



OASC Holds Second RAISE THE CAP for Risk Management Program (RMP) Event

Farmers in eastern Ontario gathered in support of Ontario's 50,000 non-supply managed farms and their one message

June 6, 2014 (Guelph, Ontario) – Members of the Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition (OASC) held their second *Raise the Cap for RMP* event last night in eastern Ontario at Hoards Station Sale Barn in Campbellford. Farmers and their families, who represented several counties, were in attendance to call on candidates in the upcoming provincial election to pledge their support for raising the Risk Management Program cap from \$100M to \$175M.

OASC launched their *Raise the Cap for RMP* campaign on May 22 on a sheep and grain farm in Perth County with local farmers and provincial candidates. For the candidates running in the 2014 Ontario election, OASC has one message: raise the Risk Management Program cap to \$175 million dollars annually to provide adequate funding for the program.

"The attendance at last night's event emphasizes farmers' strong support for Ontario's Risk Management Program and that the program has made a significant difference in many farm operations since it was introduced in 2007," shares Henry Van Ankum, Chairman of OASC. "Thriving farms create a thriving rural and urban economy. Ontario farmers must have access to stable, predictable business risk management programs to allow them to make investments in their family businesses and strengthen rural communities," adds Henry.

Market prices, drastic weather and input prices, all out of the control of farm businesses, creates volatilities for the non-supply managed sector. A healthy RMP is essential for farmers who want to invest in their operations - either through expansion or innovation - and an important tool that farmers can depend on in times of need.

"With the election only days away, we want to thank the candidates who have already pledged their support for raising the RMP cap for Ontario's 50,000 non-supply managed farms," says Van Ankum. "Strong rural communities strengthen Ontario. All of Ontario wins when you invest in our farmers."

The RMP program currently has a cap of \$100 million dollars. However, the cap impairs the program from providing price stability for farm businesses. The cap puts investments that generate jobs and growth for the non-supply managed sector at risk.

The Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition is comprised of Ontario's leading non-supply managed commodity organizations, including Beef Farmers of Ontario, Grain Farmers of Ontario, Ontario Pork, Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency and Ontario Veal.

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