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# Regulations add stress to farmers: survey

BY TOM COLLINS

GLENGARRY COUNTY — A recent survey found that regulatory red tape amounts to extra stress on the farm, causing some farmers to change management practices.

Dairy farmer Don McCrimmon no longer sprays his crops. The Glengarry County dairy farmer now hires a company to spray as he was frustrated by being forced to take a spraying course every five years.

"It got to be a little too much red

tape," he said. "It's easier to hire someone else to do it."

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business released the results of a survey last month where 86 per cent of 440 agricultural respondents from across Canada said excessive regulations add significant stress, and 64 per cent said that regulations reduce productivity. Another 63 per cent said regulations discourage them from growing their business.

Osgoode dairy farmer John Hill remembered the hassle when his

brother tried to build a barn five years ago. His brother wanted to build near the edge of a property that abutted floodplains.

Even though no one would ever be able to build a house on the neighbouring property, Hill's brother still had to fireproof the barn because it was within 15 feet of the property line.

"Some of the stuff, there's no common sense," he said. "There's too many government jobs dependent on the (red tape)."

## Ag law firm opens in Ottawa

BY BRANDY HARRISON

OTTAWA — Striking out to start his own farm law practice, Kurtis Andrews has the farm cred to know the ins and outs of the field and barn that downtown lawyers often just don't get.

"If a farmer goes to a big city lawyer, he has to spend a great deal of time trying to get that lawyer to understand the ag aspect of the issue. I have the advantage of understanding immediately," says the Ottawa lawyer, who started his own agricultural practice last month.

Andrews remembers one case that hinged on understanding the complexities of the quota system and though

he had less experience in family law than the Toronto lawyer, his frontline ag education, growing up on a farm market operation near Milton, won the day.

Before he was called to the bar in 2010, Andrews articulated at a firm specializing in agriculture, under Ottawa lawyer Don Good, and stayed on until Good sold the practice in 2013.

With agriculture facing a growing barrage of regulations, demand could be steady, he says. "More and more, farmers need legal advice to navigate through those regulations," says Andrews, who has experience with animal welfare cases, environmental issues, agriculture tribunals, and bylaws that restrict farming



Kurtis Andrews

practices, and plans to expand to farm mediation work around succession.

Contact Andrews at 613-565-FARM or kurtis@kurtisandrews.ca.



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