

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



September 22nd, 2010

NFU SUPPORTS PROPOSED ONTARIO BUY LOCAL FOOD ACT

St. Marys, Ontario - The National Farmers Union is pledging its support for the proposed Government of Ontario Buy Local Food Act, a private member's bill that will be introduced by NDP leader Andrea Horwath in the Ontario legislature this Thursday. The bill will require all provincial government ministries to put local food first. "For many years, the National Farmers Union has called on the Government of Ontario to support initiatives to increase the production, marketing and consumption of local food," said St. Marys area farmer and NFU board member, Ann Slater.

In addition to requiring provincial ministries to buy local food, the Government of Ontario Buy Local Food Act sets targets for local organic/local sustainable food. The targets are 5% local organic/local sustainable food beginning in 2015, and 10% local organic/local sustainable food by 2020.

"The NFU's Sustainable Agriculture Policy encourages efforts by farmers, governments and the public to build a more sustainable local and organic farming system," said Sean McGivern, Grey County farmer and NFU Region 3 (Ontario) Coordinator. In 2005 the NFU published a paper for the ministers of agriculture conference, which identified the root causes of the ongoing farm income crisis and providing a list of solutions. "Market development for local organic and local food was on that list," added McGivern.

The NFU is urging all parties in the Ontario legislature to support the Government of Ontario Buy Local Food Act. "The NFU believes our food system should be economically viable, socially just and ecologically sound. We are asking all members of the provincial legislature to support this bill, and show leadership in moving towards such a food system along with providing farmers with a market for locally-produced food and locally-grown organic and sustainable products," said Slater.

- 30 -

For more information, contact:

Ann Slater, NFU Board Member:

519-349-2448
aslater@quadro.net

Sean McGivern, NFU Region 3 Coordinator:

519-794-4445
seanmc4@hotmail.com