



## Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) 2026 Workplan



### 1. Advice on Policy Development and Implementation

a. Provide advice on:

- Agricultural and rural related community growth and economic development 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.
- Agriculture related transportation issues
- Planning policy and economic development initiatives.
- Provincial land-use planning policies, plans and regulations.
- Implementation of the Regional Broadband Strategy.
- Growing Agri-Food Durham Plan implementation.
- Growing North Durham Plan implementation.
- On Farm Diversified Use and Agriculture Related Use policy and process.

### 2. Communicate/Outreach/Educate

a. Host the 2026 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. Engage with Local Area Municipalities on initiatives that affect Durham's agricultural community, including:
  - Annual presentations from DAAC on agricultural matters to area municipal councils.
  - Providing a forum at DAAC meetings for municipal staff to seek feedback on initiatives that impact agriculture in the Region.
- c. Encourage ongoing communication and identification of needs/opportunities within Durham's local agricultural societies.
- d. Continue to work with Regional Departments including Community Growth and Economic Development, Works, Health, Finance and Police Services where necessary to ensure agricultural interests are considered.
- e. Encourage participation of the Durham agricultural youth organizations.
- f. Investigate other outreach opportunities as they arise.
- g. Municipal representatives on the Committee will continue to dialogue with their respective municipalities where appropriate.
- h. Continue working with the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee and other Regional Committees.
- i. Participate in committees and working groups with local area municipalities and non-governmental organizations.
- j. Organize mental health support training through partnership organizations for DAAC members and the local farming community.

### **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 launch of an Agriculture Leadership Program).
  - 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 and Growing North Durham Plan.

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

- Activities of the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance, Durham Farm Fresh, and Durham Region Federation of Agriculture.
- Aggregate matters, including aggregate pit rehabilitation.
- Agricultural training and employment, through continued work with the Durham Workforce Authority, Durham College, and Ontario Tech University.
- Agricultural worker mental health.
- Biosecurity, trespassing and vandalism.
- Commercial fil, excess topsoil and excess soil.
- Conservation Authority matters.
- Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve.
- Energy-from-Waste implementation and monitoring.
- Farm animal health and wellness (e.g. DRPS, Avian Influenza).
- Farmland assessment and taxation.
- Implementation of source water protections plans.
- Farm safety.
- Federal policies effecting agriculture (tariffs, carbon tax, etc.).
- Local food strategy.
- Minimum Distance Separation formulae.
- Municipal Class EA's.
- Municipal, provincial and federal legislation and policy affecting agriculture (e.g. species at risk, provincial land use plans).
- Natural Heritage System protection and construction of new farm infrastructure.
- Oshawa Port.
- Other matters affecting the agricultural industry (e.g. Municipal Fire Regulations, Development Charges, By-laws and Permits).
- Power generation and storage (e.g. solar farms, biomass, wind).
- Regional road projects.
- Region's waste diversion programs.
- Rouge National Urban Park.
- Supportive agri-business in Durham, addressing local agri-food supply chain gaps.
- Transport Canada's consultations on the Pickering Lands (former Federal airport lands).
- Urban agriculture and vertical farming.
- Water and wastewater.

## **5. Meeting Schedule**

a. DAAC has scheduled 10 regular meetings in 2026. In general, meetings will take place on the second Tuesday of each month. An additional meeting may be held in August, at the call of the Chair. Resources (Community Growth and Economic Development and Clerks) will be provided to accommodate this schedule and workload.

- January 13, 2026
- February 10, 2026
- March 10, 2026
- April 14, 2026
- May 12, 2026
- June 9, 2026
- September 8, 2026
- October 13, 2026
- November 10, 2026
- December 8, 2026