

Ministry of
the Environment

Ministère de
L'Environnement

Ministry of Agriculture,
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Ministère de l'Agriculture, de
l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales

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GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT WITH PROGRESSIVE NEW AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS

New committee to develop nutrient management standards for all Ontario farms

TORONTO — The provincial government is protecting the environment by establishing the Nutrient Management Science-Based Standards Committee to develop measures that will build on nutrient management principles, protect drinking water, and not place undue burden on the agriculture industry. Environment Minister Laurel Broten and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Minister Leona Dombrowsky announced today.

“Protecting Ontarians’ health and their environment are our top priorities,” said Broten. “The Nutrient Management Science-Based Standards Committee will help develop progressive, science-based agricultural benchmarks that are consistent with the government’s commitment to safe drinking water.”

The committee will be chaired by Dr. K. Bruce MacDonald, an environmental consultant and former head of the Ontario Land Resource Unit and the Canada Soil Information System and Land Evaluation Branch at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and a former member of the Source Protection Technical Expert Committee.

With six independent experts drawn from diverse fields that include agriculture, hydrogeology, land use planning, risk management and risk assessment, the committee will make recommendations to the environment and agriculture ministers on science-based nutrient management standards and best management practices that could apply to farms based on risk by 2008. The committee will address recommendations for regulatory requirements for agricultural activities that generate impacts on water.

“This government is committed to ensuring a healthy environment and a competitive agriculture industry,” Dombrowsky said. “We believe that this committee’s science-based approach will help us work with our agricultural partners to ensure a healthy Ontario for the present and the future.”

Contacts:

Anne O'Hagan
Minister's Office
Ministry of the Environment
(416) 325-5809

Christopher Flavelle
Minister's Office
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
(416) 326-3072

John Steele
Ministry of the Environment
(416) 314-6666

Charles Lalonde
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Environmental Policy and Programs Branch
(519) 826-3577

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