



Resolution #6, Elgin SCIA - Soil Health

WHEREAS soil health is now a major priority and focus for Ontario Agriculture; and,
WHEREAS research has shown significant benefit to rotations, cover crops and other soil health Best Management Practices (BMPs).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA source funding, support long-term research, and encourage the adoption of BMPs by growers to improve soil health.

Moved by Birgit Martin, seconded by Adam Pfeffer (Elgin).

Carried

SENT TO: OSCIA Executive;

COPIED TO: Aileen MacNeil and Hugh Berges, OMAFRA

RESPONSE FROM ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Dear Mr. Graham:

Thank you for your letter of April 10, 2018 in which you provide the details of resolution #6 from Elgin Soil and Crop Improvement Association. Specifically, "that OSCIA source funding, support long-term research, and encourage the adoption of BMPs by growers to improve soil health".

As noted in the resolution, soil health has indeed become a priority for Ontario agriculture as it is for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). Over the last two years, OMAFRA has worked with stakeholders, including the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA), to create a soil strategy that will help to grow and sustain a strong agricultural sector, while protecting the environment and adapting to a changing climate.

To support research, development and implementation of best management practices (BMP) for soil health and water quality, OMAFRA has recently announced the new Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Programs. The CAP program includes a Stewardship stream which provides cost-share funding for individual producers and organizations to assess farm practices and implementation of BMPs focused entirely on soil health and water quality. Please see the following links for details:
<https://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/canadian-agricultural-partnership/> and
<http://adaptcouncil.org/program/cap>.

In addition to the CAP suite of programs, OMAFRA continues to fund applied research through the recently renewed OMAFRA/University of Guelph Agreement. Further details on research funding programs can be access at
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/research/programfundingindex.html> .would suggest focusing on the Environmental Sustainability and Plant Productions Systems streams.

Again, thank you for your letter; I trust the information provided is helpful.

Sincerely,

Aileen MacNeil
Director

c: Hugh Berges, Manager, Field Crops Unit
OSCIA Executive