



National Farmers Union – Ontario NEWSLETTER

*Strong Communities.
Sound Policies.
Sustainable Farms.*

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What's your New Year's Resolution?

With the new year, some of us might commit to regular exercise, healthier eating, or getting a better night's sleep. This year, why not commit to the health of farming in Ontario? **The National Farmers Union – Ontario** is the only farm organization that promotes the interests and concerns of small and medium scale family farms.

As we reflect on 2017, the NFU-O is proud of the work we've done to promote the financial and environmental sustainability of Ontario farmers and our rural communities. Some of this year's highlights:

- We supported democratic elections, as opposed to government appointments, for the **Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Board**.
- We advised the **International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes** on phosphorus; our recommendations were incorporated into their final report.
- Presented to the **House of Commons' Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food** on A Food Policy for Canada.
- Were invited to place three representatives on the Prison Farm Advisory Panel.
- Represented farmers on the **Agriculture Soil Health and Conservation Working Group**.
- Held a **succession planning** workshop.
- Called on OMAFRA to take action on **rabies education** and **inaccurate vomitoxin testing** and provide support for **eastern Ontario farmers affected by the flooding**.
- Formed new campaign working groups on **climate change, rural infrastructure, tools for farmers, and farmland protection**. (Contact us to get involved!)

• Created the **Local Food Advocates Network** to engage people in healthcare, education, and faith communities to support local food and the farming community.

Our growing membership and

project funding highlights the importance of our work and the value our members place on grassroots democracy. In the NFU, your voice is heard.

Make it a happy NFU year!

Coming Events

Renfrew Local 330 – Next meeting TBD. Please email rcnfu330@gmail.com for details.

Perth-Oxford Local 341 – All members are welcome to attend the Perth-Oxford Local 341 Directors' Meetings. Next Directors' meeting is Wednesday, January 10, 7:30 p.m. at Andy and Pam Megens' home, 2877 Rd. 119 (Hwy 7), R.R. 7, St. Marys. RSVP to Local President, Andy Megens at 519-284-3199.

Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, Ottawa, Prescott Russell Local 362 will be meeting at the Red Dot Restaurant, 5673 Osgoode Main St. on Tuesday, January 9, 7:00 p.m. Mark your calendar for the February 6 (AGM) meeting as well. All are welcome.

make an effort
make time
make progress
make it right
make your mark
make a change
make this year count.

Make the most of 2018 by joining the NFU-O and supporting the organization that's committed to making farm policy work for farmers. There's no time like the present to shape the future of Ontario agriculture. Call us today to switch your Farm Business Registration to the NFU-O.

 **Happy NFU year.**
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A subscription to The Rural Voice is one of the benefits of being an NFU-O member