

Agri-Knights of the roundtable

by Kory Glover
AgriNews Staff Writer

WINCHESTER – AFTER AN INFORMATIVE APPRECIATION BREAKFAST IN NORTH GOWER, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS ERNIE HARDEMAN WAS READY TO TAKE ON MORE ISSUES WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH DUNDAS.

Along with Township of North Dundas Mayor Tony Fraser and Stormont, Dundas and South Glengarry MPP Jim McDonell, Hardeman sat down with local agribusiness representatives to discuss how to further reduce the red tape and necessary regulatory burdens that loom over the agriculture sector in

Eastern Ontario. “We’re committed to reducing red tape and easing regulatory burden for our farmers and agribusiness – both here in Eastern Ontario and right across our province – so they can be more profitable, create jobs and grow more of the safe, high-quality food we all enjoy,” said Hardeman in a news release. “We also want to keep mental health and self-care top of mind in the farming community, address the stigma that still surrounds mental health, and help people find the resources that can make a difference.”

After talking with the producers for over an hour, it became very apparent to Hardeman what issue ev-

eryone was talking about the most – labour.

“I think it was quite obvious this morning that the number one issue is labour,” he said. “We’re trying to get qualified people for the jobs that are available. We have sign post-age through Ontario with help wanted and we have people looking for work but the two don’t fit, so we need to work harder, within government, to make sure we train people for jobs that are available.”

“We start off by everyone working together and convince people that agriculture is a great place to work,” Hardeman said. “In a bigger picture, it’s setting up programs within the [Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities], to get programs in place that people who are

looking for work but not qualified can become qualified to get those jobs. That’s not just in rural Ontario, that’s all over the province.”

McDonell also expressed his pleasure for the success that came out of having an open discussion with producers in the North Dundas area.

“Our farmers and agribusinesses are the experts when it comes to knowing how best to expand and support Ontario’s agriculture sector, which is a key driver of the provincial economy,” said McDonell in the related news release. “Thank you to our local farmers and agriculture leaders for coming together to provide their insight and advice on how our government can help them succeed and be more competitive.”



A minister, a mayor and an MPP

Starting out his long day in Winchester, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Ernie Hardeman joined the Township of North Dundas Mayor Tony Fraser and Stormont, Dundas and South Glengarry MPP Jim McDonell for a roundtable discussion with local agribusiness representatives. Discussions were made about how to improve the mental health stability of local farmers, while keeping their industry thriving into the coming years.

Glover photo

Global agricultural outlook

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per cent yearly due to the production growth over the coming decade in India, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and Canada. Global demand for vegetable oil will expand by +28-million tonne by 2028, which is likely to draw down high inventories and support vegetable oil prices over the outlook period.

Meat

Total meat production is projected to expand by more than 40-million tonne by 2028, reaching nearly 364-million tonne. Despite the growth in demand for animal protein in the next decade it is projected to slow down in the world. The global meat consumption per capita is projected to increase by 1.2 per cent to reach 35.1 kg retail weight equivalent by 2028 due to the

continued income growth. The global meat production is projected to be 13 per cent higher in 2028. Meat production continues to be dominated by Brazil, China, the European Union, and the U.S. The price for beef and sheep meat are projected to decrease the most by 2028 to USD 3336/tonne, while pig meat and poultry prices are projected to decline to USD 1,453/tonne product weight. However, animal disease outbreaks, sanitary restrictions and trade policies will remain the main factors that drive the evolution and dynamics in the world meat markets.

Dairy and dairy products

The global milk production consists of 81 per cent cow milk, 15 per cent buffalo milk, and a total of 4 per cent for sheep, goat and camel milk combined. The world milk production is expected to grow at 1.7 per cent yearly to reach 981-million tonne by 2028. The highest average yield per cow is

expected to occur in North America as the share of grass-based production is low and feeding is focused on high yields.

The major dairy product exporters are the European Union, New Zealand, Australia and U.S. Milk is internationally traded mainly in the form of processed dairy products. Approximately 8 per cent of world milk production is traded internationally. The seasonality of milk production in the case of grass-based systems resulted in seasonal variation of international prices with peaks around the mid of the calendar year, especially for butter. Also, animal diseases can have a big impact on milk production and prices. The relatively high price for milk fat may lead to the substitution of milk fat with vegetable fats.

Overall, the *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2019-2028* provides a comprehensive baseline scenario for agricultural markets at national and global levels. The full report of 321 pages is available online at: <http://www.agri-outlook.org/>.

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