



2024
ANNUAL REPORT

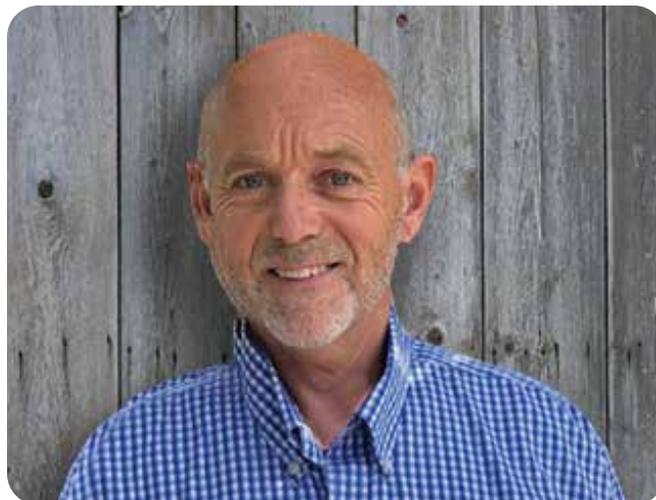
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*“Whoever walks with
the wise becomes wise,
but the companion of
fools will suffer harm”*

Proverbs 13:20 ESV.



A time has come that I must say goodbye to CFFO leadership after some 16 years in the Executive Board with 4 of those years President. This part of my life has seen both blessings and challenges during these years. God has allowed CFFO to grow from a small, mostly Dutch Reformed farmers group to a much larger, wide ranging Christian farm organization made possible by the Farm Business Registration legislation. Our membership now includes many of differing Christian faiths, but who all share the common concern of being stewardly and environmentally sound in our farming practices. This is not always an easy task as with a broad membership we don't all see issues in the same light. Through my years, with the wisdom and insight of members, board and CFFO staff have continued to be a voice to our various industries using biblical principles. As I now part ways my hope and prayer is that CFFO continues to serve the Creator, Sovereign God. This was first instilled by our forefathers to form CFFO with humble beginnings.

There will be many upcoming issues and situations coming to the foreground in coming months and years. We live in a sinful, broken world but yet we have the greatest resource ever given.....an Almighty God and Father who will uphold us in whatever may come to pass, if we stay true to His Word in Faith and Prayer. May God bless all our members, upcoming board and staff working for His Kingdom through CFFO. Thank-you for allowing me to serve this organization.

- Ed Scharringa.

THE TEAM

CFFO WELCOMES NEW STAFF

In 2024-2025 three new staff members joined our hardworking team. We welcomed Pauline Todd as our new Office Administrator. Pauline's extensive accounting and Office Administration background has been a huge asset to our team, and we are honored to have her, she does a great job keeping all of us organized.

We also welcomed Charlotte Cuthbert as the new Communications Coordinator. She brings fresh ideas to our organization with her farming background, as well as her background in communications/ development within the community. She is excited to get our message out, and ensure farming members have their voices heard.

Finally, we are blessed to welcome Stephen Sutcliffe to the team as the new Member Engagement Coordinator. He brings with him a household of knowledge and experience in engagement and sales. We are looking forward to see what 2025 brings us with this new team.



PAULINE TODD

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

In 2024, we were thrilled to welcome Pauline Todd as our new Office Administrator to our dedicated team. As the first point of contact for anyone reaching out to CFFO by phone or visiting our new office, Pauline will ensure a warm and welcoming experience. She will also oversee our new member database system and provide administrative support for the Executive Board. With her strong background in administration, Pauline's experience will be a valuable asset to our organization. Additionally, she is helping CFFO build connections within the Ingersoll community, where she lives and enjoys being involved. Passionate about agriculture, Pauline is excited to expand her knowledge as part of the CFFO team. Outside of work, she enjoys attending sporting events and spending time with her family and dog.



CHARLOTTE CUTHBERT

COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR

Charlotte Cuthbert brings a wealth of experience from her deep roots in the agricultural community. Raised on a farm in the Lyons area, she spent much of her life working with beef, pork, chickens, and cash crops, making her well-acquainted with the sacrifices and demands of farm life. In 2003, she met her husband, who grew up on a dairy farm just south of Ingersoll. Charlotte has remained closely connected to farming through her family and friends, continuing to be an active part of the community. She takes great pride in seeing her children follow in her footsteps and work within the agricultural world as well. Charlotte offers a wealth of knowledge and a fresh perspective to foster collaboration. She is both excited and eager to contribute to the growth of the CFFO while serving as a strong advocate for farmers today and those of the future.



STEPHEN SUTCLIFFE

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT
COORDINATOR

Stephen Sutcliffe is a sales and customer service professional with over 15 years of experience in inside sales, account management, and client support. Growing up in rural Oxford County, he worked on various farms before starting his career with Cargill after high school. He later pursued higher education, earning an honors diploma in Sales and Marketing and completing training in leadership and problem-solving. Based in St. Thomas, Ontario, Stephen has worked in industries such as manufacturing, non-profit, and B2B sales. His experience includes managing customer accounts, processing orders, generating quotes, and providing technical support. He has also contributed to customer engagement initiatives and helped train new team members. Stephen enjoys working with people, solving challenges, and supporting business growth through strong client relationships and efficient account management.

NEW OFFICE

CFFO WELCOMES A NEW LOCATION

Located at 274620 27th Line, Ingersoll, Ontario, ON, N5C 3J6, the new CFFO head office will serve as the hub for CFFO's ongoing efforts to advocate for and support Ontario's Christian farmers. The building is equipped with high-speed internet, facilitating seamless operations and allowing for efficient communication across the province. The state-of-the-art boardroom is designed to accommodate hybrid meetings, ensuring that both in-person and online participants can engage effectively.



TOM TAVANI
GENERAL MANAGER

Tom joined the CFFO in 2021, bringing experience in Christian media marketing and agribusiness. He's also operated his own real estate marketing company. He is a devoted Christian and family man who understands that everything belongs to God.



SUZANNE ARMSTRONG
DIRECTOR OF POLICY & RESEARCH

Suzanne joined the CFFO in 2015, shortly after completing her research on the CFFO's cultural history and faith connection to stewardship. Suzanne is fascinated by faith and agriculture, food policy and environmental stewardship, all of which play a role into her work for the CFFO.



PAUL BOOTSMA
MEMBERS RELATIONS MANAGER

Paul has spent his entire life in the ag industry, first in the pork sector and for the last 15 years on staff at CFFO. Working with members across the province has become a joy for him, giving the opportunity to continue to learn about the ag sectors that produce our food.

YEAR IN REVIEW

The CFFO continues to advocate on key issues of importance to our members. Our message to government is that the CFFO wants to see:

- Productive farmland protected across the province.
- Increased access to food-animal veterinary care.
- A well-functioning food processing industry, especially abattoirs.
- Costs for producers kept low, especially related to taxation.

FARM RESERVATION

Farmland preservation remains one of CFFO's chief policy concerns. We call on government to protect this precious resource. The new Provincial Planning Statement (PPS, 2024) was released and has come into effect as of October. The CFFO provided input to all consultations leading up to this release. We are pleased to see that the new PPS continues to limit severances, while allowing additional residential units. This gives flexibility for farm family needs and protects farmland.

More concerning are changes to rules regarding Settlement Area Boundary Expansions, allowing these to be made at any time, including at the request of development proponents. Previously, boundary changes could only be made as part of a Municipal Comprehensive Review. This will increase pressure on farmland surrounding growing cities and towns.

News that the Region of Waterloo plans to assemble 770 acres of prime agricultural land for development in Wilmot Township, under threat of expropriation, shocked the farming community across the province. The CFFO wrote objecting to both this loss of prime farmland and the lack of transparency or public consultation in the process of selecting this site.

The CFFO also voiced our opposition to plans for a new Highway 413, calling on government to seek alternatives. The proposed route would impact an estimated 2000 acres of prime agricultural land, including hundreds of acres in the Greenbelt. Instead, the CFFO recommends better use of our existing infrastructure including Highway 407, rail and public transit, and reducing demand.

FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARIANS

In 2024 the government brought forward legislation to update to the Veterinarians Act. The legislative changes are now in place to allow both Veterinarians and Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVTs) to be regulated as veterinary professionals under the same organization. Now regulations are needed in order to enable these changes. Veterinarians continue to be in high demand, both in urban and rural contexts. Many rural areas have limited or no access to on-farm veterinary services. CFFO continues to advocate for changes to improve access for all livestock farmers. The Veterinary Access Program (VAP) was under review in 2024, and CFFO participated in consultations and provided written input. Changes are required to improve the VAP. However, to really support rural food animal veterinarians and ensure better access for Livestock farmers, policies also need to look more broadly at the social and economic changes impacting veterinary access.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

With increasing demands for energy, both from a growing population and from increasing electrification in many sectors, Ontario is expanding its generation and storage capacity. Impacts will be felt in rural areas where many new renewable energy projects will be established. However, unlike in the past, municipalities must indicate if they are willing hosts, as well as play a key role in the approval of details for project development. The province has set out guidelines on energy projects within prime agricultural areas, including restrictions from large scale solar farming and requirements for an agricultural impact assessment (AIA) for other types of projects. While this is a good start, CFFO would like to see AIAs required for energy projects on all currently farmed land, not just those areas designated “prime agricultural.”

STORM WATER FEES

The CFFO wrote to request an exemption for farm businesses from proposed storm water fees in the City of Hamilton. The change in fee structure is intended to more fairly attribute costs for stormwater management. In particular, commercial and industrial buildings benefit from the urban stormwater infrastructure, but do not currently use significant drinking water supplies. The proposed new stormwater fees for farmers will unfairly burden farm businesses, especially those with significant hard surface area such as greenhouse operations. Farms do not benefit from urban stormwater infrastructure. The City of Hamilton is only one example across the province of municipalities that have been considering a similar approach to raise funds needed to implement and maintain stormwater infrastructure

SUMMARY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Prepared from the Audited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended December 31, 2024



BALANCE SHEET

	Y/ 2024	Y/ 2023
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash	\$752,052	\$1,183,204
Accounts Receivable	1,874	9,996
Prepaid Expenses	14,259	93,168
Government Remittances Receivable		11,645
Total Current Assets:	\$768,185	\$1,298,013
LONG-TERM ASSETS:		
Restricted Cash	39,661	39,661
Restricted Investments	152,602	142,586
Investments	50,833	720,349
Capital Assets	1,367,720	12,635
Total Assets:	\$2,379,001	\$2,213,244
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	91,894	44,159
Government Remittances Payable	112,021	
Deferred Revenue	35,086	
Total Current Liabilities:	\$239,001	\$44,159
MEMBERS' EQUITY:		
Invested in Capital Assets	1,367,720	12,635
General Reserve	152,602	142,586
Unrestricted (available for general purpose)	580,017	1,974,203
Capital Reserve	39,661	39,661
Total Net Worth:	2,140,000	2,169,085
Total Liabilities and Net Worth:	\$2,379,001	\$2,213,244

STATEMENT OF CHANGES MEMBERS' EQUITY

	Invested in Capital Assets	General Reserve	Unrestricted (available for general purpose)	Capital Reserve	2024	2023
Equity as at 01 Jan. 2024	\$12,635	\$142,586	\$1,974,203	\$39,661	\$2,169,085	\$1,517,348
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenses	(60,785)	-	31,700	-	(29,085)	651,737
Capital Asset Additions	1,415,870	-	(1,415,870)	-	-	-
Interfund Transfers	-	10,016	(10,016)	-	-	-
Equity as at 31 Dec. 2024	\$1,367,720	\$152,602	\$580,017	\$39,661	\$2,140,000	\$2,169,085

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

	Y/ 2024	Y/ 2023
REVENUES:		
Farm Organization Funding Fees	\$1,001,640	\$980,309
Interest Income	61,608	80,191
Sponsorships	20,552	24,452
Grants	7,458	14,690
Membership Fees	12,240	14,774
Miscellaneous Income	12,323	6,622
Total Revenues:	\$1,115,821	\$1,121,038
EXPENSES:		
Administrative, Schedule 1	713,398	663,971
Provincial Activities, Schedule 1	168,188	230,463
Qualified Districts (Local Affiliates), Schedule 1	100,581	98,033
District Activities, Schedule 1	101,953	136,330
Total Expenses:	\$1,084,120	\$1,128,797
Excess (deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenses Before Other Item	31,701	(7,759)
Other Income Gain on Sale of Capital Assets		(668,128)
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses Before Amortization	31,701	660,369
Amortization	60,786	8,632
Excess (deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenses:	\$(29,085)	651,737



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SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES

	Y/ 2024	Y/ 2023
ADMINISTRATIVE:		
Bank Charges and Interest	\$3,440	\$1,335
CSS Donations	4,315	8,380
Equipment Rentals and Maintenance	18,995	9,916
FBR Administration Fees	80,955	77,066
Insurance	6,173	5,329
Office and Printing Supplies	15,761	20,356
Postage and Courier	11,715	5,444
Professional and Consulting Fees	50,121	21,751
Property Taxes	9,065	981
Rent	67,172	78,411
Repairs and Maintenance	15,757	1,656
Salaries and Benefits	390,300	405,683
Staff Travel and Expenses	24,748	16,828
Telephone & Internet	9,883	10,260
Utilities	4,998	574
Total:	\$713,398	\$663,791

PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES:		
AGM & Speakers Conference	27,150	22,748
Board and Committees	82,817	125,694
Farm Community Activities	36,818	39,361
Farm Media	21,403	42,660
Total:	\$168,188	\$230,463

Y/ 2024

Y/ 2023

QUALIFIED DISTRICTS (LOCAL AFFILIATES):

Funding to District Associations	\$100,581	\$98,033
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DISTRICT ACTIVITIES:

Newsletters	\$3,497	\$20,040
Meetings and Travel	38,759	62,807
Promotions and Advertising	59,700	53,483
Total:	\$101,953	\$136,330

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Y/ 2024	Y/ 2023
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	\$(29,085)	\$651,737
Adjustment for Amortization	60,786	8,632
Gain on Sale of Capital Assets		(668,128)
	\$31,701	\$(7,759)
Net Change in Non-Cash Working Capital Items		
Accounts Receivable	8,122	(8,045)
Prepaid Expenses	78,909	(56,650)
Government Remittances Receivable	11,645	7,102
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	47,736	(29,023)
Government Remittances Payable	112,021	
Deferred Revenue	35,086	
Total:	\$325,220	\$(94,375)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of Restricted Investments	(10,016)	(9,803)
Purchase of Investments	(48,486)	(22,552)
Proceeds on Sale of Investments	718,002	
Purchase of Capital Assets	(1,415,872)	(10,413)
Proceeds on Disposal of Capital Assets		1,138,353
Total:	\$(756,372)	\$1,095,585
Increase (Decrease) in Cash	(431,152)	1,001,210
Cash, Beginning of the Year	1,222,865	221,655
Cash as of 31 Dec. 2024:	\$791,713	\$1,222,865
CASH CONSISTS OF:		
Cash	\$752,052	\$1,183,204
Restricted Cash	39,661	39,661
Total:	\$791,713	\$1,222,865

SIGNIFICANT NOTES

1. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Executive board members are paid honorariums for the days that they attend board meetings, other meetings related to the organization's mandate, management services, and any other activities that are board related. There are eight board members with equal voting power for each member. The executive board members review and approve all the changes to the organization's policies, financial's, and budgets, and any major changes in activities. These transactions are based on the agreed upon honorarium amount by the board.

Management estimates the fair market value of these activities would be considered to be \$125,602 (\$155,280 - 2023)

	Y/ 2024	Y/ 2023
Honourariums Paid to Board Members	\$62,801	\$77,640

2. DISTRICT EXPENSES

Contributions have been made directly to 21 districts.

Section 5(4) of the Farm Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act, 1993 Ontario Regulation 723/93, requires the following of the qualified districts (local affiliates):

- (a) it represents at least 10 farming businesses as described in paragraph 5 of the Act.
- (b) persons sitting on its board of directors have been elected, except for persons who were appointed to fill a vacancy or in other exceptional circumstances;
- (c) has an annual general meeting; and
- (d) is entitled to send a representative to any meeting of the farm organization to which representatives of local affiliates are invited.

Non-qualified districts (unorganized regions fall short of these four criteria in one way or another.

Direct contributions of \$100,581 were made to the following qualified districts (local affiliates: Chatham-Kent-Essex, Dufferin-Wellington, East Central, Elgin, Grey-Bruce, Huron, Haldimand-Norfolk, Lambton, Middlesex, Niagara, Northeastern Ontario, Oxford, Perth, Quinte, Rainy River, Renfrew-Lanark, Central Ontario, St. Lawrence-Ottawa Valley, Thunder Bay, Wellington, and Wentworth Brant. These districts have met the standards needed to be considered qualified districts.

No direct contributions were made to non-qualified districts (unorganized regions. There were no districts that did not meet the standards needed to be considered qualified districts.

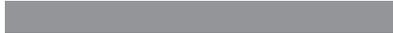
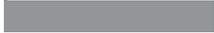
Direct contributions of \$100,581 were made to the qualified districts (local affiliates). As stated by the Farm Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act, 1993 Ontario Regulation 723/93, Section 5(2)7, these expenses must equal 10% of the part of its gross revenue for any given year that is received from payments made under section 21 of the Act, and is determined before taxes, excluding any refunds that may be paid under subse 21(8) of the Act. The contributions that were made to the qualified districts met this criteria.

3. COMMITMENTS

(a) Payments to Union des Cultivateurs Franco-Ontariens Under an agreement with the Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), effective January 1, 2008, the organization agrees to pay to Union Des Cultivateurs Franco-Ontariens (UCFO), 1.5% of their net revenue from farm organization funding fees from the prior year. The amount paid in 2024 was \$14,697 (2023 - \$14,583). This agreement shall terminate only if the Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs Tribunal removes the eligibility of the UCFO for special funding, all parties mutually agree to terminate the agreement, or the UCFO has been granted accreditation by the Tribunal.

(b) Administration costs of farm business registration program under an agreement with the Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, the organization has agreed to pay Agricorp \$19.90 for each registration to administer the Farm Business Registration Program in 2024. This agreement can be terminated by either party by giving prior written notice no later than May 31 of any calendar year that the notifying party intends to terminate the agreement.

(c) Other commitments under the terms of various lease agreements and other contracts, the organization will be required to make the following payments:

2025		\$9,612
2026		10,219
2027		4,827
	Total:	

Note: The above summary financial statements are derived from the unqualified audited financial statements dated December 31, 2024. A copy of the financial statement as audited by DBK Accounting Professional Corporation, can be obtained via written request to the organization.

