



12TH CANADIAN POLLUTION PREVENTION ROUNDTABLE

June 10-12, 2008
Edmonton, Alberta

Crowne Plaza- Chateau Lacombe





2.1 “Agricultural Producers and Pollution Prevention: Alberta's Environmental Farm Plans ”

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Environmental Law Centre



Agricultural Producers and Pollution Prevention: Alberta's Environmental Farm Plans

**Cindy Chiasson
June 12, 2008**



Overview

About the Environmental Law Centre

Environmental Farm Plans (EFPs)

- History of EFPs in Alberta
- ELC's involvement
- EFP success
- EFP now

Pollution control perspective on EFPs

About the ELC

- Registered charity, established 1982
- Provides Albertans with an objective source of information about environmental & natural resources law
- Alberta focus
- Edmonton-based; currently 12 staff
- Volunteer Board of Directors



Our programming

- Strategic objectives
 - Information & education
 - Water
 - Land use
 - Cumulative effects
 - Public participation
 - Greenhouse gas emissions
- Information services
- Community services
- Monitoring & law reform

Alberta **LAW**
FOUNDATION

Environmental Farm Plans

What is an EFP?

- Voluntary risk assessment tool
- Producer education
- Adoption of beneficial practices

EFPs in Alberta

- Workshop I
- Completion of *My Farm Plan*
- Workshop II
- Peer review
- Implementation

Benefits of EFPs

- Protect & improve environment
- Address public concerns about pollution
- Acknowledge producer efforts
- Help producers remain economically viable

History of EFPs in Alberta

Before EFPs:

- Segmented farm planning

EFP precedent:

- Wisconsin Farm*A*Syst → 1989
- Ontario EFP Program → 1992

History of EFPs in Alberta

1999: Industry investigates options

2000: AAFRD committee
recommends EFPs

2001: AESA Council creates Steering
Committee to develop Alberta EFPs



History of EFPs in Alberta

2002: Manual drafted, staff hired, pilot workshops, creation of Alberta EFP Company

2003: EFP program formally launched on Feb 18. First workshop held Feb 19

The ELC's involvement in EFPs

- AESA Council
- Steering committee member
- Contract work on liability issues
- Corporate member of Alberta Environmental Farm Plan Company

EFP Success

Who is involved in the EFP process?

- AEFPC Board of Directors
- Regional Facilitators
- Technical Assistants
- Delivery agents
- Producers

EFP Success

2004-2005

- 1,200 producers attend Workshop I
- 77% return for Workshop II
- Regional team leaders
- New programming
 - Emergency plans
 - 4-H program
 - EFPs for kids & classroom

EFP Success

2005-2006

- 4,000 producers attend Workshop I
- 82% return for Workshop II
- CAFSP created
 - Funds 30%-50% of implementation project
 - Cap of \$30,000

EFP Success

2006-2007

- 3,404 producers complete EFPs
- 2nd edition of EFP manual published
- CAFSP cap increased to \$50,000

EFPs Now

2007-2008

- End of 5-year funding agreement
- Program overhaul
- Workshops on hold



EFPs Now

Total Numbers

- 12,500 producers came to Workshop I
- 8,300 producers completed peer review
- Reached 26% of all Alberta farmers and ranchers in 5 years

EFPs Now

Key success factors

- Voluntary
- Farmer-to-farmer
- Confidential
- Self-directed
- Based on risk reduction



Pollution control perspective

Advantages

- EFPs are 'by and for' producers
- Opportunities for education
- Seen as enhancing farm operations
- Supplement regulatory framework



Pollution control perspective

Disadvantages

- Focused on awareness, not action
- Lack of transparency, accountability
- No mechanism to ensure implementation

Pollution control perspective

Evaluating EFPs

- Mandate was to increase awareness → success?
- EFP program being revised
 - Focus on implementation
 - Increased technical support

Contacting the ELC

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