

Region 3 Resolutions

March 20, 2010

Resolution # 2	Be it resolved that the Ontario NFU review its policy on the system of supply management and report with recommendations by the next regional convention. Passed
Resolution # 3	'Whereas the support of the urban consumer is essential to the viability of farm families therefore be it resolved the Ontario Council work with Ontario locals to develop and implement an Ontario information strategy to promote consumption of local food.' Passed
Resolution # 4	Whereas the Canadian government caused the BSE problem through negligence; Therefore be it resolved that Region 3 NFU demand that the Canadian government cover the full costs of the removal and disposal of SRMs. Passed
Resolution # 5	Whereas it appears the Province of Ontario signed a new procurement agreement with the United States while Parliament was prorogued and without any parliamentary approval process. And whereas the terms of the agreement appear to restrict the ability of municipalities, schools, universities, hospitals, public institutions and other social services when putting out tenders for supplies to make the most out of public spending, And whereas Canadian companies are going to get very little new access to U.S. government contracts. Therefore be it resolved that the Ontario National Farmers Union request the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to immediately launch a public consultation on this, the "Buy American" deal. Passed
Resolution # 6	NFU Resolution on Enviropig WHEREAS Environment Canada is set to publish in the Canada Gazette that the University of Guelph has satisfied the requirements of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act allowing the Enviropig TM to be produced using approved containment procedures, and WHEREAS applications to other federal agencies to assess the safety of Enviropigs for human food and animal feed are under review in both the US and Canada, and WHEREAS the Enviropig is a transgenic organism (developed to reduce phosphorus levels in its manure), and WHEREAS NFU policy calls for a moratorium on the production, importation, distribution and sale of GM food until questions regarding consumer health, environmental implications, technology ownership and farmer profitability are answered to the satisfaction of the majority of Canadians, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU oppose the commercial production of the Enviropig in Canada and request that Ontario Pork and OMAFRA withdraw support for the Enviro Pig and U of Guelph shut down the project immediately. Further, that NFU-O request that these financial resources be

	<p>redirected to research that fits the real needs of hog producers in Ontario and Canada. Passed</p>
<p>Resolution # 7</p>	<p>Meat Inspection</p> <p>Whereas the meat inspection policy of the NFU contains the following: 'Small abattoirs represent an important link between family farms and consumers. Not only can provincially-inspected abattoirs provide custom services for farmers, they can supply consumers' demands for specific types of meat, including organic, hormone-free and grass-fed meat and The NFU policy calls on... provincial governments to support small abattoirs by: d) tailoring standards and inspections to the requirements of small plants. [Nov. '03]' and;</p> <p>Whereas the food inspection policy of the NFU contains the following: '8. In order to facilitate family farms which market directly to consumers ... the NFU recommends appropriate inspection exemptions for small scale direct farm marketers, as long as these products are labelled as 'un-inspected'. [Nov. '06]' and;</p> <p>Whereas the need to retain small abattoirs and small meat processors is a major issue facing some rural communities in Ontario at this time and;</p> <p>Whereas the Perth/Oxford Local has had extensive conversations with small abattoir owners, small meat processors, politicians, farmers, local food advocates, and farmers' market consumers about the need for small abattoirs this winter, and has heard over and over again the need show strong support for food safety and;</p> <p>Whereas with provincial inspection, small abattoirs and meat processors are able to show the public they are producing safe food for farmers to direct market and;</p> <p>Whereas the NFU is a national organization which may have policies that apply to one region but not to another because of differences between provinces;</p> <p>Therefore be it resolved that region 3 (Ontario) adopt as its policy on meat inspection that all meat sold within Ontario must be slaughtered and processed at provincially inspected plants, as a way to show our commitment as farmers to safe food and to support small abattoirs and meat processors in our rural communities. That provincial and federal governments cover the inspection costs.</p> <p>Passed</p>
<p>Resolution # 8</p>	<p>Green Energy Act (GEA) and Rural Communities</p> <p>Whereas the NFU advocates for the right of farmers and rural communities to have control over and to benefit from food production in their communities and;</p> <p>Whereas the NFU supports efforts to move toward renewable, clean sources of energy such as wind and solar to help revitalize rural communities and;</p> <p>Whereas in the past rural municipalities, like Wolfe Island and Melancthon, were able to negotiate amenities agreements with industrial wind developers, which acknowledged the impact on rural communities of industrial wind developments and provided some compensation to the full community and;</p> <p>Whereas such amenity agreements are no longer possible under the GEA, because the GEA takes away all control over siting, land use planning and zoning related to industrial wind developments from</p>

	<p>municipalities and gives the control to the province alone and;</p> <p>Whereas the community and municipal consultation required under the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process for wind developments is intended to ‘help build local support’ for the project, and virtually eliminates any public or municipal say or input into industrial wind developments in rural communities and;</p> <p>Whereas this type of pseudo consultation is demeaning and insulting to farmers and rural communities that will be impacted by industrial wind developments in their backyards and;</p> <p>Whereas industrial wind developments have the potential to take the control and benefit of a rural resource, wind, away from farmers and rural communities;</p> <p>Therefore be it resolved that</p> <p>(1) the NFU strongly voice its concern about the lack of real community consultation under the GEA ;</p> <p>(2) advocate for the rights of landowners and rural communities/municipalities to have control over industrial wind developments in their communities by negotiating amenity agreements or putting in place bylaws or permits with regard to siting, size, zoning and so on, which acknowledge the impact of industrial wind developments on the full community;</p> <p>(3) (a) connect with other organizations and municipalities with similar concerns about industrial wind developments and (b) bring forward the shortcomings of the GEA to organizations like the urban-based environmental organizations that are allies of the NFU on other issues and to the government;</p> <p>(4) commit NFU research and communication resources to look at who controls and benefits from industrial wind developments - landowners and rural communities or outside, corporate and private interests.</p> <p>Passed</p>
<p>Resolution # 9</p>	<p>Green Energy Act Alliance</p> <p>Whereas the National Farmers Union, Region 3, joined the Green Energy Act Alliance (GEAA) in February 2009 and;</p> <p>Whereas upon joining the GEAA the Regional Council did not fully communicate this decision to locals and members, and did not put in place the procedures for the organization to fully stay abreast of the positions of the GEAA or to fully contribute to discussions within the GEAA and;</p> <p>Whereas the Green Energy Act (GEA) is now in place in Ontario with the full support of the GEAA, and although some of the initiatives under the GEA have the potential to benefit farmers and rural communities, the GEA also facilitates the loss of farmer and rural community control over what happens in their communities, especially in relation to industrial wind developments,</p> <p>Therefore be it resolved that the NFU withdraw its membership in the GEAA and communicate the reasons why to the GEAA, to help facilitate discussion of the shortcomings of the GEA;</p> <p>Be it further resolved that</p> <p>(1) when the NFU Region 3 joins alliances, coalitions, and such groups it fully communicate its actions to</p>

	<p>locals and membership and,</p> <p>(2) the NFU Region 3 put in place procedures to ensure that when it joins alliances, coalitions and such groups, Regional Council has a means to stay abreast of discussions and to provide feedback to the NFU representatives on such bodies.</p> <p>Passed</p>
<p>Resolution # 10</p>	<p>NFU Resolution on Peak Oil 2010</p> <p>WHEREAS there is an increasing body of credible evidence that there will be a peak or plateau in the global production of petroleum and natural gas, and</p> <p>WHEREAS our food production, processing & distribution system has become extremely dependent on oil & natural gas products;</p> <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU acknowledges that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. there will be a peak or plateau in global oil & gas production at some point in time; and 2. this peak or plateau is generally expected to occur at some point between the present and 2030; and 3. there have been warning from many credible sources that the effects of peak oil will be serious and pervasive and that mitigation of these effects will require several decades of intense planning and action. <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE NFU:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. call upon the Government of Ontario and its various departments—particularly OMAFRA—to acknowledge that peak oil concerns are credible and warrant extensive research and mitigation activities, and B. call upon universities, (especially departments of agriculture) to undertake research on the diverse effects of peak oil on the agri-food system (and to report on the establishment and progress of such research to the NFU), and C. engage with federal and provincial governments to ensure that they profoundly and completely re-orient Canadian food, agricultural, and trade policies in order to bring them fully in line with energy supply contraction on the Ontario, national and global food supply chains. <p>Passed</p>
<p>Resolution # 11</p>	<p>Whereas strawberry growers in some localities experience significant damage to their berry plants over the winter from wildlife, and deer and;</p> <p>Whereas presently under the strawberry insurance plan under Agricorp, coverage begins on March 1 which means damage from wildlife prior to March 1 is not covered and;</p> <p>Whereas presently Agricorp does not offer any coverage for other berry crops such as blueberries, raspberries and currants, but other provinces do provide insurance for other berry crops;</p>

	<p>Therefore be it resolved that the NFU Region 3 contact both Agricorp and the Ontario Berry Growers Association to ask them to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) explore options to provide insurance to cover winter damage from wildlife under the strawberry insurance plan and, (2) look into the need and options for coverage for other berry crops, including winter damage from wildlife to those crops as well. <p>Passed</p>
Resolution # 12	<p>Whereas it was publicly owned hydro generation and distribution that allowed rural areas to receive electricity in the first place and</p> <p>Whereas almost all new large-scale generation including some distribution is now in privately held hands</p> <p>Therefore be it resolved that the NFU reject the drive to privatize our electrical generation system for large-scale generation.</p> <p>Be it further resolved that the NFU support individual generation for personal use and for sales back to the grid.</p> <p>Be it further resolved that the NFU communicate to government, the general public and others that the NFU does not support the drive away from at-cost hydro in Ontario.</p> <p>Passed</p>
Resolution # 14	<p>Whereas government supported safety nets are justified on the belief that farmers are victims of circumstances beyond their control,</p> <p>BE it resolved that the NFU-O support grassroots and OASC proposed BRMP contingent on a commitment to planning and implementing structural change that put farmers in control of their circumstances to remove the need of government monetary support.</p> <p>Further Be it resolved that the NFU advocate for appropriate caps.</p> <p>Passed</p>
Resolution # 15	<p>Whereas the NFU supports collective marketing.</p> <p>Be it resolved that NFU-O support efforts to re-establish single desk selling of pork in Ontario</p> <p>Passed</p>
Resolution # 16	<p>Be it resolved that the NFU investigate the surcharge on fertilizer and other plant products as regulated under the 'Fertilizer Act of Canada' being imposed by Stewardship Ontario and the McGuinty government on bags and quantities below 30kg as this will unjustly cost farmers more money so that home owners,</p>

	landscapers, etc can dispose of their banned products. Passed
Resolution # 17	Whereas marketing through Ontario Pork is an important factor in balancing power in the marketplace between the many sellers and the few buyers. Therefore be it resolved that the NFU supports the Minnema Appeal. Passed