

CHRISTIAN FARMERS FEDERATION OF ONTARIO



BACKGROUND

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The CFFO is an organization with a dual purpose:

- ♣ to enable farmers to work out their Christian faith in their vocations as citizens, and
 - ♣ to develop policy applications of the Christian faith to agriculture.
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CHRISTIAN FARMERS FEDERATION OF ONTARIO

GENERAL

THE CHRISTIAN Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) is a professional organization for family farm entrepreneurs. We are a general farm organization with an interest in a broad range of agricultural, rural and social issues that impact the quality of the family life and the family businesses of our members and associates.

As a professional organization we are committed to enabling our members as producers, as marketers and as citizens. We develop both the entrepreneurial and the community leadership abilities of our members. By our involvement in public policy we promote a family farm and stewardship perspective.

As a confessional organization we are committed to being upfront about the Christian value system that motivates our members and associates. We look to the Christian Scriptures for guidance for life and thought. We believe that our fundamental values shape our commitment to farm practices and the management of our businesses. Stewardship is balancing the economic value that our culture gives to food production with the enduring value of creation: people, family, land, plants and animals. Our goal is to make the wisdom of the Christian faith available to farm practice and farm policy.

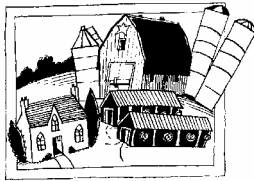
OUR APPROACH TO FARMING

AS PRODUCERS we seek a blend of entrepreneurial and co-operative agriculture. Both the opportunity and responsibility for making production decisions will be ours as a diverse group of farmers. We see a role for each farmer to safeguard our foodland resource, to share in the development of appropriate technology and to protect the quality and diversity of plant and animal life. We seek opportunities for many farm families to adopt a God-honouring family way of life in agriculture.

As marketers we see a responsibility to consumers both in Canada and elsewhere. We see Canadians able to pay for food so that full-time family farmers will have enough for their reasonable costs and a Canadian standard of living. Exports should receive a fair world market price. As Ontarians we see ourselves sharing markets with farmers across Canada but not competing with the treasuries of other provinces or those of other nations.

As citizens we see a role for public policy to safeguard our foodland resource, to check the quality of the food we produce and to provide a policy framework for a stewardly and sustainable agriculture. That framework should: encourage owner-operated family entrepreneurship, moderate external impacts, provide assistance so that reasonable production costs can be met and develop a basic food self-sufficiency for Canada. We see farmers and their organizations taking increasing responsibility for the management of public support for agriculture and the marketing of our products.

MEMBERSHIP



MEMBERSHIP IN the CFFO is open to all. We anticipate that some farm families will disqualify themselves from membership because they do not wish to be as public about their value systems and faith as we are. As an ethical organization we look to the Christian Scriptures for guidance for life and thought. We challenge those considering membership to join us in working out the implications of the Christian Scriptures for farm practices and farm policies.

Our members and supporters have a variety of farm business types. They include many full-time commercial family farm entrepreneurs but also part-time, hobby and life-style farmers. An increasing number of the enterprises involve more than one family member full-time or have become dependent on paid labour. Many of our members are dependent for most of their family incomes on the profits from their farm enterprises. We are involved in a wide range of Ontario's commodities.

Our convention sets an annual membership fee. Until the end of 1993 payment was flexible. It was a family membership and we encouraged every family to pay according to ability. Those who enjoyed higher farm incomes were asked to increase the fee. Those who had a difficult financial year could reduce the fee. Farm families experiencing a financial crisis could retain membership while skipping fees for a year. The average fee actually paid in 1993 was \$364.05.

Since 1994 our membership system has been totally restructured. Our annual fee has been reduced to \$160.50 and it extends voting membership to one person and spouse. Those who direct the farm organization funding fee to us when they register their farm business through AGRICORP with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (formerly Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs) are eligible for membership. Accepting membership does not require an additional fee if you or your spouse are the primary contacts for your registered farm business and if you have not applied for a refund (Not accepting membership has no negative impact on the registration of your farm business).

Other families can join or renew their membership by sending \$160.50 directly to the CFFO. This is the membership route for a variety of supporters: second and third families in a registered farm business; those interested in a dual membership in the CFFO and other accredited general farm organizations; and those who do not have farm businesses. Each fee extends voting membership to one person and spouse.

STRUCTURE



DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

OUR MEMBERS have established district associations. We have 22 districts, each with its own elected board of directors. Each District Association conducts its own program and activities. District delegates make up the bulk of the membership of the CFFO Provincial (delegate) Board, and attend standing committee meetings. The number of members in districts varies from 27 to 429. Those

with 100 or less members have one voting delegate at our provincial meetings. Associations with 101 to 200 have two delegates, etc. Our district associations are as follows:

Chatham-Kent CFA.....	Dufferin-Wellington CFA.....	East Central CFA
Elgin CFA.....	Essex CFA	Grey-Bruce CFA
Haldimand-Norfolk CFA	Huron CFA	Lambton CFA
Middlesex CFA	Niagara CFA.....	North Eastern Ontario CFA
Oxford CFA	Perth CFA	Quinte CFA
Rainy River CFA.....	Renfrew-Lanark CFA	Simcoe CFA
St. Lawrence-Ottawa Valley CFA.....	Thunder Bay CFA.....	Wellington CFA
Wentworth-Brant CFA		
.....*CFA – Christian Farmers Association		

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

OUR PROVINCIAL Council is the official policy-making body. It deals with major Federation developments, elects Executive Board directors and meets at least five times per year (fourth Wednesday of January, March, June, September and the first Wednesday of November)

The Council is made up of delegates from our 22 District Associations and the Executive Board.

STANDING COMMITTEES



OUR STANDING committees include Dairy, Pork, Sheep & Stewardship & Policy. Poultry, Grains & Oilseeds and Greenhouse committees meet on an ad-hoc basis. Committee members are representatives from CFFO’s District Associations and Executive Board.

Committee recommendations on specific issues are presented to the CFFO Provincial Council where they may become official Federation policy statements.

ANNUAL CONVENTION



OUR ANNUAL Convention is normally held in late November or early December. Delegates to the Convention adopt a budget, elect the Federation President and Vice-Presidents (two). All members are invited to attend. Decisions are made by the official delegates from district associations. Associations with 50 or less members have one delegate; associations with 51 to 100 members have two delegates, etc. The 2004 CFFO Convention is scheduled for Thursday, November 25 and Friday November 26, 2004- Location to be determined.

BUDGET

OUR BUDGET is almost totally dependent on the fees from our members.

For 2004 our budget for provincial activities is \$495,841 plus \$164,059 for our district associations for a total of \$659,900.

Our 2004 membership fee is \$160.00 including GST.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

OUR EXECUTIVE Board consists of eight family farmers. The Board meets monthly (second Tuesday) and deals with the day-to-day affairs of the Federation.

President	John Kikkert	RR 3 Smithville LOR 2A0 Voice: 905-957-7766 Fax: 905-957-1998 Email: kikkert@vaxxine.com
Vice-President	Henry Stevens	RR 2 Palmerston N0G 2P0 Voice: 519-343-5883 Fax: 519-343-5635 Email: hstevens@wightman.ca
Vice-President	Jenny Denhartog	RR 4 Arthur N0G 1A0 Voice: 519-848-2283 Fax: 519-848-3233 Email: hj.denhartog@sympatico.ca
Directors	Jane Kapteyn	RR 6 Cobourg K9A 4J9 Voice: 905-342-3131 Fax: 905-342-2751 Email: kapteyn@eagle.ca
	Jack Kroes	RR 2 Clinton NOM 1L0 Voice: 519-482-7362 Fax: 519-482-7362 Email: mkroes@tcc.on.ca
	Terry Kuipers	RR 1 Aylmer N5H 2R1 Voice: 519-773-3704 Fax: 519-773-3704 Email: terry_kuipers@yahoo.ca
	Clarence Nywening	RR 1 Thamesville N0P 2K0 Voice: 519-692-5161 Fax: 519-692-4411 Email: cnywenin@ciaccess.com
	Peter Payne	RR 1 Reaboro K0L 2X0 Voice: 705-324-7910 Fax: 705-324-7910 Email: None

DISTRICT BOARDS

DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS elect a slate of board members at their annual association business meeting. Currently, presidents and/or secretaries for each association are:

CHATHAM-KENT (CK)					
Clarence Nywening	President	RR 1	Thamesville	N0P 2K0	519-692-5161
Dale Maris	Secretary/Treas.	RR 2	Croton	N0P 1K0	519-692-3544
DUFFERIN WELLINGTON (DW)					
Henry Kottelenberg	President	RR 1	Shelburne	L0N 1S5	519-925-6387
Jacob Kamphuis	Secretary	RR 2	Orangeville	L9W 2Y9	519-940-9615
EAST CENTRAL (EC)					
Stephen Kelly	President	RR 3	Little Britain	K0M 2C0	705-786-2833
Jane Kapteyn	Secretary	RR 6	Cobourg	K9A 4J9	905-342-3131

■ **CFFO Backgrounder 2004: Structure**

EAST CENTRAL (EC)						
Stephen Kelly	President	RR 3	Cavan	L0A 1C0	705-745-3155	
Jane Kapteyn	Secretary	RR 3	Little Britain	K0M 2C0	705-786-2833	
ELGIN (EL)						
Terry Kuipers	President	RR 1	Aylmer	N5H 2R1	519-773-3704	
John Martyn	Secretary	PO Box 34	Sparta	N0L 2H0	519-775-2292	
ESSEX COUNTY (ES)						
John Barnett	President	RR 2	Kingsville	N9Y 2E5	519-733-5873	
Christine Parks	Secretary	RR 1	Amherstburg	N9V 2Y7	519-736-9161	
GREY-BRUCE (GB)						
Simon de Boer	President	RR 3	Tara	N0H 2N0	519-934-3499	
Ingrid De Visser	Secretary	RR 1	Chesley	N0G 1L0	519-363-3425	
HALDIMAND-NORFOLK (HN)						
Bill Heeg	President	RR 1	Hagersville	N0A 1H0	905-768-3893	
Richard Blyleven	Secretary	RR 1	Fisherville	N0A 1G0	905-779-3817	
HURON (HU)						
Herman Ramaker	President	RR 1	Clinton	N0M 1L0	519-482-9948	
Jack Kroes	Secretary	RR 2	Clinton	N0M 1L0	519-482-7362	
LAMBTON (LA)						
Paul Campbell	President	RR 5	Forest	N0N 1J0	519-786-4731	
Harrietta Campbell	Secretary	RR 5	Forest	N0N 1J0	519-786-4731	
MIDDLESEX (MI)						
Nick Stokman	President	RR 7	Strathroy	N7G 3H8	519-245-0250	
Dan Douglas	Secretary	RR 2	Strathroy	N7G 3H4	519-289-5120	
NIAGARA (NI)						
John Kikkert	Acting President	RR 3	Smithville	L0R 2A0	905-957-7766	
Peter Bosman	Secretary	RR 1	Smithville	L0R 2A0	905-643-2205	
NORTH EASTERN ONTARIO (NE)						
Ron Scriven	President	RR 1	Thornloe	P0J 1S0	705-563-2911	
Blair Beatty	Secretary	RR 2	Powassan	P0H 1Z0	705-724-3422	
OXFORD (OX)						
Nico Van Den Akker	President	RR 1	Salford	N0J 1W0	519-425-4309	
Peter Bakker	Secretary	RR 3	Bright	N0J 1B0	519-463-5235	
PERTH (PE)						
David Hern	President	RR 1	Woodham	N0K 2A0	519-229-6339	
Cherilynne Otten	Secretary	RR 2	St. Pauls	N0K 1V0	519-393-6330	
QUINTE (QU)						
Henry Eigenbrood, Jr.	President	RR 1	Frankford	K0K 2C0	613-398-6805	
RAINY RIVER (RR)						
Peter Boon	President	RR 1	Fort Frances	P9A 3M2	807-274-6005	
Sietske Van Zwol	Secretary/Treas.	P.O. Box 63	Stratton	P0W 1N0	807-483-5323	
RENFREW-LANARK (RL)						
Gerald Vander Ploeg	President	RR 5	Renfrew	K7V 3Z8	613-432-4719	
Jake Rook	Secretary	RR 3	Cobden	K0J 1K0	613-638-7841	
SIMCOE COUNTY (SC)						
Peter VanderZaag	President	RR 3	Alliston	L9R 1V3	705-435-2827	
Paul Raymer	Secretary	RR 2	Stayner	L0M 1S0	705-428-2072	
ST. LAWRENCE-OTTAWA VALLEY (SO)						
Brian Vandenberg	President	RR 3	Winchester	K0C 2C0	613-774-0207	
THUNDER BAY (TB)						
Bernie Kamphof	President	RR 11	Thunder Bay	P7B 5E2	807-935-3344	
Randy Cramer	Secretary	RR 3	Thunder Bay	P7C 4V2	807-475-9759	
WELLINGTON NORTH (WN)						
Henry Stevens	President	RR 2	Palmerston	N0G 2P0	519-343-5883	
Eric Stam	Secretary/Treas.	RR 2	Palmerston	N0G 2P0	519-343-5885	
WENTWORTH-BRANT (WB)						
Harry Kersies	Acting President	RR 1	Jerseyville	L0R 1R0	905-648-3727	
John Groen	Secretary	RR 7	Brantford	N3T 5L9	519-752-6373	

*Abbreviations for district associations are noted in brackets

STAFF

General Manager	John Clement	clement@christianfarmers.org
Strategic Policy Advisor	Elbert van Donkersgoed	elbert@christianfarmers.org
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Membership & Financial Records	Jeanne Hogan	jeanne@christianfarmers.org
GM Assistant & District Support	Brenda O'Connor	boconnor@christianfarmers.org
Administrative Assistant	Mary Visser Kerr	mary@christianfarmers.org

THE CFFO PRESENCE

- **NEWSLETTER**

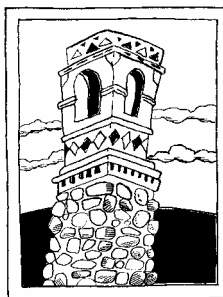


The CFFO publishes a quarterly newsletter for the members of CFFO. It provides an update on CFFO's activities with the government, other farm organizations as well as our local districts.

- **ON THE INTERNET**

CFFO's Web site keeps its readers up-to-date on the issues and events of the organization. Look for us at www.christianfarmers.org

- **CORNER POST—FARM & COUNTRYSIDE COMMENTARY**



SINCE OCTOBER 1997, Elbert van Donkersgoed has written a weekly farm and countryside commentary. It is an incisive reflection (audio length of three and a half minutes) on the business of farming, the food chain and rural life. His insights, analysis and observations can be heard every Friday on CFCO and every Monday on CKNX Wingham. Corner Post is archived on the CFFO Web site at: www.christianfarmers.org and can be read on @g Worldwide Correspondents, Successful Farming Online at: www.agriculture.com/world-wide/correspondents.

To be added to the electronic distribution list of Corner Post on a complimentary basis, send e-mail to evd@christianfarmers.org with SUBSCRIBE as the message.

• PARTNERSHIPS

FROM TIME to time CFFO seeks out partnerships in projects that fall in line with its mandate “to make the renewing power of Jesus Christ relevant to agriculture.” The Canadian Foodgrains Bank growing project was one such initiative.

Early in January 2001, CFFO’s provincial board directed surplus funds to a worthwhile project with an educational component. The Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) growing project was the result. The Roney family farm generously donated the use of the ten-acre plot, situated along Highway 2 just east of London, Ontario. The New PL TV station from London partnered the CFFO project and produced a series of six educational TV clips based on interviews with then CFFO president, Bob Bedggood. The severe drought of the summer of 2001 had its impact on the expected yield of soybeans, and the anticipated yield of 40 bu./acre was reduced to 20 bu./acre. Just the same, there was cause for thankfulness. Proceeds were donated to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and the value matched 4:1 through CIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency. CFFO’s financial allotment to the project totaled \$4,000.

THE CFFO: THEN AND NOW...

THE CHRISTIAN Farmers Federation of Ontario was founded in March, 1954 in Strathroy, Ontario by 12 Christian farmers, all recent immigrants from the Netherlands. The men were board members of four Christian Farmers Associations. They had gathered, according to the minutes: “to work together more as Christian Farmers to carry out God’s Word also in Canada” (translation). The four local Christian farmers associations had sprung up out of two motivations: they had experienced Christian general farm organizations that were effective professional organizations in Europe, and their meetings provided an opportunity to share insights into the farm practices and the structure of Canadian agriculture that enabled them to develop their new enterprises. Activity and involvement in Ontario farm policy was erratic during the 1950s and 1960s. The Federation first hired part-time staff during the late 1960s. This resulted in a burst of activity during a vote on the establishment of a check-off to fund one general farm organization. Full-time staff was hired in 1971. During the 1970s, membership grew steadily from 100 family farm entrepreneurs to 600. Staff expanded to the equivalent of four full-time positions in the home of the executive director in the village of Drayton, Ontario. The 1980s were a period of membership stability: 600-625. However, the Federation’s involvement in public policy issues grew dramatically. Participation in national and international issues were added to the agenda. The farm crisis and the growing concern about the pressure that farm practices put on the agro-ecology received a lot of the Federation’s attention. From 1984 until 2000 the CFFO enabled the Jubilee Centre for Agricultural Research as its research and education arm.

In 1980 the office was relocated to a main street location in Harriston, Ontario and then in 1984 to a downtown location in Guelph. In November 2001, the offices of the CFFO were relocated to Gencor, a genetics cooperative situated on a 600-acre farm north of the city. Today, the CFFO membership stands at 4,263. It includes not only full-time commercial family farm entrepreneurs, but also part-time, hobby and life-style farmers. From four district associations we have grown to 22. That meeting in 1954, where only one future activity was planned: the writing of a constitution, has grown into regular province-wide meetings, annual regional workshops for our membership—others of the agricultural community are invited to participate—that grapple with current farm issues; member think tanks; submissions to governments; news releases; a regular newsletter; and membership in farm community coalitions such as the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition and the Labour Issues Coordinating Committee.