

Grey County Federation of Agriculture

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June 15, 2020

Warden Paul McQueen
595 9th Ave E
Owen Sound, ON
N4K 3E3

Dear Warden McQueen,

As you would know, there have been discussions over time about what is the best way to match local protein production with processing capacity.

Voices on the subject have become even louder during these remarkable times of the Covid 19 pandemic when we are experiencing gaps that have significant impacts to producers and consumers.

Recently our Board passed a motion that supports the formation of a task force to be formed to collect data, study the possible alternatives and make a recommendation for how best to fill the processing gaps for local producers.

We have elected two representatives from our Board Mssrs. Michael Ryan and Paul Wettlaufer who have experience and insight on this subject and have agreed to participate as member advisors to such a task force.

We would propose that an assembly of political, farm and processing stakeholders be formed to represent Grey, Bruce, Huron, Perth and Wellington County and begin meetings under the auspices of " local protein production and processing task force " and with the support of Grey County to study the matter and bring forward a recommendation to Government and or the private sector about how/ if to proceed to fill the protein processing gap.

As Grey is one of the province's largest protein producing areas, we are asking Grey County to take a lead sponsorship role for the task force by supporting its mandate, inviting other counties to participate and by dedicating a staff resource who would lead the coordination and administration of the task force's work. It would be our recommendation that once the task force is formed that it elect a farmer Chair to act as a communication point for the task force.

While the task force is best to provide an estimate for timing, as a practical matter, it is hoped that the task force will complete its work quickly to allow recommendations be made within a time frame that allows current provincial government to respond.

If you will take this idea under consideration now and let us know that the County is supportive, we are standing ready to engage.

Best regards, on behalf of the Board,

Hugh Simpson

Hugh Simpson
President
Grey County Federation of Agriculture