



March 23, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

On behalf of the members of the Animal Nutrition Association of Canada (ANAC), we would like to commend the Ontario government for the measures taken in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic to help ensure Ontarians stay safe and healthy. With today's announcement that all non-essential workplaces will be ordered to close in Ontario, and with a list of businesses that are permitted to stay open being released tomorrow, we urge the Ontario government to include the entire feed value chain on that list as our industry is essential to ensuring animal welfare and food security in the province.

ANAC is the national trade association of the livestock and poultry feed industry. The feed industry is a key component of Canada's agri-food economy and an active partner in the nation's food safety system. Our 170 members include feed and ingredient manufacturers and distributors, as well as suppliers of a wide range of goods and services to the feed industry. Taken together, ANAC's membership represents 90 percent of commercial feed manufactured in Canada.

All aspects of the feed industry value chain (including the manufacture and supply of feed ingredients, intermediate feeds products and complete finished feed and associated support services and inputs) are critical to ensuring livestock continue to be fed. The feed industry ensures consistent and timely delivery of safe and high-quality feed and feed inputs to producers across the province, interprovincially, in North America and beyond.

While some employees are able to work from home and still accomplish their jobs, others are required to be on-site. We have divided the different feed industry roles into these two categories. They are as follows:

- **On-site essential employees:**

- Manufacturing staff in feed mill or ingredient manufacturing operations
- Truck drivers -This includes truck drivers delivering raw ingredients to manufacturing sites as well as truck drivers that deliver feed from the feed mills to the farms
- Customer service and logistics personnel (taking and processing orders, dispatch of drivers, etc.)
- Warehousing staff

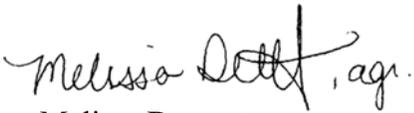
- Quality assurance/quality control staff
- Laboratory staff (some onsite and some in contracted 3rd party laboratories)
- **Off-site possible (i.e. can work from home) employees:**
 - Nutritionists, regulatory and research and development staff
 - Sales and administration
 - Some office staff

It is also important to note that feed companies could have to call upon specialized staff or contracted individuals/companies to perform mandatory maintenance or repairs on equipment or to perform other duties which are critical to ensuring safe feed (eg. pest control management and truck washing).

Finally, we urge the Ontario government to use the term “feed” for the animal feed industry, on the list of essential businesses. Unlike in the United States, Canada does not consider the term “food” to include livestock and pet food. If the term “food industry” is to be added to the list, this does not encompass animal feed. We must ensure that our livestock continue to be fed during this crisis to avoid any potential animal welfare issues related to lack of feed and to ensure food security.

I remain at your disposal for further discussion.

Sincerely,



Melissa Dumont, agr.
Executive Director
Animal Nutrition Association of Canada

Cc: The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Greg Meredith, Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs
Randy Jackiw, Assistant Deputy Minister, Economic Development, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs
Mike Relf, Ministry Action Group, Industry Liaison, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs
Tara Barry, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs