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**national farmers union**  
*In Union Is Strength*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NFU STRIKES A CHORD WITH FAMILY FARMERS IN ONTARIO**

Increasing numbers of family farmers in Ontario are joining the National Farmers Union (NFU) because it is the farm organization they most identify with, says Grant Robertson, NFU Ontario Regional Coordinator.

Speaking at the NFU's regional meeting in Woodstock, Ontario April 4, Robertson said the past year has seen tremendous growth in the organization. "We have grown in stature and become the mainstream farm organization in Ontario," he said. "The NFU is offering positive solutions that strike a chord with family farmers in this province. Farmers agree with our values and our policies."

Robertson said the NFU's work on a variety of issues, including: local food, the livestock crisis, "Product of Canada labelling" for food, federal and provincial farm policy debates, and food sovereignty has helped build a solid local base for the organization across the province. The NFU has worked with organizations including the President's Council and Food Secure Canada, and also made numerous presentations to the House of Commons and the Ontario Legislature over the past year.

Robertson paid special tribute to the late Ellard Powers of Beachburg, Ontario, who passed away in late February. Ellard Powers, a dairy farmer and long-time NFU leader, was also a former Commissioner of the Canadian Dairy Commission (CDC).

Elections held during the NFU regional meeting resulted in Robertson, Don Mills and Dave Lewington returning as Ontario's representatives to the NFU National Board of Directors. Kim Delaney was re-elected as NFU Ontario Women's Advisory Committee member and Caitlin Hall was re-elected as NFU Ontario Youth Advisory Committee member. The Ontario Regional Councilors elected at the meeting include Peter Dowling, Ann Slater and Mike Tremblay. Murray Sharpe, a long-serving member of the Ontario Regional Council, stepped down at the meeting. Robertson expressed his thanks to Sharpe, saying his dedication, commitment and insights will be missed.

A redesigned and updated website for the NFU in Ontario was launched at the regional meeting. The new website can be accessed at <http://www.nfuontario.ca>. NFU Youth Advisory Committee member Caitlin Hall was instrumental in getting the new website up and running.

“The work Caitlin Hall has done spearheading the new NFU in Ontario website has been tremendous,” stated Robertson. “Under her guidance, NFU members will be able to inform the public about the location of their farm and what products they are offering for sale. As well, NFU members will be able to let each other know about machinery and other items they have for sale, or need, through our new ‘farmer-to-farmer’ forum. For farmers and eaters in Ontario, this new website will be a great aid in finding out about the reality of today’s farm families and the practical solutions the NFU is putting forward.”

A number of resolutions were passed at the NFU regional meeting. These resolutions are expected to be posted soon on the NFU in Ontario website – <http://www.nfuontario.ca> .

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