

# FARM ANIMAL CARE & FARM ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COUNCILS NEWSLETTER

FALL  
2019

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Soil Health/ Manure Awareness Project
- Livestock Emergency Project
- Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act
- Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act
- Helpline
- Introducing Amy Reymer

## UPCOMING DATES

### Joint Council Meetings

- January 21, 2020  
Victoria East Golf Club  
Guelph, ON
- June 24, 2020  
Victoria East Golf Club  
Guelph, ON

### FFCO Annual Meeting & Speakers' Program

- April 15, 2020  
Country Heritage Park  
Milton, ON

## SOIL HEALTH/MANURE AWARENESS PROJECT

Farm & Food Care Ontario (FFCO) is working on a yearlong project with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), focused on soil health and manure spreading best practices. The project will include the development of sixteen videos focused on soil health and tillage practices, as well as case studies examining a farmer's unique path to pursue healthy soils on their farms. The project also entails an awareness campaign promoting manure as a valuable nutrient source, while also raising awareness of the risk of nutrient loss when manure is spread on frozen and snow covered soils. Farmers, equipment suppliers and custom manure applicators have been surveyed about their attitudes towards manure application, storage and application timing. The information collected will form the basis of a new messaging strategy on the value of manure and the risks of application on frozen and saturated soils.

## LIVESTOCK EMERGENCY PROJECT

FFCO is wrapping up a yearlong project on farm fire awareness and livestock truck roll over training. Within this project, FFCO commissioned seventeen farm fire awareness articles in industry publications and farm media, delivered presentations at eight industry meetings and attended six trade shows, including the Ottawa Valley Farm Show and Canada's Outdoor Farm Show. Five training sessions were attended by over a hundred fire personnel, OPP officers, commodity groups and Humane Society staff. Additionally, an Ontario-specific course and training manual was developed for use in future training sessions. The project was successful in raising awareness of farm fire prevention strategies. Firefighter departments interested in receiving the training can book a course through the following link: <https://www.farmfoodcareon.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2019-Speaker-Request-formFillable-new-Oct-16.pdf>

## SECURITY FROM TRESPASS AND PROTECTING FOOD SAFETY ACT, 2019

Ontario announced new legislation on December 2, targeted at reducing the likelihood of trespassing on farms and processing facilities. The proposed legislation is intended to keep Ontario's farmers, their families, agri-food workers and farm animals safe, and also enhances protection from obstructions in the transportation of livestock. The proposed legislation would create 'animal protection zones' on farms, processing facilities and other prescribed premises. Farmers, transporters and commodity groups have expressed long term concerns about people trespassing, being in close proximity to moving trucks, or worse, attempting to stop moving trucks on public roadways.

## PROVINCIAL ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICES (PAWS) ACT, 2019

On October 29, the Ministry of the Solicitor General announced a new proposal to the Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act. This proposal seeks to extend the enforcement of animal welfare legislation in Ontario, through hiring more provincial inspectors (up to 100), ensuring better coverage across the province (including livestock, equine, zoo and aquarium specialists) and establishing stiffer penalties for animal abuse and neglect. The PAWS Act will now fall firmly into the hands of the Solicitor General's office, after the OSPCA stopped providing enforcement services in June. The legislation is expected to be in place by January, 2020.

Farm & Food Care Ontario sat alongside commodity groups, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario throughout this process to share comments and provide input for the new legislation.

## HELPLINE

The Farm Animal Care Helpline reported 11 calls this year, which is slightly less than other years. The Helpline is a confidential "farmer helping farmer" approach of advice and referral on animal care and is designed to provide assistance before situations reach a crisis point. There has been an increased public awareness surrounding animal care calls, with the province actively publicizing their new number, 1-833-9-ANIMAL (264625). Farmers are also increasingly calling their commodity groups directly if they have concerns about a farmer in their neighborhood. The Helpline remains an important service of last-resort in situations like hydro cutoffs, and for sensitive cases involving family members.

## INTRODUCING AMY REYMER

FFCO would like to introduce Amy Reymer as a new member on the Farm & Food Care Ontario team. She is in a contract position, working on the Soil Health/Manure Awareness Project. Amy was raised on a grain farm near Aylmer, ON and graduated from the University of Guelph with a degree in Agricultural Science.



## CONTACT FARM & FOOD CARE ONTARIO

Farm & Food Care Ontario has moved!  
New Address:  
660 Speedvale Avenue W, Unit 302  
Guelph, ON  
N1K 1E5

519-837-1326



[www.FarmFoodCareON.org](http://www.FarmFoodCareON.org)

[info@farmfoodcare.org](mailto:info@farmfoodcare.org)