



NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Farmers Call for Federal Participation in Risk Management Program in the New Parliament

GUELPH (May 3, 2011) - The three farm organizations representing Ontario beef, pork and grains and oilseed farmers congratulate the newly elected and re-elected Ontario MPs and call upon them to commit to federal participation in Ontario's new Risk Management Program (RMP).

During the election, the Conservative party committed to ensure that efforts to support farmers would be effective, including the development of a National Farm and Food Strategy. They intend to work with new and returning MPs to stress the importance of the RMP and discuss how federal funding for RMP can be successfully incorporated into this national strategy.

The new RMP program was recently announced in the Ontario budget by Finance Minister Dwight Duncan and it represents a historic partnership between farmers and the Ontario Government. The program will help Ontario farmers protect over 700,000 jobs in agribusiness enhancing innovation and competition in the global market place.

Curtis Royal, President, Ontario Cattlemen's Association said, "Ontario farmers made their views very clear during the election campaign. Our highest priority for the new Parliament is to ensure that the federal government becomes a full funding partner in Ontario's insurance based Risk Management Program."

Initiated in 2007 by the Ontario Government in partnership with Ontario Grains & Oilseeds farmers, this insurance program became instrumental in assisting producers in weathering that challenging period and establishing a crucial tool to complement currently available business risk management programs.

Leo Guilbeault, Chair, Ontario Grains & Oilseeds added, "Our RMP was successfully piloted for three years and we know that it is economically effective, fiscally responsible and we are confident it supports all categories of farmers across a diversified range of commodities and farm operations."

Government officials and trade experts have confirmed that Ontario's RMP program is trade compliant and that trade concerns should not be used as an excuse to deny federal funding.

Wilma Jeffray, Chair, Ontario Pork, on behalf of the group said, "Quite simply, Risk Management works and should be championed by all Ontario MPs in the new Parliament. RMP is now a reality in Ontario thanks to the participation of the provincial government, and we call upon Prime Minister Harper and the Minister of Agriculture to work with us to make RMP a three-way partnership between Ontario farmers and both levels of government."

Ontario Cattlemen's Association, Ontario Pork and Ontario Grains & Oilseeds represent over 50,000 farm families across Ontario.

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For more information, please contact:

LeaAnne Hodgins
Communications Manager
Ontario Cattlemen's Association
Tel: 519-824-0334
Cell: 519-767-8634
Email: leanne@cattle.guelph.on.ca

Mary Jane Quinn
Senior Marketing Communications Leader
Ontario Pork
Tel: 519-767-4600
Email: communications@ontariopork.on.ca

Erin Fletcher
Manager, Public Affairs and
Communications
Ontario Grains & Oilseeds
Tel: 519-767-4137
Email: efletcher@gfo.ca