



December 30, 2021

Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
77 Grenville St., 11th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1B3

Dear Minister Thompson,

In early August 2021, it was brought to the attention of Ontario's livestock organizations that a number of our members were being impacted by a loss of deadstock collection services across a number of regions in the province. The reduction in critical services is a result of a couple of licensed deadstock operators who have reduced their service area radius or have eliminated services altogether. As a result, the deadstock service disruption continues to be a priority for us. Collectively, we would like to see short, medium and long-term solutions to assist affected producers therefore mitigating any potential negative press or public perception concerns.

BFO and OMAFRA hosted a webinar on Thursday, October 21, 2021 to review on-farm disposal options and discuss alternate solutions with producers. 359 participants registered including members from OFA, DFO, Ontario Pork, Ontario Sheep Farmers, Veal Farmers of Ontario and the equestrian community. A recording of the webinar has been made available to those who were unable to join live for the webinar along with resources and current funding opportunities.

On November 19, 2021, the *Increasing Deadstock Capacity Initiative* was announced under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership to support livestock producers, waste management facilities, municipalities and other agri-businesses such as livestock auction barns, assembly yards, deadstock transporters, collectors, renderers, and veterinary clinics in increasing capacity for deadstock management. While this \$700,000 initiative (50% cost-share rate, up to a maximum of \$25,000 per applicant) is a step in the right direction, more needs to be done in the short term as we head into the winter months, a time of the year when on-farm deadstock disposal options are difficult for producers to implement.

We have been advised that ministry staff are looking into landfill/transfer station-based solutions including the possibility of a centralized drop site or a centralized composting site that affected producers would be able to utilize. We would like to see OMAFRA negotiate and establish contracts with

waste management facilities and municipalities for pick up and disposal in areas of the province where there has been a disruption in livestock deadstock removal services.

We have also had initial conversations with Sanimax, a leading supplier of value-added ingredients for agriculture and animal nutrition, which operates out of Quebec and has a transfer station in St. Albert, Ontario. It appears they have capacity to accept deadstock from Ontario, but do require some additional information regarding anticipated volume. This could be a viable short-term solution, but funding would be required to subsidize transportation of deadstock to their transfer station.

While we are appreciative of the support and attention this issue has been given to date, we ask that the ministry consider taking the following immediate actions:

- Conduct a jurisdictional scan of deadstock best management practices, programs, technologies and support across Canada, and select U.S. and European states in order to assess on-farm management and pickup and disposal systems that could be applied in Ontario.
- Conduct market analysis for end product use/sale, and what opportunities and barriers exist to develop end markets.
- Investigate the potential to utilize the St. Albert, Ontario transfer station as an interim measure to handle Ontario's disposal needs, and other potential providers.
- Consult with waste management companies and associations, as well as municipalities and landfill sites to determine if deadstock products could be picked up and/or disposed of at their facilities.

On behalf of our members, Ontario's livestock organizations welcome discussions with OMAFRA in the form a meeting of stakeholders - farmers, deadstock collectors, rendering plants, abattoirs, waste management companies, municipalities and regulatory agencies to look at medium and long-term solutions to address the deadstock service disruption and do a thorough SWAT analysis. What are the opportunities and barriers to new entrants, expansion, growth and retention? Is it labour, succession, access to financing, technology, regulation, markets or profitability? In addition to those currently in the market, could we identify those that have exited the business in last 10 years – and determine why?

Dealing with deadstock is never welcomed by producers. It's a sensitive part of the job for farmers, and unfortunately, it's a sober reality of raising livestock and food production. It's imperative that producers have access to resources and services to handle the disposal or collection of deadstock quickly and efficiently.

Thank you for your continued support of Ontario's livestock organizations and its members.

Sincerely,



Rob Lipsett
President, Beef Farmers of Ontario



Murray Sherk
Chair, Dairy Farmers of Ontario



Peggy Brekveld
President, Ontario Federation of
Agriculture



John Hemsted
Chair, Ontario Sheep Farmers



Pascal Bouilly
Chair, Veal Farmers of Ontario

cc: Tara Barry, Chief of Staff
Ryan Puviraj, Director of Policy