

Working together for animal welfare

DFO and OSPCA agree to co-ordinate resources

Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO) is pleased to announce it has entered into an agreement with the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) to work together when investigating complaints about animal welfare on dairy farms.

This arrangement addresses both DFO's and OSPCA's responsibilities regarding animal welfare.

Under the Agreement, DFO will report concerns of animal abuse or neglect that cannot otherwise be addressed under DFO regulations and provide technical assistance to OSPCA inspectors in cases where inadequate animal care may be occurring on dairy farms.

Significantly, DFO and OSPCA have agreed that upon at least 48 hours notice, DFO will visit a licensed dairy farm in conjunction with OSPCA inspectors for the purpose of investigating any complaints or allegations of inadequate animal care.

As well, OSPCA has agreed to contact DFO Authorities with at least 48 hours notice, except in situations where animals are in immediate distress, to arrange a joint inspection of the licensed farm property.

DFO is also pleased to announce that they have agreed to hold joint sessions regarding best practices with OSPCA such that they will meet on an annual basis to exchange information and experiences related to on-farm animal care and Code of Practice issues with a view to improving the level of training and education to provide their services.

DFO and OSPCA have similarly agreed to, at least annually, attend and participate in joint on-farm information sessions to ensure consistency in the application of the Dairy Cattle Code of Practice.

About Dairy Farmers of Ontario:

- Dairy is the largest agricultural sector in the largest industry in Ontario.
- DFO is a non-profit organization representing all 4,100 dairy farms in Ontario.
- Our farms produce 2.5 billion litres of milk and the industry contributes over \$5 billion annually to the economy.
- Effective national dairy system provides quality milk and dairy products at affordable prices.
- This price and supply stability has benefits for dairy processors and helps provide stable consumer prices.