

Resolutions from Advisory Committees

Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee

1. Impacts on Food Prices and Opportunities for Advocacy to Improve Financial Viability for the Agri-food Sector

That we recommend to the Planning and Economic Development Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

Whereas the agri-food industry is one of the top economic drivers in Durham Region supporting a workforce of over 27,105 people through 3,360 agri-food businesses, more than 1,200 farms and farm families, contributing upwards of \$354 million to Ontario's total farm production and supporting \$775 million in GDP;

And Whereas food prices have seen their steepest increase since 1981 with a year over year increase of 11% as of October 2022;

And Whereas inputs for farmers and primary producers have increased significantly in the last year, including fertilizer prices increasing 95.8% compared to July 2020, fuel prices have seen a historic year-over-year increase, while chemical/herbicide markets have experienced shortages and increased prices. Despite these changes, farmers have not seen a significant increase in their primary product price to compensate for the rising cost of inputs;

And Whereas the profit margin for farmers was adversely impacted by a 35% tariff placed on fertilizer imports, including fertilizer purchased prior to economic sanctions being placed on Russia and Belarus that farmers in Canada rely on to support food production.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee requests that Regional Council recognize the importance of agriculture in Durham Region by encouraging the federal government to compensate farmers for tariffs paid on fertilizer, one of the contributing factors to increased food costs.