



## **DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAAC) 2023 WORKPLAN**

### **1. Advice on Policy Development and Implementation**

#### **a. Provide advice on:**

- Proposed amendments to the Durham Region Official Plan.
- Agricultural and rural related planning matters, with a view to:
  - sustaining the viability of farming;
  - protecting and preserving agricultural land as a first priority; and
  - ensuring adequate separation between agricultural land uses and activities and urban residential areas.
- Durham Regional Official Plan Implementation.
- Provincial land-use planning policies, plans and regulations.
- Implementation of the Regional Broadband Strategy.
- Ongoing implementation of the Agricultural Sector Climate Adaptation Strategy.
- Regional Cycling Plan Update.
- Growing Agri-Food Durham implementation.
- Growing North Durham Plan implementation.

### **2. Communicate/Outreach/Educate**

#### **a. Host the 2023 Farm Tour that will:**

- assist Local and Regional Councillors, Provincial and Federal government officials as well as Conservation Authorities (including staff), to understand the concerns, opportunities and challenges of the agricultural community;
- reach key industry partners whose mandate may impact the agricultural community; including the educational sector to understand opportunities and challenges of the agri-food industry;
- highlight the diversity of agriculture in Durham Region and the economic benefits across the agri-food value chain to support the broader Regional economy.

#### **b. Deliver Agriculture 101 Training to Local Municipal Councils.**

#### **c. Continue to work with Regional Departments including Planning and Economic Development, Works, Finance and Police Services where necessary to ensure agricultural interests are considered.**

- d. Encourage participation of the Durham agricultural youth organizations.
- e. Investigate other outreach opportunities as they arise.
- f. Municipal representatives on the Committee will continue to dialogue with their respective municipalities including presentations to area municipal Councils on matters of interest where appropriate.
- g. Continue to establish a working relationship with the Durham Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee and other Regional Committees.

### **3. Economic Development and Tourism**

- a. Provide advice and feedback to staff on economic development and tourism activities pertaining to support and growth of the agri-food industry.
  - On an annual basis, assist with identifying priority projects that align with activities identified in the Growing Agri-Food Durham Plan (e.g. supporting the development of on-farm diversification, implementing a Food Processing Business Retention and Expansion Project).
  - Identify emerging trends and opportunities to grow the agri-food industry in Durham.
- b. Support the implementation of the Growing Agri-Food Durham Action Plan, the Local Food BRE Action Plan and Growing North Durham Plan.

### **4. Issues of Interest**

- Federal Pickering airport lands.
- Federal Oshawa Port.
- Federal policies effecting agriculture (tariffs, carbon tax, etc.)
- Alternative energy (e.g. solar farms, biomass, wind).
- Farm safety.
- Municipal, Provincial and federal legislation and policy affecting agriculture (e.g. species at risk, provincial land use plans).
- Commercial fill, excess topsoil and excess soil
- Aggregate matters, including aggregate pit rehabilitation.
- Implementation of source water protections plans.
- Farmland assessment and taxation.
- Farm animal health and wellness (e.g. DRPS, Avian Influenza).
- Natural Heritage System protection and construction of new farm infrastructure.
- Minimum Distance Separation formulae.
- Water and wastewater master planning.

- Biosecurity, trespassing and vandalism.
- Municipal Class EA's.
- Regional road projects.
- Conservation Authority matters.
- Energy-from-Waste implementation and monitoring.
- Region's waste diversion programs.
- Local food strategy.
- Agricultural training and employment, through continued work with the Durham Workforce Authority, Durham College, and Ontario Tech University.
- Activities of the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance.
- Land use planning matters.
- Other matters affecting the agricultural industry (e.g. Municipal Fire Regulations, By-laws and Permits).
- Rouge National Urban Park.
- Clean Fuel Standards.
- Supportive agri-business in Durham, addressing local agri-food supply chain gaps.

## **5. Meeting Schedule**

- a. DAAC has scheduled 5 regular meetings for the remainder of 2023. An additional meeting may be held in August, at the call of the Chair. Resources (Planning and Clerks) will be provided to accommodate this schedule and workload.

- June 13, 2023
- September 12, 2023
- October 10, 2023
- November 14, 2023
- December 12, 2023