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2016 OSCIA Resolutions

Resolution #1 – BRANT – Forage Master Program

WHEREAS the sponsorship of the Forage Master's Program for the last 28 years has been excellent support for forage education by providing producers with data to analyze feed value, determine need for crop inputs, assess future of current stands, and generate friendly competition, and;

WHEREAS forages are a critical component of crop rotations for improving soil health, and;

WHEREAS winners have gone on to showcase and market Canadian forages on the international market.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA actively pursue new sponsors for the Program and re-launch in 2017 with a new, updated and redesigned format.

Moved by John Sikkens, Seconded by Steve Sickle (Brant)

Carried

REPLY TO PRESIDENT, BRANT SCIA



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Resolution #2 –Dufferin- Loss of Productive Farmland to MNRF and Conservation Authorities

WHEREAS the MNRF and Conservation Authorities control thousands of acres of productive farm land in Ontario including a significant amount of Class 1 food producing land, and;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry committed to phase out land use permits for agriculture in provincial park lands in 2010 and notified permit holders in Jan. 2011, and;

WHEREAS the MNRF has no definitive plan in place for current or future use of these productive farm lands, and;

WHEREAS good farmland is being taken out of production at the rate of 350+ acres per day in Ontario, and;

WHEREAS Premier Wynne's mandate to the Ag. Minister on September 25, 2014 calls on the province's agri-food industry to double its growth rate and create 120,000 jobs by the year 2020, and;

WHEREAS the loss of these MNRF and CA lands not only flies in the face of the above mandate but also creates operational hardships for neighboring farms since the vacant lands create a source of noxious weeds and invasive plant species, and;

WHEREAS these vacant lands also create increased costs and reduced tax sources for already financially strapped rural township governments.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the OSCIA petition OMAFRA and MNRF to review the current MNRF policy regarding agricultural leases and reinstate the granting of medium and long term leases to farmers.

Moved by John Sikkens, Seconded by Allan Lyons (Dufferin)

Carried

**SENT TO CHAIR AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, ONTARIO PARKS
COPY TO ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER, POLICY DIVISION, OMAFRA**

REPLY BY BRUCE BATEMAN, DIRECTOR, ONTARIO PARKS

Dear Mr. Graham,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the current Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) policy for agricultural leases. I appreciate you taking the time to share your concerns and I am pleased to respond.

A MNR phase-out policy was established in 1989 with a deadline to eliminate certain activities (including agricultural private tenure) in Ontario Parks by December 31, 2009.

In December 2010, an amendment to this policy was approved for private agriculture Land Use Permits (LUPs) holders which granted an extension for up to five years – until December 31, 2015. There was public consultation as part of this process, and that input helped shape the current policy, where it was determined that agricultural activities within Ontario Parks is incompatible with protected areas legislation and the principle of ecological integrity.

All agricultural land use permit holders have been informed of the phase-out policy deadline through a formal letter and annual LUP authorization packages since May 2011. I am pleased to inform you that we are working closely with existing LUP holders to determine restoration strategies that will restore the ecological integrity of these lands. Our highest priority is the restoration of lands currently used for row crops as they are the most susceptible to the introduction and spread of invasive species. Restoration efforts may include the planting of native tree and grass species to restore the area's natural ecological function.

If you have any further questions I encourage you to contact Melanie Milczynski, Ontario Parks Southwest Zone Manager at melanie.milczynski@ontario.ca or by telephone at 519.873.4616.

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your concerns.

Yours truly,

*Bruce Bateman
Director
Ontario Parks*

Resolution #3 – Dufferin – Tillage and Crop Rotation Research for Dundalk Plains

WHEREAS Long term tillage/crop rotation experiments have been ongoing at Ridgetown Campus and the Elora Research Station, and;

WHEREAS Yield results from these experiments indicate that reduced tillage treatments have greater yield penalty at Elora compared with similar treatments at Ridgetown, and;

WHEREAS The observed yield loss in reduced tillage treatments is thought to be due to the shorter growing season at Elora compared to the growing season at Ridgetown, and;

WHEREAS Some farmers practicing reduced till and no-till systems for soybeans in 2015 following 2014 corn experienced yield losses of 25 % compared to soybeans grown utilizing conventional tillage, and;

WHEREAS Conservation tillage systems are not commonly used for cropping systems on the Dundalk Plains, and;

WHEREAS Solutions to climate change include crop production systems that involve less tillage to allow for greater carbon sequestration in soil.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA work with the University of Guelph and OMAFRA to set out tillage/crop rotation trials in the Dundalk Plains area of Ontario to determine sustainable reduced/conservation tillage practices that are both economical and enhance soil health.

Moved by John Sikkens, Seconded by Allan Lyons (Dufferin)

Carried

**SENT TO INTERIM DEAN, OAC, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
SENT TO VICE PRESIDENT OF RESEARCH, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
COPY TO DIRECTOR, RESEARCH & INNOVATION BRANCH, OMAFRA**



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Resolution #4 - Dundas, Glengarry, Ottawa-Carleton & Eastern Valley - Lack of OMAFRA Field Crop Specialists in the East

WHEREAS one of the Eastern Ontario Crop Specialists (Field Crop IPM Program Lead) retired in June of 2015, and;

WHEREAS many other retired Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs specialists have been replaced throughout Ontario, and;

WHEREAS Eastern Ontario still does not have a replacement crop specialist.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association work with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and other major farm groups (GFO, OFA, CFFO) to have a new, bilingual field crop specialist placed in Eastern Ontario on a timely basis.

Note: Eastern Ontario should have the same access to crop specialists, as does the rest of the province.

*Moved by John Sikkens, Seconded by Réjean Pommerville (Russell) **Carried***

SENT TO MANAGER, FIELD CROPS, OMAFRA

REPLY FROM DAWN PATE, MANAGER, FIELD CROPS, OMAFRA

Dear Andrew:

Resolution #4 from Dundas, Glengarry, Ottawa-Carleton and Eastern Valley expressed concern about the lack of OMAFRA Field Crop Specialists in the east.

I am pleased to inform you that a new bilingual Field Crop Soil Management Specialist position will be located in the Kemptville office. This specialist will have an important role in the development and promotion of management practices to improve soil health and management. This new staff member will work closely with other Agriculture Development Branch Soil Management Specialists Adam Hayes and Anne Verhallen.

All Soil Management Specialists are supporting the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs initiative to develop an Agricultural Soil Health and Conservation Strategy. As well this position will support government priorities related to Great Lakes Nutrients (Agricultural related) and the development of the government's Climate Change initiative.

I am also glad to inform you that a new Forage and Grazier Specialist will be starting in Lindsay the end of May.

As always, all of the Agriculture Development Branch Specialists are provincial specialists and are there to serve the entire province.

Dawn Pate

Manager, Field Crops Unit, OMAFRA



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Resolution #5 - Elgin - OSCIA Cost Share Programs

WHEREAS some cost share programs delivered by OSCIA are delivered on a “first-come first served basis, and;

WHEREAS this system is not viewed as equitable to producers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, OSCIA work with funding partners to allow funding to be proportionally awarded to all applications received before the deadline.

Moved by John Sikkens, Seconded by Nick Hoffsuemmer (Elgin)

Carried

**REPLY TO PRESIDENT, ELGIN SCIA
COPY TO SECRETARY, ELGIN SCIA**

Resolution #6 – Elgin - Algae Blooms in Lake Erie

WHEREAS there are a lot of comments regarding the algae blooms in Lake Erie, and;

WHEREAS there have been studies completed concerning nitrogen requirements for crop production and the associated environmental concerns.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA work with other groups to further support research to determine actual phosphorus requirements for crop production and BMPs to minimize its environmental impact.

Moved by John Sikkens, Seconded by Nick Hoffsuemmer (Elgin)

Carried

**REPLY TO PRESIDENT, ELGIN SCIA
COPY TO SECRETARY, ELGIN SCIA**

Resolution #7 – Elgin - Request for Pilot Project - Algae Blooms in Lake Erie

WHEREAS there is significant Algae in Lake Erie, and Whereas the primary focus on the agricultural community is to reduce use and run off, and;

WHEREAS there appears to be very little focus on nutrient use and run off from urban areas and no existing benchmarks for timing and use of appropriate nutrients for lawns and recreational areas.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA initiate a pilot project in conjunction with Conservation Ontario, to start and establish and determine Baseline appropriate Nutrient Management in urban areas to minimize Nutrient run off and contamination and maintain a clean water environment.

Moved by John Sikkens, Seconded by Nick Hoffsuemmer (Elgin)

Carried

**SENT TO CHAIR AND GENERAL MANAGER, CONSERVATION ONTARIO
REPLY TO PRESIDENT, ELGIN SCIA
COPY TO SECRETARY, ELGIN SCIA**

**REPLY BY JO-ANNE RZADKI, MSC. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND
PARTNERSHIPS, CONSERVATION ONTARIO**

Dear Mr. Graham:

***Re: Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) Resolution #7 -
request for Pilot Project - Algae Blooms in Lake Erie***

On behalf of Kim Gavine (General Manager, Conservation Ontario) and Dick Hibma (Chair, Conservation Ontario), I am writing in response to your letter providing the above noted resolution.

Conservation Ontario (CO) and Conservation Authorities (CAs) share your members' concerns that all stakeholders take a responsibility for managing nutrient use and run-off to address the Algal Bloom issue in Lake Erie. Conservation Ontario and Conservation Authorities are also pleased and proud to have a long standing history of partnership with OSCIA to deliver services and programs to producers across Ontario and currently through their delivery of programs like the Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI). Conservation Ontario, Conservation Authorities have also been actively involved in a number of initiatives on the urban front.

The following examples are being provided to illustrate that the resolution is being addressed in many ways:

1. I have been currently representing Conservation Ontario at the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Annex 4 (Nutrients) Bi-National Subcommittee where both agricultural and urban sources of nutrient loading are noted as having contributions to the Lake Erie issue. Please see <https://binational.net/annexes/a4/> for information. The current work of the Annex includes the development of a tributary monitoring strategy which would include urban in addition to rural areas.
2. Conservation Authorities, municipalities, the province and others are engaged in a number of studies, and projects with the aim of reducing point and non-point sources of nutrients (particularly Phosphorus (P) as a current focus) in urban areas.
3. Phosphorus is currently not permitted in grass fertilizers sold in retail outlets in Ontario.
4. Conservation Authorities, municipalities and the province and federal government are working on projects to optimize wastewater management.
5. Municipalities like Kitchener and Waterloo are implementing stormwater management utility rates https://www.kitchener.ca/en/livingkitchener/Stormwater_Utility.asp
6. and implementing credit programs for urban residents <http://www.waterloo.ca/en/living/creditprogram.asp> who implement projects that reduce runoff from gardens and lawns. The city of Guelph is currently considering a similar program.
7. Municipalities and Conservation Authorities, developers, private sector and the province are researching and promoting the implementation of Low Impact Development (LID) Stormwater Management technologies. This includes vegetative technologies and the promotion of natural features like wetlands to manage flooding and conserve water, with the aim of reducing and in some cases eliminating the runoff of nutrients at the source/lot level.
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/showcasing-water-innovation-stormwater-projects>
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/showcasing-water-innovation-wastewater-projects>
8. Training and information about these technologies is being offered through CAs and others (eg. <http://www.sustainabletechnologies.ca/wp/home/urban-runoff-green-infrastructure/low-impact-development/>)
9. CAs staff at CAs like the Upper Thames River CA are being trained in these approaches and are working with local municipalities to implement them.
10. The province produced an Interpretation Bulletin in 2015 with expectations for stormwater management which includes Low Impact Development (LID) Stormwater management. This document was encouraged and supported with input from Conservation Authorities and Conservation Ontario. <http://www.creditvalleyca.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Interpbulletin-final-February-6-2015.pdf>
11. Conservation Authorities, Conservation Ontario and other stakeholders are currently at the table with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change in the development of Provincial Low Impact Development Stormwater Management Guidelines noted within Interpretation Bulletin released in 2015. A draft is expected to be posted on the EBR for review by the end of 2016 / early 2017.

12. Conservation Ontario, Conservation Authorities and other stakeholders like Green Infrastructure Ontario <http://www.greeninfrastructureontario.org/focus-area-sections> are promoting the inclusion of these technologies to be eligible for funding under various provincial and federal programs including the Federal Green Infrastructure Program. I have recently learned that OMAFRA staff are also encouraging the federal government to consider rural stormwater green technologies like constructed wetlands, grassed waterways and swales are eligible under the program.

During a recent meeting you and I discussed further opportunities to advance our common interests. We have discussed the need to enhance communications about all the work being conducted and proposed towards the advancement of action by all stakeholders to address Lake Erie Algae issue. This includes monitoring, reporting and adapting which are all part of the Integrated Watershed Management process we promote <https://conservationontario.ca/what-we-do/great-lakes/great-lakes-integrated-watershed-management>

Recently the province and federal government hosted the inaugural meeting of the Lake Erie Nutrient Management Working Group where Conservation Ontario, Conservation Authorities, representatives of Agriculture, Environmental Organizations, First Nations, Municipalities and others were represented. This group will be providing input to the development of the Lake Erie Domestic Action Plan. It is anticipated that opportunities to enhance communications on the efforts of all stakeholders will be discussed and encouraged.

In conclusion, we hope this information served to highlight some of the work going on to reduce runoff of nutrients in urban areas and to address the OSCIA Resolution #7. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at ext. 224, jrzadki@conservationontario.ca. In the meantime, on behalf of Conservation Ontario, Kim Gavine and Dick Hibma we look forward to continuing our longstanding collaboration with OSCIA.

Your Truly,

Jo-Anne Rzadki, MSc. Business Development and Partnerships, Conservation Ontario

cc. Dick Hibma, Chair, Conservation Ontario
Kim Gavine, General Manager, Conservation Ontario

Resolution #8 – Elgin - Pollinator Health & Species At Risk

WHEREAS pollinator health and habitat is at risk in Elgin and across Ontario, and;

WHEREAS pollinator and wildlife habitat is important to protect Species at Risk, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA encourage the maintenance of pollinator and wildlife habitat on all land uses within the agricultural landscape.

Moved by John Sikkens, Seconded by Nick Hoffsuemmer (Elgin)

Carried

**REPLY TO PRESIDENT, ELGIN SCIA
COPY TO SECRETARY, ELGIN SCIA**

Resolution #9 – Elgin - Ontario Corn Committee Trials

WHEREAS Ontario Corn Committee (OCC) trials now provide managed trial data that includes fungicides and variable N rates in addition to variety trials and;

WHEREAS This extra information is valuable to Ontario producers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the OSCIA express appreciation to OCC and encourage the continuation of the managed trials.

Moved by John Sikkens, Seconded by Nick Hoffsuemmer (Elgin)

Carried

**SENT TO ONTARIO CORN COMMITTEE
REPLY TO PRESIDENT, ELGIN SCIA
COPY TO SECRETARY, ELGIN SCIA**



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Resolution #10 - Lambton - Designating Agricorp Staff as 'Professional Pest Advisors'

WHEREAS under the new Ontario class 12 pesticide regulations Agricorp field staff are not considered "professional pest advisors" and are not permitted to perform a "Crop Pest Assessment", and;

WHEREAS these individuals are qualified to advise on replant decisions and are able to determine the likely cause of stand loss, and;

WHEREAS there could be significant delays in replanting waiting for a "Professional Pest Advisor", and;

WHEREAS these planting delays will most likely have a negative economic impact.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA work with Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and Agricorp, to ensure that these field staff are considered "Professional Pest Advisors" under the regulation.

Moved by Don Oliver, Seconded by Ryan Benjamins (Lambton)

Carried

SENT TO CEO, AGRICORP

SENT TO MINISTER, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

COPY TO PRESIDENT, ONTARIO FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

REPLY BY GLEN MURRAY, MINISTER, MOECC

Dear Mr. Graham:

Thank you for your letter of April 15, 2016 providing notice of your organization's resolution to work with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and Agricorp to ensure that Agricorp field staff are considered "Professional Pest Advisors" under the amended Ontario Regulation 63/09 of the Pesticide Act.

I appreciate you sharing this resolution with me. I have provided a copy of the resolution to ministry staff working on this matter and trust that they will follow up with you if any further information is required.

Again, thank you for writing, and please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

Glen Murray, Minister MOECC

cc. *Ms. Kathleen O'Neill, Director, Strategic Policy Branch, MOECC*

Mr. Garth Napier, Director, Program Planning and Implementation Branch, MOECC

REPLY BY DOUG LAROSE, CEO, AGRICORP

Dear Mr. Graham:

Thank you for your letter informing me of the OSCIA's resolution to work with Agricorp to have our field staff approved as professional pest advisors under the new Ontario class 12 pesticide regulations.

We understand that the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has identified a potential shortfall in professional pest advisors and is looking at options to resolve this potential problem, including the use of Agricorp staff. Agricorp is working with OMAFRA to support the MOECC analysis and is committed to collaborating with government on this priority.

Agricorp is also having discussions with the Grain Farmers of Ontario about potential impacts from the new regulations and will be happy to keep you informed about these discussions. To help clarify program expectations under the new regulations for our customers, we have and will continue to focus our communications on the importance of following good farm management practices while complying with the regulations. We regularly post program information, updates and news on agricorp.com so that customers can easily find the most current information.

Thank you again for interest. I have asked Mike Vlcek to follow up with you to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Doug LaRose

CEO, Agricorp

c. Don McCabe, President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

David Hagarty, Director, Farm Finance Branch, OMAFRA

Resolution #11 - Middlesex - Phosphorus Residue

WHEREAS International, Federal and Provincial levels of government have identified Great Lakes water quality as a priority, and have announced ambitious targets for the reduction of phosphorus in the Great Lakes, both bound and soluble, and;

WHEREAS there is some concern that these targets would be difficult to attain, even if all agricultural practices were ceased, and;

WHEREAS the agricultural industry recognizes that it has a role and that phosphorus discharge could be and must be reduced.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA work with other farm groups to ensure that any mandated phosphorus reduction be based on scientifically attainable levels, and;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA ensure that any target level set also consider that any food production will have an environmental footprint, and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA suggest to both levels of government that new funding be provided for research and extension to develop practices that reach these goals.

Moved by Don Oliver, Seconded by Larry McGill (Middlesex)

Carried

**SENT TO MINISTER, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA
SENT TO DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
COPY TO PRESIDENT, ONTARIO FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE
COPY TO CEO, GRAIN FARMERS OF ONTARIO**

REPLY BY THE HONOURABLE CATHERINE MCKENNA, P.C., M.P., MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Dear Mr. Graham,

Thank you for your letter of April 15, 2016, concerning the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association's Resolution #11 regarding the reduction of phosphorus loads in Great Lakes.

As you know, since the 1990s, Lake Erie has been experiencing increasing algal growth resulting in increased impairment to its water quality. To address this growing threat, the governments of Canada and the United States committed to working with the Government of Ontario, the Great Lakes states, and other partners to manage phosphorus concentrations and loadings in Lake Erie. This commitment is formalized in the 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement that calls for revised binational phosphorus-reduction targets. These targets were drafted in 2015 based on the current scientific knowledge of over 25 Great Lakes water quality experts from both government

and academia, as well as the most recent data from various Great Lakes research models. Public feedback on the draft targets was obtained through consultation meetings and online input. In February 2016, Canada and the United States adopted the new phosphorus load-reduction targets for Lake Erie.

The governments of Canada and the United States appreciate that significant effort will be required to achieve the target phosphorus-load reductions for Lake Erie. This is why the Government of Ontario, will begin engaging with agricultural organizations, municipalities, Indigenous Peoples and other partners during the summer of 2016 in the development of a Canadian domestic action plan. We look forward to the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association's engagement in this process for achieving reductions in phosphorus loads to Lake Erie.

I appreciate being made aware of the Association's views. Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

*The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change*

Resolution #12 - Middlesex - Pollinator Habitat

WHEREAS pollinator habitat has been identified as critical for the health of native and introduced pollinators, and;

WHEREAS long term establishment of habitat requires annual investment of labour/ management and financial expenditure, and;

WHEREAS this habitat represents a loss of annual income for landowners.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA request provincial governments for funding to retire lands that will allow creation of pollinator habitat and other conservation practices.

Moved by Don Oliver, Seconded by Larry McGill (Middlesex)

DEFEATED

Resolution #13 - Middlesex - OMAFRA Field Crop Specialists

WHEREAS the retirements that have occurred within the Crop Technology Team have left the Thames Valley Regional Soil & Crop Association without a vital link to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA request OMAFRA to appoint a representative to the Soil and Crop Regions currently without OMAFRA representation.

Moved by Don Oliver, Seconded by Larry McGill (Middlesex)

WITHDRAWN



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Resolution #14 – Nipissing West/East Sudbury - Sandhill Cranes

WHEREAS very large numbers of Sandhill cranes are currently being observed in Northeastern Ontario and the population is increasing every year, and;

WHEREAS the large population of Sandhill cranes is causing significant damage to grain crops in the spring, summer and fall resulting in economic loss for farmers, and;

WHEREAS Sandhill cranes are causing significant crop damage after September 1st in Northeastern Ontario which occurs during the hunting season, and;

WHEREAS Manitoba, Saskatchewan and some U.S. States allow Sandhill crane hunting as a measure of reducing crop damage.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA request the Minister of the environment, Environment Canada to allow a limited Sandhill crane hunt in Specific Wildlife Management Units in Ontario to help in reducing crop damage and economic losses.

Moved by Dale Ketcheson, Seconded by Norm Delorme (Nipissing W/E Sudbury)

Carried

**SENT TO ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
BRANCH, ENVIRONMENT CANADA, CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICES**

***REPLY BY SUE MILBURN-HOPWOOD, A/ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER,
CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICES, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
CANADA***

Dear Mr. Graham:

Thank you for your letter to Mr. Mike Beale requesting a limited hunting season for Sandhill Cranes in specific Wildlife Management Units in Northeastern Ontario. As a result of recent internal changes. I am responding to your letter.

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is the federal Department responsible for the protection, conservation and management of birds covered by the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 and for the implementation of the Migratory Birds Regulations, which authorize open hunting seasons for migratory game birds such as Sandhill Cranes.

In considering whether to open a hunting season for a migratory game bird, ECCC must assess the status and harvest potential for that species and the specific population in question to ensure that a hunting season would be sustainable. While we are aware that numbers of Eastern Population (EP) Sandhill Cranes have been increasing in Ontario, data is insufficient at this time, to complete a proper assessment. Consequently, ECCC is conducting population monitoring and research to improve our knowledge about EP Sandhill Cranes in Ontario. Available information suggests that there are approximately 8,000 EP Sandhill Cranes that migrate through northeastern Ontario; in total, there are just over 80,000 EP Sandhill Cranes in North America. In contrast, the Mid-Continent Population of Sandhill Cranes, that occurs in western Canada and is hunted, is estimated at over 600,000 birds.

ECCC does not currently have plans to open a hunting season for EP Sandhill Cranes in Ontario. However, ECCC is aware of the nuisance issues that EP Sandhill Cranes are causing in some areas and will continue to evaluate possible future management options for this species. Any farmer experiencing crop damage caused by migratory birds may apply for a Damage or Danger permit from ECCC's Canadian Wildlife Service. These permits are available at no cost to the applicant and authorize, subject to certain terms and conditions, the permit holder and their nominees to undertake certain activities, such as scaring or killing, to manage cranes that are causing or likely to cause damage to their property. It should also be noted that, when assessing an application for a Damage or Danger permit, Permits Officers will take into account any alternative management techniques that have been employed to mitigate the damage caused by cranes and that failure to have previously attempted the use of such techniques may lead to certain activities (e.g. killing) not being authorized and/or the imposition of additional terms and conditions. For more information regarding Damage or Danger permits or the use of alternative management techniques to manage nuisance EP Sandhill Cranes, please contact the Canadian Wildlife Service's Ontario regional office by telephone at 905-336-4464 or by email at wildlife.Ontario@canada.ca

I appreciate the concerns raised in your letter and assure you that ECCC is monitoring the situation and will continue to evaluate possible future management options to address agricultural conflicts involving EP Sandhill Cranes and other migratory birds.

Sincerely,

*Sue Milburn-Hopwood
A/Assistant Deputy Minister
Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment and Climate Change Canada*

Resolution #15 – Prescott – Crop Enhancement Products

WHEREAS there is an increasing number of companies selling crop enhancing products in various modes of action, and;

WHEREAS farmers are approached by many of these companies with little or no official testing information for effectiveness, and;

WHEREAS these products are sometimes costly to apply

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA investigate the possibility of establishing independent testing of crop enhancement products to get unbiased data on their effectiveness.

Moved by Dale Ketcheson, Seconded by Alain Malette (Prescott)

Carried

**SENT TO ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION,
OMAFRA**

**SENT TO INTERIM DEAN, DEPARTMENT OF PLANT AGRICULTURE, OAC,
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH**

COPY TO ONTARIO CORN COMMITTEE

COPY TO ONTARIO SOYBEAN & CANOLA COMMITTEE

COPY TO ONTARIO FORAGE COMMITTEE

COPY TO ONTARIO CEREAL CROPS COMMITTEE

**REPLY BY RANDY JACKIW, ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT BRANCH, OMAFRA**

Dear Mr. Graham:

Thank you for your letter of April 15, 2016 regarding the Resolution #15, Prescott - Crop Enhancement Products.

I appreciate the difficult decisions farmers have to make when they are presented with a new product to purchase with very little or no independent scientific evaluation to support the claims of its effectiveness. In response to your request for a comment on independent testing of crop enhancement products there are a couple of options your organization may want to consider.

The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) could submit crop enhancement product evaluation as a priority for funding through the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)/University of Guelph (U of G) partnership research program. OMAFRA's main source of funding for Plan Production Systems research is through the OMAFRA/U of G partnership research program.

OMAFRA regularly evaluates and revises the Plan Production Systems research priorities of the OMAFRA/U of G research program. In the past, the OSCIA has shared its research priorities with OMAFRA and these were taken into consideration when setting research program priorities. If the OSCIA wants to identify crop enhancement product evaluation as a priority it can provide that input to OMAFRA.

The other option is for the OSCIA to target some of its applied research dollars towards crop enhancement product evaluation.

I am aware that the ministry is currently has a three-year Transfer Payment Agreement with the OSCIA to help fund the development and transfer of innovative solutions for the sustainable production of crops in Ontario. A portion of these funds are used by the OSCIA to support applied research projects that address its research priorities. A portion of this funding could be directed towards the evaluation of crop enhancement products.

Thank you again for bringing this to my attention.

Sincerely,

Randy Jackiw

Assistant Deputy Minister, Economic Development Branch, OMAFRA

c: Hugh Earl, Interim Chair, Department of Plant Agriculture, U of G

Resolution #16 – Simcoe North - Reduced Load Exemption Request

WHEREAS the reduced load requirements imposed during March and April complicate the movement of seeds, fertilizers, fuels and feed to farm retailers located on affected roads, and subsequent distribution to farms, and;

WHEREAS exemptions are provided for trucks carrying milk, garbage and road maintenance supplies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA request the Ontario Minister of Transport to extend similar exemptions to vehicles delivering these vital, time sensitive farm supplies.

*Moved by Dale Ketcheson, Seconded by Wayne Simpson (Simcoe North) **Carried***

**SENT TO MINISTER, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION
SENT TO MANAGER, ROAD SAFETY POLICY OFFICE, MINISTRY OF
TRANSPORTATION
COPY TO GRAIN FARMERS OF ONTARIO
COPY TO ROMA**

***REPLY BY SEAN DOUSSEPT, MANAGER, CARRIER ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM
OFFICE, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION***

Dear Mr. Graham,

Thank you for your letter about your organizations resolution for a reduced load exemption request. The Honorable Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation, has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

The Highway Traffic Act provides the legislative framework and guidance for reduced load periods. The Ministry of Transportation through the Provincial Highway Management Division performs the role of setting the reduced load periods for provincial roadways in the North. In Southern Ontario the local municipalities set the reduced load periods for the roads that they are responsible for. This issue would need to be addressed to the various municipalities where this is an issue.

Again, thank you for your interest in road safety.

Yours truly,

Sean Doussept

Manager, Carrier Enforcement Program Office



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2016 OSCIA Resolutions

Resolution #17 – Thunder Bay - Wildlife Damage on Crops for Crop Insurance

WHEREAS crops in Ontario are damaged by wildlife feeding on, living on, and traveling through agricultural land, and;

WHEREAS farmers are required to either purchase more feed to feed their livestock, or grow more acres to make the same total yields as a smaller, undamaged crop, and;

WHEREAS cost of production will increase to farmers at an unexpected rate due to wildlife damage on crops, and;

WHEREAS a report from the George Morris Centre states that wildlife cause 41 million dollars worth of damage to agricultural products each year, and of this amount, 39 million dollars is crop damage, and;

WHEREAS there is currently a program available for wildlife damage to livestock.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the OSCIA works with AgriCorp to create an insurance policy that covers crop damage due to wildlife damage.

*Moved by Dale Ketcheson, Seconded by Andrew Brekveld (Thunder Bay) **Carried***

**SENT TO CHAIR, AGRICULTURAL WILDLIFE CONFLICT WORKING GROUP
SENT TO CEO, AGRICORP**

REPLY BY DOUG LAROSE, CEO, AGRICORP

Dear Mr. Graham:

Thank you for your letter informing me of the OSCIA's resolution to work with Agricornp to create an insurance policy that covers crop damage due to wildlife.

Ontario producers currently have access to a comprehensive suite of business risk management programs that provide coverage for various types of losses, including loss caused by wildlife.

Production Insurance covers production losses and yield reductions caused by insured perils, including wildlife damage. If yields fall below a producer's guaranteed production level, a claim may be paid on the difference. Coverage is based on the producer's own

average farm yield, and many plans offer up to 90 per cent coverage. The government shares the cost of premiums.

I understand that this resolution was discussed at the April 28, 2016 meeting of the Agriculture-Wildlife Conflict Working Group established by the Ontario government as part of the Strategy for Preventing and Managing Human-Wildlife Conflicts in Ontario. We will continue to participate in discussions taking place at that forum.

I have requested that Mike Vlcek follow up with you to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

*Doug LaRose
CEO, Agricorp*

*C. David Hagarty, Director, Farm Finance Branch, OMAFRA
Charlie Lalonde, Agricultural Wildlife Working Group*



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2016 OSCIA Resolutions

Resolution #18 – York - Wildlife Losses

WHEREAS crop losses due to wildlife continue to impact Ontario farmers income, and;

WHEREAS thousands of geese clip newly emerging wheat, and;

WHEREAS turkeys and deer totally harvest field edges and bush lines, and;

WHEREAS no public money has been made available for such losses in the last 20 years, and;

WHEREAS high-resolution satellite/aerial images can pinpoint yearly damage in affected areas.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the OSCIA request the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to establish an “easy to obtain” permit for hunting and scaring methods for nuisance wildlife foraging in identified problem areas.

Moved by Dale Ketcheson, Seconded by Alvin Brooks (York)

Carried

**SENT TO ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
BRANCH, CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICES, ENVIRONMENT CANADA
SENT TO MINISTER, MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES & FORESTRY
COPY TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, YORK MUNICIPAL OFFICE
COPY TO NORMAL FARM PRACTICES PROTECTION BOARD, OMAFRA**

Resolution #19 – Simcoe South/Grey - Request for Release of Neonic Comparison Project Results

WHEREAS Ontario farmers continue to struggle with the lack of on farm research work to evaluate the value and effective use of neonic seed treatments, and;

WHEREAS OSCIA members have committed considerable time and resources in 2014 and 2015 growing seasons to facilitate and support field scale farm research plots across Ontario to evaluate neonic use, and;

WHEREAS the plot results may provide valuable information to assist growers in decisions on neonic use.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA request the immediate release of the 2014-2015 results of the on-farm neonic comparison project.

*Moved by Dale Ketcheson, Seconded by Stephanie Kowalski (Simcoe South) **Carried***

SENT TO PROFESSOR, FIELD CROP PEST MANAGEMENT, OAC, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH