



# Dairy Farmers of Ontario

## Biosecurity and no trespassing sign

None of the information Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO) has provided in this document should be taken to constitute legal advice. The contents are for informational purposes only. For legal advice, please contact a lawyer with the specifics of your situation. DFO does not make any guarantees as to the accuracy and timeliness of the information in this document.

DFO has created a combined no trespassing and biosecurity sign it is distributing to all dairy producers in the province via milk transporters.

The corrugated plastic signs measure 24 inches by 18 in. The signs were created in response to increased animal rights activists targeting dairy farms. A no trespassing and biosecurity sign alerts potential intruders they do not have permission to enter your farm property.

Installing a no trespassing sign does not mean authorized personnel, such as field services representatives and bulk tank milk graders, cannot enter your farm’s premises. **These authorized individuals do not need expressed permission to visit your farm—consent to enter is implied as part of their duties and your obligations with DFO.**



Protecting your family and farm property from intruders by installing this no trespassing and biosecurity sign is your first line of defence. You are encouraged to post the sign in a well-lit and visible area of your farm’s main entrance.

The sign contains a blank area for you to provide visitors with a phone number to call and alert you of their presence and-or ask permission to enter your property. **This is optional—you are not required to include a phone number on the sign. It is at your discretion whether to include.**

If you require more than one sign, please turn page over for instructions on how to order additional ones.

### Importance of installing warning signs

It is important to let people know which areas in your farm buildings and grounds are off limits by posting signs to deter trespassers.

No entry signs are important to successful prosecutions of attempted burglary, trespassing, and breaking and entering. Biosecurity signs also help communicate to visitors and service providers there are biosecurity measures in place to reduce the risk of introducing diseases that could infect your cattle.

## Biosecurity requirements

In 2012, Dairy Farmers of Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced the completion of the National Standard for Biosecurity on dairy farms. With this module, farmers work in collaboration with their veterinarians to reduce risks of introducing existing and emerging animal diseases to a farm. Doing so will not only improve the overall health of Canadian herds but also farm productivity, a key factor of sustainability. Validation for the biosecurity portion of proAction begins in September 2019.

DFO's combined no trespassing and biosecurity sign fulfils the requirement to have visible biosecurity signage at the farm's main access point. The biosecurity module states signage must be posted at the main access point and visible from the main parking area.

## Important note about the *Trespass to Property Act*

The *Trespass to Property Act* contains specific language about who can knock at the front door of a dwelling, which could include the milkhouse door or other doors to a barn.

These provisions cover when a person, such as a mail carrier, utility meter reader or flyer distributor, goes onto your property to approach the door. This ensures people carrying out duties as part of their jobs will not be charged for trespassing onto your property.

**By definition, “authorized personnel” are authorized to enter—nothing more needs to be done. This includes field services representatives or bulk tank milk graders.** Anyone else without consent is not permitted entry.

*For clarity, and to ensure adequate notice is provided to prohibit entry, all man-access doors to a barn should also have a no entry sign posted on it. Such a sign would trump any claim that consent to enter was implied. Authorized entry through these same doors would still be permitted.*

To ensure compliance with provincial laws when dealing with potential trespassers, you are strongly encouraged to refer to the full text of the *Trespass to Property Act*, which is available online at <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90t21>. You can print or download the file to your computer.

## Instructions for ordering additional signs

Each farm will receive one free sign. You can place an order for an additional one at the cost of \$6.75, plus HST and a flat rate shipping fee of \$10. Alternatively, DFO has uploaded the sign template on DFO's website for you to download and print at your leisure at a sign print shop in your area.

The downloadable file is available on the proAction section of DFO's website. Scroll to the bottom of the proAction page where you will see English and French links for the “No Trespassing/Biosecurity Sign” under the “Downloadable Files” subhead. Click on the appropriate link to access and download the template. You can save it to your computer for future reference. Additional signs can be ordered through DFO's online store.

If you have questions about the signs contact Chantel Crockett, event specialist and dairy producer committee (DPC) liaison, at [chantel.crockett@milk.org](mailto:chantel.crockett@milk.org).