

# Canada-New Brunswick Program on the Development and Implementation of Environmental Farm Plans (EFP)

Funded under the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF), the Canada-New Brunswick Program on the Development and Implementation of Environmental Farm Plans (EFP) builds on the achievements made since the mid-90s. Recognizing that environmental stewardship is the foundation for the agri-food sector's long-term health and vitality, the program will help producers undertake a comprehensive environmental risk assessment of their farming operations, and encourage the adoption of practices that enhance agricultural sustainability and contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment.

## Developing or Updating of an Environmental Farm Plan

In order to assist producers in completing or updating an environmental farm plan, EFP workshops will be offered throughout the province. Producers participating in these workshops will be conducting a comprehensive risk assessment of their farming operation using the latest version of the EFP Workbook. Participants will also complete an Action Plan which identifies actions in the form of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) that should be implemented to address areas requiring attention. Copies of the EFP Workbook and Action Plan will be available at EFP workshops at no cost to producers.

The Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick (AANB) has been retained to deliver EFP workshops in the province. A workshop schedule will be updated on a regular basis and disseminated broadly. Producers are also encouraged to contact the AANB for additional information on the scheduled workshops or to request workshops in their respective areas.

Producers who have an approved EFP completed between February 1, 2001 and January 31, 2005 have the option of either completing a new EFP or updating selected sections of their current EFP using the latest version of the Workbook. Although producers have this option, they are strongly encouraged to consider every section of the EFP Workbook and Action Plan to ensure a comprehensive look at any environmental risks on their farming operation given that any action taken often impacts directly or indirectly on other aspects of a farm operation.

## Independent Review of Environmental Farm Plans

Producers may, on a voluntary basis, have their EFP reviewed by an independent third party. The Eastern Canada Soil and Water Conservation Centre (ECSWCC) has been retained to conduct an independent review of individual EFPs. Producers are responsible for forwarding either their completed new or updated EFP Action Plan to the ECSWCC for review. Following the completion of the review and validation process, the original Action Plan will be returned to the producer along with a Certificate of Completion. In the case of updated EFPs producers will receive a letter stating that the review and validation of the selected sections are complete. Safeguards have been put in place to maintain the confidentiality of the information.



## Implementing an Environmental Farm Plan

Funding toward the implementation of BMPs is provided under the National Farm Stewardship Program (NFSP) and the Greencover Canada Program (GCP). You may consult the *New Brunswick Guide for the Implementation of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)* for the listing and level of financial incentive for individual eligible BMPs.

In order to be eligible for financial assistance for the adoption of eligible BMPs, producers must meet one of the two following criteria:

- have an EFP completed after February 1, 2005, which must be validated by the ECSWCC; or
- have an EFP that was approved between February 1, 2001 and January 31, 2005, and have a copy of the EFP Action Plan registered with the ECSWCC.

Furthermore, only BMPs listed in approved or registered Action Plans are eligible for funding. The maximum contribution available toward the implementation of BMPs is \$50,000 per farm over the life of the APF ending March 31, 2008.

Producers who had their EFP approved prior to February 2001, or those who have not yet completed an EFP, are required to complete a new Environmental Farm Plan using the latest version of the EFP Workbook and Action Plan in order to be eligible for assistance.

Producers who wish to apply to the Program for financial assistance for the implementation of BMPs identified in their Action Plans must submit a completed application form available at any office of the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture (NBDAFA) or on the departmental Web site at [www.gnb.ca/0180/APF-CSA/index-e.asp](http://www.gnb.ca/0180/APF-CSA/index-e.asp).

**NOTE: EXPENSES INCURRED PRIOR TO PROJECT APPROVAL ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING.**



## How to obtain additional information?

Additional information on the Program, including copies of the Guide for the Implementation of BMPs, is available from any NBDAFA office, or can be obtained by visiting the following Web site: [www.gnb.ca/0180/APF-CSA/index-e.asp](http://www.gnb.ca/0180/APF-CSA/index-e.asp).