

**Renfrew County Local
National Farmers Union
Ontario**

President: Dave Mackay Phone/Fax 613-582-7379
Secretary/Treasurer: Laurretta Rice Phone/Fax 613-649-8211

NEWS RELEASE

July 12, 2011

Beachburg, ON – Dave Mackay, President of the Renfrew County National Farmers Union reports, Renfrew County farmers should be pleased with the recent compensation package announced by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAFRA) for damages caused by predatory wildlife to livestock, poultry and bees.

Through this new Wildlife Damage Compensation Program, livestock producers will receive improved compensation when their livestock or poultry are injured or killed by predatory wildlife or when bee colonies, beehives or beehive equipment are damaged by wildlife.

In addition the new program expands the current list of wildlife species and variety of livestock that farmers can be compensated for and increases the maximum compensation rates for farmers to include additional compensation for registered livestock.

Mackay adds, the NFU last fall presented comments and suggestions to the discussion paper “Managing Agriculture Wildlife Conflict” and submitted a request for 100% compensation for losses caused by predatory wildlife and that consideration be given to future or potential value when a young animal (calf) is killed by a predator. We are pleased that the program provides 100% of the value of the loss, up to a prescribed maximum compensation value such as \$2500 for a non-registered cow, \$300 per non-registered sheep, \$30 per chicken kept for egg production. Newborn calves and calves up to 1 month of age are to be compensated at 70% of weaning value. This clause in the new program is a big plus for beef farmers. We are happy with it, concludes Mackay.

Locally, Renfrew County NFU also compliments the country’s Development and Property Committee for its very positive input into the discussion paper, “Managing Agriculture Wildlife Conflicts” put out last fall by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

Contact: Dave Mackay 613-582-7379