

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS



P.O. Box 2800, 4601 Guthrie Drive, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8L5
Phone: (705) 748.6324 • Fax: (705) 748.9577 • Visit: www.ofah.org • Email: ofah@ofah.org

Ontario Conservation Centre
DS

OFAH FILE: 339/400/794
April 11, 2011

COPY

FAX # (416) 326-9892

FAXED

Mr. Yves Tremblay, Policy Advisor
Policy and Programs Division
Strategic Policy Branch
Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs
77 Grenville Street, Floor 11
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1B3

Dear Mr. Tremblay:

Subject: Proposed Agriculture-Wildlife Conflict Strategy, EBR Registry #011-2677

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (O.F.A.H.), its 100,000 members, subscribers, and supporters, and 670 member clubs, thank you for providing us with this EBR Registry opportunity to submit our comments on the proposed Agriculture-Wildlife Strategy.

We agree there is a need to update and expand the current program, and support the general approach of the proposed strategy, including increased livestock and compensation eligibility, an enhanced emphasis on extension information, workshops, best management practices, and improved tools for conflict prevention and management. However, we strongly recommend that eligibility not be expanded to include farmed deer or elk, for reasons that are explained in our specific comments.

Below are our specific comments following the format of the discussion paper:

Proposed Strategy Details

- 1) Improve Awareness and Information Resources for Producers
 - Overall "good."
 - We agree with proposed workshops for producers on best management practices, including workshops promoting most effective hunting and trapping methods, and means of contacting hunters/trappers who can help.
- 2) Proposed Program/Tools
 - a) Tools for Wildlife Management
 - Overall "good."
 - We agree, wholeheartedly, with the recognition of the importance of managing wildlife populations (within *optimal* sustainable limits), to *prevent and manage* agriculture-wildlife conflicts through the application of appropriate hunting seasons and quotas. (Please note and consider adding the italicized wording – *optimal* management is the provincial wildlife conservation goal – managing populations at sustainable levels for the greatest overall public benefit, including preventing and reducing agriculture-wildlife conflict.)

.....2

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS

Mr. Yves Tremblay
April 11, 2011
Page Three

- ii) Proposed Compensation
 - It has been clear that compensation schedules have not been updated for many years, and it is only reasonable that they be updated. (This is outside the OFAH mandate.)
- 3) Great Collaboration Between the OMAFRA, the MNR and Stakeholders
 - We would welcome opportunities to participate within an agriculture-wildlife conflict working group on matters relating to wildlife population management and wildlife-agriculture conflict prevention and management.
 - We would also welcome opportunities to collaborate with the OMAFRA and Ontario Stewardship Councils regarding outreach and predator management workshops.

Should you have any questions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Conservation,



Ed Reid
Senior Wildlife Biologist

ER/jb

cc: Bette Jean Crews, Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Robin Horwath, Ontario Fur Managers Federation
Deb Stetson, Manager, MNR Wildlife Policy Section
OFAH Board of Directors
OFAH Agriculture Liaison Advisory Committee
Mike Reader, OFAH Executive Director
Angelo Lombardo, OFAH Executive Manager
Dr. Terry Quinney, OFAH Provincial Manager, Fish & Wildlife Services
Greg Farrant, OFAH Manager, Government Affairs & Policy
Dawn Sucee, OFAH Fish & Wildlife Biologist
Matt DeMille, OFAH Land Use Specialist