



2019 OSCIA *Resolution Package*



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Resolution #1 – Brant SCIA – Recycle of Biosolids and Reduction to Landfill

Additional Information:

Biosolids are organic-based materials from municipal and industrial wastewater sludge in various forms from solids to liquids which have been treated to meet Ontario or Canadian standards, including the reduction of pathogens, vector attraction and contaminant criteria.

The land application of municipal dewatered and liquid biosolids is provincially regulated. The pelletized and alkaline stabilized fertilizers are regulated under the federal Fertilizers Act.

WHEREAS the land application of biosolids is beneficial in many ways. The major advantages include providing of both macro and micronutrients for plant growth, increasing soil organic matter, improving soil pH with alkaline stabilized products, and improving biological activity and carbon sequestration, and;

WHEREAS nutrient management regulations developed and administered by the province have significantly increased the acceptance of land application of biosolids in the farming community. With estimated fertilizer value of \$35/tonne (dry weight), the organic matter and micronutrient additions, benefits of biosolids are similar to those of livestock manures, and;

WHEREAS the 3 R's of reduce, reuse and recycle have been promoted for years and the 'Waste-Free Ontario Act' encourages a new waste management strategy for household, business and industry that will consider waste as a resource that can be recovered and reintegrated into the production stream. A very ambitious endeavour to divert an estimated 3.7 tonnes annually from landfill with a stream of material that is difficult and expensive to collect, sort and re-purpose, and;

WHEREAS the municipal wastewater sludge commodity is already a captured stream and there are several proven treatment technologies already operating in the province making a variety of amendments, and;

WHEREAS the population of Ontario generates an estimated 250,000 tonnes (dry weight) biosolids annually only about 55% is used for agricultural land or land reclamation. The remaining 45% is either incinerated or landfilled, and;

WHEREAS landfills are a one time use only, they are expensive to operate and maintain, expensive and difficult to open new ones, and are sort of a kick-the-can-down-the-road problem for the next generation. A winter storage site for biosolids is reusable year after year and technology has developed forms of processed sludge that are stable and storable during winter.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA continue to encourage OMAFRA and MOECC to expand the beneficial utilization of municipal biosolids to Ontario cropland and to discourage specific municipalities from diverting this valuable resource to incineration and landfill.

Moved by Warren Schneckeburger, Seconded by Owen McIntyre (Brant SCIA).

Carried

SEEK - TEST - ADOPT



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SENT TO The Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP),
The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
Pat Vanini and Jamie McGarvey, Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO)

COPY TO Brant SCIA for further information

RESPONSE FROM MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND PARKS

Dear Mr. Graham:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Brant Soil and Crop Improvement Association's resolution on the recycling of biosolids.

Making use of the nutrients in non-agricultural source materials, such as biosolids diverts materials from landfills and avoids greenhouse-gas emissions that would otherwise occur if these materials were sent to landfill.

The Nutrient Management Act, 2002 supports the use of biosolids through strict storage, material quality and land application standards to prevent odour impact and avoid the migration of nutrients to surface and groundwater.

Ontario's Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement also supports the management and beneficial use of biosolids, including new and enhanced biosolids processing technologies and co-management practices that support volume minimization and nutrient recovery.

Rules governing nutrient management are part of the province's comprehensive, science-based approach to protecting land and water and reducing landfilling that will contribute to strong, healthy and prosperous communities.

As you know, our government is working on reducing red tape and regulatory burden, and we announced a package of over 30 actions to reduce the burden on job creators. The Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, which received Royal Assent on April 3, 2019 will, along with regulatory changes, cut business costs, harmonize regulatory requirements with other jurisdictions, end duplication and reduce barriers to investment.

Further, my ministry remains committed to working with businesses to find innovative ways to reduce and divert more of our waste from landfills. Where appropriate, ministry staff will review requirements related to waste management to consider opportunities where those requirements related to waste management pose an obstacle to the recovery of materials.

I have shared your letter with staff that work on resource recovery in my ministry.

Thank you for your interest in the recycling of biosolids and protecting the environment in Ontario.

Sincerely,

*Rob Philips
Minister*

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RESPONSE FROM MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Dear Mr. Graham:

Thank you for sending me resolutions from your most recent annual conference. I have shared these with ministry staff for their information and consideration.

I would like to respond to two of those resolutions: (1) agricultural leases on development lands, and (2) the recycling of biosolids and reduction to landfill.

I appreciate the concern you raise regarding agricultural leases that preclude the growing of certain crops. I have forwarded your resolution to my Cabinet colleague the Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), as the Minister responsible for the Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA). As you may be aware, recent changes have been made to the ESA to improve protections for species at risk while also streamlining approvals and to provide clarity to support economic development. I am confident Minister Yurek will take OSCIA's concerns into consideration and my ministry is ready to work with MECP if needed.

In response to the second item, recycling of biosolids and reduction to landfill, Ontario's new made-in-Ontario Environment Plan shows our continued commitment to addressing Ontario's environmental challenges. [Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan](#) includes actions to reduce and divert food and organic waste from households and businesses, such as developing a proposal to ban food waste from landfill, educating the public and business about reducing and diverting food and organic waste, and developing best practices for safe food donation.

In addition, the Nutrient Management Act, 2002, contains a regulatory framework for the beneficial utilization of various non-agricultural source materials like municipal biosolids on Ontario cropland.

Ontario's farmland and our productive soils are the foundation for the success of the agri-food sector. Your association's leadership and expertise on soil health is appreciated. You have also been a valuable partner in the administration of cost-share funding assistance to farmers. My ministry will continue to work in collaboration with farmers, organizations such as yours and other levels of government on soil stewardship initiatives.

Sincerely,

Ernie Hardeman

Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

c: The Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

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Resolution #2 – Dundas SCIA – CAP Funding for Continuing Education

WHEREAS, the farmer’s need for continuing education should be a high priority on all farms, and;

WHEREAS the cost of travel, entrance fees and accommodations etc. prevent many farmers from participating in knowledge transfer activities throughout North America.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED OSCIA recommend to OMAFRA that the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) funding should be made available for one Ag Conference in North America, to cover travel, registration and accommodations on a yearly basis.

Moved by Warren Schneckenburger, Seconded by Brian Vandenburg (Dundas SCIA).

Carried

SENT TO Carolyn Hamilton, Director, Rural Programs Branch, OMAFRA

RESPONSE FROM

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Resolution #3 – Dundas SCIA – CAP Funding for Grain Testing Equipment

WHEREAS all farmers need access to modern grain testing equipment for moisture, protein, disease, etc., and;

WHEREAS the Canadian grains commission has changed the gold standard for grain moisture testing from Dickey-John to Pertens, and;

WHEREAS these two companies' equipment test grain quite differently leading to sometimes significant discrepancies in test results between inland elevator and end users.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA encourage OMAFRA to modify the Canadian Agricultural Program (CAP) include a category for upgrading grain testing equipment to meet the new standard.

Moved by Warren Schneckenburger, Seconded by Brian Vandenburg (Dundas SCIA).
Carried

SENT TO Carolyn Hamilton, Director, Rural Programs Branch, OMAFRA

RESPONSE FROM

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Resolution #4 – Dundas SCIA – Farmer Representation on Drainage Committees

WHEREAS the cost of municipal drain maintenance has become costly and often not carried out in a timely basis, and;

WHEREAS this cost farmers considerable investments in time and money.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA work with OMAFRA and ROMA to have farm business representatives included on the municipal drain committees and encourage the establishment of such municipal drainage committees where they don't exist.

Moved Birgit Martin, Seconded by Brian Vandenburg (Dundas SCIA).

Carried

SENT TO Colleen Fitzgerald-Hubble, Director, Environmental Management Branch, OMAFRA

COPY TO Allan Thompson, Chair, Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)

RESPONSE FROM

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Resolution #5 – Dundas SCIA – CAP Funding for all Environmental Practices be made Province Wide

WHEREAS all farmers can benefit equally from recommended environmental practices to reduce runoff.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA encourage OMAFRA to consider funding under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) for environmental practices be provided equally for all categories across Ontario.

Moved Birgit Martin, Seconded by Brian Vandenburg (Dundas SCIA).

Carried

SENT TO Colleen Fitzgerald-Hubble, Director, Environmental Management Branch, OMAFRA

RESPONSE FROM

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Resolution #6 – Dundas SCIA – CAP Intake Dates

WHEREAS, the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) is being offered as five-year program, with producers experiencing frustration when intake dates are postponed with still uncertain dates, and;

WHEREAS OSCIA as the delivery agent has been asked to curb promotional activity on the availability of cost-share for extended periods of time.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA provide the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs details on the repercussions created for farm businesses caused by delays in the availability of information pertinent to the CAP program that includes such things as intake dates.

Moved Birgit Martin, Seconded by Brian Vandenburg (Dundas SCIA).

Carried

SENT TO OSCIA Executive Committee to further discuss list of repercussions to present to the OMAFRA Minister

RESPONSE FROM

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Resolution #7 – Glengarry SCIA – Succession Planning as an Eligible Expense Under CAP

WHEREAS the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) is a five-year federal-provincial-territorial initiative to strengthen the agriculture, agri-food, and agri-based products sector and increase its competitiveness, prosperity and sustainability, and;

WHEREAS proper farm succession planning is central to agricultural sustainability, and;

WHEREAS farm succession plans were one of the most popular Farm Business Planning eligible expenses under the previous *Growing Forward 2* program, and;

WHEREAS several other provinces continue to offer support for succession planning under CAP.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association work with other interested groups (Canadian Association of Farm Advisors (CAFA) Farm Management Canada (FMC), OIA, OFA, etc.) to ensure that succession planning be an eligible expense under CAP.

Moved Don Oliver, Seconded by Duncan Ferguson (Glengarry SCIA).

Carried

**SENT TO Liz Robertson, Executive Director, Canadian Association of Farm Advisors (CAFA),
Heather Watson, Executive Director, Farm Management Canada (FMC)**

**COPY TO Joerg Zimmermann, Chair and Peter Jeffery, Senior Farm Policy Analyst,
Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)**

RESPONSE FROM CAFA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for sharing Resolution #7, “Succession Planning as an Eligible Expense Under CAP”, from the recent 2019 annual Glengarry OSCIA delegate meeting. CAFA is disappointed that farm transition planning support is lacking in several provincial jurisdictions under the new Canadian Agricultural Partnership program.

The new CAP programs focus on:

- *Growing trade and expanding markets;*
- *Innovation and sustainable growth;*
- *Supporting diversity and a dynamic, evolving sector.*

The agri-food sector has been identified as an engine of growth for Canada with some ambitious

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targets set by the Agri-Food Economic Strategy Table: agricultural exports at \$85 billion and agri-food exports at \$140 billion by 2025.

These are aspiring goals however, without a solid foundation of well-managed farm businesses and strong working-family relationships, their attainment may be less certain.

Consider three facts that will be a destabilizing force on Canada's farms over the next 10 years:

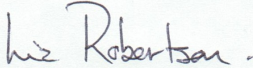
1. 50% of farmland will be changing hands over the next 10 years. (Food Secure Canada)
2. 75% of farmers do not have anyone lined-up to take over their farm. (Food Secure Canada)
3. 92% of Canadian farms have no transition plan. (Statistics Canada)

CAFA was created to ensure that farm families and farm businesses have access to quality, timely advice to help them better manage and transition their farms, because a solid business plan and successful farm transitions are fundamental to healthy sustainable farms. Solid farm foundations generally proceed growth and innovation.

CAFA agrees with OSCIA Glengarry delegates, that to strengthen the agricultural and agri-food sectors, government funding support for farm succession planning needs to be a prioritized eligible expense under CAP. Although numbers show poor uptake on written transition planning, every opportunity needs to be available to farm families and businesses to start the process.

This letter speaks on behalf of CAFA's Board of Directors who represent almost 600 CAFA members across the country.

If you require further information, please feel free to contact me at the co-ordinates on this letterhead.



Sincerely,

Liz Robertson., M.A. CAFA Executive Director

RESPONSE FROM FARM MANAGEMENT CANADA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for bringing Resolution #7 (Succession Planning as an Eligible Expense Under CAP) from your recent delegate meeting to our attention.

Farm Management Canada (FMC) is Canada's only national organization dedicated to the development and delivery of advanced farm business management resources, information and tools to position farmers for sustainable growth and continued prosperity through business management excellence.

Our national coordinating role is unique and provides an opportunity to see the programs and services available to farmers across Canada, and work with industry stakeholders to create an environment where Canada's farmers have an equal opportunity for success.

Compared to Provincial and Territorial counterparts offering cost-share funding for advisory services, Ontario is the only jurisdiction that does not support succession planning under CAP.

In order to support the long-term sustainability of the agriculture and agri-food sector, we must consider succession planning - also called transition planning, as a necessary component of and counterpart to business planning: it is the only process that links one generation to future generations involved in the farm business to ensure the farm remains healthy for generations to come.

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Many farms concentrate on the here and now, without taking the time to consider, and put a process in place that will address how everything happening today will survive and thrive for future generations. Who will continue the farm dream? What needs to happen today to maximize their chances for success? How will decisions taken now, have an impact on the future of the farm, and family?

A succession plan ‘protects’ the farm, farm team and farm family by ensuring the current and future generation have a mutual understanding of and respect for one another’s decisions. In our experience, succession planning is one of the most effective ways for farms to start implementing farm business practices, including business planning, in order to set the next generation up for success.

Lobley and others have studied what they refer to as “the Succession Effect¹,” whereby the owner/manager will continue to invest in the farm when a successor has been identified. Conversely, when a successor has not been identified, the owner/manager will naturally begin to take less risk and decrease investments in the farm as they head towards the “end” of their farming career. Currently only 48% of farms have an identified successor, bringing about the Succession Effect and compromising the viability of the farm for future generations.

In a much different business environment than their predecessors, our future farmers deserve a fighting chance to succeed.

Agriculture has never seen a period of such volatility, change and uncertainty like the one we find ourselves in today. By 2050, farmers must produce 70% more food to feed 9 billion people around the world^[1]. Further, Canada has set an ambitious target for agriculture to become Canada’s key economic driver, moving from the world’s 5th to 2nd largest exporter, increasing exports to \$85 billion by 2025^[2]. At the same time, 75% of Canada’s farms will change hands over the next 10 years^[3].

According to the 2016 Census of Agriculture, only 8% of Canada’s farms have a written succession plan. However, businesses that do not have a succession plan have a 66% chance of failure, and devastating effects on family harmony.

While we recognize most farmers did not get into farming to be business managers, we also recognize what got farmers to where they are today, will not be enough to meet future demands, challenges and opportunities. Agriculture will experience what renowned expert and farm family coach Elaine Froese calls “the tsunami of agriculture,” whereby today’s farmers will transition not only their assets, but their managerial and leadership skills to the next generation. Our farm management decisions and process for making informed decisions, are more critical than ever.

Canada’s farmers require a solid foundation for success. Support is required to help Canada’s farmers gain the necessary skills and adopt the necessary tools to manage risk and empower sustainable growth.

We therefore encourage Ontario to think of succession (and farm transition) planning as a necessary component of and complement to business planning and its current economic development suite. Succession planning impacts business analysis, market development and productivity. Succession planning should therefore be prioritized as an eligible expense under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions or seek further information.

*Sincerely,
Heather Watson, Executive Director*

^[1] FAO. 2009. How to Feed the World in 2050

^[2] Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. 2018. Report from Canada’s Economic Strategy Table: Agri-Food

^[3] BDO Tax Bulletin: Succession Planning for the Transition of a Family Farm November 2014.

Resolution #8 – Golden Horseshoe SCIA - Resource Database to Provide Membership Value

WHEREAS without new ideas and approaches, events and meetings run by county associations can become stale, negatively affecting membership, and,

WHEREAS membership is enhanced and driven by the value of events and meetings at the county association level, and,

WHEREAS the OSCIA's Association Development Advisor has an overarching understanding of new opportunities, innovative events and interesting speakers being presented across the Province,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the OSCIA develop an ongoing database of resources, potential speakers, event tool kits and ideas from across the province that counties may utilize to develop innovative events and meetings that ensure membership value and ultimately thriving county associations.

Moved Don Oliver, Seconded by Alan Yungblut (Niagara North SCIA).

Carried

SENT TO OSCIA Membership sub-committee for further review,

RESPONSE FROM

SEEK - TEST - ADOPT



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Resolution #9 – Halton SCIA - Agricultural Leases on Development Lands

- WHEREAS the benefits of wheat in a crop rotation are well known to be positive for crop production and improving soil health and often provides the only opportunity on clay soils for producers to apply soil amendments such as manure, compost and municipal biosolids as well as planting cover crops, and;
- WHEREAS The Ontario Endangered Species Act (ESA) and its general regulations restrict development or may impose significant costs to the development proponent with respect to protecting habitat of listed species from the Species at Risk, and;
- WHEREAS a significant proportion of agricultural lands in Halton Region are controlled by developers or land speculators through lease agreements with producers, and;
- WHEREAS agricultural operations have been granted an exemption under the Act with respect to Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark until 2025, and;
- WHEREAS agricultural land leases are precluding wheat, winter wheat, alfalfa, oats and other tall reedy grassland crops as unacceptable crops and limiting producers exclusively to a corn and soybean rotation so as to not create grassland habitat for Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark and be captured under the ESA.
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that OSCIA work with the ministries of Natural Resources (MNR), Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH) to change the mindset of Building Industry and Land Development Association of Ontario (BILD) members and other land owners/developers to allow the growing of wheat and other grain-like crops on their land, for the betterment of all parties and the environment.

Moved Don Oliver, Seconded by Jennifer Krissak (Halton SCIA).

Carried

**SENT TO The Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)
 The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
 The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH)**

RESPONSE FROM MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Response found with resolution #1 on page 3

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Resolution #10 – Manitoulin SCIA - Changes to Agricorp’s Forage Insurance Program

WHEREAS Agricorp’s current forage insurance program does not account for losses from winter kill or frost on mature stands, and

WHEREAS the current forage insurance program also does not account for disease and pest related losses, and

WHEREAS the current program is merely rainfall insurance and at that, often poorly accounts for timing of rainfall, and

WHEREAS changes over recent years have only tinkered with rainfall patterns and limits.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the OSCIA suggest changes to Agricorp and pursue these changes to treat forage like a true crop and make the forage insurance program yield based on an individual farm basis just like other insured field crops.

Moved Birgit Martin, Seconded by Alan Yungblut (Niagara North SCIA).

Carried

SENT TO Birgit Martin, Larry Davis and Chad Anderson – to work with OFC on how the new rainfall program works and then contact Agricorp

RESPONSE FROM



Resolution #11 – Middlesex SCIA - Variability of DON Testing Results

WHEREAS there is huge variability in DON results due to sampling, grinding (amount) and particle size, and,

WHEREAS this has tremendous financial implications across the industry,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Agri Business Association work with OMAFRA, University of Guelph and the Canadian Grain Commission to develop training and guidelines for elevators and end users to develop Good Laboratory Practices standards to be followed.

Moved Birgit Martin, Seconded by Ken Robson (Middlesex SCIA).

Carried

SENT TO **Richard Smibert, President, The Ontario Agri-Business Association (OABA)**
The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
Dr. Franco J. Vaccarino, President and Vice Chancellor, University of Guelph
Gino Castonguay, Chief Grain Inspector for Canada, Canadian Grain Commission (CGC)

COPY TO **Dave Bутtenham, Chief Executive Officer, The Ontario Agri-Business Association (OABA)**
Crosby Devitt, Vice President, Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO)
Barry Senft, Chief Executive Officer, GFO

RESPONSE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ONTARIO AGRIBUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Dear Mr. Graham:

Further to your letter addressed to Richard Smibert, President of the Ontario Agri Business Association (OABA) outlining your organization's concerns with grain elevator DON testing from the 2018 corn crop, I would like to take this opportunity to respond and update OSCIA.

The three OSCIA resolutions you have presented from Middlesex, Oxford and York are correct in identifying some of the challenges that faced all segments of the grain industry in dealing with high DON levels in the 2018 corn crop. That being said, it is important to understand that the challenges of DON in the 2018 corn crop do not only impact farmer deliveries of corn – these same challenges extended throughout the entire corn value chain. In receiving the 2018 corn crop, Ontario grain elevators were exposed to significant financial and operational risks associated with variable DON levels as they purchased and moved corn through the value chain. Over the course of the 2018 harvest, it is estimated that the Ontario grain industry (elevators, feed mills and corn processors) spent in excess of \$6 million to test for DON in corn during the 2018 corn harvest with the objective of ensuring that both sellers and buyers were being treated fairly.

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It should be noted that a primary point of variability associated with DON contamination within the 2018 corn crop occurred in the field and was impacted by environmental conditions (including rainfall, humidity, lingering dews, foggy mornings, temperatures), and further influenced by a number of farmer-based decisions (including hybrid selection and the use of fungicides). Once the extent of high DON concentrations was fully identified at the beginning of harvest, the Ontario grain elevator industry responded by mobilizing “DON quick test programs” to monitor intakes of corn and effectively manage the financial and operational risks of receiving high levels of DON. In a very short period of time, grain elevator operators were pressed to source DON quick test technology and train elevator receiving staff on the instructions for testing as established by the firm providing the quick test kit. It should be noted that several different “DON Quick Tests” were used by the grain industry – each with a specific methodology. During the harvest period, OABA also distributed two “Member Alerts” and presented a webinar to provide guidance to the membership on sampling and testing. Copies of the two “Member Alerts” are attached to this letter for your review.

Following harvest, OABA partnered with OMAFRA, the University of Guelph – Ridgetown Campus and Grain Farmers of Ontario to establish a Mycotoxin Research Coalition. In co-operation with the grain elevator sector, the coalition assessed the accuracy of quick tests used by the trade during the 2018 corn harvest. Evaluation of the test kit results at elevators revealed that they were not considered a major source of variation when following the protocols and directions provided by the test kit companies. Probe samples (vs. tailgate) were also less of a variable than expected, with a two-kilogram sample from four probes per truck equivalent to a tailgate sample.

The Mycotoxin Research Coalition continues to conduct further research related the preparation of the corn sample for DON quick testing. A key source of variability is determined to be subsampling and the grinding process. Dr. Schaafsma is recommending that standardized training be developed on sample preparation, and that a two-step grinding process be utilized. Implementation of this recommendation will be considered by elevator operators. In support of these findings, OABA has conducted a webinar on grain sampling, and Dr. Schaafsma recently made a presentation at our annual operations meeting. As further research is being conducted, OABA and will continue to communicate findings/recommendations to the grain elevator membership.

The high DON concentrations experienced by the industry during the 2018 corn harvest were unprecedented, and in large part, unexpected. In this regard, OABA continues to support the use (and possible enhancement) of OMAFRA’s annual pre-harvest corn survey as an early indicator of potential DON problems.

OABA would also submit that corn growers must also accept a primary responsibility to implement prevention strategies for mycotoxins in corn. The March 2019 issue of Ontario Grain Farmer includes an article on “Preventing DON in Corn – Best Management Tips for 2019”.

In summary, OABA would submit that the Ontario elevator industry did the very best job possible in receiving, testing and marketing a highly variable and challenging corn crop in 2018. When it comes to DON testing, the elevator industry will continue to implement new technologies, practices and protocols based on credible research and science with the overall objective of ensuring fairness to both buyers and sellers of Ontario corn.

Yours truly,

ONTARIO AGRI BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



David Buttenham Chief
Executive Officer

Cc: Richard Smibert, President, OABA
The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister, OMAFRA Dr. Franco
J. Vaccarino, University of Guelph
Gino Castonguay, Canadian Grain Commission Barry
Senft, GFO
Crosby Devitt, GFO
Grain Section Committee, OABA

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Resolution #12 – Middlesex SCIA - Agricorp Inconsistency in DON Policy

WHEREAS DON challenges in both corn and wheat occur far too frequently, and,

WHEREAS Agricorp did not have a clear directive in place to cope with the severe problem in corn in 2018 prior to its occurrence.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Agricorp develop transparent policies applied consistently to deal with high DON crops, such that producers have a clear understanding of their options.

Moved Birgit Martin, Seconded by Kevin Robson (Middlesex SCIA).

Carried

SENT TO Doug LaRose, CEO, Agricorp

**COPY TO Crosby Devitt, Vice President, GFO
Barry Senft, Chief Executive Officer, GFO**

RESPONSE FROM

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Resolution #13 – Oxford SCIA – Variability of DON Testing Results

WHEREAS farmers experienced significant frustration due to inconsistent and unreliable testing results for DON in 2018, and;

WHEREAS DON sampling protocols vary greatly from elevator to elevator, and;

WHEREAS DON testing results have a significant impact on farmers' financial bottom line.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED OSCIA encourage the Ontario Agri-Business Association to standardize scientifically validated sampling protocols for DON to be adopted at all licensed Ontario elevators.

Moved Warren Schneckeburger, Seconded by Dan Vandenburg (Oxford SCIA).

Carried

SENT TO Richard Smibert, President, The Ontario Agri-Business Association (OABA)
The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
Dr. Franco J. Vaccarino, President and Vice Chancellor, University of Guelph
Gino Castonguay, Chief Grain Inspector for Canada, Canadian Grain Commission (CGC)

COPY TO Dave Bутtenham, Chief Executive Officer, The Ontario Agri-Business Association (OABA)
Crosby Devitt, Vice President, Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO)
Barry Senft, Chief Executive Officer, GFO

RESPONSE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ONTARIO AGRIBUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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It should be noted that a primary point of variability associated with DON contamination within the 2018 corn crop occurred in the field and was impacted by environmental conditions (including rainfall, humidity, lingering dews, foggy mornings, temperatures), and further influenced by a number of farmer-based decisions (including hybrid selection and the use of fungicides). Once the extent of high DON concentrations was fully identified at the beginning of harvest, the Ontario grain elevator industry responded by mobilizing “DON quick test programs” to monitor intakes of corn and effectively manage the financial and operational risks of receiving high levels of DON. In a very short period of time, grain elevator operators were pressed to source DON quick test technology and train elevator receiving staff on the instructions for testing as established by the firm providing the quick test kit. It should be noted that several different “DON Quick Tests” were used by the grain industry – each with a specific methodology. During the harvest period, OABA also distributed two “Member Alerts” and presented a webinar to provide guidance to the membership on sampling and testing. Copies of the two “Member Alerts” are attached to this letter for your review.

Following harvest, OABA partnered with OMAFRA, the University of Guelph – Ridgetown Campus and Grain Farmers of Ontario to establish a Mycotoxin Research Coalition. In co-operation with the grain elevator sector, the coalition assessed the accuracy of quick tests used by the trade during the 2018 corn harvest. Evaluation of the test kit results at elevators revealed that they were not considered a major source of variation when following the protocols and directions provided by the test kit companies. Probe samples (vs. tailgate) were also less of a variable than expected, with a two-kilogram sample from four probes per truck equivalent to a tailgate sample.

The Mycotoxin Research Coalition continues to conduct further research related the preparation of the corn sample for DON quick testing. A key source of variability is determined to be subsampling and the grinding process. Dr. Schaafsma is recommending that standardized training be developed on sample preparation, and that a two-step grinding process be utilized. Implementation of this recommendation will be considered by elevator operators. In support of these findings, OABA has conducted a webinar on grain sampling, and Dr. Schaafsma recently made a presentation at our annual operations meeting. As further research is being conducted, OABA and will continue to communicate findings/recommendations to the grain elevator membership.

The high DON concentrations experienced by the industry during the 2018 corn harvest were unprecedented, and in large part, unexpected. In this regard, OABA continues to support the use (and possible enhancement) of OMAFRA’s annual pre-harvest corn survey as an early indicator of potential DON problems.

OABA would also submit that corn growers must also accept a primary responsibility to implement prevention strategies for mycotoxins in corn. The March 2019 issue of Ontario Grain Farmer includes an article on “Preventing DON in Corn – Best Management Tips for 2019”.

In summary, OABA would submit that the Ontario elevator industry did the very best job possible in receiving, testing and marketing a highly variable and challenging corn crop in 2018. When it comes to DON testing, the elevator industry will continue to implement new technologies, practices and protocols based on credible research and science with the overall objective of ensuring fairness to both buyers and sellers of Ontario corn.

Yours truly,

ONTARIO AGRI BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



David Buttenham Chief
Executive Officer

Cc: Richard Smibert, President, OABA
The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister, OMAFRA
Dr. Franco J. Vaccarino, University of Guelph
Gino Castonguay, Canadian Grain Commission
Barry Senft, GFO
Crosby Devitt, GFO
Grain Section Committee, OABA

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Resolution #14 – Parry Sound / East Nipissing SCIA - Slow Moving Vehicle Signs

WHEREAS Ontario drivers do not recognize the purpose of slow-moving vehicle signs (SMV), and;

WHEREAS regular anecdotal information from the membership highlights the everyday dangers farmers face with their equipment on Ontario roadways when motorists disregard the SMV, and;

WHEREAS the Highway Traffic Act provides very little reference as to expected motorist behaviour when encountering a vehicle with a SMV.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OSCIA make MTO aware of concern with driver behaviour when encountering an SMV sign, and;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OSCIA support the OFA effort to champion a public education program with our major commodity partners to inform the public as to what a SMV means and what action is required by the motor vehicle operator.

Moved Warren Schneckeburger, Seconded by Michel Champagne (Parry Sound SCIA).

Carried

Support the efforts of OFA by sending this resolution to -

SENT TO The Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of Transportation of Ontario (MTO)

COPY TO Peter Jeffery, Senior Farm Policy Analyst, Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)

RESPONSE FROM SAFETY POLICY & EDUCATION BRANCH, MTO

107-2019-1262

Dear Mr. Graham:

Thank you for your letter of March 28, 2019, regarding a resolution for slow-moving vehicle signs sent on behalf of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association. I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Minister of Transportation.

The Ministry of Transportation's (MTO) Road Safety Marketing Office (RSMO) works with more than 150 provincial and regional community groups across the province to leverage their aid in launching and supporting a variety of road safety initiatives. These activities focus on raising awareness and changing behaviours related to the leading causes of fatalities and injuries on our roads. Information can include the proper use of slow-moving signs for those vehicles that are required to use the signs as well as information for drivers on how to safely share the road with slow-moving vehicles.

A broad, integrated approach consisting of legislation, public education and enforcement has been taken to address driver behaviour around slow-moving vehicles. In September 2018, RSMO staff

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and MTO's enforcement officers were

able to address farming-related inquiries like this at the International Plowing Match in Pain Court. In March 2019, enforcement officers from the ministry participated in the Ottawa Valley Farm Show where they were able to share information, as well as rules of the road and related materials with attendees.

I've included a link to the ministry's [Official MTO Driver's Handbook](#), which includes information about sharing the road safely with farm vehicles and machinery. The online handbook is available at ontario.ca/document/official-mto-drivers-handbook

The ministry also produces a [Farm Guide](#) which provides general information and clarification for the laws that apply to farm equipment, as well as select provisions that apply to farm trucks. The Farm Guide is available at mto.gov.on.ca/english/trucks/pdfs/farm-guide-farm-equipment-on-the-highway.pdf.

We, at the ministry, appreciate your comments. Thank you for writing and sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,



Linda Jefferson-Kotack
Team Leader
Partnership & Development
Road Safety Marketing Office
Safety Policy & Education Branch
Ministry of Transportation

RESPONSE FROM MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Dear Mr. Graham:

Thank you for sending me resolutions from your most recent annual conference. I have shared these with ministry staff for their information and consideration.

I would like to respond to two of those resolutions: (1) agricultural leases on development lands, and (2) the recycling of biosolids and reduction to landfill.

I appreciate the concern you raise regarding agricultural leases that preclude the growing of certain crops. I have forwarded your resolution to my Cabinet colleague the Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), as the Minister responsible for the Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA). As you may be aware, recent changes have been made to the ESA to improve protections for species at risk while also streamlining approvals and to provide clarity to support economic development. I am confident Minister Yurek will take OSCIA's concerns into consideration and my ministry is ready to work with MECP if needed.

In response to the second item, recycling of biosolids and reduction to landfill, Ontario's new made-in-Ontario Environment Plan shows our continued commitment to addressing Ontario's environmental challenges. [Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan](#) includes actions to reduce and divert food and organic waste from households and businesses, such as developing a proposal to ban food waste from landfill, educating the public and

business about reducing and diverting food and organic waste, and developing best practices for safe food donation.

In addition, the Nutrient Management Act, 2002, contains a regulatory framework for the beneficial utilization of various non-agricultural source materials like municipal biosolids on Ontario cropland.

Ontario's farmland and our productive soils are the foundation for the success of the agri-food sector. Your association's leadership and expertise on soil health is appreciated. You have also been a valuable partner in the administration of cost-share funding assistance to farmers. My ministry will continue to work in collaboration with farmers, organizations such as yours and other levels of government on soil stewardship initiatives.

Sincerely,

Ernie Hardeman

Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

c: The Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

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Resolution #15 – Prescott County SCIA - Rating Hybrids for DON

WHEREAS there have been significant problems with DON corn in Ontario, and;
WHEREAS this issue presents severe financial consequences in the industry, and;
WHEREAS there have been identified links to certain hybrids susceptible to DON.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA work with the GFO to establish a system to rate hybrids for susceptibility of DON and/or the various fungi that contribute to the infection.

Moved Warren Schneckenburger, Seconded by Adrian Spuehler (Prescott SCIA).

Carried

**SENT TO Crosby Devitt, Vice President, Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO)
Barry Senft, Chief Executive Officer, GFO**

**COPY TO Ontario Corn Committee, c/o: Ben Rosser, Corn Industry Program Lead,
OMAFRA**

RESPONSE FROM

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Resolution #16 – Sudbury SCIA – Sandhill Cranes

WHEREAS the population of Sandhill Cranes is increasing significantly in Northeastern Ontario, and;

WHEREAS the crop damage (predation) from these birds now includes horticultural crops (e.g. potatoes) as well as cereal crops and corn, and;

WHEREAS there is no licensed product available in Ontario to discourage the Sandhill Cranes and therefore mitigate the crop damage.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA approach the Government of Canada through the Migratory Birds Convention Act to introduce a Sandhill Crane hunt in designated Wildlife Management Units in Ontario, and;

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that Agricorp be asked to develop a spot loss program to compensate farmers for Sandhill Crane predation to horticulture and field crops

Moved Warren Schneckeburger, Seconded by Justin Gaudet (Sudbury SCIA).

Carried

SENT TO Chris Sharp, Population Management Biologist, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Doug LaRose, CEO, Agricorp

RESPONSE FROM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA

Dear Mr. Graham,

Thank you for your letter requesting a limited hunting season for Sandhill Cranes in designated Wildlife Management Units in Ontario. I appreciate OSCIA bringing the resolution to our attention.

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 response to concerns from stakeholders, ECCC has been collecting data to assess the status and harvest potential for Sandhill Cranes in Ontario as well as to evaluate if a hunting season would help mitigate agricultural conflicts in Ontario. Here is a summary of our findings:

- Approximately 14,000 Sandhill Cranes migrate through agricultural areas of northern and central Ontario each year. The small population size of Sandhill Cranes in Ontario represents a small harvest potential (maximum of approximately 900 cranes annually) and limited hunting opportunities. Additionally, a significant resource investment would be required to ensure the*

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sustainability of the population exposed to any harvest pressure.

- The majority of damage occurs in agricultural areas on the fringe of the boreal forest and, with the exception of potatoes, occurs before September 1st. September 1st is important as it marks the earliest start date for any migratory game bird hunting season in Ontario as prescribed by the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994. As such, hunting will not be a practical tool for mitigating agricultural conflicts with Sandhill Cranes for most producers in Ontario and therefore, on-farm mitigation strategies continue to be the most effective approach.*
- Alternative mitigation strategies have been effectively applied elsewhere to help reduce agricultural conflicts with cranes.*

As a result, ECCC is not planning to initiate a hunting season for Sandhill Cranes in Ontario. Our primary focus is to enhance knowledge regarding conflict mitigation and provide improved guidance and mitigation tools for stakeholders experiencing significant losses due to conflicts with Sandhill Cranes.

I appreciate the concerns OSCIA has raised. Please be advised that any producer experiencing significant 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 specified activities, such as scaring or killing, to manage cranes that are causing or likely to cause damage to their property. For information about permits, please go to <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-bird-permits/application-forms.html> I would encourage you to contact Chris Sharp by telephone for more information on applying for a Damage or Danger permit and about the use of alternative management strategies to manage Sandhill Crane conflicts. If your association or individual producers wish more information, please have them contact the Canadian Wildlife Service's Ontario regional office by telephone at 613-990-8355 or by email at ec.Wildlife.Ontario.ec@canada.ca.

Sincerely,

*Lesley Dunn,
Regional Director, Canadian Wildlife Service – Ontario Region
4905 Dufferin Street, Toronto, ON M3H 5T4
416-739-5977
Lesley.Dunn@canada.ca*

Cc : Christopher Sharp, CWS-Ontario

Resolution #17 – York Region SCIA – Researching Impacts of DON on Grain Marketability

WHEREAS corn ear moulds containing vomitoxin, also known as deoxynivalenol (DON) have caused a big emotional and costly issue for Ontario’s corn farmers, and,

WHEREAS Ontario’s farmers want to produce good quality and saleable grains for all markets.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA support Grain Farmers of Ontario with expertise, information and research dollars to address this quality issue.

Moved Don Oliver, Seconded by Dave Deacon (York SCIA).

Carried

Send letter of support to GFO

**SENT TO Crosby Devitt, Vice President, Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO)
Barry Senft, Chief Executive Officer, GFO**

RESPONSE FROM

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Resolution #18 – York SCIA – Variability of DON Testing Results

WHEREAS testing results for Deoxynivalenol (DON) has been variable and inconsistent at elevators and export ports.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA support a standardized testing procedure for DON and other troublesome grain moulds.

Moved Don Oliver, Seconded by Dave Deacon (York SCIA).

Carried

SENT TO Richard Smibert, President, The Ontario Agri-Business Association (OABA)
The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
Dr. Franco J. Vaccarino, President and Vice Chancellor, University of Guelph
Gino Castonguay, Chief Grain Inspector for Canada, Canadian Grain Commission (CGC)

COPY TO Dave Battenham, Chief Executive Officer, The Ontario Agri-Business Association (OABA)
Crosby Devitt, Vice President, Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO)
Barry Senft, Chief Executive Officer, GFO

RESPONSE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ONTARIO AGRIBUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Dear Mr. Graham:

Further to your letter addressed to Richard Smibert, President of the Ontario Agri Business Association (OABA) outlining your organization's concerns with grain elevator DON testing from the 2018 corn crop, I would like to take this opportunity to respond and update OSCIA.

The three OSCIA resolutions you have presented from Middlesex, Oxford and York are correct in identifying some of the challenges that faced all segments of the grain industry in dealing with high DON levels in the 2018 corn crop. That being said, it is important to understand that the challenges of DON in the 2018 corn crop do not only impact farmer deliveries of corn – these same challenges extended throughout the entire corn value chain. In receiving the 2018 corn crop, Ontario grain elevators were exposed to significant financial and operational risks associated with variable DON levels as they purchased and moved corn through the value chain. Over the course of the 2018 harvest, it is estimated that the Ontario grain industry (elevators, feed mills and corn processors) spent in excess of \$6 million to test for DON in corn during the 2018 corn harvest with the objective of ensuring that both sellers and buyers were being treated fairly.

It should be noted that a primary point of variability associated with DON contamination within the 2018 corn crop occurred in the field and was impacted by environmental conditions (including rainfall, humidity, lingering dews, foggy mornings, temperatures), and further influenced by a number of farmer-based decisions (including hybrid selection and the use of fungicides). Once the extent of high DON concentrations was fully identified at the beginning of harvest, the Ontario grain

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elevator industry responded by mobilizing “DON quick test programs” to monitor intakes of corn and effectively manage the financial and operational risks of receiving high levels of DON. In a very short period of time, grain elevator operators were pressed to source DON quick test technology and train elevator receiving staff on the instructions for testing as established by the firm providing the quick test kit. It should be noted that several different “DON Quick Tests” were used by the grain industry – each with a specific methodology. During the harvest period, OABA also distributed two “Member Alerts” and presented a webinar to provide guidance to the membership on sampling and testing. Copies of the two “Member Alerts” are attached to this letter for your review.

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Yours truly,

ONTARIO AGRI BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



David Buttenham Chief
Executive Officer

Cc: Richard Smibert, President, OABA
The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister, OMAFRA
Dr. Franco J. Vaccarino, University of Guelph
Gino Castonguay, Canadian Grain Commission
Barry Senft, GFO
Crosby Devitt, GFO
Grain Section Committee, OABA

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Resolution #19 – York SCIA – Deregistration of Older Pesticides

WHEREAS Canada's food systems require many different chemical and organic products to manage weed, fungi and insect problems that harm food production, and,

WHEREAS Health Canada seeks through the Pest Management Regulatory Agency to ban or severely reduce usage of older chemistry, and,

WHEREAS these actions reduce useful and usually cheaper products to alternate against the evolving resistance of many pests,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OSCIA request that Health Canada decrease removing older chemistries until safety, environmental concerns and usage decline dictates its deregistration.

Moved Don Oliver, Seconded by Jordan Coates (York SCIA).

Carried

**SENT TO The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health
Linda McIntosh, Pest Management Regulatory Agency- Compliance
program, Ontario Region**

RESPONSE FROM PESTICIDE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM, HEALTH CANADA

Hi Ms. Van De Peer,

Acknowledging receipt of your letter. As it was also directed to the Minister of Health, I will work with Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to coordinate a response.

Thank you,

*Linda McIntosh
Regional Manager, Pesticide Compliance Program
Regulatory Operations and Enforcement Branch
Health Canada / Government of Canada*

RESPONSE FROM MINISTER OF HEALTH CANADA

On behalf of the Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health, thank you for taking the time to write. Please be assured that your correspondence is being carefully reviewed.

The Minister greatly appreciates receiving the views of Canadians on matters that are important to them.

*Again, thank you for writing.
Executive Correspondance Division*

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RESPONSE FROM PEST MANAGEMENT REGULATORY AGENCY

Dear Mr. Graham,

I am responding to your letter, which the Office of the Minister of Health, the Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, forwarded to me on May 23, 2019. You wrote in order to share a copy of a resolution passed by your association, regarding the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA)'s pesticide re-evaluation program.

As you know, pesticides are regulated federally in Canada, under the Pest Control Products Act (PCPA), which is administered by Health Canada's PMRA. Our number one priority is to protect the health and safety of Canadians and their environment.

Before a pesticide is allowed to be used or sold in Canada, it must undergo a rigorous scientific assessment process that provides reasonable certainty that no harm, including chronic effects such as cancer, will occur when pesticides are used according to label directions. Results from more than 200 types of scientific studies must be submitted to determine whether the pesticide would have any negative effect on people, animals (including birds, mammals, and other wildlife), or plants, including organisms in the soil and water. This assessment takes into consideration sensitive populations, such as pregnant and nursing woman, infants, children and seniors.

The PCPA requires that all registered pesticides on the market be re-evaluated on a cyclical basis, in order to assess whether they continue to meet the Department's health and environmental standards and hence whether they should continue to be permitted for use in Canada. Only those products that PMRA determines to be acceptable for continued use are allowed to remain on the Canadian market.

You may be interested to know that we are currently undertaking a review of our re-evaluation program with the objective of increasing both its efficiency and effectiveness. This is a broad review aimed at ensuring a sustainable post-market program that continues to protect health and the environment, while being efficient from a stakeholder and regulatory perspective (e.g. timeliness, appropriate engagements). Science-based decision-making will continue to be the core of pesticide regulation, and health and environmental protection will continue to be paramount in making those decisions.

Since fall 2018, we have consulted with a broad range of stakeholders, including provinces, non-government organizations and other federal departments, to understand their views regarding the re-evaluation programs of the PMRA and other regulators. We thank you for your comments. We will take into account all views provided and consider them as we develop options to maintain a robust re-evaluation program.

Should you have further questions regarding pesticides and the federal pesticide regulatory system, you are encouraged to reach out to our Pest Management Information Service by writing to 2720 Riverside Drive, Mail Stop 6606D2, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9. Alternatively, you may also contact the service by telephone, by dialing, toll-free, 1-800-267-6315, or by e-mailing hc.pmra.info-arla.sc@canada.ca

Thank you for writing,

Sincerely,
J. Flint for
Richard Aucoin, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

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