

## Ontario Cattlemen express their gratitude to MPPs at 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Queen's Park BBQ

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**June 1, 2011 (Guelph, ON)** – Representatives of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA) Board of Directors were in Toronto yesterday for their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Queen's Park Barbecue held on the south lawn of the Ontario Legislature, an annual event that has become one of the most highly anticipated events by MPPs and their staff. The barbecue provided a fantastic opportunity for the OCA Board of Directors to meet with Members of Provincial Parliament and to thank them for their support for the establishment of the recently announced Risk Management Insurance Program for Ontario farmers.

The Honourable Carol Mitchell, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs partnered with OCA in hosting the successful event which served over 600 attendees with Ontario Corn-Fed Beef tenderloin. OCA was very pleased that Ontario Premier, The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, was able to attend the event. The Premier greeted OCA Directors and served barbecue attendees in the annual tradition of "slicing the beef". OCA was also delighted that Tim Hudak, Ontario PC Leader took a turn in slicing the beef for guests.

"Our annual Queen's Park Barbecue has continued to be a great success for our Association," said Dan Darling, OCA Vice-President. "It was meaningful for us to be able to meet with a number of MPPs yesterday to express to them our gratitude for their support and commitment to Ontario farmers and consumers. A Risk Management Insurance Program for Ontario beef farmers will provide the industry with a long-term solution. Over the past couple of months, we have been working very hard with Minister Mitchell on the program design and we look forward to rolling out the details to our producers later this year."

Throughout the day, OCA Directors and Staff had the chance to interact with numerous MPPs to share the message of appreciation and discuss the current state of Ontario's beef industry. Discussions provided the OCA Board and Staff a great opportunity to discuss the ongoing challenges producers still face in regards to market competitiveness and the need for a flexible approach from the federal government to address regional priorities.

"The OCA Directors look forward to this barbecue each year," said John Gillespie, OCA Director. "Our annual event not only provides us with an opportunity for open dialogue with our Members of Provincial Parliament and their staff, it allows us to showcase the outstanding beef produced by the farmers in this province."

*The Ontario Cattlemen's Association (OCA) is a grassroots organization representing 19,000 beef producers in the province and provides leadership to cattlemen from all sectors of the industry. OCA is involved in a wide range of issues that are of concern to Ontario's beef producers. These include industry sustainability, trade, animal health, environment and animal care. In addition, OCA works closely with other sectors of the agriculture and food industries on matters of mutual concern.*

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### For Further Information:

LeaAnne Hodgins  
OCA Communications Manager  
519-824-0334  
leaanne@cattle.guelph.on.ca

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