the letter has been placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the committee, which will be held in July.*

*Be assured that the concerns raised in your letter will be given serious consideration by the committee, and we will respond as quickly as possible after the meeting.*

**Resolution #3 – DUFFERIN – Removal of Land from Productive Agriculture**

WHEREAS government and/or publicly-owned land is being taken out of productive agriculture at an ever-increasing rate, and

WHEREAS the total lack of a viable plan for retiring this land is creating a major source of noxious weeds and uncontrolled erosion, and

WHEREAS much of the land surrounding these properties is reforested with no maintained fire breaks, not keeping these lands in productive agriculture will create a significant fire hazard, and

WHEREAS much of this land is in large blocks, the removal of said land from productive agriculture creates unnecessary competition between farmers for other land in the affected areas to maintain viable farming operations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the OSCIA encourage regional Conservation Authorities, Ministry of Natural Resources, Parks Ontario, and Transport Canada to continue leasing publicly-owned agricultural land to operating farmers until a viable plan is developed for said lands to be used for their intended purpose, if and when such lands are needed for that use; or, failing that, a viable plan be developed and implemented, that will transition these lands from production to a natural state, while preventing them from becoming a weed, fire, or erosion hazard, to the surrounding community.

**SENT TO ONTARIO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS  
SENT TO ONTARIO MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION  
SENT TO MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING  
SENT TO MINISTER OF TRANSPORT  
SENT TO MANAGING DIRECTOR, ONTARIO PARKS  
COPY TO GENERAL MANAGER, CONSERVATION ONTARIO**

***REPLY BY JOHN COOPER, SENIOR MANAGER  
COMMUNICATION BRANCH  
ONTARIO MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION***

*Thank you for your letter regarding the resolution about agricultural land. On behalf of the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Transportation, I welcome the opportunity to respond.*

*As this matter falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Natural Resources, I am forwarding a copy of your letter to that ministry for consideration. You may also wish to contact them.*

*Thank you again for writing.*

**REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE JIM BRADLEY, MINISTER  
ONTARIO MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING**

*Thank you for your letter of March 25, 2010 forwarding a resolution of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association about the leasing of government owned lands in the County of Dufferin.*

*This issue is the responsibility of the Ontario Realty Corporation, which is accountable to the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure. Accordingly, I have forwarded a copy of your letter for the consideration of the Honourable Brad Duguid and the Ontario Realty Corporation.*

*Again, thank you for bringing your views to my attention. Please accept my best wishes.*

**REPLY BY BRUCE BATEMAN, ACTING DIRECTOR  
ONTARIO PARKS**

*Thank you for your letter dated March 25, 2010, regarding the removal of land from productive agriculture (OSCIA Resolution #3 – DUFFERIN), specifically as it relates to provincial parks.*

*The phase out policy for activities under private tenure in provincial parks was established in 1989. It includes a deadline to phase out certain activities (e.g. agriculture) in some provincial parks within a 21 year period (i.e. December 31, 2009).*

*The Minister of Natural Resources committed to a review of the phase out policy in 2007. Agricultural uses will not be phased out until the completion of the review. Public and Aboriginal consultation on proposed changes to the phase out policy concluded on December 14, 2009. Consultation included a policy proposal posting on the Environmental Registry and direct notification by mail to First Nations, stakeholders and individuals affected by the current phase out policy. A background information document was available on the Ontario Parks website and the ministry met with stakeholders on request.*

*Ontario Parks received eight responses from agricultural leaseholders. There was support for agricultural use to continue, expressing an interest in longer term certainty and return on investment and a commitment to follow best management practices (e.g. crop rotation).*

*The agricultural lands are an opportunity to restore the ecological integrity of these areas, which were originally acquired to establish provincial parks. The ministry has a*

*range of options under consideration, including working directly with individual agricultural leaseholders to determine a suitable timeframe to transition to an appropriate natural state. Park management planning will address tailored site restoration and any associated issues.*

*You will be kept informed of the final agricultural phase out policy. In the interim, should you require any additional information, please feel free to contact Sally Renwick, Protected Areas Policy Advisor at 705-755-1731.*

**REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE CAROL MITCHELL, MINISTER  
ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

*Thank you for your letter of March 25, 2010, regarding Resolution #3 from the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association's annual meeting. I note that you have shared your resolution with several of my Cabinet colleagues, and I trust they will be able to address your specific concerns about publicly-owned agricultural land in Dufferin County.*

*Ontario is home to the majority of Canada's most productive agricultural land, and protecting this land for future generations is a key priority of this government.*

*Our government has taken the following steps to protect Ontario's farmland:*

- Province-wide, we have set broad policy direction for land use planning in the Provincial Policy Statement issued under the Planning Act. Municipal land use decisions must be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement, which is quite clear that agricultural land must be protected.*
- The Greenbelt Act, 2005, passed by our government five years ago, protects 1.8 million acres of land from urban development and sprawl. The Greenbelt, which includes environmentally sensitive and agricultural land in the Niagara area, means that farmers can continue to grow the food we eat closer to home.*

*While it is true that Ontario has lost significant areas of prime agricultural land to urban sprawl and rural non-farm development, the total area of cropland in Ontario actually increased from about 8.7 million acres in 1996 to slightly more than 9 million acres in 2006, according to the federal Census of Agriculture.*

*Thank you for sharing your resolution with me. I look forward to working productively with your association for the long-term benefit of Ontario's farmers and rural communities.*

**REPLY BY RICHARD SCHVEIGHARDT, REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS,  
SOUTHWEST REGION, ONTARIO REALTY CORPORATION**

*We acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated March 25, 2010, regarding the use of government owned lands in Dufferin County for agricultural purposes. We apologize for the delay in replying to you.*

*The Ontario Realty Corporation provides customer-focused real estate services to Ontario government, including strategic portfolio management, asset management, property and land management. Of the lands managed by ORC in Dufferin County, none are deemed suitable for agricultural purposes.*

*Other provincial properties in Dufferin County are managed by local Conservation Authorities and ministries within the provincial government and may be of interest to you. I suggest that you contact them regarding their policies on the leasing of vacant lands for agricultural purposes.*

*I hope this will help in giving you some direction on your stated Resolution #3.*

#### **Resolution # 4 - RENFREW - Crop Losses Due to Wildlife Damage**

WHEREAS the cost to producers in Ontario from wildlife damage to crops increased by 20% in 2009 to reach an estimated \$41 million per year, as reported by the George Morris Institute, and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has promoted and encouraged the improvement and enhancement of wildlife habitat and population of wildlife, including the introduction of species such as Wild Turkeys and Elk, and

WHEREAS the rules and regulations have encouraged larger populations of wildlife for public enjoyment, habitat enrichment and overall society benefit.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association request the Ministry of Natural Resources compensate farmers for crop losses due to wildlife damage.

**SENT TO ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
COPY TO CEO, AGRICORP  
COPY TO MANAGER, HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT ADVISORY GROUP  
COPY TO PRESIDENT, ONTARIO FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE**

#### **Resolution #5 - ALGOMA – Crop Damage Due to Sandhill Cranes**

WHEREAS Sandhill cranes are causing significant damage to crops and agricultural operators are experiencing significant economic losses at harvest time, and

WHEREAS the Sandhill crane population has rapidly increased, ten-fold<sup>1</sup> in the last ten years, and

WHEREAS other jurisdictions in the United States have already introduced measures to hunt and harvest Sandhill cranes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the OSCIA strongly recommend that the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources introduce hunting seasons to help control the population of Sandhill cranes.

**SENT TO ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
COPY TO ONTARIO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS  
COPY TO REGIONAL DIRECTOR, CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE - ONTARIO**

***REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE LINDA JEFFREY, MINISTER  
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES***

*Thank you for your letter regarding resolutions from the Annual Meeting of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA). I am pleased to respond.*

*I would like to express my appreciation for the OSCIA's active involvement in the province's Human-Wildlife Conflict Advisory Group. This group is an excellent forum to discuss the resolutions from your annual meeting.*

*With regard to the resolution from Grenville, a number of measures are already in place to help farmers prevent and manage conflicts on their property. For white-tailed deer, a farmer can contact their local Ministry of Natural Resources office about the process to obtain a Deer Removal Authorization to help manage problem deer. For those experiencing crop damage due to wild turkeys, current legislation allows a landowner to harass, capture or kill turkeys should they be damaging or about to damage the landowners' property at any time of the year without a licence or authorization. Prior to taking action, farmers should check with their local municipality regarding municipal by-laws (e.g. firearm use).*

*Regarding the resolution from Manitoulin, I understand farmers on Manitoulin Island are concerned about potential releases of wild turkeys. Prior to any decision on release, the Ministry would be required to complete an Individual Environmental Assessment. This process assesses ecological, social and economic costs and benefits and requires input from stakeholders and the public.*

*With regard to the resolution from Algoma, I understand there is a lot of interest in and*

*concern with the population of sandhill cranes. As sandhill cranes are a migratory bird, responsibility for their management rests with the Canadian Wildlife Service. I encourage you to raise your concerns with the Canadian Wildlife Service.*

*Again, thank you for writing. I look forward to continuing to work with the OSCIA and through the Human-Wildlife Conflict Advisory Group.*

**Resolution #6 - GRENVILLE - Crop Losses Due to Wildlife Damage**

WHEREAS Ontario farmers continue to experience serious pre-harvest losses of crops due to high populations of white-tail deer, and

WHEREAS wild turkeys cause damage to stored feed by foraging on plastic-wrapped haylage.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA request the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources allow the control of wildlife destroying crops by issuing additional deer-harvesting tags to any registered farmers experiencing crop and feed losses due to high populations of white-tail deer.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA request the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources allow wild turkey hunting to continue without seasonal restrictions by any registered farmers experiencing crop and feed losses due to high populations of wild turkeys.

**SENT TO ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
COPY TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS  
COPY TO NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION  
COPY TO CHAIR, ONTARIO FRUIT AND VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION**

***REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE LINDA JEFFREY, MINISTER  
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES***

*Thank you for your letter regarding resolutions from the Annual Meeting of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA). I am pleased to respond.*

*I would like to express my appreciation for the OSCIA's active involvement in the province's Human-Wildlife Conflict Advisory Group. This group is an excellent forum to discuss the resolutions from your annual meeting.*

*With regard to the resolution from Grenville, a number of measures are already in place to help farmers prevent and manage conflicts on their property. For white-tailed deer, a farmer can contact their local Ministry of Natural Resources office about the process to obtain a Deer Removal Authorization to help manage problem deer. For those experiencing crop damage due to wild turkeys, current legislation allows a landowner to*

*harass, capture or kill turkeys should they be damaging or about to damage the landowners' property at any time of the year without a licence or authorization. Prior to taking action, farmers should check with their local municipality regarding municipal by-laws (e.g. firearm use).*

*Regarding the resolution from Manitoulin, I understand farmers on Manitoulin Island are concerned about potential releases of wild turkeys. Prior to any decision on release, the Ministry would be required to complete an Individual Environmental Assessment. This process assesses ecological, social and economic costs and benefits and requires input from stakeholders and the public.*

*With regard to the resolution from Algoma, I understand there is a lot of interest in and concern with the population of sandhill cranes. As sandhill cranes are a migratory bird, responsibility for their management rests with the Canadian Wildlife Service. I encourage you to raise your concerns with the Canadian Wildlife Service.*

*Again, thank you for writing. I look forward to continuing to work with the OSCIA and through the Human-Wildlife Conflict Advisory Group.*

#### **Resolution #7 - GRENVILLE - Funding for Field Crop Research in Eastern Ontario**

WHEREAS professional and technical staff resources in the Agronomy/Field Crops section at the Kemptville Campus of the University of Guelph have been declining in recent years, leaving existing Eastern Ontario research station field crop acreage and facilities under-utilized, and

WHEREAS OMAFRA and University of Guelph budgets for practical, production-oriented field trials for corn, soybeans, and spring wheat production, with adequate replications to confirm statistical validity of results have been declining, and

WHEREAS Eastern Ontario has unique variability of soils, climate and growing conditions compared to other parts of Ontario.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the OSCIA initiate dialogue with the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and the University of Guelph, requesting they increase their funding and give higher priority to public field crop research in Eastern Ontario.

**SENT TO DEAN, ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE  
SENT TO ONTARIO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS  
SENT TO CHIAR, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF ONTARIO  
COPY TO DIRECTOR, KEMPTVILLE COLLEGE**

**REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE CAROL MITCHELL, MINISTER  
ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

*Thank you for your letter informing me of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association's resolution about funding for field crop research in eastern Ontario. I welcome this opportunity to respond.*

*Our government will continue to invest in research and innovation to support Ontario's farmers and create long-term, sustainable strategies for their success. We continue to provide resources for various faculty positions that address, among other things, agricultural production.*

*The field plots and facilities located on the Kemptville Campus of the University of Guelph, continue to be utilized by various faculty to advance field crop and soil science research, education and extension in Ontario.*

*The seven research theme areas of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) are: Agricultural and Rural Policy, Bioeconomy, Emergency Management, Environmental Sustainability, Food for Health, Product Development, and Enhancement through the Value Chain and Production Systems. The seven themes are aligned with my ministry's overall priorities, and provide the focus for OMAFRA-funded research.*

*These seven research areas are the core focus of the OMAFRA Research Advisory Network (ORAN), the research priority setting system used by my ministry to capture demand-driven research priorities. Field crop research remains one of the areas eligible for funding in the OMAFRA/University of Guelph research partnership.*

*Field crop staff in my ministry are closely linked to our industry partners, and continue to work with local and regional Soil and Crop Improvement Associations on field trials and demonstration projects.*

*The Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario (ARIO) provides me with strategic advice on agri-food and rural research. They also have a significant role in managing the agri-food research infrastructure on behalf of my ministry.*

*I encourage your local and regional associations to provide input into ORAN on an annual basis. Ms. Anna Formusiak, Research Analyst in the Research and Innovation Branch, is the primary liaison for stakeholder input into ORAN for Production Systems and can be reached at [anna.formusiak@ontario.ca](mailto:anna.formusiak@ontario.ca). I understand that the input recently provided by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association has been shared with Ms. Formusiak and will be considered in the development of production systems research priorities for this year.*

*Thank you, once again, for bringing your resolution to my attention. I trust this*

*information will be of assistance to your association.*

**Resolution #8 - BRANT - Service Level of OMAFRA Soil and Crop Specialists**

WHEREAS county Soil and Crop Improvement Associations continually look to OMAFRA Soil and Crop Specialists for advice when planning both field demonstrations and information meetings, and

WHEREAS county Soil and Crop Improvement Associations value very highly the unbiased information provided by OMAFRA Soil and Crop Specialists, and

WHEREAS it has become increasingly difficult for OMAFRA Soil and Crop Specialists to attend local Soil and Crop activities because of cuts to travel and communication budgets, and

WHEREAS the effectiveness of OMAFRA Soil and Crop Specialists is drastically reduced when they are unable to present information in person or receive feedback directly from farmers with hands-on experience, and

WHEREAS it is contradictory on the part of government to, on the one hand employ a competent staff of crop advisors, and on the other reduce their effectiveness by restricting travel.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association request the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to reconsider cuts made to travel and communication budgets for OMAFRA Soil and Crop staff, and immediately source sufficient funds to make them fully effective.

**SENT TO ONTARIO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS  
COPY TO ONTARIO MINISTER OF FINANCE**

***REPLY BY GEORGE ZEGARAC, DEPUTY MINISTER  
ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS***

*Thank you for your letter of March 25, 2010, to the Honourable Carol Mitchell, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. I am pleased to respond on her behalf to resolution number eight regarding the level of service provided by the ministry's field crop specialists.*

*I appreciate your comments indicating the value of the ministry's field crop staff to your organization and I recognize how much you appreciate the opportunity for field crop staff to participate in your associations' activities.*

*Field crop staff take many factors into consideration when making decisions about their involvement in activities and initiatives. The cost of travel is just one factor they have to consider. Staff need to ensure they are investing their time and resources on priority activities and they have to give careful consideration to the best way to share their expertise and ideas.*

*I am confident that the field crop staff will continue to work closely with the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association and its members. This long term partnership has been very beneficial to the producers of Ontario.*

*Again, thank you for sharing this resolution with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.*

**Resolution #9 – NIAGARA NORTH - Agricorp Employees on Farm Organization Boards**

WHEREAS recently Agricorp announced that any employee of Agricorp cannot sit on a local farm organization, and

WHEREAS we have many of these people volunteering their time and efforts in our local club, and

WHEREAS they are also leaders in their community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA encourage Agricorp to reconsider its position on this matter as long as these directors of Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association declare any conflict of interest.

**SENT TO CEO, AGRICORP**

**COPY TO PRESIDENT, ONTARIO FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE**

**REPLY BY RANDY JACKIW, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
AGRICORP**

*Thank you for your letter of March 25, 2010 in which you referred your organization's recent resolution concerning Agricorp's conflict of interest rules.*

*In 2008 Agricorp adopted the conflict of interest rules as mandated in the Public Service of Ontario Act (PSOA). Since that time, we have given considerable attention and thought, at staff, senior management, and board levels, and have consulted with the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, as to how we can best apply these rules to our staff in a reasonable and balanced manner.*

*As you are aware, a particular area of focus has been the application of these conflict of interest rules to staff who are members of producer commodity boards, local or provincial boards of general farm organizations, and other agricultural organizations. We recognize the valuable input and expertise that Agricorp staff can have. At the same time, as an agency of the Government of Ontario, we are subject to the PSOA conflict of interest rules, and are required to protect our staff, the integrity of Agricorp's programs, and the interests of the Government of Ontario by addressing any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest. Each case is closely examined on its own merits. We have also recently clarified our approach to allow staff participation in organizations such as the OSCIA whose mandates are not potentially in conflict with Agricorp's.*

*We do believe that we have been able to develop an approach that strikes an appropriate balance of the interests of agricultural organizations, Agricorp, our staff, and the Government of Ontario, while ensuring compliance with the PSOA.*

*Thank you again for your letter. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.*

### **Resolution #10 – RAINY RIVER - Growing Forward Programs**

WHEREAS the proposed Northern Growth Plan of the Ontario government, released in October 2009 states that one of the priorities for agriculture is “to increase participation of Northern operations in business support programs such as the Canada-Ontario Growing Forward program”, and

WHEREAS real barriers to making full use of these programs in the North do exist, due to geography, distance, inadequate communication systems, a shortage of OMAFRA technical personnel, and

WHEREAS the current province-wide delivery policy stating that cost-share funds are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, placing Northern producers at a distinct disadvantage.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA work together with its partners in this program to immediately develop a system whereby cost-share funds are allocated on a regional basis.

**SENT TO CHAIR, EFP PARTNER COMMITTEE  
COPY TO AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA  
COPY TO ONTARIO FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE**

## **Resolution #11 – RAINY RIVER - Use & Classification of Industrial Wood Ash**

WHEREAS wood ash from industrial operations in Northern Ontario is classified as Class 3 material under the Ontario Nutrient Management Act, and

WHEREAS significant research and field trials demonstrate the positive value of using this material as a soil additive in growing crops, and

WHEREAS the current classification regime and manner in which certificates of use are issued by the Ministry of the Environment, deter many producers from making use of this readily available source of plant nutrients.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA request that the present classification of this material under the Nutrient Management Act be changed from Class 3 to Class 1.

**SENT TO ONTARIO MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

**COPY TO ONTARIO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

### ***REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE JOHN GERRETSEN, MINISTER MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT***

*Thank you for your letter of March 25, 2010 regarding OSCIA's resolution about the use and classification of Industrial Wood Ash in the Nutrient Management Act, 2002 (NMA). You have requested that the classification of industrial wood ash under the NMA be amended from a Category 3 to a Category 1 non-agricultural source material (NASM).*

*When applied according to regulatory requirements, the agricultural land application of NASM, such as wood ash, can be beneficial to crop production and aid in soil fertility. The beneficial effect of wood ash on crop growth and effectiveness as a liming material has been well documented.*

*The composition of wood ash can vary depending on the source, the process used to burn the wood and the chemicals used in the manufacturing process of the waste wood that is being burnt. Due to the variability in the quality of wood ash, it is important that the Director has the opportunity to review the material on a case-by-case basis prior to land application. Categorizing wood ash as a Category 1 NASM would mean that the material would not be properly tested and evaluated based on its highly variable quality. This may pose a risk to the environment and crop production.*

*Maintaining the current categorization of wood ash allows the material to be properly assessed on a case-by-case basis while also ensuring that proper requirements and standards are in place for the protection of the environment. The generator of wood ash has the opportunity to test the material to prove that it meets the lower metal and*

*pathogen requirements. Those materials that meet the lower levels are subject to less stringent land application requirements.*

*Thank you, again, for forwarding OSCIA's resolution to my attention.*

**Resolution #12 – ALGOMA – Farm Environmental Funding**

WHEREAS there is a well-identified need for the farming community's continued and expanding work to protect the environment, and

WHEREAS the efforts of the Government of Ontario and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to educate the farming community on appropriate and effective measures to protect the environment have been extremely successful and very well received, and

WHEREAS many farmers are eager to proceed on continued projects and action to protect the environment, but are currently unable to because of a reduced cash flow and the deepening agricultural crisis, and

WHEREAS the funding assistance budget for farm environmental projects was exhausted just a few months after the program began last year.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the OSCIA encourage the Government of Ontario to expand its funding to farmers to meet its full potential so that farmers can participate in these important programs while there is still enthusiasm and concurrence to do so.

**SENT TO ONTARIO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS  
COPY TO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA  
COPY TO PRESIDENT, ONTARIO FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE**

***REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE CAROL MITCHELL, MINISTER  
ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS***

*Thank you for your letter and for sharing a copy of resolution number twelve titled farm environmental funding.*

*I appreciate your taking the time to write to me. I understand that you have also shared a copy of this resolution with the appropriate ministry staff for their information and review.*

*Again, thank you for sharing your organization's recommendation with me.*

**Resolution #13 – LAMBTON – Nitrogen Credits from Organic Sources**

WHEREAS there have been concerns raised with the current nitrogen credits from organic sources on clay soils, and

WHEREAS the proper crediting of nitrogen is paramount for successful grain production and environmental stewardship.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the OSCIA request the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs review the current nitrogen credits from organic sources with specific searches regarding high clay content soils.

**SENT TO ONTARIO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

***REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE CAROL MITCHELL, MINISTER  
ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS***

*Thank you for your letter of March 25, 2010, and for providing me with a copy of resolution number thirteen regarding nitrogen credits from organic sources. I appreciate your taking the time to write to me.*

*I have shared a copy of your letter with the appropriate staff for their review. I can assure you that my ministry recognizes the importance of accurately predicting nitrogen availability for both crop production and environmental stewardship. The Ontario government has invested, and is continuing to invest, in research to better predict nitrogen credits.*

*Ministry staff would be pleased to help local or regional Soil and Crop Improvement Associations with the design of field trials to assess nitrogen availability of organic materials. Please contact Ms. Dawn Pate at 519-826-3257 or by e-mail at [dawn.pate@ontario.ca](mailto:dawn.pate@ontario.ca) to further discuss how my ministry can assist.*

*Thank you, once again, for your letter.*

**Resolution #14 – LAMBTON – Promotion of Ecological Goods and Services**

WHEREAS carbon sequestering is a small part of the ecological goods and services provided by the farm community, and

WHEREAS quality, air, water, habitat along with a balanced ecosystem are a few of the environmental goods that farmers provide in Ontario, and

WHEREAS our province has funded a study that outlines the benefits to society that different land uses provide, and you will be shocked at the value this study shows that farmers provide to society.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the OSCIA promote the package of ecological goods and services that the farm community provides to society, which to date has not been recognized.

**REPLY BY BARRY HILL, PRESIDENT, OSCIA**

*Thank you for submitting a resolution to the delegates at the OSCIA Annual Meeting held February 2 & 3, 2010.*

*Lambton SCIA's resolution requested "that the OSCIA promote the package of ecological goods and services that the farm community provides to society, which to date has not been recognized" was passed by the delegates. The OSCIA provincial board appreciates direct input from the grassroots on matters such as 'Ecological Goods and Service' (EG&S). OSCIA has been participating in meetings with industry on EG&S for several years. A current unresolved issue is an agreed-upon definition of EG&S. There are many different interpretations. OSCIA wishes to work with our industry partners and government to be able to provide clarity on the meaning of EG&S to industry stakeholders.*

*The OSCIA Board of Directors will ensure that the concerns outlined in this resolution will be included in future communication efforts.*

*Thank you for bringing this resolution forward.*

Added at the annual meeting:

**Resolution #15 – MANITOULIN – Crop Losses Due to Wildlife Damage**

WHEREAS introduced species such as wild turkeys and elk contribute to the extensive crop damage by wildlife that is documented across Ontario, and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) encourages the introduction and relocation of wildlife.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the OSCIA insist that the MNR cease and desist from all activities that exacerbate crop damage by wildlife, including the introduction and relocation of wildlife species.

**SENT TO ONTARIO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**COPY TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS**

**COPY TO ONTARIO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

**COPY TO HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT ADVISORY GROUP**

**REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE LINDA JEFFREY, MINISTER  
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

*Thank you for your letter regarding resolutions from the Annual Meeting of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA). I am pleased to respond.*

*I would like to express my appreciation for the OSCIA's active involvement in the province's Human-Wildlife Conflict Advisory Group. This group is an excellent forum to discuss the resolutions from your annual meeting.*

*With regard to the resolution from Grenville, a number of measures are already in place to help farmers prevent and manage conflicts on their property. For white-tailed deer, a farmer can contact their local Ministry of Natural Resources office about the process to obtain a Deer Removal Authorization to help manage problem deer. For those experiencing crop damage due to wild turkeys, current legislation allows a landowner to harass, capture or kill turkeys should they be damaging or about to damage the landowners' property at any time of the year without a licence or authorization. Prior to taking action, farmers should check with their local municipality regarding municipal by-laws (e.g. firearm use).*

*Regarding the resolution from Manitoulin, I understand farmers on Manitoulin Island are concerned about potential releases of wild turkeys. Prior to any decision on release, the Ministry would be required to complete an Individual Environmental Assessment. This process assesses ecological, social and economic costs and benefits and requires input from stakeholders and the public.*

*With regard to the resolution from Algoma, I understand there is a lot of interest in and concern with the population of sandhill cranes. As sandhill cranes are a migratory bird, responsibility for their management rests with the Canadian Wildlife Service. I encourage you to raise your concerns with the Canadian Wildlife Service.*

*Again, thank you for writing. I look forward to continuing to work with the OSCIA and through the Human-Wildlife Conflict Advisory Group.*

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