



## Ontario's Unified Voice for Agriculture

### Ontario Agriculture

#### > immediate and future sustainability

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Ontario agriculture needs the immediate attention of the provincial and federal governments. The sustainability of the sector and the near and longer term prospects for the economy of rural Ontario depends on bold and immediate action to commit resources to the present and future agricultural economy.

Ontario farmers need action and investment as follows:

- A commitment to viable risk management and income support programs as developed by the agricultural sectors.
- Implementation of the Risk Management Program for grains and oilseeds with an interim payment to flow as soon as possible
- An immediate down payment on other long-term programs to provide assistance for the millions of dollars lost by horticultural and livestock producers.
- Extension of horticulture's Self Directed Risk Management (SDRM) program until the newly designed SDPI program can be operational.
- Adoption of Inventory Valuation changes to CAIS, retroactive to 2003/2004.
- Provision of loan guarantees of up to \$100,000 per farm for dairy heifer producers to avoid financial collapse.
- Recognition of and provision for the Deer and Elk industry's 'New Partnership with Ontario' including the Cervid Transition, Genetics and Market Research and Development Programs.
- Provision of the promised \$6 million towards a cull cow program.

Generally, it is imperative that the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' budget be restored at least to its previous levels, in support of the above needed programs. Doubling the current level of expenditure is necessary to return to previous levels of expenditure for Ontario agriculture and to support the programs needed by the industry.