

# **Saskatchewan Agri-Environmental Group Planning (AEGP)**

## **AEGP Principles**

The following principles serve as general criteria for the development of AEGP initiatives in Saskatchewan. They will be referenced in assessing proposals for federal funding for the development and implementation of agri-environmental group plans:

- 1)** Proposed AEGP initiatives address an issue within the Agricultural Policy Framework's environmental priorities of soil, water, air and biodiversity;
- 2)** AEGP initiatives raise producer awareness of agri-environmental risks and the benefits of reducing or eliminating these risks;
- 3)** Using the best available information and local knowledge, the AEGP process will assess environmental risks and benefits associated with soil, water, air and biodiversity within the planning area specified by the proponent;
- 4)** AEGP initiatives recognize federal, provincial and regional legislation;
- 5)** AEGP initiatives reference Saskatchewan's Agri-Environmental Scan and related physical and demographic information
- 6)** AEGP initiatives set priorities and targets to address a single agri-environmental issue;
- 7)** AEGP initiatives provide technical information and support materials to enhance producer understanding of provincial, regional and local agri-environmental risks and management-related solutions which address those risks;
- 8)** To create accountability and rigour, the AEGP process uses credible resource information and provides producers with available technical assistance and data interpretation services;
- 9)** AEGP initiatives incorporate an independent technical review of the group plan to ensure that valid analysis has taken place, appropriate solutions are recommended and proposed actions relate to the identified issue;
- 10)** AEGP initiatives require measurement of participation and uptake. The Federal/Provincial Working Group or AEGP sub-committee will ensure that data collection requirements for AEGP are captured and reported;
- 11)** AEGP initiatives are compatible, complimentary and coordinated with other federal, provincial and NGO environmental programs to facilitate delivery of a

multi-agency effort to improve the health of both agricultural resources and the environment;

**12)** Multi-stakeholder support of AEGP initiatives should foster the creation of long-term partnerships and effective delivery structures that provide producers with access to information, technical expertise and financial resources to advance environmental performance of the agricultural sector;

**13)** AEGP initiatives recognize and consider producer priorities beyond those of agri-environmental risk mitigation. Therefore time lines associated with implementation of the action plan must be compatible with individual producer financial, business and succession planning requirements.