



## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Agenda**

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

7:30 PM

Council Chambers  
Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters  
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

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Please note: In an effort to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and to generally comply with the directions from the Government of Ontario, it is requested in the strongest terms that Members participate in the meeting electronically. Regional Headquarters is closed to the public, all members of the public may [view the Committee meeting](#) via live streaming, instead of attending the meeting in person. If you wish to register as a delegate regarding an agenda item, you may register in advance of the meeting by noon on the day prior to the meeting by emailing [delegations@durham.ca](mailto:delegations@durham.ca) and will be provided with the details to delegate electronically.

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**1. Roll Call**

**2. Declarations of Interest**

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

- A) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on September 15, 2020 ([Attachment 1](#))

**4. Presentation**

- A) Protecting the Health of Temporary Foreign Workers during COVID-19: Lisa Fortuna, Director of Health Protection and Sendi Struna, Manager - Durham Region Health Department

**5. Discussion Items**

- A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update – S. Jibb  
B) DAAC Farm Tour Recap – D. Risebrough

**6. Information Items**

- A) 2020-INFO-85 - Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, 2020 Virtual Farm Tour ([Attachment 2](#))
- B) DAAC Farm Tour Survey Results ([Attachment 3](#))
- C) Email to TFW Employers from Durham Health Department ([Attachment 4](#))
- D) Government of Ontario Toolkit ([Attachment 5](#))
- E) Housing for Migrant Workers (Clarington Farmer) ([Attachment 6](#))
- F) Food Industry Worker Day Motion (Ajax) ([Attachment 7](#))
- G) Bill 156 Letter & Discussion Paper ([Attachment 8](#))

**7. Other Business**

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

November 10, 2020

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If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**September 15, 2020**

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:30 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

#### **1. Roll Call**

Present: Z. Cohoon, Federation of Agriculture, Chair  
T. Barrie, Clarington  
N. Guthrie, Member at Large  
B. Howsam, Member at Large  
K. Kemp, Scugog  
K. Kennedy, Member at Large  
P. MacArthur, Oshawa  
G. O'Connor, Member at Large  
F. Puterbough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair  
D. Risebrough, Member at Large  
H. Schillings, Whitby  
B. Smith, Uxbridge  
G. Taylor, Pickering  
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair  
**\*members of the Committee participated electronically**

Also

Present: G. Highet, Regional Councillor

Absent: D. Bath-Hadden, Regional Councillor  
B. Winter, Ajax

Staff

Present: K. Allore-Engel, Senior Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
A. Brown, Agriculture Economic Development Program Coordinator  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
S. Jibb, Manager, Agriculture and Rural, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by G. O'Connor, Seconded by H. Schillings,  
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee  
meeting held on August 18, 2020 be adopted.  
CARRIED

**4. Discussion Items**

**A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update – S. Jibb**

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S. Jibb advised of the following:

- The Local Food Hub and Agri-Food Innovation Centre is currently in the conceptual stage and staff is exploring the idea of establishing the Centre in Durham Region.
- The Local Food Business Retention and Expansion Project was approved in May 2019 and the actions are underway. An Information Report will be going to the October Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting.
- Durham Farm Fresh will be hosting an upcoming webinar on Ontario by Bike.

A. Brown advised of the following:

- With regards to the abattoir investment opportunity, A. Brown advised that she has met with regional works staff to understand the servicing requirements and will be following up with the investor in mid-September.
- Staff has developed agriculture and local food focused messages for use with a social media calendar for the Township of Scugog.
- With regards to the Oshawa Port Grain Terminal, a discussion was had with Michael Pearce of Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority, who expressed an interest in providing another delegation in early 2021 once they have more grain vessels go through the port and have a large sample size to get feedback from. One current challenge is the lack of on-site storage for grain.
- The Emily Project will be rolling out across the Region over the coming months and will be fully funded by the Region to assist local area municipalities with purchasing and installing green number signs. Staff is working with the development of a communications plan.

B) DAAC Farm Tour – D. Risebrough

Discussion ensued with regards to the final product of the Virtual DAAC Farm Tour.

K. Allore-Engel provided the following comments:

- Approximately 170 registrants have registered to view the Virtual Farm Tour;
- Registrants will be provided with an email link and password on the morning of the Tour;
- After the Tour, there will be a prompt to complete a survey; and
- The number of views will be tracked.

Further discussion ensued with regards to the possibility of sharing the video for educational purposes and the best way for committee members to respond to questions asked about the Virtual Farm Tour.

**5. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**6. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 starting at 7:30 PM.

**7. Adjournment**

Moved by G. O'Connor, Seconded by F. Puterbough,  
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

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Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham  
Agricultural Advisory Committee

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N. Prasad, Committee Clerk

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2564



# The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

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From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development  
Report: #2020-INFO-85  
Date: September 25, 2020

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**Subject:**

Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, 2020 Virtual Farm Tour, File: A01-38-02

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**Recommendation:**

Receive for Information

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**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) farm tour event which was held virtually on September 17, 2020.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Since its inaugural tour in 2003, DAAC has showcased more than 40 farms and other agricultural facilities across Durham Region to more than 1,300 participants.
- 2.2 Due to COVID-19, DAAC was not able to offer the same in-person experience this year. However, this year's event presented a unique opportunity to virtually tour two facilities not available to the public due to bio-security protocols.

**3. Event Overview**

- 3.1 Over 150 participants representing municipal and provincial governments; public agencies including conservation authorities, school boards, post-secondary institutions; municipal advisory and economic development committees; the

financial and insurance industry; the agricultural community; and media attended the annual event. The tour highlighted the importance of Durham's diverse agricultural sector, as well as some of the issues and challenges faced by the industry.

3.2 The theme for this year's tour was "Virtual Spotlight on Agriculture in Durham Region". A variety of topics were covered including: growing/producing custom animal feed, technology and equipment used, information about bio-security, and animal husbandry at an egg laying operation and a hog operation.

3.3 Regional Chair and CEO, John Henry welcomed attendees to the virtual event, while a photo montage from previous tours was displayed. Chair Henry spoke about:

- The important contributions of the agriculture industry in Durham;
- How agriculture is one of the top goods producing sectors in Durham Region and a major economic driver;
- The diverse range of agricultural commodities in Durham, from grain and cattle, to poultry and hogs, to apples and nursery trees;
- How many family farms have been operational for over 150 years while others are just entering the business; and
- How Durham's more than 1,300 farms continue to enrich our communities and lead our agriculture and food sector to success.

3.4 DAAC Chair, Zac Cahoon presented history on the Committee and introduced the farms being toured for this event. Chair Cahoon spoke about:

- Farmers resiliency to change and adversity;
- How DAAC had to adapt and transitioned this year's farm tour to a virtual video format;
- How the farms featured this year are not normally accessible for in-person tours due to bio-security reasons;
- Bio-security at the farm level is defined as management practices that allow producers to prevent disease-causing agents to enter the farm property;
- Livestock health because of strict adherence to rigid bio-security measures results in safe and high-quality food, that starts right on the farm.

3.5 The virtual farm tour portion included an inside look into the following operations:

- a. **Hubert Schillings – White Feather Farms Inc.** – Mr. Schillings gave participants a tour of his egg laying facility and provided information on high quality homemade feed, importance of bio-security on the farm, salmonella testing for food safety and the role of technology. A video included footage of a modern barn, housing enrichment (i.e. perches and scratch pads), and the egg sorting/packing machinery.
- b. **Tom Watpool – Watpool Farms Ltd.** – Mr. Watpool gave participants a tour of his hog operation and provided information on the breeding process, piglet welfare (i.e. heat lamps and mats), the nursery environment, different phases of feed depending on the age of the pig, the importance of social hierarchy, the use of environmental controls (i.e. sprinklers, fans, feed and water) and the importance of bio-security to be able to raise pigs free of antibiotics. A video included footage of the barn, pigs of different ages, the feed milling process, the use of technology and the importance of bio-security.

#### 4. Event Feedback

4.1 Each year, participants are asked to complete a survey that is used by DAAC to evaluate the success of the tour and to help plan for future events. This year, an electronic survey was distributed following the virtual farm tour. From the 65 responses received, almost all agreed that the tour met or exceeded their expectations. Some general comments were:

- It exceeded my expectations.
- It was great to access farm operations that would normally be off-limits on an in-person tour.
- Important information for us to know about our community farmers.
- This information is very informative in terms of understanding the different farming operations in Durham.
- It's important to educate the public that farming utilizes science to be stewards of the land, incorporating new technologies.
- Supporting our farmers and creating environments for education is vital.
- Modern farms are complex environments that ensure a safe and healthy environment.

4.2 Participants were asked what the “Take Home” message was for them. Responses included:



- Durham Region farms are a top economic contributor to the region and the province.
- Durham Region farms operate sustainably and can be vertically integrated.
- Animals are well-cared for, and there is a high level of concern for the safety of the animals and for the consumer.
- The importance of a clean and sanitary environment.
- Thank you for the hard work and dedication to the community and agriculture and food industry!
- Lots of good work taking place in Durham! Being in the city, we tend to forget there's an entire agricultural sector in Durham.
- How fortunate we are to live within a region with such diversity of production and quality farming practices.

## **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1 DAAC is to be commended for its continued efforts in advancing the knowledge of the agricultural industry in Durham, especially during COVID-19. The annual farm tour continues to be an important part of the Council approved work plan for the Committee.
- 5.2 A copy of this report will be forwarded to the Area Municipalities, the Durham Federation of Agriculture, the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance, and DAAC.

Respectfully submitted,

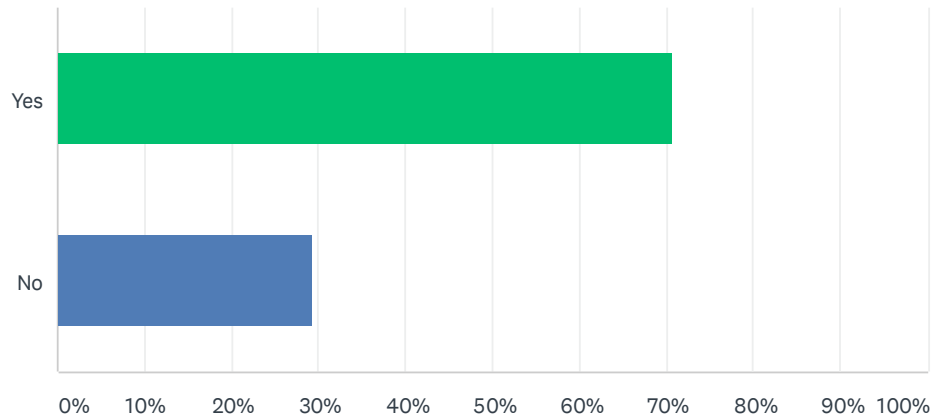
Original signed by

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Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP  
Commissioner of Planning and  
Economic Development

## Q1 Have you attended an "in person" DAAC Farm Tour before?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0

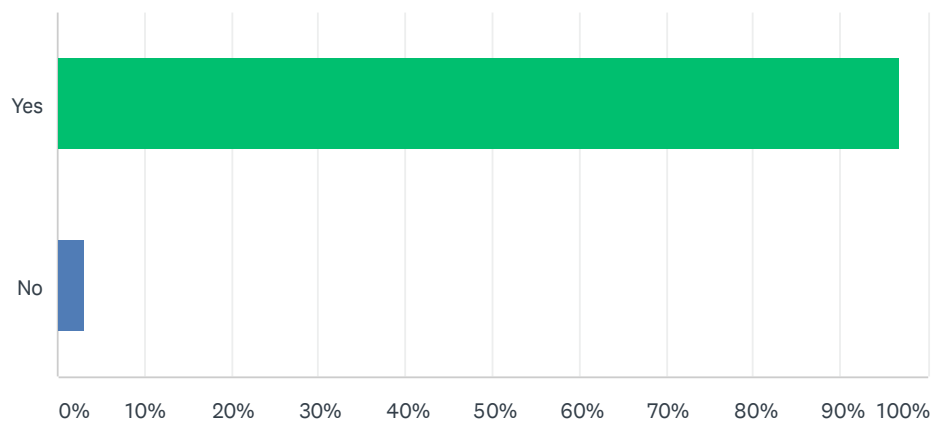


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	70.77%	46
No	29.23%	19
Total Respondents: 65		

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	DATE
1	Great educational experience, always well planned and appreciated!	9/17/2020 1:52 PM
2	They are always worthwhile	9/17/2020 1:40 PM

## Q2 Did the virtual DAAC Farm Tour meet your expectations?

Answered: 64 Skipped: 1



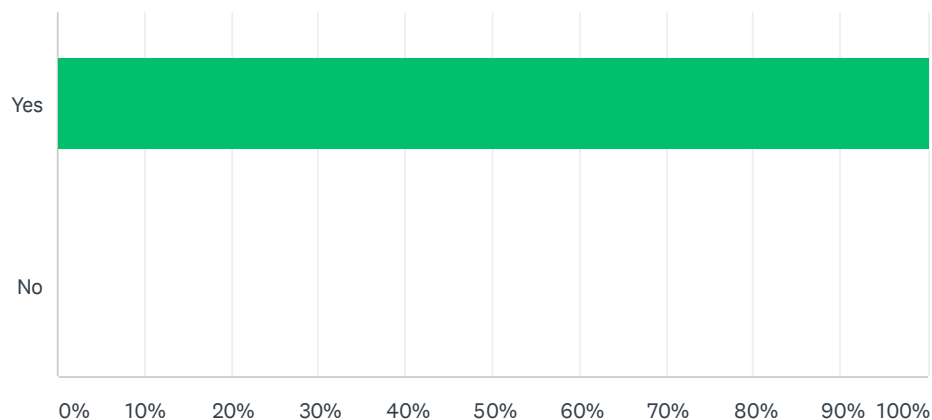
## DAAC Farm Tour 2020

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	96.88%	62
No	3.13%	2
Total Respondents: 64		

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	DATE
1	more than expectations	9/17/2020 2:50 PM
2	Able to see these 2 types of farms not available for public tours.	9/17/2020 1:52 PM
3	Yes, we were able to access farm operations that would normally be off limits on an in person tour	9/17/2020 1:40 PM
4	Actually it exceeded expectations	9/17/2020 1:39 PM
5	I thought it was going to be live. Could have been longer. More enthusiasm in speech.	9/17/2020 1:37 PM
6	Complete survey of both tours to sincerely say we are so blessed by our farmers the stewards of our land and their contributions to Durham, ON and Canada .	9/17/2020 1:37 PM
7	A great way to look inside bio-secure operations!	9/17/2020 1:36 PM
8	very valueable to learn about the life cycle of the two farm operations	9/17/2020 1:33 PM
9	Actually exceeded my expectations.	9/17/2020 1:32 PM
10	Very insightful and to the point.	9/17/2020 1:32 PM
11	Perhaps there could have been a live panel discussion following a pre-recorded video tour.	9/17/2020 1:32 PM
12	Yes and No ... very interesting, clear ... but shorter than I expected and no chance to ask questions	9/17/2020 1:28 PM
13	Video was well done	9/17/2020 1:27 PM
14	Great tour of two farms, wish there had been a "live" introduction or conclusion!	9/17/2020 1:17 PM

### Q3 Would you recommend the DAAC Farm Tour to a colleague?

Answered: 65   Skipped: 0



# DAAC Farm Tour 2020

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	100.00% 65
No	0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 65	

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	DATE
1	Yes they're great!	9/17/2020 1:52 PM
2	I would very much like have my board watch these, so that we have insight into farming in Durham	9/17/2020 1:45 PM
3	I would this would be a wonderful video for all of our health inspectors to see for their training and developement. If it would be possible to make this available to our team, please email me and I would be happy to discuss this further. My email is sendi.struna@durham.ca	9/17/2020 1:44 PM
4	I think this virtual tour should be shared with schools, colleges and universities.	9/17/2020 1:41 PM
5	They are highly educational	9/17/2020 1:40 PM
6	I will email Kiersten	9/17/2020 1:37 PM
7	Important to understand the operation and issues faced by today's agriculture industry.	9/17/2020 1:36 PM
8	time well spent!	9/17/2020 1:33 PM
9	Important information for us to know about our community Farmers.	9/17/2020 1:32 PM
10	Would like to share the excellent video with my colleagues here at the City of Kawartha Lakes. Please let me know if that would be possible. Thanks - Kelly Maloney kmaloney@kawarthalakes.ca	9/17/2020 1:28 PM

**Q4 How might you, or the organization you represent, act on or apply what you learned from the tour?**

Answered: 45 Skipped: 20

## DAAC Farm Tour 2020

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Have the ability to share The tour with interested friends.	9/17/2020 8:32 PM
2	Being in education, this information is very formative in terms of understanding the different farming operations in Durham.	9/17/2020 8:31 PM
3	It was interesting to hear that average farmer is 58yrs old and there is a key focus on succession planning. Would love to see how Scotia can help champion this cause.	9/17/2020 4:47 PM
4	Glad to have an accessible format this year - hopefully this can educate people in our community about the importance of agriculture and the role it plays in our Region!	9/17/2020 4:02 PM
5	agriculture needs to be able to offer lots of examples of the positive things which the sector offers - so it is important that items such as virtual tours which can be an option to provide education and insight - so it would be to encourage the development of more virtual tour of different types of farms in Durham Region	9/17/2020 3:03 PM
6	Greater awareness of the food system in Durham Region.	9/17/2020 2:25 PM
7	educate the public that farming utilizes science as stewards of the land, incorporating new technologies. Not the usual stereotype of old.	9/17/2020 1:52 PM
8	Reinforcing the importance of on-farm biosecurity measures.	9/17/2020 1:47 PM
9	This helps us to know what is actually happening with/on farms in Durham. It would helps us have confidence in what is produced locally as we speak out on the need/ safety of locally grown products.	9/17/2020 1:45 PM
10	The Health Protection Division of the Health Department inspects food premises including retail outlets at Durham's local farms as well as investigates reports of food poisoning and disease transmission. Inspectors also often work collaboratively with other agencies such as OMAFRA and CFIA. This farm tour would be beneficial for our staff to better understand the farm to fork processes involved in raising animals, the biosecurity measures and precautions taken to ensure the health and wellbeing of the animals and the end consumer.	9/17/2020 1:44 PM
11	support and promote awareness of the industry in Durham	9/17/2020 1:43 PM
12	Promotion and sharing links once live.	9/17/2020 1:41 PM
13	Finance - while I don't know your industry wholeheartedly and many questions would still be required, this tour provides some insight on the daily operations, processes and procedures in place, partnerships you have aligned which all in all will help us ensure we aren't the ones slowing your productions down and can meet the demands & needs of your business.	9/17/2020 1:41 PM
14	Not sure	9/17/2020 1:40 PM
15	Talking with colleagues friends and family about how awesome our local farms are, and hopefully educate people about the high standards in our Region.	9/17/2020 1:39 PM
16	Not sure how my organization would use it, but it was very informative at a local/personal level.	9/17/2020 1:37 PM
17	Trent University has a number of food science related programs such as biology, chemistry, environmental studies/science, and sustainable agriculture.	9/17/2020 1:37 PM
18	Being in Jf in the 60s, Farm shows , Plowing Matches and calling on the Agriculture Suppliers I only wish we had this to say who we are .	9/17/2020 1:37 PM
19	We would look for opportunities to support agricultural operators, possibly through access to our climate monitoring data, etc.	9/17/2020 1:36 PM
20	Examples of complex farm management businesses to share	9/17/2020 1:36 PM
21	Helpful information for me in understanding agriculture so I can make good decisions at Council	9/17/2020 1:36 PM
22	Implementing land use policies to protect prime agricultural land.	9/17/2020 1:35 PM
23	Share what was learned and how the message was still delivered in a COVID environment.	9/17/2020 1:34 PM
24	As a municipal representative I believe supporting our farmers and creating environments for	9/17/2020 1:33 PM

## DAAC Farm Tour 2020

	education is vital as well as continuous conversation with our farmers	
25	support and encourage sustainable farming practices such as vertical integration	9/17/2020 1:33 PM
26	Working with farmers to help support their business and walking them through the necessary planning approvals.	9/17/2020 1:32 PM
27	creating greater awareness of agricultural sector and promoting local farm food and sales through farm market and other initiatives.	9/17/2020 1:32 PM
28	Continue to partner with land owners and farmers on being stewards of the land and improving environmental sustainability.	9/17/2020 1:32 PM
29	information provided helps to understand the agricultural sector and community, and provide support	9/17/2020 1:31 PM
30	By continuing to be supportive of the agricultural industry in the Region.	9/17/2020 1:30 PM
31	Continue to advocate for the great work being performed by farmers in North Durham.	9/17/2020 1:30 PM
32	Consider additional or tailored programming that aligns with the vertical integration structure that they work within.	9/17/2020 1:29 PM
33	Share the information with others as needed Help others understand that farms are professionally run, requiring as much thought and attention as any other successful business ec.etc.etc.	9/17/2020 1:28 PM
34	I have plan to share some similar Farm & Food Care videos to our VIP Tour Participants, as we have also cancelled our Ag Tour for 2020. Would love to include the DAAC video, as it is really excellent, simply stated, and really close to home.	9/17/2020 1:28 PM
35	as a policy planner, it helps to better understand the variety of farming operations in order to improve how planning policy is applied to the agricultural system	9/17/2020 1:28 PM
36	Part of the Language/health Units in our schools	9/17/2020 1:28 PM
37	I m visitor from Pakistan and apply the knowledge gained in my personal farms	9/17/2020 1:26 PM
38	Explore ways to support the farm community.	9/17/2020 1:26 PM
39	Some of the technical knowledge on farm practices. How the farm interacts with the environment and its sustainable practices.	9/17/2020 1:26 PM
40	importance of bio-security	9/17/2020 1:25 PM
41	share the knowledge that modern farms are complex environments to ensure a safe and healthy environment.	9/17/2020 1:24 PM
42	As an Uxbridge urban Councillor, this short tour will help me better relate to some of the rural issues raised in Council meetings.	9/17/2020 1:21 PM
43	Buy supporting and buying local. I already buy Free From products	9/17/2020 1:17 PM
44	Information will be shared with the team and integrated into various occupational profiles, and key points will be shared with the wider community through presentations.	9/17/2020 1:17 PM
45	I will update our Government Relations Committee at the Ajax Pickering Board of Trade. We always want to learn more about agri business as it such an important part of our economy.	9/17/2020 1:16 PM

**Q5 What is the “take home” message you might share about the tour with your colleagues?**

Answered: 53 Skipped: 12

## DAAC Farm Tour 2020

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The important need to protect our farmers and the impact it has in our regio	9/17/2020 10:04 PM
2	Protocols are in place for a successful business.	9/17/2020 8:32 PM
3	It was informative to understand how bio-security supports health food produce.	9/17/2020 8:31 PM
4	Animal caretaking and soil stewardship.	9/17/2020 4:08 PM
5	Glad to see progressive farming across a variety of sectors.	9/17/2020 4:02 PM
6	Durham Region farms are a top economic contributor to the region and the province. Durham Region farms operate sustainably and can be vertically integrated.	9/17/2020 3:03 PM
7	biosecurity, vertical sustainable farming, production of local safe healthy food	9/17/2020 2:50 PM
8	Vertically integrated, farms that implement strict bio-security measures and which are successful are found in the region.	9/17/2020 2:25 PM
9	Farming is the largest industry in Durham. Need to visit to get a full understanding of different farms appreciate the work that's involved and the challenges they face. Can't live without them.	9/17/2020 1:52 PM
10	How national marketing such as the "Free From" line directly supports local farmers.	9/17/2020 1:47 PM
11	How well the animals are cared for, the concern for the safety of the animals and for the consumer, the cleanliness, professional approach	9/17/2020 1:45 PM
12	As a health inspector, it was great to see the importance of a clean and sanitary environment was highlighted that was beneficial to health of the animals and is able to prevent the need of antibiotic use which is a benefit passed down to the consumer.	9/17/2020 1:44 PM
13	a big thank you for the hard work and dedication to the community and agriculture and food industry!	9/17/2020 1:43 PM
14	Animals on these farms are well cared for. Disease control is very important. Agriculture is an important economic factor in Durham	9/17/2020 1:41 PM
15	The quality of the local farms, cradle to grave approach, quality of the animal care and welfare, bio-security, support local farms.	9/17/2020 1:41 PM
16	You care. You care about your brand, what you provide to the community and ensure your animals are well kept.	9/17/2020 1:41 PM
17	Lots of good work taking place in Durham! Being in the city, we tend to forget there's an entire agricultural sector in Durham that is a driving force - it's easy to forget that if you don't see it everyday.	9/17/2020 1:40 PM
18	Farmers are doing their best to produce safe, high quality food for the people of Canada	9/17/2020 1:40 PM
19	How much thought and care is taken in modern farming.	9/17/2020 1:39 PM
20	That agriculture and farming processes are actually quite elaborate and that they do their best to give you a great product.	9/17/2020 1:37 PM
21	That our agricultural community is thriving- as strong contributors to the local economy including meeting the needs of residents across Durham Region, and the GTA	9/17/2020 1:37 PM
22	A must watch to feel both tours empathy and their love of farming to serve the purpose as professionals in a business that gets less exposure because people are working	9/17/2020 1:37 PM
23	These farm operations have many components from growing crops, making feed, growing livestock and producing food. It is completed with care and precision, and makes use of extensive monitoring data in the management process.	9/17/2020 1:36 PM
24	Good in-depth knowledge about two vertically integrated farm business operations	9/17/2020 1:36 PM
25	I liked the information on biosecurity	9/17/2020 1:36 PM
26	Bio-security of farms is important in raising a healthy animal and delivering a quality product to the consumers.	9/17/2020 1:35 PM

## DAAC Farm Tour 2020

27	Biosecurity / animal care practices on farm Ability of the DAAC committe to adapt and still offer a tour was impressive.	9/17/2020 1:34 PM
28	Farmers feed Families - we need to continue to educate the importance not only of that but of how much they contribute to our economic wellbeing	9/17/2020 1:33 PM
29	animal farming is a science	9/17/2020 1:33 PM
30	That all the care and controls put in place for the animals and the use of all surrounding that to go back into the land.	9/17/2020 1:32 PM
31	The importance of bio-security and attending to points stated under previous point.	9/17/2020 1:32 PM
32	How important the agricultural sector is to Durham's economy.	9/17/2020 1:32 PM
33	learn more about farming, it's interesting and forms an important component of our economy and landscape. There's also a lot to learn, operations are different and have different ways of doing business	9/17/2020 1:31 PM
34	Producers are very up to date of thier animal health and welfare.	9/17/2020 1:31 PM
35	It is important to have respect for the diverse needs of farms in the Region.	9/17/2020 1:30 PM
36	Durham is a world-class region for farming excellence.	9/17/2020 1:30 PM
37	Vertical integration - much of the feed is produced by the producers, all manure generated on the farm is used on their fields, some of the products are even sold on farm or locally.	9/17/2020 1:29 PM
38	Take home is above, it is more likely that I would provide some specifics, ie. did you know that ...	9/17/2020 1:28 PM
39	Great care taken by farm professionals to produce a high quality, safe product on local family farms!	9/17/2020 1:28 PM
40	agricultural production is science based to ensure quality of the food products	9/17/2020 1:28 PM
41	How fortunate we are to live within a region with such diversity of production and quality farming practices	9/17/2020 1:28 PM
42	The importance of bio-security and safety in Ontario's agricultural industry	9/17/2020 1:27 PM
43	Importance of Ag to Durham and the high level of care for livestock taken by local farmers	9/17/2020 1:27 PM
44	Very neat and clean operation	9/17/2020 1:26 PM
45	Farms are vertically integrated, producing their own feed.	9/17/2020 1:26 PM
46	Farmers are essential workers.	9/17/2020 1:26 PM
47	importance of bio-security, the economic value of agriculture, and farming practices to ensure healthy livestock	9/17/2020 1:25 PM
48	Farms in our area are very vertically integrated.	9/17/2020 1:24 PM
49	Im imprsssed with the measures taken to ensure quality and with biosecurity	9/17/2020 1:21 PM
50	The importance of a safe reliable food supply chain	9/17/2020 1:17 PM
51	As always, the importance of Ag in Durham Region!	9/17/2020 1:17 PM
52	Strength in agriculture and its importance within the region.	9/17/2020 1:16 PM
53	It was very interesting to learn that the farm animals don't receive drugs and that waste is repurposed on the farm	9/17/2020 1:16 PM

**Q6 This year we offered a virtual tour, due to the ongoing COVID situation, what suggestions would you offer to improve a virtual Farm Tour experience?**



## DAAC Farm Tour 2020

Answered: 50   Skipped: 15

## DAAC Farm Tour 2020

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Great tour	9/17/2020 10:04 PM
2	Well done.	9/17/2020 8:32 PM
3	It was information but it would be nice if there was an opportunity to ask questions.	9/17/2020 8:31 PM
4	Explanation and definition of terms used for 'lay' people very helpful.	9/17/2020 4:08 PM
5	Great presentation, good quality videos and informative.	9/17/2020 4:02 PM
6	chat option for immediate questions or opportunity for a follow up virtual chat with the farmer.	9/17/2020 3:03 PM
7	Consider posting the video for public distribution.	9/17/2020 2:25 PM
8	I enjoyed the tour.	9/17/2020 1:52 PM
9	The virtual farm tour format worked very well. I appreciated the ability to watch the video "on demand" as I was a few minutes late joining. A Q&A portion is the only thing I would add for similar events.	9/17/2020 1:47 PM
10	I thought they were both well done. It is such a challenge to take these dynamic concepts and create a film product in a way that the audience understands . We had similar questions when we filmed our virtual tour. Both speakers were great and I wonder if we could walk through the areas talked about with the farm owner with perhaps use a voice over during scenes that might need this as opposed to the owner speaking and travelling. We did see some of this and that was good. I think this would make the viewer feel they were part of what was happening	9/17/2020 1:45 PM
11	I really enjoyed the virtual tour format. It is more convenient and can be shared with a wider audience that could benefit from understanding the complexities, challenges and innovative actions our local agricultural producers are taking to ensure they are sustainable and continuing to provide safe, top quality products to their customers.	9/17/2020 1:44 PM
12	This tour was full of great information, well executed and should be available for the public to watch.	9/17/2020 1:43 PM
13	Perhaps could be used inconjunction with the inperson tours to prvide additional insight into an operation	9/17/2020 1:41 PM
14	Nothing to suggest as I thought it was brilliant esp. taking us to places we couldn't normally visit anyways.	9/17/2020 1:41 PM
15	None - I appreciate the length of the video - how you still completed the tour while explaining how your farm operated. Thank you	9/17/2020 1:41 PM
16	I was expecting it to be longer than 18 minutes!	9/17/2020 1:40 PM
17	The virtual tour was excellent. As more livestock farmers become more reluctant to open their doors to public tours for various reasons, virtual tours may be the norm.	9/17/2020 1:40 PM
18	It was great. Really missed the amazing lunch though.	9/17/2020 1:39 PM
19	Perhaps an actual walkthrough of the space to make it feel more like a tour and less just like a video.	9/17/2020 1:37 PM
20	It was great! Congratulations to all involved. R	9/17/2020 1:37 PM
21	Just keep the content and time the same . Not too much , but enough to get the picture from beginning to end . Fantastic	9/17/2020 1:37 PM
22	A question and answer session following the video presentation would provide an opportunity for more education. (possibly questions posted by "chat" function and a moderator to select and ask questions of the operators)	9/17/2020 1:36 PM
23	A stronger more compelling and enticing opening would improve the tour, it improved as the farmers presented, with their integrity and business knowledge evident. As well an interactive platform would have allowed opportunity for the participants/viewers to ask the DAAC farmers follow up questions.	9/17/2020 1:36 PM
24	an opportunity to ask questions would have added to the experience for me	9/17/2020 1:36 PM

## DAAC Farm Tour 2020

25	The tour video was of high quality but a more in depth look at the processes and operations would be appreciated.	9/17/2020 1:35 PM
26	A virtual viewing "party", show the video but have a panel of farmers available via a platform that is interactive so that questions could be asked and answered.	9/17/2020 1:34 PM
27	I thought it was great	9/17/2020 1:33 PM
28	would have been great to have a live virtual following the video session to ask questions	9/17/2020 1:33 PM
29	Continuing to do it and showcase other farmers.	9/17/2020 1:32 PM
30	Smaller "chunked" out speaking notes for each of the participants Definitions of terms that are "new"/acronyms flashing on screen to help the viewer who may not be familiar with farming.	9/17/2020 1:32 PM
31	none.	9/17/2020 1:32 PM
32	Couple a recorded tour video with a live panel discussion so questions can be submitted and answered.	9/17/2020 1:32 PM
33	The video was well done. One of the aspects that I enjoy about the farm tours are the questions and answers that are exchanged during the tour. If there is an opportunity to share these or provide an opportunity to share these a complementary on-line session, I would find this interesting	9/17/2020 1:31 PM
34	Perhaps you could offer a question and answer period at the conclusion of the tour.	9/17/2020 1:30 PM
35	I think you did a great job.	9/17/2020 1:30 PM
36	Live question and answer period following the virtual tour.	9/17/2020 1:29 PM
37	As above, I'd be fine with more farms ... and would like the chance to ask questions	9/17/2020 1:28 PM
38	A follow-up, live Zoom call to answer questions. Since the video window is fairly short, a team of the host farms and possibly Region staff could be on a Zoom call, where the link is provided at the end of the video, so people then join the call to ask questions if they have any. It would be like a rotating group of people coming into something like a chat room.	9/17/2020 1:28 PM
39	Add a few production fact, such as total units, mass, bushels etc	9/17/2020 1:28 PM
40	Slightly longer video	9/17/2020 1:27 PM
41	None. Was better than I expected	9/17/2020 1:27 PM
42	Nothing	9/17/2020 1:26 PM
43	It was fantastic.	9/17/2020 1:26 PM
44	This year was great.....farm tours that we would not have otherwise seen.	9/17/2020 1:24 PM
45	Live Q&A	9/17/2020 1:22 PM
46	Dont be afraid to integrate some day-to-day life that shows more of what farmers deal with on a daily basis.	9/17/2020 1:21 PM
47	More tours of farms, a visual map of where the farm is, can you buy their products and where	9/17/2020 1:17 PM
48	An interactive discussion - Zoom/Microsoft Teams - with DAAC or Regional Chair introducing the event (or concluding the event), in addition to the video that can be watched at any point	9/17/2020 1:17 PM
49	I thought it was very good and interesting to get behind the scenes in barns that are closed to the public.	9/17/2020 1:16 PM
50	Virtual booths, more interactive.	9/17/2020 1:11 PM

**Q7 What topics/aspects of agriculture would be of most interest to you for future tour events?**

Answered: 43   Skipped: 22



# DAAC Farm Tour 2020

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Vegetable farming - entire cycle from field to fork.	9/17/2020 8:32 PM
2	crop production	9/17/2020 8:31 PM
3	Maybe a farm tour with a young farmer or recent entrant	9/17/2020 4:02 PM
4	next year's tour location sounds great	9/17/2020 3:03 PM
5	Land stewardship.	9/17/2020 2:25 PM
6	animals that prduce fibres for other markets.	9/17/2020 1:52 PM
7	agri-tourism	9/17/2020 1:47 PM
8	I think people in general would like to know how farms consider the environment in their operations. I think we some of this today. I am aware that farms are conscious of the environment, I am not certain that knowledge is broadly known. The symposiums you did were great for this but videos like this that could be share would be a great tool for yourselves but for groups like mine.	9/17/2020 1:45 PM
9	climate change and agricultural sustainability	9/17/2020 1:44 PM
10	Another one might include a soil specialist and how fill and soil amendments are accomplished...perhaps a tour with a local farm veterinarian	9/17/2020 1:43 PM
11	Potato production	9/17/2020 1:41 PM
12	sustainability of local farms, farm production and impact on the local economy	9/17/2020 1:41 PM
13	There is a lot to learn, with each bringing something new to the table. I look forward to next years. Thank you.	9/17/2020 1:41 PM
14	Dairy farming, grain farming.	9/17/2020 1:40 PM
15	Apples, dairy robotics, use of food wastes or surpluses such as soy meal and hulls, Del Monte waste, wheat shorts, treated sewage --- an effort to demonstrate to the public that farmers can take a "waste" and convert it to a usable product through livestock or even field application	9/17/2020 1:40 PM
16	?	9/17/2020 1:39 PM
17	Walkthrough of the barn/farm. Seeing the crops at different stages	9/17/2020 1:37 PM
18	Farm to Fork perspective	9/17/2020 1:37 PM
19	Right now where Durham Fits in the total CDN Agriculture Picture . With Erin O'Toole our new PC leader he must see this to get the picture .	9/17/2020 1:37 PM
20	The variety in tours has been great. I'd like to hear a bit more on the most concerning and latest challenges facing producers.	9/17/2020 1:36 PM
21	would like to learn more about both sides of agri-tourism	9/17/2020 1:36 PM
22	New technologies in farming; vertical farming; urban agriculture.	9/17/2020 1:35 PM
23	Access to processing for farmers in Durham Region, having land ready and available to attract investment in this area and offer more options for jobs throughout the value chain	9/17/2020 1:34 PM
24	Its all interesting	9/17/2020 1:33 PM
25	Equine facility	9/17/2020 1:32 PM
26	The use of new technologies (e.g. information technology such as drones) in farm operations.	9/17/2020 1:32 PM
27	How are farms improving climate change resiliency on site. How are they preparing for a changing climate.	9/17/2020 1:32 PM
28	Any; video tours provide a unique opportunity to put the person in the same perspective as the farmer, particularly if organized during the course of the year....farmer for a day/season/year; follow the [crop]; ride in a tractor, etc. It is an aspect that we get a glimpse into on the tours, but still lack a full appreciation of how much work goes into farming.	9/17/2020 1:31 PM

## DAAC Farm Tour 2020

29	vegetable production	9/17/2020 1:31 PM
30	Any.	9/17/2020 1:30 PM
31	How technology and innovation is transforming agricultural practices.	9/17/2020 1:30 PM
32	I like seeing the diverse range of farm businesses operating in the region. Would be interested in pollination and pollinators.	9/17/2020 1:29 PM
33	see an urban agriculture example	9/17/2020 1:28 PM
34	Keep the balance of production info combined with animal welfare	9/17/2020 1:28 PM
35	Anything related to agriculture	9/17/2020 1:26 PM
36	Produce production and other sustainable farm practices.	9/17/2020 1:26 PM
37	Manure management. Equipment. Monitoring water quality.	9/17/2020 1:26 PM
38	Succession planning in farming.	9/17/2020 1:24 PM
39	As an individual only beginning to understand the challenges farmers face, Im an open book to learning whatever is offered.	9/17/2020 1:21 PM
40	How they market themselves, how are they sustainable, where do they find their workers.	9/17/2020 1:17 PM
41	Crop production, processing	9/17/2020 1:17 PM
42	More of everything! When you don't know much about farming, all of it is interesting. As we drive in Durham we always wonder what is in the fields, and where does it go and what is it for.	9/17/2020 1:16 PM
43	tours of nurseries	9/17/2020 1:11 PM

## Q8 Do you have any other comments?

Answered: 37   Skipped: 28

# DAAC Farm Tour 2020

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Great tour	9/17/2020 10:04 PM
2	Excellent work!	9/17/2020 4:02 PM
3	Thank you for this virtual tour option.	9/17/2020 3:03 PM
4	well done	9/17/2020 2:50 PM
5	Thanks for all the hard work and dedication!	9/17/2020 2:25 PM
6	Appreciate the virtual tour due to COVID. You could have cancelled the event but chose a virtual tour. Not easy. Thank you to DAAC for your commitment and hard work	9/17/2020 1:52 PM
7	Congratulations DAAC on producing an engaging, informative event.	9/17/2020 1:47 PM
8	Well done DAAC ! Thank you for the invitation. I know this was by invitation only but I would love to share this with my board/s	9/17/2020 1:45 PM
9	This was a fantastic video. I hope that it will be promoted and shared widely so that others can learn about the importance of our local agricultural industry.	9/17/2020 1:44 PM
10	thank you!	9/17/2020 1:43 PM
11	Great job by all involved in the tour production	9/17/2020 1:41 PM
12	Excellent virtual tour and video!	9/17/2020 1:41 PM
13	Very well done	9/17/2020 1:40 PM
14	No.	9/17/2020 1:39 PM
15	Very informative and interesting overall.	9/17/2020 1:37 PM
16	Thank- you for letting me be part of DAAC and getting to know people although being from Prince Edward County and OAC trained it is nice to be home again living in Oshawa within the farming community to grow and find ways we can reach out to give others a vocation in farming at the level they can impact and grow Agriculture . Paul MacArthur- Oshawa , OAC 68A, Dairy & Food OAC 72 P.Ag	9/17/2020 1:37 PM
17	Thank you for the invitation to view the tour - it was well done. Special thanks to the owners of the two farms that opened the door into their operations!	9/17/2020 1:36 PM
18	Thanks! I enjoyed this	9/17/2020 1:36 PM
19	Great work team!	9/17/2020 1:34 PM
20	Well done!	9/17/2020 1:33 PM
21	Great job in creating this virtually. I really enjoyed it and learned a lot. It makes me want to support local farmers even more.	9/17/2020 1:32 PM
22	none	9/17/2020 1:32 PM
23	Well done - I'm glad that DAAC was able to put keep the event and host virtually	9/17/2020 1:31 PM
24	Very well done today. Thank you!	9/17/2020 1:30 PM
25	Thanks for a fun lunch hour!	9/17/2020 1:30 PM
26	Really well done! Congratulations, and thanks for including me.	9/17/2020 1:28 PM
27	great job and enjoyed seeing what goes on in the barns	9/17/2020 1:28 PM
28	Great job at adapting to the Covid-19 situation. I miss the meal and being able speak with DAAC members.	9/17/2020 1:27 PM
29	Well done by everyone involved	9/17/2020 1:27 PM
30	A very well organized operations	9/17/2020 1:26 PM
31	Good video.	9/17/2020 1:26 PM

## DAAC Farm Tour 2020

32	Great job! Thanks to the farmers who participated and are their own industry leaders.	9/17/2020 1:26 PM
33	Thank you	9/17/2020 1:24 PM
34	I really appreciated this opportunity. Thank you for making it available during a difficult period. Well done team!	9/17/2020 1:21 PM
35	Thank you!	9/17/2020 1:17 PM
36	Well done adapting to the current situation!	9/17/2020 1:17 PM
37	More specifics about how we can help farmers specifically for advocacy work to various levels of government.	9/17/2020 1:16 PM



To all Temporary Foreign Worker Employers:

COVID-19 outbreak management on farms in Ontario has been an ongoing challenge that has required collaboration from all levels of government and agricultural stakeholders. Farm-associated COVID cases have been linked to 30 outbreaks and have accounted for 3% (1,364) of all cases reported in Ontario. Temporary foreign workers (TFWs) are particularly vulnerable to COVID infection due to their congregate living settings and other risk factors. COVID outbreaks have shown to spread quickly in congregate living settings such as bunkhouses. It is important to remain vigilant and take every precaution necessary to prevent the entrance of COVID-19 into your workplace and housing accommodations.

The Ministry of Health and Durham Region Health Department recommend that enhanced housing standards be considered to ensure physical distancing (at least 2 meters) and self-isolation is achievable throughout the agricultural season to avoid transmission in TFW housing accommodations. This would include avoiding the use of bunk beds, decreasing bed capacity if necessary to enable 2 metres distancing, limiting the number of people sharing washrooms and changing furniture placement to allow 2 meters distancing.

We strongly urge you to review your existing migrant farm accommodations and consider whether modifications are required in order to be able to follow public health guidance. There has been a great deal of discussion at all levels of government regarding improving housing standards for migrant worker accommodations and new requirements may be implemented sooner rather than later if additional public health measures need to be taken to curb the rise in COVID cases associated with TFWs. Please be sure to contact your local building and fire departments prior to commencing any renovations to ensure compliance with the Ontario Building Code and Ontario Fire Code. If you have any questions relating to your current accommodations, please contact your public health inspector who will be able to assist in reviewing the TFWs housing and provide recommendations to help maintain physical distancing.

Information regarding funding opportunities which included \$15 million to help enhance health and safety measures in the workplace as well as housing accommodations was sent to all operators on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Many resources have also been developed to assist agricultural enterprises such as the [Agri-Food Sector Workplace Safety Toolkit](#) which contains a “one stop shop” for farmers on guidance, resources and information related to prevention, control, testing and outbreak management supports.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that the [Class Order](#) issued by Dr. Kyle, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health for the Regional Municipality of Durham on June 24<sup>th</sup> to protect the health of Canadians and Temporary Foreign Workers and prevent an outbreak of COVID-19 at any of our farms locations is still in effect.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and look forward to assisting you in creating an environment that helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

**Sendi Struna, BASc, CIPHI(C) | Manager**


Durham Region Health Department


Health Protection Division

101 Consumers Dr., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor | Whitby, ON L1N 1C4

(T) 905-723-3818 ext 4607 | 1-888-777-9613 | (F) 905-666-1887


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 [facebook.com/durhamregionhealth](https://facebook.com/durhamregionhealth)

 [instagram/durhamregionhealth](https://instagram/durhamregionhealth)

 [twitter](https://twitter.com/durhamhealth)

[r.com/durhamhealth](https://www.durhamhealthr.com/durhamhealth)

 [youtube.com/durhamhealth](https://youtube.com/durhamhealth)

**From:** Wendella Gobin

**Sent:** August 4, 2020 1:57 PM

**Cc:** Lisa Fortuna <[Lisa.Fortuna@durham.ca](mailto:Lisa.Fortuna@durham.ca)>; Sendi Struna <[Sendi.Struna@Durham.ca](mailto:Sendi.Struna@Durham.ca)>

**Subject:** Government of Ontario Toolkit - Working with farm operators to stop the spread of COVID-19 on farms

Good afternoon,

In light of the COVID-19 outbreaks on farms, the Ontario government has announced additional funding opportunities and guidance to assist you and your workers in preventing a COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak on your farms.

This announcement includes:

- \$15 million funding to help enhance health and safety measures in the workplace as well as housing accommodations
- Lists of companies that sell PPE to help keep you and your workers safe
- Guidelines for cohorting work teams
- Lists of legitimate, WSIB approved temporary help agencies
- Detailed advice on the testing procedure and includes support programs available to you if your worker(s) test positive for COVID-19.
- Resources in multiple languages
- Other assistance programs

Click on the link to learn more about how to access the funding opportunities and additional supports: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/working-farm-operators-stop-spread-covid-19-farms>

Kind regards,

**Wendella Gobin, BSc, BASc, CPHI(C)|Senior Public Health Inspector**

Durham Region Health Department

Health Protection Division

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[twitter.com/durhamhealth](https://twitter.com/durhamhealth)



[youtube.com/durhamhealth](https://youtube.com/durhamhealth)

From: [info@clarington.net](mailto:info@clarington.net) <[info@clarington.net](mailto:info@clarington.net)> On Behalf Of Henk Mulders  
Sent: September 23, 2020 9:54 AM  
To: Mayor Shared Mailbox <[mayor@clarington.net](mailto:mayor@clarington.net)>  
Subject: Housing for Migrant workers

EXTERNAL

Dear Mr. Mayor

My wife and I own and operate Link Greenhouses. Covid is and has been challenging for all of us. Currently rumor has it that the health department is going to make a decision on next years migrant workers accommodations. When these guys come up they go into two weeks of isolation with social distancing of 2 meters even in the bedrooms. Rumour has it that when they come out of isolation they will need to maintain two meters social distancing and that bunk beds will no longer be allowed. Remember that once they come out of isolation they are healthy and don't leave the property, they work and live like a family, which means very little chance of getting infected by covid 19. IF the health department would to implement the No bunk bed rule and two meter distance rule in the bunkhouses this will be a large financial impact for a lot of farmers. Therefore I ask from you if possible speak with the health department and try to work with previous rules on sleeping accommodation. Currently our bunkhouse can hold 10 guys in three bedrooms with two full bathrooms, two stoves and 4 fridges. If the no bunk bed rules and two meter distance rules come into effect we can only accommodate 5 guys. We are all in this together and we certainly don't want to see any farms disappear due to migrant workers housing issues. One migrant worker = 2,1/2 spin off jobs  
Regards Henk Mulders 905-718-0076



**TOWN OF AJAX**  
65 Harwood Avenue South  
Ajax ON L1S 3S9  
[www.ajax.ca](http://www.ajax.ca)

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The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
1341 Baseline Road  
Ottawa Ontario  
K1A 0C5  
[Marie-Claude.Bibeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Marie-Claude.Bibeau@parl.gc.ca)

**Sent By-E-Mail**

September 23, 2020

**Re: Food Industry Worker Day**

The following resolution was passed by Ajax Town Council at its meeting held September 21, 2020:

WHEREAS World Food Day – an international day to take action against hunger and to advance healthy diets for all – is observed by 150 countries around the world on the third Friday of October (close in timing to Thanksgiving traditions in Canada), and is celebrating its 75th anniversary on October 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS As countries around the world come to terms with the health, social and economic damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have a renewed sense of understanding about how important national and locally-grown food supplies are, as grocery stores remained stocked with nutritious food options for Ajacians; and

WHEREAS The week of Thanksgiving allows Ajacians an opportunity to reflect on our great fortune to live in a country and province where local food is available year-round, but we must not lose sight of those who sacrifice to ensure that local food is planted, cultivated, harvested, processed and distributed; and

WHEREAS The agri-food industry employs almost 8,000 people in Durham Region alone, relies on approximately 600 seasonal agricultural workers, and directly impacts a further 25,000 people employed in food services (including grocery stores and restaurants); and

WHEREAS The direct and indirect economic impact of the agri-food industry is significant across the Region. According to Statistics Canada (2016), the average household in Durham Region spends almost \$1,000 every month (11% of average household income) on food consumption, and over 200 farms in Durham Region report direct to consumer sales; and

WHEREAS Food industry workers endure tough working conditions including long hours, precarious and/or seasonal labour availability, and essential status through crisis events, like COVID-19, that directly put people in factories, in dorms or working in close proximity at risk;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) Ajax Council formally marks the 75th anniversary of World Food Day by proclaiming the Friday after Thanksgiving (October 16, 2020) as Food Industry Workers Day in Ajax, acknowledging with gratitude the sacrifices made to ensure we have abundant food available in our grocery stores and farmer's markets, maintaining healthy and fresh food options for Ajacians throughout the COVID-19 crisis and every day; and
- 2) That this resolution be distributed to Durham Regional Council, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, Durham Region MPs and MPPs, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Ontario Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development

If you require further information please contact me at 905-619-2529 ext 3347 or [sarah.moore@ajax.ca](mailto:sarah.moore@ajax.ca)

Sincerely,



Sarah Moore  
Acting Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy Clerk

Copy: Councillor L. Bower  
Regional Councillor J. Dies  
Durham Regional Council  
Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee  
Durham Region MPs and MPPs  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Ontario Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development

**Ministry of Agriculture,  
Food and Rural Affairs**

Office of the Minister

77 Grenville Street, 11th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1B3  
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**Ministère de l'Agriculture, de  
l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales**

Bureau du ministre

77, rue Grenville, 11<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1B3  
Tél. : 416 326-3074  
www.ontario.ca/MAAARO



August 31, 2020

Mr. John Henry  
Regional Chair  
Regional Municipality of Durham  
chair@durham.ca

Dear Mr. Henry:

Over the past 2 years, our government has heard from farmers, municipalities and the broader agriculture community about the threat of on-farm trespass activities. We have heard that farmers are worried for their own safety, the safety of their families, their employees as well as the safety of their animals.

We listened to your concerns, and back in December 2019, I was honoured to introduce the [Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2020](#) and to act on our government's commitment to protect farmers, agri-food businesses, farm animals and our food supply from the risks of trespass activities. The Act received Royal Assent on June 18, 2020.

I appreciate the strong support that I have received from our stakeholder partners, like you, on such an important piece of legislation. The COVID-19 outbreak has shown us now more than ever, how important it is to have a steady, reliable food supply and to protect the health and safety of the agri-food workers who help feed us.

As you may be aware, we have recently seen a public safety situation grow more urgent. Earlier this summer a demonstrator tragically died outside a meat processing plant. Since then, we have seen heightened tensions leading to greater risks for everyone involved. This has created a significant public safety concern that must be addressed to ensure everyone's safety.

As a result, I am announcing today a partial proclamation of the [Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2020](#) that will come into effect on Wednesday September 2, 2020 at 12:01AM to address these immediate public safety concerns.

.../2

We are proclaiming sections 6(1), 7, 14(1)[3] and 15(1) of the Act, making it an offence to stop, hinder, obstruct or otherwise interfere with a motor vehicle transporting farm animals.

Regulation 950 under the [Provincial Offences Act \(POA\)](#) is also being amended so that tickets can be issued under Part I of the POA for a contravention of section 6(1) of the Act. This approach will allow for more immediate use of the relevant provisions to address the obstruction of motor vehicles transporting farm animals.

I am also pleased to inform you that a [Discussion Paper](#) has been posted on the regulatory registry, outlining the ministry's proposed approach for the regulatory items that are needed to make the rest of the Act come into force. It will be posted for public comment for 45 days, closing on October 15, 2020. Comments can also be sent directly by email to [SecurityFromTrespass.OMAFRA@ontario.ca](mailto:SecurityFromTrespass.OMAFRA@ontario.ca).

I understand the importance and urgency of this Act to many across the sector. However, before the remaining sections can be proclaimed into force, a number of items must be prescribed via a regulation to operationalize the Act. These regulations are needed to ensure the act is clear, easily interpreted and fulfils its intended purposes. It is important that we take the time to hear from those impacted so we can take those comments into consideration in finalizing the regulation.

The remaining sections of the Act come into force upon proclamation by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Once fully proclaimed into force, the Act will recognize the unique risks associated with trespassing on farms and at processing facilities.

I strongly encourage you to provide feedback and comments on this discussion paper. Your insights are valuable as we work to ensure the Minister's Regulation and the Act are fair and reasonable while also meeting the needs of industry. Your input is an important contribution to help shape the content and design of the Minister's Regulation.

Again, thank you for your support. I look forward to working with you to create a safe and healthy Ontario for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernie Hardeman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ernie Hardeman  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs