

Agricultural Policy Framework (APF)
Federal-Provincial Agreement
John Clair, Co-Chair
Agri-Environmental Advisory Council

Five Chapters:

- Business Risk Management
- Environment
- Renewal
- Food Safety / Quality
- Science and Innovation

Agricultural Policy Framework (APF)

Historical Context:

- Whitehorse Agreement – June 29, 2001 – Agreement in Principle to develop an Action Plan
- Can-Sask Framework Agreement – March 11, 2003 – General Principles of APF
- Can-Sask Implementation Agreement – December 22, 2003 – Outlines how the general principles will be implemented in each province

APF Environment Chapter

Farm Environmental Focus On:

- Water (nutrients, pathogens, pesticides, water conservation)
- Soil (soil organic matter, erosion caused by water, wind or tillage)
- Air (particulate emissions, odours, greenhouse gas emissions)
- Biodiversity (habitat availability, species at risk, economic damage to agriculture by wildlife)

Environmental Farm Plans (EFPs)

Available in some other provinces for many years (at least 10 in Ontario, five in the Maritimes)

- EFPs a high priority of the Federal Government – A key component of the Environment Chapter
- Walkerton E. coli crisis highlighted the importance of EFPs:
- The farm that was the likely source of the bacteria had an EFP, which remained confidential through the Inquiry.
- The farm manager was commended for good farming practices, instead of facing what could have been significant liability issues.
- The EFP is seen as a form of **due diligence** undertaken by the farmer

Saskatchewan EFP Program

Producer input and direction has been critical for EFP programming in Saskatchewan:

- Newness of the concept of EFPs for our farmers
- Saskatchewan farmers have clearly not faced the same kind of public pressure over environmental issues as has occurred in more densely populated areas of other provinces

Role of Producers to Date:

- PCAB guided the development of the EFP Workbook - CARDS contract
 - Broad industry involvement
 - Completed December 2003
- Participation in the initial Agri-Environmental Scan
- Saskatchewan Agri-Environment Advisory Council provides ongoing input and direction to program implementation
- PCAB will be the Delivery Agent for EFP programming in Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Agri-Environmental Advisory Council Members:

Germain Dauk (Chair)	
John Clair (Vice-Chair)	Jim Moen
Brad Wildeman	Cecilia Olver
Everette Bear	Allan Patkau
Neil Charteris	Bob Schultz
Ian Cushon	Carl Siemens
Bert Harmon	Helen Van der Loop
Alex Mitchell	Shirley Voldeng

Saskatchewan EFP Program Advisory Council Action to Date:

- Consideration on the long-term role of EFPs
- Approval of the Workshop / Workbook model of EFP delivery
- Endorsement of PCAB as the Delivery Agent for individual EFPs
- Input on the notional allocation of budget between funding for incentives (75%) and funding for delivery and for education/awareness (25%)
- Use of Peer Review (versus a Technical Review) to endorse completed EFPs
- Support for examining ways that Equivalent Agri-Environmental Plans might be used in Saskatchewan
- Detailed review and endorsement of PCAB's plan to deliver EFPs in Saskatchewan
- General direction on the eligibility criteria for the Canada Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program – funding incentives for Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)
- Review of preliminary list of BMPs (discussion of potential additions)

Environmental Farm Planning

- An Environmental Farm Plan is a risk-based self-assessment used by a farmer to identify management practices on his or her farming operation that may impact the environment

- An EFP also includes the development of an Action Plan to address major areas of risk

Key Characteristics of the EFP Program:

- VOLUNTARY

- CONFIDENTIAL

- Education and Awareness is the first priority

- Whole-farm approach

- Highlights environmental strengths and identifies areas of concern

EFP Process:

- First Workshop: A trained facilitator outlines the EFP process and how to develop the farm's risk assessment and Environmental Farm Action Plan (EFAP)

- Producers return home and use the workbook to assess their management practices and start their EFAP

- Second Workshop: Includes a review of the EFAP and discussion about possible actions

- The facilitator assigns a unique number to the completed EFAP, removes any information that would identify the farm and submits it for Peer Review

- The Peer Review panel reviews the anonymous Action Plan and may suggest changes or improvements

- After Peer Review Panel's endorsement of the EFAP, PCAB to issues a Certificate of Completion

- When the producer receives the Certificate of Completion, identified by the unique assigned number, he/she can apply for BMP cost-shared funding

- The producer decides when and how to implement the Action Plan and can apply to AAFC for cost-shared funding.

Environmental Farm Planning

Canada Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program:

- Both the public and producers benefit from the implementation of Beneficial Management Practices on farms

- Public funding is provided (30 or 50 per cent of the cost of the BMP) depending on the level of public vs. private benefit

Environmental Farm Planning

Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs):

- Approximately \$25 million available for projects up to March 31, 2008

- BMPs developed nationally, with each province having the option to customize (additions must be approved and available nationally)

- To be eligible for funding the applicant must:

- own, rent, lease, manage or otherwise control agricultural land used for the production of agricultural products, and

- have completed an Environmental Farm Plan
- An agricultural practice that either minimizes or mitigates possible risks to the environment posed by agriculture.

Five key areas identified

- Nutrient management, pest management, land and water management, nuisance management, and biodiversity management
- Within those five areas, there are 30 categories with 69 BMPs eligible for cost-shared funding (from \$2,000 to \$30,000 per BMP, to a maximum of \$30,000 per producer)

Environmental Farm Planning BMPs funded at 30% – examples

- Improved on-farm storage and handling of fertilizer, petroleum products, and pesticides
- Manure storage covers to reduce odors and greenhouse gas emissions
- Green manure and winter cover crops for erosion control
- Biological pest control agents
- Irrigation equipment modification to increase water use efficiency

Environmental Farm Planning BMPs funded at 50% – examples

- Sealing and capping old water wells
- Grazing system management in surrounding uplands: watering systems and cross fencing
- Relocation of livestock facilities and wintering sites away from riparian areas
- Materials for shelterbelt establishment
- Consultative services and professional assistance fees

Environmental Farm Planning

- Each of us agreed to participate as Advisory Council members because we believe Environment Farm Planning is important for:

- Promoting a healthy environment and create a legacy for future generations;*
- Marketing to customers around the world who want to know how we produce our goods;*
- Upholding producers' responsibility to society – The public contributes to agriculture through Crop Insurance / CAIS / research;*
- Taking a proactive approach and avoid environmental regulations for agriculture; and to*
- Sending a message that producers care for the land*

Environmental Farm Planning

- This has been a brief overview about the principles and the process of Environmental Farm Planning as it rolls out in Saskatchewan

- The EFP program is new for all of us – and the Advisory Council will monitor it carefully, providing as much input from producers as possible

- The advisory council's mandate, is to ensure that the EFP process works in the best interests of individual farmers – and the provincial agriculture industry