

**RESOLUTIONS to the  
CANADIAN FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE – STANDING POLICY  
As Approved at the 2021 ANNUAL MEETING  
OTTAWA, ONTARIO  
FEBRUARY 24 - 26, 2021**

**1. Private Grade Crossing Regulations with respect to railway tracks**

**BE IT RESOLVED** to increase railway crossing safety, CFA lobby Transport Canada to:

- Inspect all private grade crossings and provide each private landowner and the respective railway company with an inspection report detailing required upgrades specific to each private crossing;
- Enhance the Rail Safety Improvement Program to provide financial assistance to fully cover the costs of grade crossing improvements required of the private landowner; and
- Postpone the Grade Crossing Regulations' implementation date scheduled for November 28, 2021 for private grade crossings until such time that private landowners have had at least twenty-four months from the date they receive a Transport Canada's inspection report to allow enough time for any improvements to be made.

**2. Private Grade Crossing Maintenance**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA continue to advocate that Grade Crossings and maintenance should be the sole responsibility of the railway companies.

**3. Maintenance of railway ties and their rights-of-way**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA request to the Transportation Agency and to Transport Canada

- to improve, in the short term, the railway safety improvement program in order to cover all the costs relating to the work of upgrading, maintenance and modification of private level crossings that connect agricultural and forest lands;
- to amend the Canada Transportation Act so that the costs of construction, modification and maintenance of new and existing level crossings that cross the lands of agricultural and forestry producers are borne in full by the railway companies.

**4. Fisheries Act exemption for agriculture drainage and irrigation infrastructure**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the federal government to amend the *Fisheries Act* to exclude man-made infrastructures that were built to support agricultural activities, such as soil drainage and crop irrigation, from what is considered to be fish habitat for the purposes of the Act, and that the death of any fish in these man-made, agriculturally-purposed infrastructures as a result of the normal operation and/or maintenance of these infrastructures not be prohibited.

**5. Incentive programs for soil health and soil carbon sequestration**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the federal government to work with provinces and territories to develop additional financial incentive programs focused on improving soil health and increasing organic matter content in soils to enhance its carbon capture abilities and build capacity to adapt to a changing climate, and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the federal government to provide additional federal government funding in the current and successor agricultural policy framework agreement to the Canadian Agricultural Partnership for financial incentive programs focused on improving soil health and increasing organic matter content in soils.

#### **6. Firearms Reclassification**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA, lobby the Federal Government to exempt firearms used in rural Canada from the Order-In-Council passed on May 1, 2020 that changes the status of many firearms to “prohibited”.

#### **7. Weather Radar Stations**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA, lobby the Federal Government to ensure Environment Canada has the direction and financial resources to ensure that radar stations are kept functioning in a consistent and reliable manner.

#### **8. Carbon Tax Communications**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Canadian Federation of Agriculture identify and detail how agriculture’s carbon emissions and sinks are measured within the most current Environment and Climate Change Canada report, identify which agricultural activities are exempt from measurement and which are not, and publish a report available to all agricultural organizations and producers in Canada.

#### **9. Grain Quality Control Training & Certification**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA, in consultation with the prairie grain commissions, prairie general farm organizations and the Canadian Grain Commission, push for a formal training and certification requirement for grain quality control personnel, potentially in the form of a licensed tradesman certification.

#### **10. Regulation of Grain Assessment**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA, in consultation with the prairie grain commissions, prairie general farm organizations and the Canadian Grain Commission, work towards a national standard of assessment procedures to protect producers’ interests with respect to grain assessment.

#### **11. Pregnancy Detection Services by Ultrasound Technicians**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association to allow ultrasound technicians to offer pregnancy detection services.

#### **12. Inter-Provincial Trade of Provincial Inspected Meat**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby to have the issue of interprovincial trade of provincially inspected meat brought forward to the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table.

**13. Right to Repair and Planned Obsolescence in Agriculture**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA work in conjunction with provincial farm organizations to research and actively engage in discussions regarding farmers' right to repair and planned obsolescence.

**14. Increased Funding for Public Research**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the Government of Canada to increase its funding for public agricultural research in Canada.

**15. Moisture Testers**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the Canadian Grain Commission to return to the use of the 919/3.5" tester for testing moisture; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the Government of Canada and the Canadian Grain Commission to regulate the use of industry standard 919/3.5" testers in grain companies; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the Government of Canada and the Canadian Grain Commission to mandate, at a minimum, yearly maintenance and calibration of grain companies' testers by certified technicians/companies.

**16. Childcare and Young Farmers**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the Government of Canada to invest to help families, with a focus on the needs of families who work in agriculture, that need support in covering costs related to childcare.

**17. Exit Clearance for returning Filipino Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW)**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the Government of Canada, and work with the Canadian Honey Council, to ask the Government of the Philippines to waive exit clearance fees for temporary foreign workers returning in 2021 to work for the same employer as 2019.

**18. Scale Display**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the Canadian Grain Commission and the Western Grain Elevator Association to ensure that all grain elevator platform scales have clear displays to offer the transparency needed for safe highway transport.

**19. Tracking and Reporting of Exports**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the Government of Canada for mandatory reporting of import and export sales of all agricultural commodities, to be made available on a weekly basis.

**20. Federal Escalator Tax on Alcohol**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the Government of Canada to remove the escalator tax on alcohol in Canada.

### **21. Ag Literacy for All**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the Federal Government continue to support and champion Ag in the classroom, and continue to challenge provincial governments to support and collaborate with provincial Ag In The Classroom Branches.

### **22. Relationships with major food retailers – introduction of provincial codes of good practice**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA ask the federal Minister of Agriculture to continue to work with her provincial counterparts toward the implementation of a mandatory code of good practice for major food retailers

### **23. Improved risk management programs**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA ask the federal government

- to urge provinces to accept the AgriStability upgrade proposal submitted by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and her Ontario counterpart;
- should some provinces refuse the proposal, to allow the provinces who prefer so to upgrade the AgriStability program according to this proposal while receiving the matching federal funding (60%);
- to continue the work started on business risk management programs in preparation of the next agricultural policy framework of 2023.

### **24. Access to high-performance cellular services and high-speed Internet networks**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA ask

- The federal government
  - to recognize that efficient cellular and broadband Internet services (at current and future speed of commerce standards) are essential services;
  - to ensure that reliable, efficient and secure cellular and Internet services are available everywhere in rural areas;
  - to ensure that efficient high-speed Internet services are offered to all agricultural and forestry producers by more than one service provider, at competitive prices;
- The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
  - To force cellular and Internet service providers to cover all of rural Canada, despite the low profitability of certain areas.

### **25. Fair treatment of business transfers**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA ask the federal government and members of Parliament to support and actively contribute to the passage of Bill C-208 before the next elections.

### **26. Standards, regulations and Canadian market access for imported products**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA ask the government of Canada and AAFC

- to ensure that all legal and regulatory measures as well as structures needed to ensure the monitoring and enforcement of Canadian standards are in place and allocated the appropriate resources;

- to introduce financial compensation programs to ensure that our farm businesses remain competitive when they are held to more stringent requirements than foreign farm businesses.

### **27. Inspection of Imported Products**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA call on the Canadian government to ensure CFIA and CBSA are provided with the additional resources and training needed to adequately enforce regulations and production standards on products that cross the border and production standards, including conducting inspections to validate these products, and audits of foreign farms and processing plants.

### **28. TRQ Administration**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA advocate that the Canadian government use all measures necessary to protect its sovereign right to determine and administer its own domestic policies, including the allocation of TRQs in ways that minimize the impacts on farming sectors.

### **29. Dairy Interim TRQ's**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA call on the government to ensure that any permanent TRQs for CETA, CPTPP and CUSMA reflect the interim TRQs currently in place for CPTPP and CUSMA by allocating the majority to Canadian dairy processors.

### **30. Compensation for poultry flocks depopulated due to plant closures**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA lobby the federal government that support will be available to cover the value of the birds in the event of a depopulation of flocks due to a processing plant closure or significant reduction in capacity.

## ***REAFFIRMATIONS/RENEWALS***

### **31. Mandatory Seed Purity Declarations**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA lobby the federal government to make it mandatory that seed purity declarations, stating weed seed content and species, be provided to producers prior to the purchase of pedigreed forage, cereal, pulse and other crop seed.

### **32. Voluntary Offset Programs**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA support the development of voluntary carbon offset programs that reflect the following principles:

- I. Offset protocols should be designed to provide meaningful recognition of agricultural activities that reduce carbon.
- II. The maintenance of existing carbon sinks like wetlands, forests and grasslands should be eligible for financial support;
- III. Verification systems must be effective and cost-efficient.
- IV. Offset protocols must provide a fair price to producers for voluntary sequestration or emission reductions
- V. Offset protocols must allow for the aggregation and stacking of credits.
- VI. Offset protocol programs must reflect the diversity of different agricultural sectors.

### **33. Prairie Soil Carbon Balance Project**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA lobby the federal government for increased financial support for the expansion of the Prairie Soil Carbon Balance Project to include test sites in Manitoba and Alberta and to include the measurement of crop rotations, forages, and grasslands.

### **34. Carbon Sequestration and Plant Breeding**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA lobby the federal government to invest in research programs for the development of crop varieties that would increase carbon sequestration through innovations such as enhanced root mass and increased photosynthetic efficiency.

### **35. Wildlife Damage Prevention and Compensation**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA lobby the Government of Canada to provide more robust funding, focused objectives and clearer program parameters for wildlife damage prevention and compensation programs across Canada.

### **36. Canadian Agricultural Partnership**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Canadian Federation of Agriculture ask Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada:

- To demonstrate real openness to improving that agricultural income safety net by increasing the BRM budgets under the CAP in order to adequately meet the needs of Canadian Farmers;
- To stabilize agricultural incomes during both one-time events and extended periods of low prices by means of a program designed to respond to the actual production costs of the various sectors, in keeping with each province's reality;
- To include, in the comprehensive review of the BRM programs, the modernization of crop insurance, especially in light of climate changes and technological advances;
- To recognize investment programs and self-directed risk management programs as important levers for improving the BRM.

### **37. Regarding Federal Changes to Municipal Councillor Taxation on Income**

**BE IT RESOLVED** the CFA lobby the Federal government to have one-third tax exemption for municipal councillors reinstated.

### **38. Measurement System for Soil Carbon Sink**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA lobby the Government of Canada to develop a methodology to quantify the relationship and role of microbial activity with regards to carbon sequestration of agricultural soils.

### **39. Weed Management – Federally Regulated Industries**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA request the federal government to clarify the roles and responsibilities of federally regulated entities, such as railways and pipelines, in controlling weeds in their right of ways.

### **40. Competition Bureau**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA lobby the Government of Canada to make changes to the Competition Bureau requiring it to monitor corporate mergers after they are completed to make companies financially accountable to commitments they put forward while going through the merger process.

**41. Phragmites**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Canadian Federation of Agriculture work with the PMRA to ensure that herbicides that control phragmites are approved for use in “standing water” areas to enable municipalities and farmers to properly control phragmites.

**42. Sandhill Cranes**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Canadian Federation of Agriculture lobby the Canadian Wildlife Service to allow a managed hunt of Sandhill cranes in eastern Canada.

**43. Representation on CGC Grading Review**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA lobby that general farm organizations be provided representation to the Canadian Grain Commission review of Canada’s grain grading system.

**44. Incentive Program for Retiring Producers**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the federal government to develop incentive programs that encourage the sale of agricultural assets to young producers 40 years of age and under.

**45. Carbon Sinks**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA lobby the federal and provincial governments to increase research on quantifying the impact of increasing carbon inputs on our measurement of carbon sinks.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the CFA call on the Canadian Government to work with signatories of the Paris Agreement to accurately measure and recognize agricultural carbon sinks.

**46. Producer Representation on CGC Standards Committee**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the CFA lobby the CGC to accept two representatives from each of the prairie general farm organizations to serve as members of the Western Grains Standards Committee and its Subcommittees.

**47. Industrial Hemp**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the Government of Canada to amend regulations surrounding industrial hemp to expand allowable sales and processing to whole plants, and simplify licensing and seed testing requirements. This includes:

- 1) Amending the Industrial Hemp Regulations to allow for the harvest, sale and processing of whole plants;
- 2) Removing the requirement for a criminal record check to obtain a license; and

3) Formalizing the current requirement of seed level THC testing only;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CFA lobby the Government of Canada to make changes to legislation affecting industrial hemp to clearly distinguish it from cannabis. This includes:

- 1) Listing hemp and hemp plant parts as item 5 under Schedule 2 “Exemptions” in Bill C-45 *The Cannabis Act*; and
- 2) Amending Schedule II of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* to either carve “industrial hemp” out of the definition of *Cannabis* or carve out non-psychoactive cannabinoids from Cannabis containing less than 0.3% THC.