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Small Flock Exemption.

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The Practical Farmers of Ontario is a grassroots membership based farm organization that works on behalf of farmers to represent their views and needs.

The PFO is working to create an environment where family scale, diverse farms can coexist alongside larger specialized farming neighbors.

The PFO wants the number of meat birds one farm can raise annually without quota increased to 2000 birds per year. This is a practical number that can justify raising meat birds as part of a diverse farming operation.

Our research has revealed that all other provinces have exemption levels significantly higher than the current 300 bird exemption here in Ontario. The current 300 bird level is neither practical nor viable, it is inefficient and appears by design to assure failure.

This restriction doesn't represent the market demand for large roasters or other specialty birds. The low number eliminates any possibility to transition to quota ownership, considering the minimum number of birds a quota owner can raise is 15,000 per cycle.

Alberta: allows for 2000 birds per farm before requiring a farmer to own quota.

British Columbia: allows each farmer 2000 birds with an annual fee of \$20.00 per farm.

Manitoba: a farmer to raise 999 birds without quota, but that number can be increased if the farmer can show there is demand for the specialty product they are raising.

Nova Scotia: a new farmer in their first year can produce up to 500 birds. After the first year the producer can apply to raise up 10,000 birds per year without quota. They must pay an annual fee of \$25.00 per farm, an 0.8 cent per bird levy, and also a 0.025 cent a bird license fee.

Saskatchewan: allows for 999 birds per farm without any quota ownership.

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Ontario's population of 13,372,996 people provides a major market advantage over our farming neighbors to the west. Ontario makes up roughly 38% of the national population and has an annual growth rate of 1.2%. This populace is comprised of a diverse ethnic component and strong growing demand for small scale viable chicken production. Conversely, a decreasing farm population in the province has dwindled from 67,520 in 1996 to 51,950 in 2011 representing a decrease of 23% in just 15 years.

There is conclusive evidence to justify raising the quota exemption level from the current 300 bird maximum to 2000 birds. The PFO wants this change introduced for the spring of 2013, in time for farmers to order chicks and prepare for their arrival.

We respectfully request a written response within 60 days, failing which we are prepared to elevate the matter and file for a more objective, public venue, by an OMAFRA Tribunal hearing.

Our request is reasonable and the exemption increase for non quota holders is long overdue.

We look forward to your positive response.



Sean McGivern

President Practical Farmers of Ontario

"PRACTICAL FARMERS OF ONTARIO, ORDINARY FARMERS DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS"