



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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MCGUINTY HAS NO PLAN FOR DEADSTOCK

QUEEN'S PARK – Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford, today said that the McGuinty government's lack of planning has cut off an essential service creating a dangerous situation as farmers are unable to properly dispose of their deadstock.

“The McGuinty government cut off funding to licensed deadstock operators, knowing it would likely force them to cease operations and leave farmers with limited options to dispose of animals,” said Hardeman. “Farmers are calling and asking what they are supposed to do with their dead cows.”

Deadstock collectors traditionally generated revenue from deadstock through sales of hides, meat and rendering product. Due to new restrictions introduced in response to BSE collectors could no longer make enough revenue to make collecting deadstock economically viable. In 2003 the government announced assistance to ensure that farmers could continue to safely dispose of the animals.

In the past seven years deadstock collectors have continued to depend on government assistance and hide sales to operate.

In 2006, in response to a question from then MPP Laurie Scott, Minister Dombrowsky admitted that: “...a number of years ago, the deadstock industry was one that could make money, but after BSE, the products of meat rendering and carcasses were no longer cost-efficient or cost-productive for farmers.”

However, the McGuinty government has refused to commit any more funding to deadstock operators so as of this morning a number of companies in Eastern Ontario have stopped picking up deadstock, leaving farmers with dead animals.

“The McGuinty government has once again demonstrated that they have no plan for agriculture and they simply don't understand how our farms function,” said Hardeman. “They have cut off funding, resulting in the loss of an essential service for our farmers and have no plan to deal with the deadstock that is piling up as a result.”

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