



Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Proposed 2025 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
- Area Municipal Official Plan policy.
- Provincial land-use planning policies, plans and regulations.
- Implementation of the Regional Broadband Strategy.
- Growing Agri-Food Durham implementation.
- Growing North Durham Plan implementation.
- On Farm Diversified Use and Agriculture Related Use policy and process.

2. Communicate/Outreach/Educate

a. Host the 2025 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. Discussions on agricultural concerns to area municipal councils.

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, 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 including presentations to area municipal Councils on matters of interest where appropriate.
- h. Continue working with the Durham Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee and other Regional Committees.
- i. Participate in committees and working groups with local area municipalities and non-governmental organizations.

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

- Federal Pickering airport lands.
- 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.
- 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.
- Other matters affecting the agricultural industry (e.g. Municipal Fire Regulations, By-laws and Permits).
- Rouge National Urban Park.
- Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve.
- Supportive agri-business in Durham, addressing local agri-food supply chain gaps.
- Agricultural worker mental health.
- Urban agriculture and vertical farming.

5. Meeting Schedule

- a. DAAC has scheduled 10 regular meetings in 2025. 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 14, 2025
- February 11, 2025
- March 18, 2025
- April 8, 2025
- May 13, 2025
- June 10, 2025
- September 9, 2025
- October 14, 2025

- November 10, 2025
- December 9, 2025