



Hall and Robinson run for CFA presidency

by Kory Glover
AgriNews Staff Writer

ONTARIO – CANDIDATES NORM HALL OF SASKATCHEWAN AND MARY ROBINSON FROM PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ARE OFFICIALLY IN THE RUNNING TO BECOME THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE (CFA).

After nine years in the big chair, Ron Bonnett is stepping down from his position, ready to pass the torch to someone else who is willing to fight for farmers' agricultural rights.

Hall, who has acted as the first vice-president of the federation since 2016, was born and raised on a farm near Wynyard, which he now owns with his brother.

He is a very active member of his community, serving on the board of directors of the Wynyard Co-op

Association from 1985 to 1987, the Wynyard Co-op Farm Centre, where he continues to serve, and he was the Saskatchewan Young Farmers Forum co-founder and president from 1999 to 2003

Hall also served as the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Delegate from 1986 to 2005, on the Wynyard Chamber of Commerce from 1993 to 2009, the Canadian Young Farmers' Forum from 1998 to 2002.

He was first elected as a representative of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan back in October 2003 and at the 2004 annual general meeting, he was elected to the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) Environment Committee and was nominated chair from 2006 to 2011.

Hall was then elected to the executive committee of CFA in February

2012 and has continued to serve as a member of or chairing a number of internal working groups and committees. Finally, at the 2017 CFA annual general meeting, he was elected as the first vice-president and continues to represent CFA on a number of external working groups and committees.

Robinson, who is currently sitting as a member on the CFA's board, actively manages Eric C. Robinson Inc. and its subsidiaries. In 2014, the operation was recognized as one of Prince Edward Island's Heritage Farms and currently grows potatoes, grain, soybeans and hay.

Other business practices of the farm includes grading and packing fresh potatoes, a produce dealership, custom application and crop input businesses. Robinson also acts as a certified crop advisor and actively manages Island Lime Inc.

BFO concerned new transportation rules will undermine humane transport

BFO Commentary
Special to the AgriNews

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA HAS RELEASED AMENDMENTS TO THE HEALTH OF ANIMALS REGULATIONS WITH RESPECT TO LIVE-STOCK TRANSPORT IN CANADA. PURSUING CHANGES TO TRANSPORTATION PRACTICES THAT IMPROVE ANIMAL WELFARE IS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE BEEF FARMERS OF ONTARIO (BFO) AND OUR 19,000 MEMBERS. HOWEVER, WE ARE CONCERNED AND DISAPPOINTED

BY THE RISKY APPROACH THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN WITH THE REVISED REGULATIONS.

Of most concern, the decrease in maximum allowable time in transit may actually degrade welfare outcomes for beef cattle in transit rather than improve them. The level of stress and the risk of injury and sickness are highest during loading, unloading and stops at livestock rest stations where animals are co-mingled from different origins. The government's approach causes more beef cattle to be exposed to these risks by requiring

more frequent stops, unloading and reloading. This will come at the expense of animal health and welfare.

The increased risks to beef cattle transported in Canada, as a result of these new regulations, come at a time of exceedingly strong animal welfare outcomes produced by our current system for beef cattle transported in Canada, which is both curious and disappointing. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) research confirms that more than 99.9 per cent of cattle transported in Canada arrive at their destination

without incident.

Additional AAFC research is presently underway to better understand the relationship between loading, unloading and reloading animals and the associated animal welfare outcomes among different classes of animals and time in transit. This is a noted gap in current research. It is unfortunate that the government chose to proceed with new rules that will require more frequent stops, loading and unloading before the efficacy of these practices, from an animal welfare perspective, could be

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for Estate of Grant Caldwell, Shawville, QC
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