

Hard-hit farmers to get assistance

Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong is welcoming news the federal and provincial governments will provide financial assistance to local livestock producers who are facing severe forage shortages due to the summer's dry growing conditions.

Through AgriRecovery, the governments will help the farmers in Wellington County and Halton Hills with transportation costs incurred in accessing feed for their breeding herds over the winter.

"Some farmers in Wellington County and Halton Hills were hit particularly hard during the drought in summer 2012," said Chong. "The economy is the government's top priority and the agriculture industry plays an important role in sustaining a strong, local economy. I am pleased that there will be assistance available to our local farmers through AgriRecovery."

Drought conditions during the summer significantly reduced forage yields and damaged pastures for livestock producers in Ontario.

The Ontario Forage and Livestock Transportation Assistance Initiative will provide up to \$2.4 million to help affected livestock producers in designated drought

areas of eastern and southwest Ontario cover a portion of the costs of transporting feed to their breeding herds, or breeding herds to areas with surplus feed.

Agricorp will administer the Ontario Forage and Livestock Transportation Assistance Initiative, and more information can be found at <http://goo.gl/xjACB>.

The two components of the initiative are:

- Up to \$0.14 per tonne, per kilometre to assist with the transportation of forage and feed; or

- Up to \$0.075 per kilometre, per animal, to move animals to available feed.

This initiative is being delivered under the AgriRecovery Framework, which allows governments to respond to unforeseen disasters that result in high recovery costs for producers. Producers are encouraged to make full use of existing government programs— AgriInsurance, AgriStability and AgriInvest— designed to help them mitigate income and production losses.

To learn more about the designated areas for the 2012 Livestock Tax Deferral Provision, visit <http://goo.gl/jo7UN>.



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