



OCA Weekly Update – March 12, 2010



Herd Health Problems?

Ask the OCA Vet on Call!

- Valid questions from Ontario beef producers will all be answered in due time
- Out-of-province beef producers' questions will be answered or rejected at the discretion of OCA staff and Dr. Mac Littlejohn, although it is preferred that your provincial resources be exhausted beforehand
 - If you are not a valid beef producer, your question will not be entertained

*Submit your question via <http://www.cattle.guelph.on.ca/ask-a-vet/vet-form.asp>
All submissions will be reviewed for validity before a response is issued.
Please expect at least a 2-day wait, depending on Web traffic.*

Wondering about the HST? See attached OFA Fact Sheet.

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PLEASE NOTE:
AUCTION MARKET SALES, COUNTY AND INDUSTRY EVENTS ARE POSTED AS A SERVICE TO MEMBERS. HOWEVER, PRIVATE TREATY OR PUREBRED SALES WILL ONLY BE POSTED BY REQUEST IF PAID ADS IN ONTARIO BEEF MAGAZINE HAVE BEEN PURCHASED DURING THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS.

A) Cost of Production Calculator Available Online

OMAFRA's cost-of-production calculator is now available online at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/bear2000/Budgets/budgettools.htm>, and clicking "Livestock," then clicking your commodity. Cost-of-production calculators are also available for other commodities.

B) Food Safety and Traceability Initiative Under Growing Forward

Cost share funds for year two (2010-2011) of the Food Safety and Traceability Initiative (FSTI) have been fully subscribed. As a result, FSTI is no longer able to accept applications for 2010-11 funding.

Under the FSTI, program funds are allocated annually on a first come, first served basis. Once the annual program funds are fully committed, applications for cost-share funding for that fiscal year can no longer be accepted. All applications are currently under review and applicants will be notified of the status of their applications within eight weeks. Applicants whose applications were not accepted for the 2010-11 intake are encouraged to re-apply next year.

Growing Forward is a commitment by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments to support the development of a profitable, innovative agri-food sector that is adept at managing risk and responsive to market demands. Growing Forward runs until March 31, 2013.

C) Panago Pizzas Feature Canadian Beef

The Beef Information Centre (BIC) has partnered with Panago, a premier delivery-takeout pizza franchise, to promote Canadian beef on three of their crumbled beef pizzas: Mediterranean Pizza, Beef Taco Pizza and Bacon Cheeseburger Pizza.

The promotion, which runs from March 1 to May 31 at 173 Panago locations across Canada, features a lightly seasoned 100 per cent Canadian beef topping combined with fresh ingredients.

Panago, known for its high quality, delicious and innovative pizza selection, continues to see value in partnering with Canadian beef producers. This is readily evident in the fact Panago is prominently displaying the Canadian beef brand during this promotion.

"Panago is demonstrating their commitment to Canadian beef in a big way," says Judy Nelson, BIC vice-chair and a cow-calf operator near Lundbreck, Alta.

The Canadian beef brand features prominently on all Panago's promotional direct mail materials, on in-store point-of-sale materials, in television advertising and on eight million flyers that feature the Canadian beef brand on the front page.

"The widespread use of the Canadian beef brand on Panago's promotional materials increases awareness of Canadian beef as the highest quality with Canadian consumers," notes Nelson, who adds that BIC's partnership with Panago "gives us the opportunity to grow demand of Canadian beef, and to enhance the reach of the Canadian beef brand mark."

As part of its three-month promotion, Panago is also undertaking an extensive national television campaign in prime time, including airing commercials featuring the Canadian beef brand mark during high

profile NHL games on CBC and Sportsnet. The Canadian beef brand mark is also featured on Panago's website: www.panago.ca.

For this promotion, BIC is leveraging producer dollars against private industry investment at a ratio of 1:34.

BIC's efforts to maximize demand for Canadian beef and optimize the value of Canadian beef products is funded in part by cattle producers through the National Beef Check-Off, and through beef industry market development funds provided by the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada.

D) Rural Summer Job Service

The 2010 Rural Summer Jobs Service program will begin accepting applications on February 24 and will continue until April 16, 2010. Each eligible applicant has an equal opportunity regardless of when the application is submitted so long as it is received before the deadline. The online application form can be completed in 10 minutes and we will acknowledge your online application via email.

Paper applications can be obtained upon request by calling 1-888-588-4111 or visit www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/rural/rsj/rjs_index.htm.

E) Farm Innovation Program

The Farm Innovation Program (FIP) is a \$12,000,000 program that is part of Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. The FIP is one of the Innovation and Science Suite of programs for Growing Forward in Ontario. The FIP is aimed at boosting agricultural research, competitiveness, and productivity in Ontario's agricultural sectors. The FIP is administered by the Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC) on behalf of Agriculture, Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). The AAC have issued this Intake of Proposals to solicit project proposals for funding consideration under the FIP.

The overall goal of FIP is to increase the development, adaptation, assessment, and adoption of on-farm innovative technologies that help agricultural producers respond to changing demands. Approved projects will undertake research and innovation to:

Increase awareness and access to credible, Ontario-based information on applicable innovative on-farm technologies in each sector.

Provide industry-directed funding to agricultural commodity organizations and to individual farmers or groups of farmers for applied research projects and on-farm demonstrations that focus on innovative technologies for on-farm application.

Eligible recipients must be a Canadian legal entity and may include:

- Non-supply managed organizations designated by the Ontario Agricultural Commodity Council OACC . Applications must be submitted by the organization.
- Individual farmers or groups of farmers may access FIP funding but must apply in partnership/collaboration with a non-supply managed organization of OACC ([click here for a list of non-supply managed organizations of OACC](#)). *Applications must be submitted by the organization.*

For more information, visit <http://www.adaptcouncil.org/e/current-programs/fip.php>

F) Grower Pesticide Safety Course

If you are an Ontario farmer and want to buy and use Class 2 or 3 pesticides your farm, you must be a Certified Farmer. There must be at least one Certified Farmer for each farm operation. Click <http://www.opep.ca/growertraining/courses.cfm> for a list of courses and exam-only sessions offered across Ontario. You can pick up a manual from the Woodstock OMAFRA Resource Centre. To register for a Grower Pesticide Safety Course or GPSC Exam-Only Session call 1-800-652-8573, fax 519-674-1589
E-mail: opep@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca, or click [Register](#) to E-mail your request.

G) Paul Wettlaufer Elected as AGCare Chair

AGCare (Agricultural Groups Concerned About Resources and the Environment) is pleased to announce the election of Paul Wettlaufer as the new Chair of the AGCare Board of Directors.

Mr. Wettlaufer has been on the AGCare board representing the Ontario Federation of Agriculture since 2006 and has served as First Vice-Chair of AGCare for the past three years. Paul runs a beef and cash crop operation near Neustadt, Ontario.

“We are working hard at AGCare to implement our new strategy that will focus on revitalizing the organization with new projects and partnerships,” said Wettlaufer. “Look for more good things to come from AGCare in the upcoming year.”

Chris Kowalski, representing the Ontario Potato Board, was elected as First Vice-Chair. New to the AGCare Executive is Larry Lynn, representing Grain Farmers of Ontario, who was elected Second Vice-Chair. Joe Hickson, representing the Ontario Seed Growers’ Association, was elected as Treasurer. Richard Blyleven, representing Grain Farmers of Ontario, will now fill the Past Chair role on the Executive after serving as Chair of AGCare for the past three years.

The Board of Directors welcomed Norm Charbonneau (Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers’ Association) and Ed Scharringa (Christian Farmers’ Federation of Ontario) to the board. The Board wishes to thank Past Treasurer Charles Stevens of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers’ Association and Henry Stevens, representing the Christian Farmers’ Federation of Ontario for their contributions to AGCare.

To find out more about AGCare and its work on environmental issues, attend the joint AGCare-Ontario Farm Animal Council annual general meeting on April 8, 2010 at Guelph Place Banquet Hall in Guelph. The meeting will feature important legislative updates on source water protection, the provincial pesticide ban and the GROU program. AGCare and the Ontario Farm Animal Council will be hosting a joint speakers’ program in the afternoon. To register, please visit www.agcare.org.

AGCare (Agricultural Groups Concerned about Resources and the Environment) is the voice of Ontario’s 45,000 crop and horticulture farmers on environmental issues. Visit www.agcare.org for more information.

H) Ontario Farmer Invests with Home Energy Solutions, and Earns Big *HES Installs First MicroFIT Solar System at Ontario Farm*

Recognizing the earning potential of harvesting solar energy under Ontario’s MicroFIT solar program, Gallagher Farms approached Home Energy Solutions to reap the benefits from its farm’s unused roof space. They installed the new roof mounted HES-GT-10.3 solar system, which will generate electricity which the Gallagher can sell to the Ontario Power Authority at a rate of 80.2 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) produced. With their MicroFIT solar system the Gallaghers will receive over \$10,000 annually for 20 years under the 2009 MicroFIT contract.

“We always loved the idea of the farm producing clean energy from the sun” says Nancy Gallagher, “then the MicroFIT program came along and we found a great opportunity to make money and green energy”. The Gallagher’s initial investment of \$80,000, for their turn-key 10kW solar system, will be recouped in the first 8 years and will yield over \$200,000 by expiration of the OPA MicroFIT contract. The revenue

generated from their solar investment is enough to cover their entire monthly electrical costs, and is expected to generate power up to ten years past the contract.

“There is a great race to get systems in this summer” says President of Home Energy Solutions, Dave Egles. “The Return-On-Investment is very high in Ontario, but changes in the rules in 2011 may make systems more expensive. Clearly there is a huge opportunity for farmers to benefit from installing solar this year”.

The timing of the investment works out incredibly well for the Gallaghers. Under the 2009 MicroFIT agreement, solar systems under 10kW have a special tariff rate of 80 cents per kWh, plus they fast track the application process and are automatically eligible for a contract. Farms can also install larger systems up to 250kW, but these have a lower tariff, need to pass connection testing, and take longer to commission.

For Ontario farmers like the Gallaghers, Home Energy Solutions MicroFIT solar systems offer a variety of mounting options and attractive financing packages that can generate immediate cash flow. The installations also maintain a sleek profile and boasts a 25 year warranty, featuring leading industry brands and equipment. For more information on installation and financing packages, please visit www.solarforfarms.ca.

I) Gencor Expands Support of Beef Shows for Ontario Youth

Gencor is pleased to announce the expansion of their beef youth program by moving away from one general show to support two exciting larger shows, the Western Fair Junior Beef Expo held in London, Ontario, and the Youth Forum held in Orangeville, Ontario.

With this new format Gencor will be able to support two larger shows and create an opportunity for more youth involved in 4-H Beef clubs across our service area.

Although the annual youth Beef Challenge was very successful, it was difficult to find a location and date that worked for members across our area. By supporting the strong and successful shows in Orangeville and London, it will allow us to continue to provide a great opportunity for our members’ children. Participants will have a greater opportunity to meet and compete with a great cross section of young competitors. Gencor has also committed to three sweepstakes prizes for draws of \$100.00 in semen purchase credits per sponsored event.

Gencor has also committed to be a sponsor of the National Junior Beef Heifer Show held at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. This support is in conjunction with The Semex Alliance and the donations will be weighted by the number of participants from each partner organization.

We look forward to being a part of the ongoing success of these programs.

Please visit www.gencor.ca for more show participation information.

Western Fair Junior Beef Expo

March 27-28, 2010

www.westernfair.com/fair/juniorbeef.html

Youth Forum

April 16-17, 2010

www.rkanimalsupplies.com/youthforum_info.htm

For more information please contact:

Karen Flewelling, Gencor, Asst. Beef Programs. 1-888-821-2150

J) Ontario Forage Masters Program Seeds Successful Producers

April 16 the Important Deadline for Forage Producers in 2010

After a record level of participation in 2009, Ontario Forage Masters hopes to grow again in 2010 - its

twenty-third year.

Forage producers have until April 16, 2010, to submit entries to their local county/district Soil and Crop Improvement Associations to compete in the 2010 Ontario Forage Masters Program. In conjunction with the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, the program continues to be proudly sponsored by Pickseed Canada and Agri-Food Laboratories. The program showcases outstanding forage producers and excellence in forage management across the province.

Open to members of local Soil and Crop Improvement Associations across Ontario, the Ontario Forage Masters is a highly visible platform for growers to present their expertise in forage management techniques. Each association is eligible to enter a minimum of five members and maximum of 15 into the program. As always, OSCIA enthusiastically welcomes 4-H members, through their farm's membership in OSCIA, to join the competition and enjoy the experience.

OSCIA President Barry Hill encourages all local associations to join the program this year for a very rewarding experience. Says Hill, "I know there are many excellent forage producers out there, and it is by sharing their knowledge and experience that we all can all learn and contribute to greater success for Ontario's forage producers."

Agri-Food Laboratories Inc. is a full service analytical facility located in Guelph, serving domestic and international clients in the agricultural industry since 1984. Their dedicated staff of technicians and professionals offers high quality, reliable services providing `Measurements for Management` to all sectors of the agricultural industry including analysis of feed and forages, soil and crops, and greenhouse media and solutions.

PICKSEED Canada Inc. is a leader in the development, production and distribution of turfgrass, forage crop and hybrid corn seeds. Since its beginning in 1947, PICKSEED has built a trusted and proven reputation for quality, agronomic advice and a commitment to research and technology. PICKSEED currently has locations across Canada and operates under the PICKSEED and Mapleseed brand names.

The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association is an educational, non-profit farm organization to communicate and facilitate responsible, economic management of soil, water, air and crops. Forage Masters provides an opportunity to compete with producers from the 50 local counties across the province from virtually all major agricultural areas of Ontario. The program will provide an excellent experience to all involved, in education, presentation, and farm management skills.

This is a great program for Soil and Crop members to be recognized for growing and storing superior forages, as well as raising the profile of forages in Ontario agriculture. In 2009, twenty-four associations were represented with 166 participants. Don't be left out in the 2010 competition!

For more entry and OSCIA membership information, contact your local Soil & Crop Improvement Association secretary. Contact information is available at www.ontariosoilcrop.org (About OSCIA - About Us - Local Associations)

K) Better Business Decisions with BIO

It's a fact that informed beef producers make intelligent decisions. The amount of information you need to know in order to run your business effectively continues to grow - and it can become overwhelming to manage this information effectively.

So let BIO help! Our new bioTrack system, developed with OCA support, lets you capture and use information on an animal – from pedigree to cooler - easily and the way you want to! bioTrack not only let's you manage data, it provides: easy and automatic age verification with linkage to the CCIA database every 6 hours; the ability to easily get information (within herd indexes or across herd EPD's) on your cows; help with sire selection; and feedlot health, management tools and carcass data .

Another important benefit of bioTrack is that you don't have to worry about losing information if your computer crashes.

If you would like to learn more about bioTrack, please call Brittney Livingston at (519) 767-2665 Ext. 316 or Jamie O'Shea at (519) 400-8974. Ask for a free demonstration of bioTrack either by phone or in person and enjoy special introductory pricing.

L) AGCare and Ontario Farm Animal Council Annual General Meetings

April 8, 2010

Guelph Place, 492 Michener Road

Guelph, ON

For details and a meeting agenda, [click here](#) (pdf file)

Tickets are \$60.00 each for the full day's program (\$75 after March 26).

Morning or afternoon only tickets can be purchased for \$40 each. There is no lunch included in this price.

See attached flyer.

M) Cornerview Charolais Open House

March 27th

1-4 pm

Cobden On.

Brian Coughlin, 613-646-9741

N) Agricultural Management Institute Champions Business Management Strategies

Ontario producers are encouraged to "take a new approach" to farm business management as a result of the governments' investment in the Agricultural Management Institute (AMI).

AMI works with agricultural industry associations to develop resources on innovative business management practices to help Ontario producers remain competitive.

AMI is being funded through *Growing Forward* to encourage the development and adoption of business management strategies for farm businesses. Their "Take A New Approach" campaign encourages producers to adopt new ways of thinking about farm business planning.

"The Agricultural Management Institute provides a much-needed resource for farmers looking for ways to be more profitable and innovative. Sound business management is an important part of farming. I'm proud to work with AMI and put farmers first."

— Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

"By championing the development and implementation of beneficial management practices, the Agricultural Management Institute continues to play an important role in helping Ontario producers remain innovative and competitive."

— Carol Mitchell, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

QUICK FACTS

- Canada and Ontario will fund the Agricultural Management Institute with \$3 million — part of the investment in business development under *Growing Forward*, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. *Growing Forward* supports the development of a profitable, innovative agriculture sector that is adept at managing risk and responsive to market demands.

O) Profitable Pastures

Profitable Pastures will be held in Elmwood March 29th, Elmvale March 30th and Cobden March 31st.

Key Speakers: Duane McCartney recently retired from Agriculture Canada in Saskatchewan and Alberta & Bill Gallagher from Gallagher Animal Management Systems

Their vast experience will provide a practical take home message

Call 1-877-892-8663 to register by March 26th

Visa or Mastercard Pre-registration is necessary to ensure dinner. Conference registration is \$35 and includes a hot roast beef dinner. For more info visit www.ontarioforagecouncil.com

CEU Accredited

See attached flyer

P) Date Changes: OnTrace Producer Traceability Workshops

OnTrace has adjusted its Producer Traceability Workshop series dates for the remainder of the spring, so as not to interfere with spring planting season and to better serve their producer audience.

The new schedule has all workshops ending by the end of March 2010.

Please see attached the revised ads, one with location detail information and one with workshop detail information.

Please be aware that the Guelph and Kemptville sessions are very close to being at capacity, so please sign up without delay.

Q) Hillcrest Farms & Guest BIO-Developed Bull sale

Saturday March 20, 2010, 1pm

28352 Kerwood Rd.

Kerwood, ON

519-247-3660/519-661-8713

Contact Mike

Viewing anytime

www.earleystock.com

R) 2011 Nuffield Farming Scholarship Applications Open

The Canadian Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust is accepting applications for their 2011 program. Applications are due by April 30, 2010 and forms can be downloaded from the Nuffield Canada website at <http://www.nuffield.ca>.

Nuffield Farming Scholarships are awarded to enthusiastic individuals, between the ages of 25 and 45, who wish to explore topics of their choice in agriculture, land management, horticulture or the food chain. Three scholarships of \$15,000 each are available for 2011.

"The Canadian Nuffield Farming Scholarship provides innovative Canadians with the funding to travel internationally to expand their personal horizons while exploring agricultural issues and opportunities in a global context," said Barry Cudmore, Chair and 2004 Scholar. "We are focused on developing the practical, managerial and commercial capacities of each scholar to enable them to be better farmers and business managers and to make a significant contribution to the future of Canadian agriculture."

The scholarships are awarded to men and women who are judged to have the greatest potential to create value for themselves, their industries and their communities through the doors which will be opened

and the opportunities provided for life-long learning and improvement. The scholarships are awarded on the strength of the applicants' vision, enthusiasm and determination to pursue their farming goals.

A Nuffield Farming scholarship is a life changing experience. Scholars receive a 'golden key' to the best production, management and marketing systems in every corner of the world. In addition to embracing the 'world's best' in agriculture, scholars gain life-long friends from around the world, and a deep understanding, and global perspective, of the politics, cultures and challenges of world agriculture.

A key part of the scholarship is the opportunity for winners to study a topic of interest to themselves through out their travels. Scholars must complete their project within two years of the award and are required to travel and study for a minimum of two months in total. On return from their study tour, Scholars are expected to produce a written report and present their findings at the annual general meeting as well as to others in their industries.

Canadian Nuffield Scholars are also required to participate in the Contemporary Scholars Conference (CSC) where they will meet with scholars from other countries including the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and France to exchange ideas and experiences, and join a network of people who are at the cutting edge of primary industry. The 2011 conference will be held in Auckland, New Zealand.

Applications must be received by April 30, 2010. Application forms are available from the Nuffield website www.nuffield.ca

For more information on Nuffield Canada, visit www.nuffield.ca or on Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust (the United Kingdom site) – www.nuffieldscholar.org.

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This report is distributed with the assistance of Dr. Doug Powell's team and use of the Listservs at Kansas State University. This service does not allow emails to be sent by responding to this email directly. If you have questions or comments, please contact Lianne Appleby at lianne@cattle.guelph.on.ca

A) Elmwood to host farm conference March 29;

The Post (Hanover)

Fri Mar 12 2010

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Section: News

Dateline: ELMWOOD

The Ontario Forage Council will be hosting the Profitable Pasture 2010 Conference March 29 in Elmwood. This conference will have a major focus on pasture management with the title of "Optimizing Your Pasture Returns"

Featured speakers are Duane McCartney and Bill Gallagher. McCartney devoted his career at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Saskatchewan and Alberta to researching economical and practical ways to utilize pasture and pasture-based feeding systems. Gallagher is owner of Gallagher Animal Management Systems. He has worked with livestock producers around the world from his headquarters in New Zealand. McCartney and Gallagher will share their vast experience and will provide a practical take home message.

The conference will also feature Jack Kyle Grazier, specialist/ OMAFRA, presenting "Filling the Gaps with Annual Crops," Birgit Martin presenting "Reducing Feed Costs with Pasture," the 2010 Ontario Pasture award winner, and Scott Honey, the recipient of the Ontario Pasture Award in 2008.

Producers in previous years were very specific that they wanted to learn about pasture management, improve profitability and make sure they have the most productive land. They won't be disappointed!

To register, participants should phone 1-877-892-8663 to book their spot by Visa or Mastercard. Pre-registration is required by March 26. The cost of the conference is \$35 and includes a hot roast beef dinner.

For more information, check the Ontario Forage Council web site at www.ontarioforagecouncil.com or phone 1-877-892-8663.

These conferences are co-sponsored by OSMA, OMAFRA, OCA local cattlemen's associations and the Ontario Forage Council.

B) Agriculture a winning government investment;

The Post (Hanover)

Fri Mar 12 2010

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Section: News

Byline: BY BETTE JEAN CREWS, PRESIDENT, OFA;

Canada's Olympic athletes are a shining example that well-placed government funding can produce amazing results. That's why the Ontario Federation of Agriculture had hoped last week's federal budget would contain some critical investment dollars for agriculture. It has been proven many times in the past that money invested in agriculture pays dividends on an ongoing basis.

Canadian farmers have found the Federal AgriStability Program doesn't meet their needs in terms of being bankable or predictable, and it's a program that is dearly needed by struggling farmers.

OFA and its partners in the Ontario Agricultural Sustainability Coalition (OASC) -livestock, grains, oilseeds and edible horticulture products -have told governments they need federal investment to improve AgriStability.

The captain of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's team, Minister Ritz, responded with a flat "NO" when he was asked at the recent annual meeting of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture about immediate investment in improvements for the program.

If the leaders of Team Canada's organizing squad had met a similar response to their "Own the Podium" plan, what would that have done to Canada's Olympic chances?

The Throne Speech promised 'to support a competitive livestock industry and pursue market access for agricultural products' and continuing support for the country's supply managed sectors -dairy, chicken and eggs.

But not too surprisingly there was no new investment in agriculture. We understand the importance of paying off the deficit as a means of getting the country back on its feet following the recent recession. The government needs to keep in mind the importance of a strong and healthy agri-food sector and realize any further weakening of the farm economy will have a deep impact on the country's overall economy.

During a time when cutbacks are used to survive, we need to be pleased there were no cuts to agricultural programming in the federal budget. It is also good to see that Canada is maintaining its support of Global Food

Security -a \$600 million plan to improve long-term food security for poor and vulnerable populations around the world.

Canada's beef producers received a small note of good news in the budget with the Slaughter Improvement Program. That will provide \$40 million loan over three years for the development and commercialization of innovative technologies related to the removal and use of specified risk materials (SRM). These SRM emerged as an issue from the BSE crisis for the livestock sector and continue to cost producers. This was a typical government budget document -many of the impacts won't be fully realized for weeks, months, or maybe even years.

OFA and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture will continue to follow their beliefs that agriculture is an ideal short and long-term investment for our governments. We want to see our farmers gain their rightful position on the podium and will work hard to ensure our governments provide the needed funding and programs to make that happen.

While the Olympics happen every four years, the citizens of Canada eat daily and Canadian farmers want to be the supplier of their food

C) Local MP understands ag concerns

The Collingwood Enterprise-Bulletin

Fri Mar 12 2010

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Section: News

Byline: MICHAEL-ALLAN MARION, QMI AGENCY;

Dateline: BURFORD

Tory MP Larry Miller demonstrated to a gathering of agriculture commodity group representatives last Friday that he understands the problems they are facing because he's faced the many of the same circumstances himself as a farmer.

"I can assure you I've gotten a lot of manure under my fingernails in my time, and I've been at the south end of a north-facing cow," Miller, who represents Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound and is the chairman of the standing committee on agriculture and agri-food, told two-dozen farm group leaders and county councillors at the beginning of a roundtable of agricultural issues facing Brant.

The meeting, organized by Brant MP Phil McColeman at the Burford Fairgrounds, was a chance for Miller to hear what beef, dairy and grain and oil seed producers are facing in their sectors.

Among many subjects, he heard pleas for assistance for the troubled Ontario beef sector, concerns about free trade and world trade negotiations, more understanding of the needs of organic growers, country of origin product labeling, exhortations to keep the faith with the marketing board system for milk, and the need for more public education about how their food is produced.

"We have a real problem in the beef industry in Ontario because we're not operating on a level playing field," said John Nunan, past-president of the Brant County Federation of Agriculture, who runs a beef and sheep operation.

He noted that the provinces of Alberta and Quebec subsidize their beef producers, and so does the U.S.

"We have to be careful that we don't have programs that are meant to be Canada-wide and hurt Ontario," he said.

Even in Ontario, he noted, 40 per cent of the meat produced comes from the supply-managed dairy industry, but beef producers don't enjoy that kind of program.

"We can't compete with all that."

Nunan said he has come to the conclusion that there is no way to fix the problem of Ontario beef without people agreeing that money should be put into the industry.

He advocated a subsidy for cows that calve every year.

"I know it sounds outrageous and it sounds unusual. It is," he said, "But in my view, it's the only way that we would return beef in Ontario to viability."

Miller cautioned him that it would be imprudent for Ottawa to issue a national subsidy program for beef producers.

"I know Ontario has never supported agriculture near enough. Alberta has been supporting its agriculture for years. But we can't throw in a national subsidy or we can kiss our exports goodbye."

He was referring to the certainty that the U.S. government would retaliate.

Larry Davis, Brant director on the board of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, said it's time for Ottawa to work on a national food strategy that rewards farmers with fairer prices, rather than the cheap food policy, and educates the public about the importance of its producing its own food.

Over the years, agriculture has built up a \$49-billion deficit, he noted.

"Our business is in a greedy, shortsighted environment where consumers look at tomorrow and the government's vision is four years," he said.

"Poor policy, poor planning and poor investment in agriculture by government is leading to the demise of an industry which is innovative, meets production initiatives without using resources but by actually giving a net benefit to resources and the environment.

"Farmers want to feel like they matter and enjoy fulfilling the basic needs of Canadians and foreign people."

Barry Hill, president of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, said Ottawa needs to put more money into the environmental farm plan program. The program, administered by the OSCIA on behalf of the federal government, encourages farmers to draw up environmental plans for their operations and gives grants to improvement projects. It is working so well that the annual allocation is completely used up almost as soon as it is announced.

The latest allocation was entirely committed within three weeks, he noted.

"Obviously there is a great demand for it," Hill said, adding that the program is a good investment in the industry.

"What must be remembered is that those dollars are 25% of the total project worth. That means the farmer invests 75%."

Miller promised to take all the submissions from the roundtable back to Ottawa.

McColeman said later that he and Miller learned a lot from the discussion.

"This was an opportunity for us to listen to the rural community of Brant," he said. "We had a wide representation from the various local agricultural sectors here."

D) Canadians are asking -- where's the beef? BEEF: Dwindling cattle herds a concern

Stratford Beacon-Herald

Thu Mar 4 2010

Page: F5

Section: News

Byline: BY REMO ZACCAGNA, QMI AGENCY

Canadian cattle herds have dwindled significantly over the last five years, brought on by a confluence of events including a global recession, a high Canadian dollar, shrinking demand and tightening of attractive markets.

According to Statistics Canada, producers reported 13 million head on Jan. 1, a decline of 1.3% from a year ago. The decline was most pronounced in Alberta, the country's largest producer: 5.15 million head, a 4.3% decrease from 2009, and down from the nearly six million in 2005.

"It's not a surprising statistic. It's basically, I think, a symptom of the economic realities in the industry," said Travis Toews, vice-president of the Canadian Cattlemen Association.

"It's been an industry that's had very little, if no profitability for a number of years, and so we're seeing people get out."

Toews said the combination of the downturn in the economy, a high dollar and American country-of-origin labelling (COOL) legislation, along with an overall drop in demand has created a perfect storm for producers to leave the industry altogether and move on to more profitable ventures.

"I think, in some cases, some folks are using that land for grain production; they've decided to sell their cows and they may be using their land for different purposes," he said.

"We also have quite a large demographic close to retirement age, and so I think that we've seen some exodus of producers and consequently cattle, as a result of that.

"But I think the primary reason is that the economics have been difficult and in an industry that lacks profitability, you're going to see that industry shrink, and that's a concern."

Casey Duggan, 27, who raises about 1,200 cows, says the decline is a result of a pricing formula that is making it more difficult to earn a decent living.

"I think that there's no profit in it, there's no money in it is the problem. It's more a problem of tighter margins and low profitability," Duggan explained.

"We just sold (finished cattle) to the packing plant two weeks ago for 76 cents a pound, and it costs 80 (cents) to finish them, to put on the last 550 pounds. Plus the \$30 trucking bill."

"I think young people will get involved again when it returns to profitability, and that's the incentive that, I think, young people need to get back into the cattle industry," Toews said.

Toews said he remains "optimistic about our future in the long term" but noted that any turnaround would most likely coincide with the economy growing again.

"Cattle supplies in North America are at historic lows, and I think analysts that I've listened to all agree that when North America emerges significantly from the recession, when we're well on our recovery, we will see beef demand increase and we should see cattle prices go up pretty significantly at that point," he said.

Duggan said any return to normal for the industry would be gradual.

"Not immediately, like maybe the beginning of 2011 at the very best, as far as the turnaround on finished cattle, but I don't think it's going to get any better until the economy picks back up."

Ontario not considering a coyote cull following attacks

Ontario has no plans to cull coyotes after a series of attacks on dogs.

Natural Resources Minister Linda Jeffrey says there's no evidence that coyotes are posing any risk to people or that incidents involving pets are on the rise.

She says the case of a small dog snatched Monday while on a walk in the Rouge River ravine just east of Toronto is an isolated and rare incident.

Jeffrey says she understands it's upsetting to lose a pet, but adds that several incidents around Toronto and Ottawa are not enough to justify a cull.

It isn't unusual for coyotes to go into neighbourhoods toward the end of a season when there's less game for them to catch in conservation areas, Jeffrey says, especially as neighbourhoods infringe on their territory.

But she adds the government is willing to work with any municipality that has an issue and asks for help.

Police say the coyote in this week's attack struck while a 24-year-old woman was walking her two Pomeranians. The coyote made off into the woods with the smaller of the dogs.

Last February, a number of coyote sightings in the east end of Toronto sparked fear after a coyote killed a Chihuahua in its own backyard.

Multiple sightings of a lone coyote in a residential Ottawa neighbourhood earlier this year also had residents in that area concerned.

E) Miller back as chairman of federal ag committee

Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MP Larry Miller has been re-elected as chairman of the House of Commons standing committee on agriculture and agri-food.

"I look forward to getting back to work at the committee to complete our competitiveness report and addressing the important challenges facing the hog and beef industries and the entire agriculture sector," Miller said in a news release Wednesday in which he also thanked his colleagues for returning him to the post. Committee membership, as with all Commons committees, is based on the number of seats each party holds in the House, Miller said in an interview from Ottawa. There are six Conservatives, three Liberals, two Bloc Quebecois and one New Democrat.

"I only get to vote to break a tie which means one of the other members has to be absent," Miller said.

"Usually we (the Conservatives) are outvoted six to five."

The committee meets twice a week to discuss and hear witnesses about matters of concern in agriculture and agri-food. With the assistance of Library of Parliament experts, it draws up reports which, after being accepted by the committee, are tabled in the House of Commons.

The committee has been working on a report on competitiveness of Canadian farmers, which have been hard hit by the rising value of the Canadian dollar, and has been looking at the future of farming and bringing young people into farming.

Miller said he expects a report on competitiveness to be tabled by Easter but that the report on problems young farmers have entering the business got tied up "because there was a lot of politics being played last fall. "I'm not going to point fingers because it was all the way around. Anyway, it never got done and to me it is the high priority. It's certainly very high on my list."

F) Hefty heifer delivers triplets

The Record (Sherbrooke)

Thu Mar 11 2010

Page: 2

Section: News

Byline: Sharon McCully

Dateline: ABERCORN

Source: Special to The Record

It may not make the Guinness Book of Records, but local farmers will be hard pressed to remember the last time a Simmental birthed triplets. And that makes Flora, Fauna and Merriweather, the new progeny of an Abercorn Simmental delivered last Thursday, a cause célèbre in farming circles.

"A farmer in West Brome who has a herd of 400 Simmental, told me he's never seen surviving triplets, nor has my father-in-law who raised cattle for 45 years," said Danny Janulewicz, beaming like a new father.

Corralling the four-day-old calves for a photo op proved to be as tricky for Matthew, 8, and Patrick, 10, as holding a handful of jello. The playful yearlings, who are flourishing, dipped and ducked out of their grasp, dodging the paparazza.

Janulewicz and his wife Christine Booth have been operating the family farm in Abercorn since 2006, switching from the dairy herd raised by Christine's father, to beef cattle.

"Spring is the calving season so we expect to be busy, but we didn't expect this," said Christine.

Simmentals are known for their high fertility rates and long reproductive lives, producing more calves over a longer period than other breeds, but successful multiple births are uncommon.

Janulewicz said pre-partum inspection by the veterinarian revealed what appeared to be 'a lot of feet down there', but no indication there could be a dozen of them.

"She was down for a week and we wanted to avoid any further distress, so Christine induced her," Janulewicz said.

"The vet said if he had had a camera, he would have taken a picture of our faces, and not the triplets," Christine said with a laugh. Daughter Melissa, 13, who presided at the delivery with a friend during their March school break, christened the yearlings Flora, Fauna, and Merriweather after the fairies in Snow White. The birth weight of the three calves was in the 50-70 pound range, just short of the optimal birth weight of a single calf.

The family has been bottle-feeding the calves since the trauma of the multiple births has left mom incapacitated. A local farmer provided colostrum to the newly born calves, since the ailing mother was unable to provide those first essential proteins, antibodies, antioxidants and nutrients, and Christine is prepping another new mother in the herd to accept the calves for nursing, but every indication is the newborns are flourishing, unlike their mother.

"We are going to wait a week to see if she recovers, but she's not doing well," said Janulewicz, who described the heifer as a huge mama, who towered over the others in the herd.

The young calves will enjoy an idyllic life on the hilltop farm overlooking Mount Pinnacle until they are brought to market in seven to nine months.

Meanwhile, the Janulewicz children had a tale to tell when they returned to school this week after the March recess.

G) Farmers make case for help - AGRICULTURE: Roundtable discussion hears issues facing Brant

By MICHAEL-ALLAN MARION

BURFORD -Tory MP Larry Miller demonstrated to a gathering of agriculture commodity group representatives Friday that he understands the problems they are facing because, as a farmer, he's faced many of the same circumstances himself.

"I can assure you I've gotten a lot of manure under my fingernails in my time, and I've been at the south end of a north-facing cow," he said.

Miller, who represents Bruce- Grey-Owen Sound and is the chairman of the standing committee on agriculture and agrifood, was talking with two-dozen farm group leaders and county councillors at the beginning of a roundtable of agricultural issues facing Brant.

The meeting, organized by Brant MP Phil McColeman in the agricultural hall at the Burford fairgrounds, was a chance for Miller to hear what beef, dairy and grain and oil seed producers are facing in their sectors.

Among many subjects, he heard pleas for assistance for the troubled Ontario beef sector, concerns about free trade and world trade negotiations, more understanding of the needs of organic growers, country of origin product labeling, exhortations to keep the faith with the marketing board system for milk, and the need for more public education about how their food is produced.

"We have a real problem in the beef industry in Ontario because we're not operating on a level playing field," said John Nunan, past-president of the Brant County Federation of Agriculture, who runs a beef and sheep operation.

He noted that the provinces of Alberta and Quebec subsidize their beef producers, and so does the U.S.

"We have to be careful that we don't have programs that are meant to be Canada-wide and hurt Ontario," he said.

Even in Ontario, he noted that 40% of the meat produced comes from the supply-managed dairy industry, but beef producers don't enjoy that kind of program.

"We can't compete with all that."

Nunan said that he has come to the conclusion that there is no way to fix the problem of Ontario beef without people agreeing that money should be put into the industry.

He advocated a subsidy for cows that calve every year.

"I know it sounds outrageous and it sounds unusual. It is," he said, "But, in my view, it's the only way that we would return beef in Ontario to viability."

Miller cautioned him that it would be imprudent for Ottawa to issue a national subsidy program for beef producers.

"I know Ontario has never supported agriculture near enough. Alberta has been supporting its agriculture for years. But we can't throw in a national subsidy or we can kiss our exports goodbye."

He was referring to the certainty that the U.S. government would retaliate.

Larry Davis, Brant director on the board of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, said it's time for Ottawa to work on a national food strategy that rewards farmers with fairer prices, rather than the cheap food policy, and educates the public about the importance of its producing its own food.

Over the years, agriculture has built up a \$49-billion deficit, he noted.

"Our business is in a greedy, shortsighted environment where consumers look at tomorrow and the government's vision is four years," said Davis.

"Poor policy, poor planning and poor investment in agriculture by government is leading to the demise of an industry which is innovative, meets production initiatives without using resources but by actually giving a net benefit to resources and the environment.

"Farmers want to feel like they matter and enjoy fulfilling the basic needs of Canadians and foreign people."

Barry Hill, president of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, said Ottawa needs to put more money into the environmental farm plan program. The program, administered by the association on behalf of the federal government, encourages farmers to draw up environmental plans for their operations and gives grants to improvement projects. It is working so well that the annual allocation is completely used up almost as soon as it is announced.

The latest allocation was entirely committed within three weeks, he noted.

"Obviously there is a great demand for it," said Hill, adding that the program is a good investment in the industry.

"What must be remembered is that those dollars are 25% of the total project worth. That means the farmer invests 75%."

Miller promised to take all the submissions from the roundtable back to Ottawa.

McColeman said later that he and Miller learned a lot from the discussion.

"This was an opportunity for us to listen to the rural community of Brant," he said. "We had a wide representation from the various local agricultural sectors here."

H) Groups push for greenbelt expansion; ENVIRONMENT

The Brantford Expositor

Wed Mar 10 2010

Page: A8

Section: News

Byline: MICHAEL-ALLAN MARION;

A push to get the Dalton McGuinty government to approve a major expansion of the greenbelt westward through Brant County and in other directions in southern Ontario is gaining fresh energy with the entry of new groups and controversial development activities.

For much of the past two years, a collection of groups has been advocating, either independently or in concert as the emerging Greenbelt Alliance, for expansions of the greenbelt area's original 1.8-million acre territory around the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

They want the protective environmental and agricultural zone to grow westward into Brant, northward through Guelph, the Town of Oakville, Markham and Simcoe County, and eastward to Prince Edward County. Their main aim is to thwart development pressures that have jumped the established greenbelt lines and moved into new hitherto small, rural communities.

In Brant, groups such as Sustainable Brant and area members of the Greenbelt Alliance have been pushing for the county to be included, after watching developers and land bankers gobble up thousands of acres of farmland and pressure county council into developing spots just beyond the city of Brantford's boundaries. Sustainable Brant presented a petition with more than 600 signatures to county council about six months ago, calling for an expansion to protect farmland and the integrity of the Galt-Paris Moraine from development. The group is concerned about the prospect of subdivisions and industrial parks arising on farmland in the Cainsville area and spots between Paris and St. George.

The strength of their message has been curbed somewhat by the Brant County Federation of Agriculture and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

They have been advising caution in the face of contradictory information about the impact the current Greenbelt legislation has been having on different types of farming within its existing territory.

The OFA has asked for a moratorium on adding territory until a 10-year review can be done on the legislation's performance since the Greenbelt Act was passed in 2005. It says more up-to-date information is needed for a proper assessment.

Brant federation president Sandra Vos says her group takes the same position.

"Setting aside land to protect agriculture is only one spoke in a many faceted wheel of considerations," she said.

"There were good reasons to set up the greenbelt, but let's see how it plays out in reality. We need more information over a longer period of time to be able to understand trends."

The spread of preliminary information about the legislation's perceived effects has aided proponents and opponents alike. A University of Guelph study has found that livestock producers do not appear to have gained any comfort from the Greenbelt's embrace.

Using numbers that compare figures in the Greenbelt area and provincewide, it says the number of dairy farms decreased by 28 % in the area of the greenbelt, but only 23% across Ontario.

The number of beef operations dropped by 24 % in the so-called protected area, but only 13 per cent province-wide.

Hog operations dropped by 27 % in the Greenbelt, while only 11 % generally.

Critics point out that most of the numbers come from 2006 census results, which were using trends already in effect between 2001 and 2006, when the legislation was in existence for barely a year.

"We need to look at the numbers from the next census," Vos said. "In fairness, we need to see figures from a period when the greenbelt was in existence the whole time, and compare them with the earlier numbers to get a better picture."

Another factor to consider, she said, is that the dairy and hog operations were not going through a contraction during some of the study's period, so much as a consolidation trend, where the number of operations was shrinking but the average size and volume of production either remained the same or grew slightly. "That has to be examined more."

Ella Haley of Sustainable Brant says the moratorium would place too long a delay for much-needed action to be brought to bear.

Developments elsewhere in the Greater Golden Horseshoe are bringing Greenbelt expansion demands.

Environmental Defence, a national non-profit group, has weighed in on the pro-expansion side with its call to curb residential pressures on rural areas and stop the installation or expansion of quarries.

Environmental Defence is buttressing the battle lines of groups and the city of Hamilton against the Flamborough Quarry that St Marys Cement wants to install on a parcel of farmland northeast of Carlisle, and has joined those against the proposed Nelson Quarry on the Mount Nemo Plateau north of Oakville.

"Until such time as Ontario reconciles its priorities between the protection of natural heritage features and source of water and the extraction of aggregates, and until the province modernizes its aggregates laws and policies, there should be no new quarries, or quarry expansions," Environmental Defence says in a position statement.

I) JBS reports mixed 2009 results, expects better 2010

MCT Regional News

Tue Mar 9 2010

Section: Medical

Byline: By Sharon Dunn, Greeley Tribune, Colo.

Source: McClatchy-Tribune Regional News

Mar. 9--Greeley-based JBS USA saw mixed sales results in 2009, but officials expect 2010 will be a better year given its acquisition of a controlling portion of Texas-based Pilgrim's Pride and expected growth in export markets as it concentrates on more "value added" products.

In a conference call Monday, JBS officials discussed the company's year-end earnings, adding the results of Pilgrim's Pride to its numbers. JBS acquired a 64 percent controlling interest in Pilgrim's Pride in December and is said to be moving several of that company's executives to the Greeley area.

"The focus now is on synergy gains through acquisitions," said Jeremiah O'Callaghan, investor relations director for JBS. "We continue to build our distribution platform to add value to products and expand our margins. We continue to have a commitment to the company's financial health and reduction of leverage."

The addition of Pilgrim's is just one of several changes JBS has instituted this year. Earlier this year, the company bought a building in east Greeley for \$2.3 million to house its JBS Carriers division, with a fleet of 200-plus trucks. The company started its carrier division in early 2008 after acquiring Smithfield Beef and Five Rivers Cattle, all just a year after JBS bought Swift & Co.

The company also had planned a public offering in its JBS USA division early this year but has decided to hold off until the market improves.

"We are now ready with the documents because we are making the numbers public today," JBS S.A. President Joesley Mendonca Batista said in the call in response to a question about when the IPO would go forward. "The market became worse in this last period, and we will make a deal as we consider we have good market environment."

Company officials noted flat sales companywide from 2008 to 2009, but it was still able to gain in earnings through efficiencies. The company reported it had already realized \$95 million in savings through its recent acquisition of Pilgrim's Pride through "initiatives" in personnel, transportation and packing supply departments.

"We envision capturing a further \$65 million through mid-year, through G&A (general and administrative expenses), exports and efficiencies in logistics," O'Callaghan said. "We estimate total annual synergies to be between \$200-300 million U.S. dollars."

The road should be smooth, as the company has all three major proteins: beef, pork and chicken. It also helps that Japan and Korea have opened their doors again to U.S. beef after a few years of stopping imports because of mad cow disease scares.

The company reports that it saw a decrease in overall company exports in 2009, including U.S. beef and pork exports, but that should change.

"Exports decreased from 2008, really because of macroeconomic issues," O'Callaghan reported. "Our portion of revenues declined from one-third to just under one-quarter. We believe in 2010, we'll see an inversion of that cycle and see substantial growth of that business again."

O'Callaghan said JBS is doing better in Japan, Russia and Korea than its predecessor Swift & Co. did in terms of export sales. The company also recently struck a deal with Russia to export U.S. pork, and company officials hope that deal will soon include chicken.

Though the officials didn't discuss any more acquisitions this year, they plan to focus on getting more bang for their buck, meaning adding value to what they produce.

"It's important to mention, a lot of these production units are related to adding value to many of the items off the beef we harvest, from processing hide to producing pet food, to converting grease into biodiesel -- it's quite a diverse production platform," O'Callaghan said.

The company also plans to re-open one closed chicken plant from Pilgrim's by year's end.

J) Farmers seek changes; AGRICULTURE: Want Ottawa to drop program approach

The Sarnia Observer

Mon Mar 8 2010

Page: A1

Section: News

Byline: PAUL MORDEN, THE OBSERVER;

Ontario farm groups want Ottawa to drop its one-size-fits-all approach to delivering programs aimed at helping their members.

But, so far, the argument hasn't moved Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz, according to a recent commentary circulated by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

"Ontario farmers are rapidly losing equity and their farm businesses because today's risk management programs do not work," said president Bette Jean Crews.

She added that 80% of Ontario farmers say the federal AgriStability program is failing them.

Kevin Forbes, president of the Lambton Federation of Agriculture, said farmers in the past counted on governments to create programs for them, but "none of them ever seemed to work or fit."

That's why farm groups designed their own risk management program that has been already been adopted by Ontario, he said.

It has been in place for some time now for cash crop farmers and there are plans to expand it to beef, hog and horticulture farmers in a way that is responsive to their needs, Forbes said.

"The federal government is trying to create a one-size-fits-all program right across the country," he said.

"Those programs just don't seem to fit and they're not responsive enough. It always seems you're getting the money a year or two after when you needed it."

That's why farm groups are putting pressure on the federal government to come across with funding for provincial risk management programs.

"They just don't seem to want to do that," Forbes said. "They're happy with their own program and have no interest in funding a provincially developed program."

But, joining the provincial programs wouldn't require the federal government to spend any more than it is already, Forbes said.

Forbes said he and other farm leaders delivered the message in a meeting with Sarnia-Lambton MP Pat Davidson. Davidson said she has passed it along to Ritz and plans to talk with other members of the Tory rural caucus about the issue.

"What we need to come up with is something that can be tailored to the individual situations" found in different areas of the country, she said. "My thought is that one size doesn't fit all."

The country and its agriculture are too diverse, she said. "There's issues one sector has that another sector never has, that another one might have very seldom."

It's a complex situation the government has been working to find a solution for, she said.

Davidson said Ritz has been to her riding and she believes he's responsive to the needs of farmers.

"I know that some of us have been speaking to him, seeing if we can't tweak that federal program so it can be somehow adapted to different issues in different areas," she said. "And, we're not there yet."



If you would like to post your cattle industry news or event, send your information by Thursday at 4pm to lianne@cattle.guelph.on.ca or submit through the OCA Web site: <http://www.cattle.guelph.on.ca/calendar/calendar.asp>.

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