

This bill does not address anything new in terms of trespass and harming animals, since it is already an offence to trespass on farms, and to harm or poison animals. In fact each province has anti-trespass legislation where people have already been prosecuted for entering farms without permission. Furthermore anyone who harms or poisons an animal can already be prosecuted under the Criminal Code.

The main concern should be the farm practices which right now are a real threat to biosecurity because farmers are not adhering to biosecurity protocols. If you want a bill to really do something to protect animals and the public it should apply to farmers as well as animal advocates. This Bill C-205 is a gag-style legislation not Biosecurity.

We should be concerned mostly about the disease outbreaks on farms and farms that share needles and equipment as well as contact with wild animals or feeding dead animals back to live animals. How devastating to have Covid-19 be caused by infected workers who passed the virus on to minks. I can't find one documented case of an animal advocate introducing a biosecurity threat on onto a farm.

A better bill would focus on animal welfare conditions on farms. Animal welfare is a matter of intense public concern, yet there are no federal or provincial animal welfare regulations protecting animals on farms. The federal government only regulates transport and slaughter, leaving animals in the dark from the moment they are born until the day they are trucked to slaughter to be killed. Otherwise, the farming industry largely makes its own rules. This would make it unnecessary for animal advocates to monitor animal welfare on farms and could rebuild the public's confidence that farmers were treating animals well. More transparency is needed. We don't need more bills passed that limit the transparency and don't provide any more safeguards or protections for animals.