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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS DELAYED**

**GANANOQUE, Ont.**—“Farmers are looking to the Ontario government to provide opportunities for meaningful discussion in developing Nutrient Management Regulations that will reduce the effects of farming on the environment, enhance the natural environment for all Ontario citizens, and support family farms and rural communities,” said Peter Dowling, Ontario Coordinator for the National Farmers Union. He was commenting on the recently-announced delay in the implementation of Regulations by the Ontario government.

Agriculture Minister, Helen Johns, responded to the NFU’s request to postpone the implementation of Nutrient Management Regulations for category II and existing category III farms by announcing an indefinite delay in the implementation of the Regulations.

The *Nutrient Management Act* was passed last June and two of the three phases of the proposed Regulations were published for last fall. Since then, the government has been inviting feedback.

The NFU wrote to the ministers of agriculture and environment urging them “to run a series of workshops which could explain carefully and interpret for farmers the proposed regulations, receive input from farmers and facilitate the development of workable regulations.”

The NFU is want to see the release of the George Morris Center’s study on implementation costs. “Farmers need to know what it will cost, on their farms, to implement the Regulations and how they will be able to afford those costs,” said Dowling. “We also urged the ministers to develop a proposal to financially assist family farmers to bear the costs of the Regulations-including the cost of development, implementation, and monitoring of plans.”

“The Province can develop more reasonable and sensible regulations for small and medium-sized farms through an effective consultation process,” concluded Dowling. “We have asked for a meeting with the ministers to get that process started.”

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