

December 2nd, 2019

### **Provincial Government Introduces News Legislation to Protect Ontario Farmers**

*For immediate release*

Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF) was pleased to take part in this morning's announcement where Minister Ernie Hardeman, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs said that he would be introducing legislation later today called the "Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2019" in the Ontario Legislature. OSF congratulates the Minister for taking this needed approach to protecting farms and the whole value chain.

*"Ontario sheep farmers are committed to the highest standards of animal care. I would like to thank the Minister for his collaboration and leadership in bringing forward this legislation that includes a much-needed emphasis on biosecurity. It is critical to ensuring the highest standards of animal care and ensuring that farms are safe places to work and live for our farm workers and families"* said Marc Carere Chair of Ontario Sheep Farmers.

If passed, the proposed legislation will better protect farmers, their animals, livestock transporters and the province's food supply. It would also require explicit prior consent to access an animal protection zone on a farm or food processing facility and would address the unique risks and challenges associated with trespassing onto a farm or into a food processing facility. These include the risks trespassers pose to the safety of farmers, their families and employees; exposing farm animals to stress and disease; and introducing contaminants into our food supply. The health and safety of farmers and farm animals is at the heart of the proposed legislation.

The proposed legislation would also address the safety risks of people interfering with livestock in transport by prohibiting stopping, hindering, obstructing or interfering with a motor vehicle transporting farm animals; and prohibiting interacting with farm animals being transported by a motor vehicle without explicit prior consent.

Ontario Sheep Farmers looks forward to working with the Provincial Government on this important piece of legislation.

Link to the government's announcement visit <https://news.ontario.ca/omafra/en/2019/12/ontario-introduces-security-from-trespass-and-protecting-food-safety-act-2019.html>

-30-

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