

# The Canada-Saskatchewan Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program



## Environmental farm planning goes hand in hand with good farm management,

and will help enhance Saskatchewan's reputation for safe and environmentally sustainable food production. With increasing competition in global markets, environmentally sensitive production methods are becoming more and more important when marketing agricultural products internationally. Saskatchewan's Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program provides an opportunity for producers to capitalize on their province's long-standing tradition of stewardship.



### WHAT is an EFP?

Environmental farm planning is a **voluntary and confidential** process used by farm managers to identify both environmental strengths and potential risks to their farm operations, and to develop an action plan to reduce the risks. The EFP initiative is a major component of the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) agreement, a federal-provincial-territorial agreement on agricultural and agri-food policy.

### Why do an EFP?

#### For Your Business

By taking action to improve environmental management practices, producers can:

- Minimize the environmental impacts of farming operations and show that environmental sustainability is a key component of agricultural practice in Saskatchewan;
- Make Saskatchewan-grown commodities more marketable to environmentally conscious consumers around the world;
- Potentially increase production efficiencies and profitability; and
- Demonstrate "due diligence" as part of a business risk management program.

#### For Your Future

An EFP is part of producers' overall planning and provides an excellent means for them to improve their operations and the environment for future generations.



### A National Approach to Environmental Farm Planning

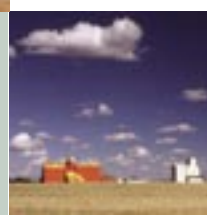
Canada, in consultation with Provinces, Territories and industry, has developed a national approach on how Environmental Farm Planning will be delivered across the country. This approach outlines a set of national principles that ensure consistency in Environmental Farm Planning Program development from province to province, while at the same time recognizes the needed flexibility to address regional, geographical and climatic differences.

Widespread adoption of EFPs will bolster Canada's reputation as a supplier of safe, high-quality foods that are produced in an environmentally responsible manner, while improving air, water and soil quality, and conserving biodiversity.

### What are the Agri-Environmental Issues?

EFP programs across Canada have been designed to address priority issues identified in the Environment Chapter of the APF:

- Agricultural risks to the health and supply of water resources. Priorities are nutrients, pathogens, pesticides and water conservation;
- Agricultural risks to the health of soils. Priorities are soil organic matter and soil erosion caused by water, wind and tillage;
- Agricultural risks to the health of air and the atmosphere. Priorities are particulate emissions, odours and greenhouse gas emissions; and
- Compatibility between biodiversity and agriculture. Priorities are habitat availability, species at risk and economic damage to agriculture from wildlife.



## The Canada–Saskatchewan Environmental Farm Plan Program

The Canada–Saskatchewan Environmental Farm Plan program will complement the current stewardship practices of producers. This initiative will encourage producers from all parts of the province to adopt beneficial management practices that enhance agricultural sustainability and contribute to a cleaner and healthier environment.

The program applies to all sizes and types of farm operations. Participants in the program will identify their operation's environmental strengths, prioritize any potential risks to the environment and take advantage of tools and techniques available to manage those risks. EFPs utilize a "whole farm approach," considering all aspects of the farm operation.

Once an EFP is completed, producers become eligible to apply for cost-shared incentives to implement actions identified in their plan.

### Producer-Driven

Producers and producer organizations are playing a key role in the development of Saskatchewan's EFP program, including:

- Developing the EFP workbook to meet the conditions and needs in this province;
- Participating in the first edition of the Saskatchewan Agri-Environmental Scan;
- Providing ongoing input and direction to agri-environmental programming; and
- Delivering the EFP program through producer workshops to be held across the province.

Composed of experienced and respected agricultural producers, the **Saskatchewan Agri-Environmental Advisory Council** provides a producer perspective to federal and provincial officials on the design, delivery and promotion of environmental programming that is appropriate for Saskatchewan. The council's role includes:

- Identifying current environmental challenges facing Saskatchewan producers and trends that will impact them in the future;
- Promoting programs that will encourage producers to adopt beneficial management practices; and
- Enhancing public confidence in producers' commitment to environmental stewardship.

## Producer Delivery

The Provincial Council of Agriculture Development and Diversification Boards (PCAB) will deliver the EFP program in Saskatchewan.

PCAB is an independent, non-profit, producer organization, incorporated in 1999. It is governed by a Board of Directors appointed through the Agriculture Development and Diversification system of six Regional Councils and 41 District ADD Boards.

PCAB facilitators, with assistance from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saskatchewan Agriculture Food and Rural Revitalization and other agency partners, will provide producers with the technical support they need to prepare their EFP.

Group-facilitated workshop settings will be attended by producers who participate in Saskatchewan's EFP process.

## How does the program work?

**Creating an EFP is a five-step process.**

- 1. Workshop 1** – Trained facilitators and technical assistants introduce producers to the EFP workbook and work on assessing the soil and site characteristics of their operations. The EFP workbook will aid in recording relevant information and identifying areas of strength and of concern.
- 2. Risk Assessment** – Producers review all aspects of their operations and record their findings in the EFP Workbook. They identify potential risks and solutions and commence development of their Environmental Farm Action Plan (EFAP).
- 3. Workshop 2** – With a completed workbook and the help of the EFP workshop facilitator, producers finalize their EFAP to determine the steps required to manage any identified risks, and to prioritize action items.
- 4. Peer Review** – In order to access financial incentives, completed EFAPs must be submitted to a Peer Review Committee for confidential review.
- 5. Implementation** – When the Peer Review Committee has endorsed the action plan, producers will be eligible to apply for financial incentives under the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program and Greencover Canada. These programs give producers access to cost-shared funding to implement eligible management practices identified in the Action Plan.

Environmental Farm Plans are intended to be "living" documents. Producers are encouraged to review their EFPs periodically to ensure the ongoing environmental sustainability of their operations.

*Note – The EFP workshops, workbooks and technical support are provided at no cost to participants.*

**For more details on the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF), please call:**

Toll-free: 1-800-O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)

Teletypewriter (TTY) for hearing- and speech-impaired clients: 1-800 465-7735

website: [www.agr.gc.ca](http://www.agr.gc.ca).

**For more information on the Canada–Saskatchewan Environmental Farm Plan program, contact:**

**Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food**

**Agriculture Knowledge Centre**

1-866-457-2377

fax: 306-694-3938

e-mail: [aginfo@agr.gov.sk.ca](mailto:aginfo@agr.gov.sk.ca)

website: [www.agr.gov.sk.ca](http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca)

**For information on program delivery and EFP workshops, contact:**

**Provincial Council of Agriculture Development and Diversification Boards (PCAB)**

1-306-955-5477

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