



Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Ontario AgriCentre

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For Immediate Release

Farm coalition seeks action from Ministers

The Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition (OASC) is extremely disappointed with the lack of progress made by agriculture Ministers at their Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers meeting (FPT) held in Toronto on February 5.

The ministers focused on the economic situation of the farm sector and announced more consultations on the challenges facing the sector.

"We are very disappointed that Ministers of Agriculture do not seem to understand the problem and clearly do not appreciate the urgency of the situation on our farms." said Bette Jean Crews, President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and OASC member. "They need to realize that our local food supply is in jeopardy along with thousands of farming and processing jobs." added Brian Gilroy, President of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association (and OASC member).

"OASC leaders have consulted with farmers and have designed workable solutions" said Henry Stevens, President of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (and OASC member). "We now call on Ministers to show the leadership farmers expect and need."

Producers were surveyed and clearly indicated that AgriStability needs improvement to be bankable and predictable. The OASC has recommended amendments to AgriStability that will provide a much needed infusion to cash-strapped farm businesses. The coalition has also developed a comprehensive Business Risk Management Program for non-supply managed commodities that will help stabilize and sustain the industry.

"The OASC will continue to work with our farm family members and colleagues across Canada to convince Ministers of the need and urgency of the situation on the farm." said Wilma Jeffray, President of Ontario Pork (and OASC member) "The solutions are available and must be implemented now." she added.

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