



DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAAC) 2017 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.
- Co-ordinated (Provincial) Review of the Greenbelt Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.
- Regional Transportation Master Plan Update.
- Rouge National Urban Park, Draft Management Plan.

2. Communicate/Outreach/Educate

a. Host the 2017 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 stakeholders whose mandate may impact the agricultural community.
- assist the educational sector (institutions, boards/superintendents), to understand the opportunities and challenges of the agricultural industry and community.
- emphasize the benefits of the agricultural industry to the Regional economy and the need for succession farming in the industry.

b. Continue to work with Regional Planning, Works, Finance and Police Services where necessary to ensure agricultural interests are considered.

c. Encourage participation of the Durham agricultural youth organizations.

d. Investigate other outreach opportunities as they arise.

- e. Municipal representatives on the Committee will continue to dialogue with their respective municipalities.
- f. Establish a working relationship with the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee.

3. Economic Development and Tourism

- a. Continue to promote the agricultural sector and development of related industries in the Region.
- b. Assist in the implementation of the Region of Durham Agricultural Strategy Action Plan.
- c. Continue to promote the development of research and implementation strategies to assist Durham's agricultural/farming sector in achieving higher profitability, thereby ensuring its survival and long term sustainability.
- d. Participate in the development and implementation of the Local Food Business Retention & Expansion project.

4. Issues of Interest

- Aggregate Resources Act Review.
- Federal Pickering airport lands.
- Provincial Policy Statement.
- Alternative energy (e.g. solar farms, biomass, wind).
- Farm safety.
- Provincial and federal legislation affecting agriculture (e.g. species at risk).
- Commercial fill.
- Aggregate pit rehabilitation.
- Implementation of source water protections plans.
- Farmland assessment and taxation.
- Farm animal health and wellness (e.g. role of OSPCA).
- Natural Heritage System protection and construction of new farm infrastructure.
- Minimum Distance Separation Formulae.
- Water and waste water master planning.
- Biosecurity, trespassing and vandalism.
- Municipal Class EA's.
- Regional road projects.
- Conservation Authority regulations.
- Energy-from-Waste implementation and monitoring.

- Region's waste diversion programs.
- Hwy. 407 east construction.
- Agricultural training and employment, through continued work with the Durham Workforce Authority (DWA) and Durham College.
- Activities of the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance.
- Land use planning matters.
- Other matters affecting the agricultural industry.
- Local food strategy.

5. Meeting Schedule

a. DAAC has scheduled 10 regular meetings for 2017. 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.

- January 10, 2017
- February 7, 2017
- March 7, 2017
- April 4, 2017
- May 2, 2017
- June 6, 2017
- September 5, 2017
- October 3, 2017
- November 7, 2017
- December 5, 2017