



## **'What to do when MOECC calls' - Ministry of Environment & Climate Change (MOECC) Inspections**

The Provincial Enforcement Officer should contact you and request an appropriate time to arrange an inspection. They will give you an opportunity to contact the FCO Water Specialist ([Jeanine@fco.ca](mailto:Jeanine@fco.ca), 1-705-796-8812) first, before they do the inspection. They may provide you with an Inspection Checklist in advance (also available on FCO's website).

Be prepared that the Inspector will want to tour your farm, will ask questions about where pipes and drains lead to, will ask about the capacity and setup of any septic beds, will confirm your water source and that you have a valid Permit to Take Water, and will want to see your pesticide storage facility.

### ***To be pro-active:***

1. Get started on an abatement plan. The Water Specialist at FCO can assist you.
2. Clean out your pesticide cabinet. Keep only registered, applicable pesticides – otherwise label them as historical or unregistered and store them separately. Plan to dispose of them at the next 'Clean Farm' pesticide disposal event.
3. Fill out the Inspection Checklist in advance – this will prepare you for their questions.

### ***During the inspection:***

1. Be polite, open and welcoming.
2. Keep your answers limited to answering their questions (i.e. don't offer information).
3. Mention that you have been thinking about starting an abatement plan, or have been working with your association to make yourself aware of water and nutrient issues.
4. Highlight any improvements you may have made (e.g. backflow prevention, etc.)
5. You don't have to answer questions on the spot – it's ok to say "I'll have to get back to you".
6. Do not agree to apply for an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) – there may be opportunities to avoid this type of permit.
7. If pressed by the Inspector and you are uncomfortable, you can say "I would like to seek advice before answering that question"
8. Be clear that you 'irrigate – not discharge' (you have a farm, not an industrial plant).

### ***After the inspection:***

1. The MOECC officer will write up a report and send it to you within 2-4 months.
2. You will be asked to comply with the report – i.e. you will be asked to submit an abatement plan (action plan) within 6 weeks that addresses all the 'non-compliance' items.
3. Proceed with the action items in your plan, unless you hear otherwise from MOECC.

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