



# Environmental Farm Action Program

## Beneficial Management Practices for Manure Phosphorus

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# Growing Forward Framework



- The Vision:
  - A profitable and innovative agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products industry that seizes opportunities in responding to market demands and contributes to the health and well-being of Canadians.
- Coordinated federal-provincial-territorial action over five years (2008 to 2013).
- Replaces the federal-provincial-territorial Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) Agreement signed in 2002.

# A Change in Delivery



- BMP incentive programming under Growing Forward is delivered and administered provincially.
- Extensive consultation with industry, producer groups, etc.
- The list of BMP Categories has been reduced.
- Cost shares and category caps have, in most cases, increased.
- Greater emphasis on the environmental benefit of adopting the BMP.
  - Should be a change to current management practice!

# Program Eligibility



- Individuals, partnerships or operations incorporated under federal and/or provincial laws.
  - Applicants must own, rent, lease, manage or control agricultural land used to produce agricultural products.
  - Must have a valid Statement of Completion certificate for an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) or Environmental Agri-Equivalent Plan (EAEP).
  - Statement of Completion certificates are valid for 5 years from the date of issue.
- Corporations with more than one farm operation may have each farm operation viewed as “individual” upon request to the Minister.

# Program Details



- EFAP has a pre-determined list of 11 BMPs offering cost-shared funding to producers.
- An additional program, the Manitoba Sustainable Agriculture Practice Program (MSAPP) has a complimentary list of 9 BMPs offering cost-shared funding to producers to help reduce GHG emissions.
- EFAP and MSAPP are separate programs; however, they are delivered together to offer producers a single window delivery service (i.e. one application form).

# EFAP Goals



- Designed to support agricultural producers to reduce environmental risks and provide real environmental benefits through changes in management practice.
- The goal is to reduce risks to the environment through improved management of water resources, air quality, soil productivity and wildlife habitats.
- Provide technical and financial assistance to producers to accelerate the adoption of BMPs in Manitoba.

# BMP Categories



- Increased Manure Storage Capacity
- Improved Manure Storage and Handling
- Solid-Liquid Separation of Manure
- Composting of Manure
- Farmyard Runoff Control
- Relocation of Livestock Confinement Facilities
- Wintering Site Management
- Riparian Area Management
- Improved Crop Residue Management
- Precision Agriculture Applications
- Nutrient Management Planning

# Increased Manure Storage Capacity



- Sufficient storage capacity provides flexibility and ensures that manure can be applied when field and crop conditions are suitable.
- The goal of this BMP is to reduce environmental risk by eliminating winter application.
- Available for operations under 300 Animal Units to increase storage capacity.
- 65% cost-share to a maximum of \$160,000.

# Improved Manure Storage and Handling



- Includes reestablishment of existing manure storage, modifications to prevent leaks/spills, solid manure containment systems.
- Open to all livestock producers, regardless of operation size.
- 65% cost-share to a maximum of \$70,000.

# Solid-Liquid Separation of Manure



- Solid-Liquid separation does not reduce the P content of manure, but does reduce the volume to be hauled.
  - Decreases transportation costs and provides greater flexibility for manure application by making it more economical to reach fields that are further away and lower in P.
- Targeting operations in the south-east region of Manitoba, but open to all livestock producers.
- 50% cost-share to a maximum of \$150,000.

# Composting of Manure



- Similar to solid-liquid separation, composting does not remove P, but reduces the volume of manure to be hauled.
- Composting manure also destroys pathogens and weed seeds while producing a pleasant earthy-smelling organic material.
- 65% cost-share to a maximum of \$70,000.

# Application Intakes



- EFAP and MSAPP have the same intake dates:
  - September 1, November 1, February 1, April 1 and June 1
- Applications must be received **prior** to the intake date to be included with that batch of applications for approvals.
- Applications are batched according to intake date and go through a ranking and rating process prior to approval.
- Reference information for each program can be found in the BMP Catalogues.

# Rating and Ranking Process



- In order to maximize the environmental outcome of funded projects, project proposals are assessed according to three main criteria:
  - Environmental benefits assessment index
  - Provincial program priorities
  - Project planning

# Environmental Benefits Assessment Index



- Determines the level to which the project addresses environmental risk.
- Rates the environmental benefit incurred by a specific land use change or other environmental practice.
- Environmental benefit categories include:
  - Climate Change
  - Water Quality
  - Soil Quality
  - Nutrient and Water Use Efficiency
  - Biodiversity and Natural Habitat

# Environmental Benefits Assessment Index



- Each category is “weighted” to stress the importance of its environmental benefit, as dictated by the goal of each program.
  - MSAPP: main objective is to reduce GHGs; therefore, the emphasis is on Climate Change
  - EFAP: emphasis is on water quality

# Provincial Program Priorities



- A score is assigned to each BMP Category based on its potential to:
  - mitigate and adapt to climate change
  - increase the level of carbon stored in the soil
  - improve environmental stewardship
  - assist with meeting regulatory compliance and mitigating potential issues

# Project Planning



- Project proposal also receives a score based on its ability to clearly show the integrity of the project design and intent.
  - The BMP applied for matches the risks identified in the Environmental Farm Plan workbook
  - The project intent is properly described and it fully explains the environmental benefit
  - The project costs are specific, realistic, and properly itemized
  - The project application had adequate design, including well defined locations and steps, and realistic completion timelines

## For More Information



- MAFRI website: [www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture](http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture)
  - ✓ Application Form & Guide
  - ✓ EFAP BMP Catalogue
  - ✓ MSAPP BMP Catalogue
- For more information on program details contact your local GO office.



**Thank you!**

**Questions?**