



## Remember these letters: E-F-P

### SASKATCHEWAN'S ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN (EFP) PROGRAM IS GAINING MOMENTUM

**P**roducer workshops are now underway for the program, which is a major component of the Agricultural Policy Framework, a federal-provincial-territorial agreement on agricultural and agri-food policy. By participating, producers can gain access to financial incentives for adopting management practices that enhance their operation's environmental sustainability. A maximum of \$30,000 per farm unit can be accessed for approved activities under the program.

Environmental farm planning is a voluntary and confidential process used by farm managers to identify both environmental strengths of and any potential risks to their farm operations, and to develop an action plan to reduce the risks.

EFPs go 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.

### PRODUCER-DRIVEN

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

- Adapting the EFP workbook to meet the conditions and needs in this province;
- Participating in the initial 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.

"As producers, Council members are aware that environmental stewardship creates an important legacy for future generations and makes our products more attractive to environmentally conscious consumers around the world," said Council Chair Germain Dauk. "We encourage all Saskatchewan producers to do an EFP."

For details on workshops in their area, producers are encouraged to contact the Provincial Council of Agriculture Development and Diversification Boards Inc. (PCAB) EFP Program Coordinator at 306-955-5477 or visit [www.saskpcab.com](http://www.saskpcab.com).

## ACRE FINALIZING RECOMMENDATIONS

The Action Committee on the Rural Economy (ACRE) is now finalizing its latest series of recommendations in response to comments heard during ACRE's December public consultations.

ACRE, an advisory committee to the Minister of Rural Revitalization, is composed of representative stakeholders involved in rural development. They are committed to working with rural interest groups, producer associations, agribusiness, government, universities and other relevant stakeholder groups to identify opportunities for government action to strengthen the rural economy.

This March, all ACRE members will meet in Regina to discuss the final subcommittee reports, and to decide which recommendations will be included in ACRE's final report to government, said ACRE co-chair Audrey Horkoff.

Vigorous debate highlighted the meetings in Yorkton, Swift Current, Unity, Tisdale and Carlyle. About 500 people attended the meetings, which were called to discuss 36 draft recommendations by ACRE's subcommittees.

The Business Development Subcommittee looked at ways to help rural entrepreneurs and businesses, such as new ways of increasing access to capital.

The Crown Lands Subcommittee submitted eight recommendations suggesting ways the Government of Saskatchewan could obtain the greatest economic impact from Crown land, while maintaining resources for future generations.

The Rural Employment Subcommittee examined the many issues related to rural employment. Their recommendations included the need for enhanced rural-based training in the trades and the creation of a business-labour council.

For the most part, people who attended the meetings seemed to be in agreement with the recommendations regarding rural employment and business development, said Horkoff. Debate at the meetings centered mostly on the Infrastructure Subcommittee's first recommendation, she said.

"That recommendation suggested that new public funds for infrastructure be directed to a fewer number of regional centres around the province, rather than be provided equally to all communities," Horkoff said.

"While everyone may not agree with the draft recommendations, the level of interest in these recommendations shows that ACRE has sparked discussion. People are talking about important rural issues," Horkoff said.

Copies of the draft recommendations can be found on the ACRE website at [www.agr.gov.sk.ca/acre](http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca/acre) under Reports/Studies/Recommendations.





# Water Supply Expansion Program - DEADLINES APPROACHING

Applications are now being accepted for the Canada-Saskatchewan Water Supply Expansion Program (CSWSEP). Through the program, applicants can receive assistance to help develop projects that promote the development and enhancement of sustainable long-term water supplies in agricultural areas of Saskatchewan.

**There is one category still taking applications:**

Tier III – Strategic Initiatives (deadline of April 1, 2005).

For program and application information, see the website at [www.agr.gc.ca/h2o](http://www.agr.gc.ca/h2o) or call 1-800-667-8567, or contact regional offices of the PFRA or Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.



## The Farm Stress Line



Dealing with frost, BSE, CWD, or any other extraordinary situation is more than a challenge. It can take all your personal resources.

If you need a place to discuss your situation, where the focus will be on your interests, call toll-free:

**1-800-667-4442**

The Farm Stress Line is open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, including holidays.

There is no call display.

## OUR CENTENNIAL IS HERE!

Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization is pleased to participate in the 2005 Saskatchewan Centennial celebrations. We invite readers to watch for special agricultural features in upcoming issues of Agriview.

It's time to **celebrate**

**Saskatchewan!**

Our centennial is here! More than 1,800 events are planned including royal visits, homecomings, the Canada Summer Games, and the province-wide birthday party of the century on September 4. What's YOUR centennial project going to be? Check our website for ideas on how to commemorate and celebrate Saskatchewan.

**1.888.390.2005**    [www.sask2005.ca](http://www.sask2005.ca)









“Water is a valuable and underused resource in Saskatchewan.”

## Irrigation opportunities in Saskatchewan

Producers who have toyed with the idea of irrigation on their farms may want to explore the opportunity in more detail now that a new federal-provincial water infrastructure program is available.

The Canada-Saskatchewan Water Supply Expansion Program, announced in May 2004, targets the water supply needs of agricultural areas in Saskatchewan. The Government of Canada has committed \$12.5 million over two years, and the Government of Saskatchewan will contribute \$7.5 million of in-kind support. The funding is available until March 2006.

The program provides technical and financial assistance to individual and incorporated groups of producers, such as irrigation districts, agricultural and conservation groups, municipalities, agri-businesses and rural enterprises, and educational institutions, to help plan and develop agricultural water projects listed within each category.

As of January 2005, more than 900 applications have been approved, says Gloria Parisien, Manager, Agriculture Information Services, Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization (SAFRR). For those who may yet want to apply, the last two deadlines are rapidly approaching, Parisien said.

For 2005-2006, the Tier III application deadline is April 1, 2005. The Tier I deadline was March 1, 2005 and the Tier II deadline was January 17, 2005.

The water expansion program expires March 31, 2006.

Tier I is for on-farm water infrastructure projects, such as wells, dugouts, off-stream watering and water storage systems, and pasture pipelines. On-farm irrigation equipment is not eligible. The program will contribute up

to one-third of the eligible costs, to a maximum of \$5,000 per project and up to \$15,000 per applicant.

Tier II was for larger scale multi-user infrastructure projects, such as irrigation districts, which provide water to a number of water users. These projects could include tank-loaders and regional pipelines that would lead to growth in the agricultural sector. The program will contribute up to one-third of the eligible costs.

Tier III projects are strategic work projects, which include activities such as regional groundwater studies, groundwater exploration or testing, and water supply planning and feasibility studies. Cost sharing arrangements for these projects will be approved on a project-by-project basis.

Parisien said of the projects approved to date, 910 are in Tier I, and include 475 wells, 100 individual pipelines, 95 pasture pipelines and 150 dugouts.

The approved Tier II projects include 11 municipal tank loaders, eight regional pipeline groups, two irrigation districts and one regional well.

The Tier III approvals include two regional ground water assessments, four irrigation feasibility studies and one public education project.

Len Erickson, an engineer with SAFRR's Irrigation Unit in Outlook, says the demand for irrigation expansion in Saskatchewan has increased over the last few years, and there are a number of new irrigation projects launched in the province every year.

“There were more than 240,000 acres of intensive irrigation in Saskatchewan in 2004,” Erickson said. “These acres are spread throughout the province, but irrigation district development is generally concentrated along managed water sources in irrigation districts.”

“Water is a valuable and underused resource in Saskatchewan, and irrigation is a means of diversifying the rural economy and stabilizing crop production,” Erickson said.

“The full economic benefit of irrigation projects has been and will continue to be realized when high value, non-traditional crops are grown in conjunction with in-province agricultural processing, intensive livestock production or similar value-added activity,” he said. “The irrigated bean, timothy hay, native fruit and potato industries are excellent examples of high-value industries contributing to the wealth of Saskatchewan,” he said.

“How producers go about introducing irrigation to their farms depends on the people involved and how they decide to do their project,” Erickson said. “They could undertake the project on their own or they could organize with other producers into a district and go from there.”

There are advantages to working in groups, says Erickson. “Because there are things producers can do in groups that they can't do as individuals. And the size of the group can vary – from three to more than 100 people.”

Producers can find out more about irrigation from materials available on SAFRR's website at [www.agr.gov.sk.ca](http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca). The materials can be found by looking under the Site Category “Crops” and then under the Category Topic “Irrigation.” The same documents can be obtained through the Agriculture Knowledge Centre toll-free at 1-866-457-2377.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** visit [www.agr.gov.sk.ca](http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca) and click on the site category “Crops”, then “Irrigation”, or call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.





# The Last Cattle Frontier

East Central Saskatchewan has proved it pays to strut your stuff.

For the fourth consecutive year, a team composed of representatives of regional economic development authorities, the City of Yorkton, Ducks Unlimited Canada and Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization (SAFRR) has ventured into Alberta with the aim of enticing Alberta cattle producers to East Central Saskatchewan.

Calling their region the "Last Cattle Frontier," the team describes all the benefits of living in that frontier, which encompasses communities such as Langenburg, Spy Hill, Churchbridge, Esterhazy, Kamsack, Canora, Foam Lake, Melville, Grenfell and Wolseley, among others.

Benefits include an excellent quality of life with access to regional hospitals, high schools, a community college and recreational lakes, parks, fishing and hunting. The agricultural benefits are soils suited to forage and pasture; an average of 17 inches of annual precipitation; and, the pièce de résistance, the relatively low cost of land.

"East Central Saskatchewan is so attractive that if you tell people about it, they will come", says Naomi Paley, SAFRR livestock development specialist in Yorkton, who has been involved with three of the four tours to Alberta.

"We like to include a lot of pictures of the countryside and trees in our presentation," Paley said. "And one hears people in the audience say, 'Trees, they have trees.' East Central Saskatchewan is in the parkland region of the province, so it's quite different from the drive between the Alberta border and Regina, which is what a lot of people from Alberta – and across Canada for that matter – are most familiar with."

With the great success of the two-day seminars in 2002, 2003 and 2004, the team added an extra seminar in 2005 and visited three communities from January 18-20.

"This year, we went to Drumheller, Rocky Mountain House and Westlock. These areas were selected for a number of reasons, including land prices, demographics and, most important, climate, because their climate is the most similar to East Central Saskatchewan. The difference in annual precipitation and in temperature is very small. I think we're a few degrees warmer in the summer and a few colder in the winter," Paley said.

"We advertise in advance on radio and in the newspapers, and by mailing out brochures to let people know we're coming. Then we hold a two-and-a-half hour seminar in each community, including a question-and-answer session."

"We always take a producer with us. This year, we had a new producer, Stuart Cairns, who moved from Niton Junction, Alberta, to Grayson, Saskatchewan. In the three previous years, Dick and Diane Coombs came with us. They ranched in Vanderhoof, British Columbia, before moving to Wroxton, Saskatchewan," Paley said.

"Before leaving on the tour, Stuart spoke to five of his neighbours near Grayson who have also moved from Alberta, and he asked them why they moved and what advice they would give to people who were thinking about moving. Then, for his presentation to the seminar in Alberta, Stuart incorporated his neighbours' comments and suggestions as well as his own opinion. It

thoroughly. Otherwise, there can be a lot of misinformation out there. It's like anything else: it's always best to present your case in person, so as to dispel stereotypes and preconceptions."

The Last Cattle Frontier team was composed of seven members this year. Yorkton City Councillor Chris Wyatt offered a welcome to Yorkton and the region. Two economic development officers, Jenay Werle of the Yellowhead Regional Economic Development Association (REDA) and Ken Graham of the South Parkland REDA, outlined what the region has to offer in terms of infrastructure and services. SAFRR renewal specialist Don Surminsky described the Last Cattle Frontier, while his colleagues, Paley and SAFRR forage development specialist Todd Jorgenson, provided details about local livestock and forage production. Producer Stuart Cairns wrapped up each session with his presentation entitled "Moving our Operation to Saskatchewan."

This year, the Last Cattle Frontier organization has introduced a new idea to provide Albertans with even more information about East Central Saskatchewan.

"After each session, we took everyone's names and addresses, and invited them to come to our new Pasture Week in the third week of July," Paley said. "This event will include a trade show with farmland realtors, and representatives of the health and education systems and other community organizations. It will have everything that people would want to know if they were moving here – sort of like one-stop shopping. And they'll have an opportunity to meet the producers in our district, and to see the farms and ranches."

The Pasture Week will enjoy the support of all members of the Last Cattle Frontier organization, which include numerous businesses in the various communities involved, in addition to the Credit Unions of East Central Saskatchewan and Farm Credit Canada.

For more information, contact Naomi Paley in Yorkton at 786-1509 or see the website at [www.lastcattlefrontier.com](http://www.lastcattlefrontier.com).



"East Central Saskatchewan is so attractive that if you tell people about it, they will come."

Back Row L to R: Don Surminsky, Chris Wyatt, Todd Jorgenson, Stuart Cairns, Ken Graham. Front Row L to R: Jenay Werle, Naomi Paley

was quite interesting, and we hope to put his presentation up on our website very soon."

The Last Cattle Frontier's website is [www.lastcattlefrontier.com](http://www.lastcattlefrontier.com).

About 20 Albertans attended each of the three seminars, Paley said.

"And they were very interested. Some had been to East Central Saskatchewan, but most hadn't. After one session, a woman came up to me and said her husband had insisted she attend our seminar because she wasn't at all interested in his idea about moving to Saskatchewan. She said now that she'd seen and heard the presentation, she might actually consider it."

Paley said this proves the importance of travelling in person and making the presentation.

"We can provide the correct information about the district and we can answer questions







DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PHONE	CONTACT E-MAIL
March 7-10	SK Association of Rural Municipalities Annual Convention	Saskatoon, SK	306-757-3577	sarm@sarm.ca
March 8	International Women's Day		306-787-3458	www.swo.gov.sk.ca
March 9-15	Canadian Agricultural Safety Week		613-731-7321	twr@magma.ca
March 9-15	Saskatchewan Ag Safety Week		306-757-3197	
March 11-12	SK Association of Ag Societies and Exhibitions Annual Convention	Evergreen Centre, Nipawin, SK	306-565-2121	gduck.saase@sasktel.net
March 12-13	Country Vacations Association Conference	Travelodge Hotel, Regina , SK	306-731-2646	www.scva.ca
March 17-18	Inoculant Forum	Delta Bessborough Hotel, Saskatoon, SK		www.inoculantforum.com
March 18-19	SK Elk Breeders Association Annual Convention	Delta Bessborough Hotel, Saskatoon, SK	306-782-6500	maria@elkbreeders.sk.ca
March 18-20	SK White Tail and Mule Deer Producers Association Annual Convention	Delta Bessborough Hotel, Saskatoon SK,	306-783-5257	
March 18-21	Regina Stock Show and Rodeo	Regina Exhibition Park, Regina, SK	306-781-9200	info@reginaexhibition.com
March 22-23	Sask Forest Centre, Trade Exhibition	Delta Hotel, Regina, SK	306-765-2840	jkowalski@saskforestcentre.ca
March 23-24	Prince Albert Farm Fair	PA Exhibition Grounds, Prince Albert, SK	306-764-5983	
April 1-2	Agri Mex	Battlefords Exhibition Park, North Battleford, SK	306-445-2024	b.agsociety@sasktel.net
April 1-3	Gardenscape	Prairieland Park, Saskatoon, SK	306-931-7149	contactus@saskatoonex.com
April 6-8	SK Institute of Agrologists Annual Meeting and Conference	Prince Albert, SK	306-242-2606	info@sia.sk.ca
April 9	Rare and Exotic Spring Sale	Lloydminster Exhibition, Lloydminster, SK	306-825-5571	sam@lloydexh.com
April 9-10	Saskatchewan 4-H Annual General Meeting	Saskatoon, SK		www.4-h.sk.ca

For more information, visit [www.agr.gov.sk.ca](http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca). Under About Us, click on "Calendar of Events."

## AGRICULTURE BUSINESS CENTRES

**S**AFRR has repackaged delivery of its services to better support Saskatchewan producers and agriculture business opportunities. The Agriculture Business Centres (ABC) support development of business opportunities in agriculture by providing specialized services to help clients start, expand or change their agribusiness.

Specialists in the centres (agribusiness development, livestock, crops and forage) can help build opportunities for agriculturally-based economic development in Saskatchewan. They can help with new technology, business development processes and building partnerships with the people and agencies producers need.

ABC staff also deliver renewal programming under the Federal-Provincial Agricultural Policy Framework, or APF, focusing on farm business assessment, planning and skills training.

Watch for more information on the Agriculture Business Centres in the next issue of Agriview.

**NORTH BATTLEFORD** 1-306-446-7964

1192-102nd Street S9A 1E9

**OUTLOOK** 1-306-867-5575

Box 9, 420 Saskatchewan Avenue W S0L 2N0

**PRINCE ALBERT** 1-306-953-2363

Box 3003, 800 Central Avenue S6V 6G1

**REGINA** 1-306-787-9773

515 Henderson Drive S4P 3V7

**SASKATOON** 1-306-933-7986

3830 Thatcher Avenue S7K 2H6

**SWIFT CURRENT** 1-306-778-8218

Box 5000, 350 Cheadle Street W S9H 4G3

**TISDALE** 1-306-878-8842

Box 1480, 1105-99th Street S0E 1T0

**WEYBURN** 1-306-848-2857

Box 2003, 110 Souris Avenue S4H 2Z9

**YORKTON** 1-306-786-1531

38-5th Avenue N S3N 0Y8

