

Animal Care and Environmental Newsletter

DECEMBER 2021

Council Meeting Update

At the Oct. 6 meeting, Farm & Food Care Ontario was pleased to welcome Mike Mitchell from Ontario Pork who was acclaimed as Farm Animal Care Council Chair. Gordon Stock from OFVGA has agreed to stay on as Farm Environmental Council chair for the coming year. Sincere appreciation goes to Steven Vanderzanden of Turkey Farmers of Ontario for serving the last year and a half in the Farm Animal Care Council role.

Mike Draper, regional supervisor for the Animal Welfare Services at the Ministry of the Solicitor General, was the meeting's guest speaker.

Mike shared a presentation with the group on the new (2020) animal welfare act and the new unit of officers that has been built to support it. He shared information about how officers can be identified (badge and uniform) and how complaints are registered by the province and how incidents on farms are managed. Mike clarified that there are not "routine inspections", that it is a complaint-based system and that whenever possible if a farm supported by a commodity organization is involved in a complaint, that commodity group is informed and would accompany the officer to the farm.

The next council meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 19. Details will come out early in the new year.



Farm Animal News

FFCO is pleased to be holding nine (virtual) Livestock Emergency Training sessions this fall and winter, sponsored by both Heartland Mutual Insurance and Trillium Mutual Insurance.

Heartland Mutual - sponsored sessions are booked for Waterloo Region and will take place:

- Elmira – Jan 3,
- Floradale – Jan 10,
- Wilmot 1 - Jan 17 and Jan 24,
- Wilmot 3/Baden - Jan 31.

Trillium Mutual - sponsored sessions take place:

- Bruce Mines - Dec 1,
- Listowel - Dec 2,
- Grey Highlands - Jan 11
- South Bruce (pending).

Thanks to long-time FFCO members Trillium Mutual and Heartland for sponsoring these livestock emergency response training sessions.

FFCO is pleased to be hosting this extensive round of training. Along with sessions held this past spring, FFCO and first responder Victor MacPherson will have provided training to more than 250 responders this year.

Other custom sessions are available by request. <https://www.farmfoodcareon.org/emergency-training/>





Animal care events in British Columbia impacts the rest of Canada:

British Columbia has been top of mind in farm animal news this fall because of the tremendous blow to the Abbotsford farming community and the destruction of infrastructure. FFCO joins the entire industry in wishing them all the best in their long road to recovery.

Also in BC, a surprise announcement came earlier this month from the agriculture ministry that B.C. has imposed a complete ban on mink farming in the province. On Friday, November 5, 2021, the BC Government announced that it would

be “phasing out” all mink farming in that province, due to “ongoing public health risks associated with COVID-19”. This wording inaccurately portrays what is actually happening as there is no phasing out period - it is an immediate ban on mink farming. No mink are permitted to be bred moving forward. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021AFF0066-002112>

Zoonotic diseases are not new. Banning the production of a single animal species in response to a zoonotic disease risk is an unscientific overreaction and sets a

dangerous precedent for all of animal agriculture. Animal activists from within BC and across the country are openly celebrating this decision as a victory, and a successful first step in their campaign to end all animal agriculture.

Livestock associations across Canada, have written expressing concern with the lack of process, consultation and the un-scientific basis for the decision.

What farmers need to know about Ontario’s Animal Welfare Act?

FFCO has developed a backgrounder on what farmers should know about the new provincial animal welfare legislation and what it might mean to them. The backgrounder outlines the changes the new law brings and what farmers should know about inspectors, their legal powers and the complaint systems in place. <https://www.farmfoodcareon.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Summary-of-PAWS-Enforcement-Powers-Sept-2021.pdf>

Environment News:

The Timing Matters/ Peer to Peer Initiative is continuing for another winter of manure stewardship and education. Janet Harrop has been named chair of the group (from Dairy Farmers of Ontario). Thanks to Mike Mitchell of Ontario Pork for leadership as chair for the past several years. The all-livestock commodity group will continue to produce information about manure stewardship and the environmental risk of manure application on frozen and snow-covered ground and follow up with producers who might choose to spread at times with a high risk of runoff.

Watch for continued articles in farm commodity magazines and new material generated for the community that farms with horses, to raise their awareness of the issue.





Makin' THE MOST of Manure.

FFCO, the Timing Matters Initiative and Ontario Professional Agricultural Contractors Association (OPACA) with funding through OMAFRA, will host a 5-workshop series in February 2022, showing producers how to use the free AgriSuite software resource from OMAFRA to get the most out of soil test, manure tests and manure application rates and methods. With fertilizer prices up by 50% year

over year, manure is an even more valuable resource for farmers and the workshops will use real farm data to introduce producers ways to unlock the nutrient value of their manure. The workshops will also touch on new technologies in storage, application methods and how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through manure management practices.

Hog – liquid Tues Feb 1 10:30am

Digestate - liquid Feb 1 7:30pm

Dairy – liquid Wed Feb 2 10:30am

Beef, Veal, Sheep Feb 2 7:30pm

Poultry -solid Thurs Feb 3 1pm

Brought to you by:

TIMING MATTERS
RESPONSIBLE MANURE APPLICATION

February 1, 2 & 3 | via Zoom

MAKIN' THE MOST OF MANURE



HOG
Tues Feb 1
10:30am

DIGESTATE
Tues Feb 1
7:30pm

DAIRY
Wed Feb 2
10:30am

BEEF
Wed Feb 2
7:30pm

POULTRY
Thurs Feb 3
1:00pm

Register at OPACA.net/events



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