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SECURITY FROM TRESPASS AND PROTECTING FOOD SAFETY SIGN: DO I NEED IT?

With the *Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act* (SFT&PFS) now in force, you may wonder if you or your clients need new signage to protect your farm or business.

The short answer is probably not.

The legislation strengthens protection for farms, processing plants, assembly yards and other areas where livestock is held through the creation of Animal Protection Zones. Ontario farm groups have worked closely with government to understand how an Animal Protection Zone is defined, and when or if additional signage is needed.

Most livestock operations do NOT need a special sign to be recognized as an Animal Protection Zone. SFT&PFS Act (Bill 156) gives obvious animal enclosures inherent protection without a sign. Additionally, motor vehicles transporting farm animals do not need a sign to be protected under the act.

To learn if signage is required for your operation, an [interactive decision tree](#) (www.AboutBill156.com/signs/) can be found at www.AboutBill156.com, a website developed by agriculture groups to provide information and dispel myths about this legislation. If a sign is required, a limited number are available through livestock commodity groups and Farm & Food Care Ontario.

As a quick guide, an Animal Protection Zone is defined as an area on the farm, facility or prescribed premises where farm animals may be kept or located. There are three types of animal protection zones established under the Act, with examples below:

Category A: *No sign required*

- Barns
- Enclosed pastures
- Pens near barns

Category B: *Sign is required*

- Community pastures with **no** enclosure for farm animals
- Raceway

Category C: *No sign required*

- Livestock loading zones
- Rings where farm animals are being displayed or shown
- Pens in auction houses
- Rings at sales yards

For more information, please contact Bruce Kelly – bruce@farmfoodcare.org or download the [Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act](#).