

# FARM ANIMAL CARE & FARM ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COUNCILS NEWSLETTER

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## Council Meeting Update

The January council meeting of Farm & Food Care (FFCO) featured guest speaker Scott McDeivitte, Marketing Manager for Gordon Food Services in Milton. He spoke on the topic of Survive, Reset and Thrive: How GFS, a Food, Distribution Leader, has responded to the COVID-19 Crisis. Scott's unique perspective provided an interesting look at the food system's response to the COVID-19 crisis. Last March, this food distribution company found themselves with warehouses and coolers full of perishable products and markets (like food service) that had evaporated overnight. Scott's presentation and the "Around the Room" member update is available by request from Farm & Food Care members.

## Soil Health Project

FFCO is completing a year-long project to produce an extensive array of soil health awareness resources. The project includes 10 written farmer profiles and 18 videos on strip tillage and issues in soil management from across Ontario. These videos document the challenges farmers face and solutions that they are adopting to manage their soils.

Links to the profiles and videos can be found at:

[www.farmfoodcareon.org/farming-and-the-environment/soil-health/](http://www.farmfoodcareon.org/farming-and-the-environment/soil-health/)

Spotlight on soil health – in the fields with Ontario farmers

Farm & Food Care

**What is the most important change that you have made on your farm with respect to soil health? Or the one that has had the biggest impact?**

The change in tillage is the most important change and has had the greatest impact. Our yields have been fantastic with excellent weed control and moderate fertilizer applications while at the same time encouraging an ecosystem for the regeneration of soils.

**What advice would you have for other farmers with respect to soil health?**

Do something. Make it work with a long-term vision. Advancing soil health requires adequate attention to air and water management and directly-related gas exchange. Increasing beneficial microbiome density and diversity develops with efficient gas exchange resulting from water movement. Make it happen! Come up with a plan to grow fungi, build soil active carbon, increase worm populations and protect the soils in our care!



This project was led by Farm & Food Care with the generous cooperation of Ontario farmers. To read the full series of Farmer Profiles including our full interview with each please visit: <https://www.farmfoodcareon.org/farming-and-the-environment/soil-health/>

This project was funded by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

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## Trespass and Protection Food Safety Act (Bill 156)

FFCO is working with commodity groups and general farm organizations to develop a new sign that meets new legislation guidelines. The signage denotes an Animal Protection Zone (No Entry). Printed signs and a downloadable template will soon be available. Bill 156 grants inherent protection for most livestock areas without the need for signs. Under the new legislation, signs are not required for areas where one might normally find livestock, such as barns, yards, trucks, processing plants and fenced areas. Signs will only be needed for areas such as a community pasture or other areas where livestock may be present, but not obvious.

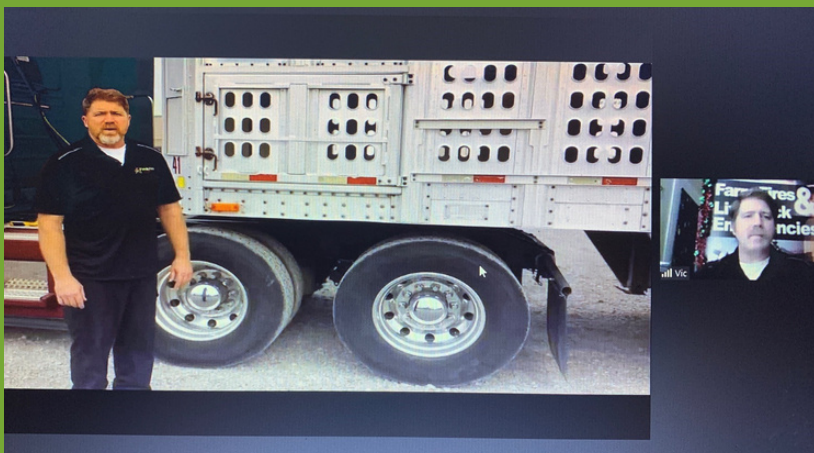
More information on sign requirements can be found at [www.aboutbill156.com/info/](http://www.aboutbill156.com/info/)

## Virtual Livestock Emergency Training

FFCO is now offering virtual livestock emergency training sessions. During the fall of 2020, first responder and emergency expert Victor MacPherson hosted four sessions for 100+ attendees. While most were first responders, attendees also included veterinarians, transporters and farmers. FFCO would be pleased to host customized training sessions for any organization or fire department. FFCO also continues to offer a one-hour Farm Fire Awareness presentation for relevant groups.

For more information, visit:

[www.farmfoodcareon.org/emergency-training/](http://www.farmfoodcareon.org/emergency-training/)



## Upcoming Dates

### April 6, 2021

Farm & Food Care Annual Conference.

Registration is free to attend:

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

### April 8, 2021

Farm & Food Care Annual Business Meeting

### June 3, 2021

Farm Environmental and Farm Animal Care Advisory Council meeting for FFCO Voting members (virtually)

### October 7, 2021

Farm Environmental and Farm Animal Care Advisory Council meeting for FFCO Voting members (virtually)



## Peer to Peer Winter Manure Education Project and Survey

The Timing Matters Peer-to-Peer Response Team is a coalition of farm organizations (including FFCO) representing the dairy, pork, beef, chicken, egg and sheep sectors, as well as general farm organizations, soil and crop specialists and agri-contractors. New this year, the Peer to Peer Working Group has helped develop the first province-wide livestock manure attitudes and use survey. This survey is being sent out through Ontario farm organizations to help better understand manure storage and application timing issues. The survey will be open till March 5th and can be filled out by anyone that generates and/or spreads livestock manure or other organic amendments. Participation is voluntary and survey responses will remain anonymous.

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/TimingMattersManureUse](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TimingMattersManureUse)

## Winter Manure Animation Video

New this winter, FFCO has helped to develop a two-minute animation video about the inherent risks of winter manure application. It is believed to be the first of its kind to address the issue, and is already being adopted as an educational resource. The animation was featured at the recent SouthWest Ag Conference (SWAC) conference and was viewed by over 550 attending that event.

The video is available on the Timing Matters web page:

[www.FarmFoodCareON.org/timing-matters/](http://www.FarmFoodCareON.org/timing-matters/)



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**Farm & Food Care Ontario**  
660 Speedvale Avenue W, Unit 302  
Guelph, ON  
N1K 1E5  
519-837-1326  
[info@farmfoodcare.org](mailto:info@farmfoodcare.org)