



# EFA Newsletter

Photo by Jason McKinlay



## *Your EFA Board of Directors Outstanding in their Fields*

### Meet your EFA Board

#### President

Melissa Schneider

#### Vice President

Anita Provoost

#### Past President

Fons Vandenbroek

#### Directors of the Board

Art Alblas

Kris Butler-Pettit

Isaac Clutterbuck

Greg Fentie

Donna Lunn

Patrick Unger

Garrett Vanderwyst

Mark Wales

Steve Walsh



## *Mental Health on the Farm*

Under the leadership of EFA Director Kris Butler-Pettit, the EFA is pursuing a mental health initiative to support OFA members in Elgin County. Watch this space and our new website for more information to be announced in the coming new year.

If you or someone you care about is experiencing mental health related difficulties, or if you just need someone to talk to, find out more by reaching out to one of the OFA Resources listed below.

Let's end the stigma about mental health in our communities and spread a little kindness and compassion this holiday season.

### *OFA Resources*

OFA Website: <https://ofa.on.ca/issues/mental-health>

Reach Out Crisis Line <https://reachout247.ca/about-us/>

Ontario Mental Health Line: ConnexOntario 1-866-531-2600 or online at <https://www.connexontario.ca/en-ca/>

### UP COMING EVENTS

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday

December 9, 2020

@ 7:30pm

## Annual General Meeting Announcement



# Elgin Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meeting

**December 9th, 2020, 7:30 p.m.**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions on in-person meetings,  
this year's AGM will be a virtual event via  
Telus Business Connects

RSVP to [elginfarmers@gmail.com](mailto:elginfarmers@gmail.com) or call 519-633-0114  
to receive the link to join online or by phone  
Deadline to register is 12pm noon Friday December 4, 2020

Guest Speaker: Franco Naccarato, Executive Director—Meat and Poultry Ontario  
Keynote Topic: Challenges in the meat and poultry industry

Please submit nominations for the Board of Directors or Executive Committee to  
[elginfarmers@gmail.com](mailto:elginfarmers@gmail.com)  
Deadline: 12pm noon Friday December 4, 2020  
Nominees must be OFA members in good standing. Elections will take place at the AGM

### DID YOU KNOW?

**The EFA Board of Directors meets on the 2nd  
Wednesday of the month at 8PM.**

**Due to COVID-19 restrictions on in-person meetings,  
meetings are now being held virtually online via  
TelusBusiness Connects**

**If you would like to attend a meeting, please contact  
our Office Administrator via email at  
[elginfarmers@gmail.com](mailto:elginfarmers@gmail.com) or call 519-633-0114**

**ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!**

## About our AGM 2020 Guest Speaker

Franco Naccarato, Executive Director with Meat and Poultry Ontario, has a passion for change management, strategic planning, business development and developing food systems. For over 20 years he has worked from field to fork in many different parts of the food sector with direct experience in retail, foodservice and distribution. He has worked with farmers through his work as Supervisor Foodservice at Foodland Ontario and as the Manager of the Local Food Investment Fund with the Greenbelt Fund. Franco is now Executive Director at Meat & Poultry Ontario and is leading the sector's strategy to grow by \$500 million in the next 5-10 years.

Franco serves as a Director for the Livestock Research Innovation Centre and the Greenbelt Foundation.

When Franco isn't busy promoting the industry or the butcher trade, he is busy learning another trade, blacksmithing – where he spends the odd Saturday hammering steel into something creative.

### AgLinks.com

We are seeking individuals with knowledge or experience in the agricultural industry to join our Commissioned Sales Representative team. Working from home and using your own computer, our CSR's set their own hours.

Please contact Jim Ford  
Phone: (519)670-9303  
Email: [jim@aglinks.com](mailto:jim@aglinks.com)

EFA gratefully acknowledges Mr. Ford's generous donation to the West Elgin Daffodil Auxiliary as thanks for sharing this advertisement

**Would you like to receive EFA communications, like this newsletter, electronically?**

**Update your OFA member profile with your email address at**

**[memberrelations@ofa.on.ca](mailto:memberrelations@ofa.on.ca) or call 1 (800) 668-3276**

## *Harvest Bowl*

Harvest Bowl is working full steam ahead this fall working within COVID-19 protocols!

We are thankful for the farmers and processors who provide the food to be gleaned; thankful for the businesses who support us and the donations of funds. The volunteers unselfishly give of their time to prepare these foods and create the soup mixes to donate to those in need. We have numerous new volunteers this year which helps as many of our senior volunteers are understandably staying at home. Last year we donated 3,000 soup bags and this year our goal is 5,000!

Anyone wanting more information or to volunteer please contact :

Donna Lunn at 519 859 6988 OR  
email her at [harvestbowl01@gmail.com](mailto:harvestbowl01@gmail.com)

Check out your neighbours and the activity on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Harvest-Bowl](https://www.facebook.com/Harvest-Bowl)



## *Local Abattoirs Resolution Update*

At the EFA's annual Spring Forum in May, the EFA heard from five of our local commodity groups regarding the need for more local, provincially-inspected abattoirs were needed. The EFA was listening to the commodity reps that day and passed the following resolution at their May EFA meeting:

### **Elgin Federation of Agriculture Resolution**

**WHEREAS** Covid-19 has had a significant effect on live-stock markets and exposed the vulnerability of this sector, and

**WHEREAS** livestock farmers have the ability to market a value-added product if able to work with a local abattoir, and

**WHEREAS** having 80 to 85% of beef processing in Canada accomplished by 3 federally inspected processing plants creates unfair price competition for Canada's beef producers,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** OFA work with the relevant commodity groups to reduce regulatory burden and investigate the viability of small scale abattoirs and find solutions to incentivize them.

### *Update from the OFA*

The EFA is pleased to report that this resolution was carried by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture at it's September 2020 board meeting. The resolution reads as follows:

#### **ELGIN**

20-09-02 Elgin Small Scale Abattoirs Motion:  
"THAT the OFA work with the relevant commodity groups to reduce regulatory burden and investigate the viability of small scale abattoirs and find solutions to incentivize them."

**CARRIED**

## Elgin Federation of Agriculture

The Elgin Federation of Agriculture is a member based county affiliate of the [Ontario Federation of Agriculture \(OFA\)](#), one of Ontario's general farm organizations. The general purpose of the EFA is to lobby to improve the economic and social well-being of farmers in [Elgin County](#), provide members with information on agricultural issues and to increase public awareness of agriculture and the food system.

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**The Feeding Your Future project**, launched by OFA, aims to help farmers and business owners find qualified workers and in turn, connect youth with jobs in agriculture through job matching services, virtual career fairs, webinars and online training opportunities. Agricultural Employers and Job Seekers, please check out our website for more details at [feedingyourfuture.ca](http://feedingyourfuture.ca).

**Opportunity to Promote Ontario Farms:** If your business fits in either the category of Food & Drink or Local Experiences, why not add it to the [www.tourismpartners.com](http://www.tourismpartners.com) website? OFA is pleased to partner with the Ministry of Heritage, Tourism, Sport and Culture to promote this exciting new tourism website intended to increase consumer traffic to local Agri-food businesses. Listings are free and can be added by visiting [www.tourismpartners.com](http://www.tourismpartners.com). To register a business/organization/event for the first time, select the 'REGISTER NOW' link located beside "Welcome! Are you a new User?" to start the registration process.

**Do you have a good news story about one of OFA's great Member Benefits?** OFA is looking for member testimonials for one of our upcoming publications. If you've had great service, cost savings, or other positive outcomes through using one of our OFA member benefits, OFA wants to hear from you. Please let me know by email at [heather.derks@ofa.on.ca](mailto:heather.derks@ofa.on.ca) and you could appear in our next magazine!



**Lastly, it's been a pleasure serving you as MSR for Oxford-Elgin**, but I would like to let you know that I have accepted a promotion to OFA's Policy Advisory team in the position of Farm Policy Analyst. I will continue to advocate for rural Ontario in this role. To all of the OFA members in Zone 4 who I have had the pleasure of working with over the past three years, and to both the Elgin and Oxford County Federation boards, thank you so much for all of your efforts to promote a positive connotation of Agriculture, and thank you for the things I've learned from you along the way. Please make the new MSR for Zone 4 welcome!

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## *A message from the President ...*



It is hard to believe we are at this point already – The end of another growing season. 2020 has been an interesting and challenging year, for everyone, including your Elgin Federation of Agriculture board members, having to learn to adapt to new technology and a new way of life.

While it has been hard in some ways, 2020 has not been without its successes. In the midst of a pandemic, there are lots of good news stories that families, farmers and friends are sharing between their social bubbles.

While the board meetings looked different this year (we switched to a virtual format), the level of dedication from your board members remains steadfast.

During the course of the year your board members have worked hard to positively promote agriculture and engage the Elgin County community.

We also hired a new Administrator for our office, who I am pleased to introduce:

Dita Cornelissen is a retired business professional who was born and raised on a farm right here in Elgin County. Dita is looking forward to this new challenge and assisting Elgin Federation of Agriculture members however she can. Dita can be reached in our office on Tuesday and Thursday

mornings by calling 519-633-0114 or by e-mail at [elginfarmers@gmail.com](mailto:elginfarmers@gmail.com)

The board is working hard to renew our EFA website, so keep an eye out in future as we take [www.elginfarmers.ca](http://www.elginfarmers.ca) live.

We are also in the midst of planning our first ever virtual Annual General Meeting in December that will feature an excellent guest speaker talking on the topic of local abattoirs. We hope you are able to join us.

Wishing all of you a safe and healthy Fall/Winter.