

SAWP/TFWP in the Media

The OFVGA has worked hard this week to recent media stories with criticisms of SAWP/TFWP and growers' efforts to protect workers during the pandemic. OFVGA's efforts have included:

- News Release
- Ontario MPs and MPPs received the news release and the attached factsheet (feel free to use if speaking with the public or government officials)
- Increased social media activity related to foreign workers
- Conversations with OMAFRA, Minister Hardeman and Premier's Office to address how government comments on issues of outbreaks and voluntary testing

AgriStability

A brief reminder that growers have until **July 3, 2020** to enroll in AgriStability for the 2020 year. Agricorp has developed a [slide deck](#) (also attached) to help growers understand how the program works so they are more informed when making the decision about whether AgriStability is useful when managing their specific farm risks. AAFC has also created [AgriStability Benefit Calculator](#) to assist growers.

The OFVGA continues to advocate for meaningful improvements to the AgriStability program.

PPE Funding Announcement

[OMAFRA announced](#) today that they are increasing the funding of the PPE program to up to \$15 million (previously \$4.5M split between on-farm and provincially inspected meat processors). The OFVGA is still working with government to create more flexibility in the timing of eligible expenses and to ensure that packers/processors are eligible for the funding. Currently, the eligible expenses must be incurred after May 14 (criteria and application can be [found here](#)). If any flexibility to the eligible dates is achieved, OFVGA will provide those details to members as soon as available.

Web Hub for Resources on Buying and Supplying PPE

The Government of Canada has [launched a new web hub](#) to bring together available resources for organizations buying and selling personal protective equipment (PPE). The [Supply Hub](#) connects Canadian organizations from coast-to-coast-to-coast with federal, provincial, territorial and other resources and information about PPE, including consumer guidance. Buyers will find PPE supplier lists, in addition to guidance to help plan their PPE purchases.

As a reminder, the Ontario government has created a PPE Supplier Directory for businesses to reference: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/how-your-organization-can-help-fight-coronavirus/#find-ppe> (and click on "terms of use").

WSPS Webinars

Workplace Safety and Prevention Services is putting on a number of webinars that may help growers navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and further protect their workers. Below is the list of upcoming sessions, with links to register.

June 23 | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Becoming Agents of Change: Building a Health and Safety Mentor Mindset](#)

June 24 | 10:30 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Adapting to a New COVID-19 Reality: The Use of Masks and Eye Protection and the Implications for Heat Stress](#)

June 25 | 10:30 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Safety Insights & Safe Work Practices for Restaurants During COVID-19](#)

June 26 | 10:30 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Safety Makes Good Business \\$ense: Earn From Your Hard Work](#)