



Dennis O'Connor, Director, Field and Operations  
New to CFO but not to the agriculture industry, Dennis has 27 years of experience in market analysis, branch management, site specific agriculture, sales and customer relations. His solid technical background combined with excellent problem solving skills is a welcome addition to the Board.

With a University education in Agriculture, Business Administration and Marketing, Dennis has worked for Maple Leaf Mills, United Cooperatives of Ontario and Cargill AgHorizons. Before joining CFO he was General Manager of the Manitoulin Livestock Cooperative and, most recently, responsible for sales and operation management at FS Partners' facilities in Mitchell, Rannock and Harmony.

## Top 10 Most Frequent Corrective Action Request Items:

1. Do you have your feed sampling at delivery record form (CCP 2A) and in-barn feed sample record form (CCP 2B) (if applicable), or similar, completed? (Ref:2.5;2.6)
2. Have all vaccines and medications administered at the hatchery been recorded on the flock sheet? (Ref:5.1)
3. Do you have the results of the annual bacteriological and chemical water analysis? Did you ask the health unit if you need to test for a particular chemical? (Ref:2.6/2.7)
4. Are all the SOP's (at the end of each chapter) or similar completed at least annually? Have there been any changes to management or the operation since the last audit? (Ref:11.1)
5. What type of cleaning in the barn do you perform after each flock? Do you complete checklist GPP 3 "Cleaning & Disinfection" or similar? (Ref:3.2/3.3)
6. How often (when was the last time) are medications administered to the flock? Have you recorded all diseases and syndromes that were diagnosed (including those for which no medications were administered) due to diseases in Section B of the flock sheet? (Ref:6.1;6.5;8.2;11.6)
7. Have you documented your rodent/flyes/animals/beetles/ other pest control programs and/or contracts? (GPP 1 or similar) (Ref:1.4/1.7)
8. How do you clean and disinfect all equipment used during the clean-out? (Ref:3.4)
9. Are visitors entering the RA required to sign a visitor's log? (Ref:1.3)
10. Do you examine and record the water quality (i.e. turbidity, cloudiness, slime and mould) and complete record CCP 1? (Ref:2.9)

*Remember: The most up to date information will always be on CFO's website – [www.cfo.on.ca](http://www.cfo.on.ca). Please update us with any new contact information such as email and telephone numbers.*



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# ONTARIO Chicken FARMER

A RELIABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR ONTARIO CHICKEN FARMERS

## Industry Responds to Health and Safety Concerns

Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA), which came into force in October 1979, sets out the rights and duties of workers, supervisors and employers and gives the Ministry of Labour the authority to inspect the workplace and to investigate complaints, critical injuries and fatalities.

As of June 30, 2006, the OHSA has been extended to include to farming operations that have hired workers. This means that the rights and duties of workers and employers outlined in the OHSA will apply, inspection and enforcement will apply, and workers and employers will participate in workplace health and safety matters. Farming operations without paid workers will continue to be exempt from the OHSA.

Recently, Ontario's Ministry of Labour has raised concerns about the following health and safety issues:

- Worker protection from dust levels in barns;
- Protection against falling from barn loading platforms, and
- Protection of falling from transport vehicles.

An industry working group has been attempting to clarify what needs to be done to meet the requirements of the OHSA legislation. Their initial findings are as follows:

- Workers must wear an N95 dust mask while working in barn;
- Fall protection is required on loading platforms that are over 3 meters high;
- Fall protection is required when working on vehicles that are over 3 meters in height.

In addition, there are several safety initiatives currently in the process of being developed. For instance, work is underway to design new engineered diagrams for safety rails for loading platforms. A fall restraint system for trailers is being investigated, and recommendations regarding Personal Protective Equipment for Dust are being prepared.

The industry working group also plans to develop safety standards for the construction of new barns. Clarification is still required as to whether chicken barns fall under industrial guidelines or farm guidelines – this will be determined over the next month.

In the meantime, all producers need to be aware that they have an obligation to provide a safe, healthy working environment for anyone working on their farms.

### For more information

Ontario's Ministry of Labour has more information on their website, [www.labour.gov.on.ca](http://www.labour.gov.on.ca). There you can find a guide to the Occupational Health and Safety Act; Chapter 3, Who Is Covered by the Act, lists work and workplaces not covered by OHSA.

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs also has information on its website, [www.omafra.gov.on.ca](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca). Producers can call OMAFRA toll-free at 1-877-424-1300. And the Farm Safety Association, [www.farmsafety.ca](http://www.farmsafety.ca), provides an extensive list of Questions & Answers about OHSA.

*For further information on what is being done by the industry working group, contact Dennis O'Connor, CFO's Director of Field and Operations, at 905-637-0025, ext. 243.*

## Farm Employees Exempt from Minimum Wage Increase

As of February 1, 2007, the province's minimum wage goes up by 25 cents, from \$7.75 to \$8.00 per hour. This is the final increase in a four-year initiative that began February 1, 2004; according to the Ontario Ministry of Labour, the increases were phased in to allow Ontario businesses time to adjust and remain competitive.

As you may know, under the Ontario Employment Standards Act farm workers are exempt from minimum wage legislation. Here is how farm workers are defined under that Act:

A farm worker (or person employed on a farm) is defined as: a person employed on a farm whose work is directly related to primary production of certain agricultural products. Primary production is defined as including planting, cultivating, pruning, feeding and caring for livestock.

Farm employees who are directly employed in primary production of eggs, milk, grain, seeds, fruit, vegetables, maple products, honey, tobacco, herbs, pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, deer, elk, ratites, bison, rabbits, game birds, wild boar and cultured fish.

## 2006 Faces of Chicken Farming Contest

This year's Annual Report is all about our producers – and in order to get some really great photos of the men and women who produce our chicken, CFO, with the support of five southern

Ontario colleges, launched a photography contest in September. The top three winners received cash prizes; those photos, plus three Honourable Mentions, will be printed in the

2006 Annual Report, which comes out in March. You can check out the photos and information about the contest winners on our website, [www.cfo.on.ca](http://www.cfo.on.ca).



1st Prize - Meghan Kreller's photo of Dimphie Luyks and Conroy Braber, who helps her out on the farm.



2nd Prize - Annelise Thompson's photo of the children of Michael and Wendy Abell – (l to r) Christopher, Mark and Daniel, taken at Oralea Farms



3rd Prize - Jacqueline Dingman's photo of Susan and Michael Huzinga and their children



Hon. Mention - Jennifer Shirton's photo of Andrew Topp's family



Hon. Mention - Eric Murphy's photo of Glen Judge's family



Hon. Mention - Shawn Taylor's photo of Gilbert and Michele Van Bergeyk



## 2007 Annual General Meeting

Chicken Farmers of Ontario's 2007 Annual General Meeting will be held at:  
The Doubletree International Plaza Hotel  
655 Dixon Road, Toronto, Ontario  
on Monday, March 19th 2007

*This year's theme is "Safe, Nutritious Chicken Meeting Consumers' Needs."*

The registration form you received in the last producers' mailing should be filled out and returned to the Board office no later than March 2nd, 2007.

Registration will commence at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. and conclude by 4:30 p.m. The banquet begins at 6:00 p.m. and the evening will conclude by 8:00 p.m.

*The CFO Annual Meeting is recognized as one of the premier events in the Canadian poultry industry and we sincerely hope that you will be with us on the 19th of March.*

## Celebrating Ontario's Chicken Farmers



### Canadian Agri-Food Award of Excellence

When John Opsteen of Campbellville, Ontario, isn't running his family's broiler operation, he's usually out giving the public a first-hand look at how a working farm operates. He's been called an agri-food diplomat and an ambassador of agriculture.

For his work in this area, Opsteen has received the Canadian Agri-Food Award of Excellence for Voluntarism, presented by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. The awards were launched in 2001 and recognize achievements in five categories: environmental stewardship, agricultural awareness and education, innovation, voluntarism and agri-food export.

Opsteen has participated in a number of agricultural awareness days in southern Ontario. He explains biosecurity, helps demystify avian flu concerns and addresses various myths about poultry, all in a way that both entertains and informs young people. He's quick to educate the non-farm folks about where their food comes from. And he even dazzles them with his egg-juggling expertise.

CFO congratulates John Opsteen and thanks him for his hard work and dedication to the chicken industry.



### 2007 Faces of Farming

Chicken Farmers of Ontario (CFO) is proud to sponsor a page in the 2007 Faces of Farming calendar, produced by the Ontario Farm Animal Council (OFAC). The month of May features Lawrence Drost of Moorefield, an excellent, conscientious producer who's also a very good spokesperson on behalf of the chicken industry.

Drost and his wife Jeannie raise both broilers and beef cattle, and grow crops to feed their livestock. Their farm has been in the family for about 50 years – Lawrence took it over from his father.

In November, OFAC distributed thousands of copies of the calendar to political leaders, grocery stores and media as an early Christmas present from Ontario's 40,000 livestock and poultry farmers. Copies are also available for a small fee through the OFAC website at [www.ofac.org](http://www.ofac.org).