

BC ENVIRONMENTAL  
**FARM PLAN**



# Environmental Farm Planning

## Canadian Pollution Prevention Roundtable

Victoria, BC      June 2, 2005

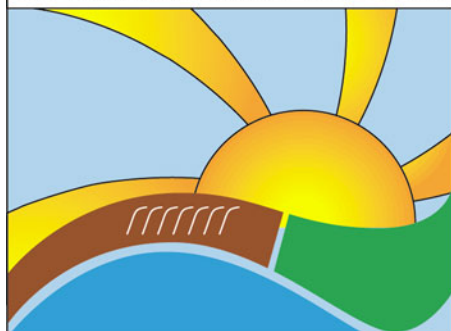
Canada 



**Investment  
Agriculture  
Foundation**  
*of British Columbia*

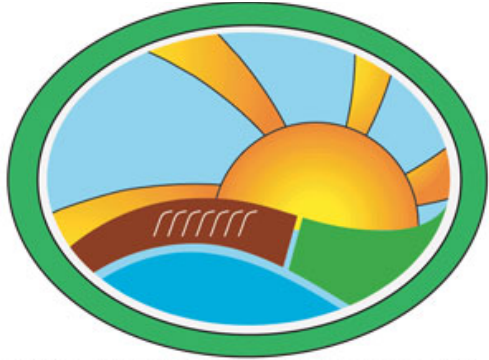


  
**BRITISH  
COLUMBIA**



## Overview

- **Background and Agr Policy Framework**
- **Definition of EFP (Environmental Farm Plan)**
- **Delivery Groups & Planning Advisors**
- **EFP Program**
- **Incentive Funding Programs**
- **Program Benefits**
- **Status**

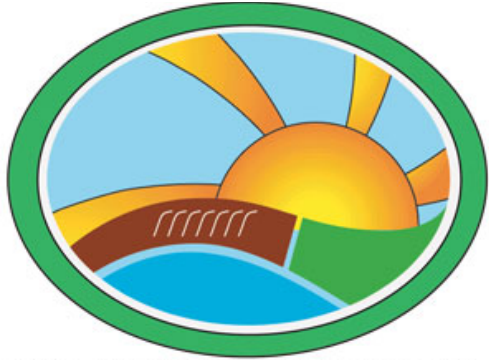


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## **EFP Background**

- **Initiated in Ontario ~ 10 years ago**
- **> 90% PEI producers have an EFP**
- **Outcome of the Federal Agriculture Policy Framework (APF)**

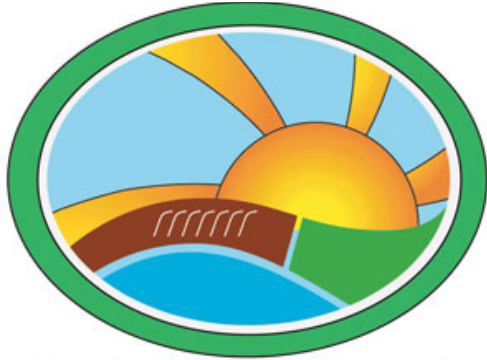


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# Ag Policy Framework

- **Architecture for Agricultural Policy in the 21st Century**
- **Federal/Provincial Initiatives**
- **Various delivery mechanisms**

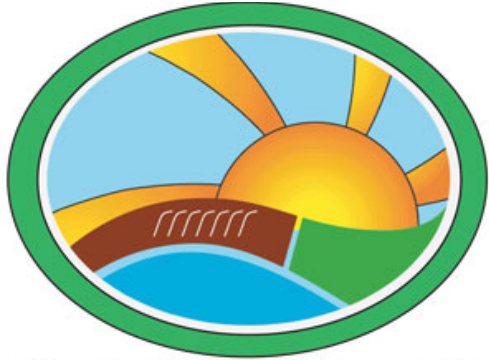


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# APF Elements

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

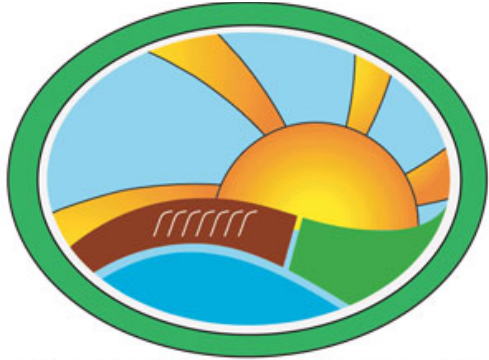


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## **APF Statement**

*“Agriculture’s long term vitality and prosperity depend on its ability to co-exist sustainably with the natural environment”*

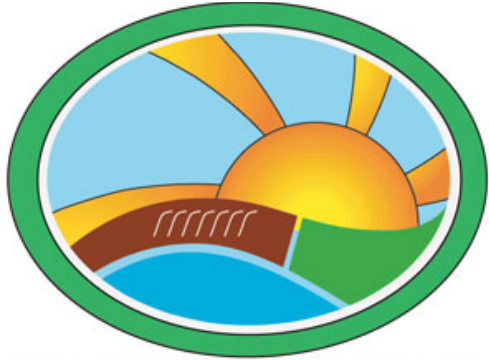


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## **Relevant APF Goals**

- **Reduce water contamination from nutrients, pathogens and pesticides**
- **Reduce agricultural risk to soil health and reduce soil erosion**
- **Reduce particulate emissions, odours and greenhouse gases**
- **Ensure compatibility between agriculture and biodiversity**

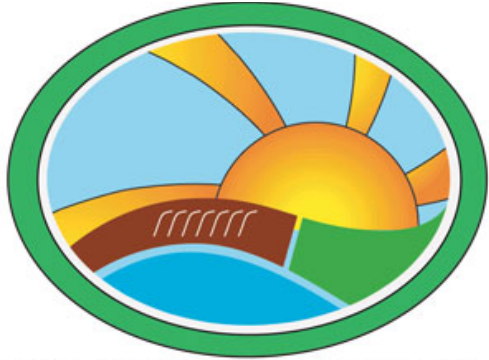


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## **Program Delivery**

**The British Columbia Agriculture Council (BCAC) has entered into a contribution Agreement with Canada and BC to deliver the EFP and companion programs to all BC farmers and ranchers.**

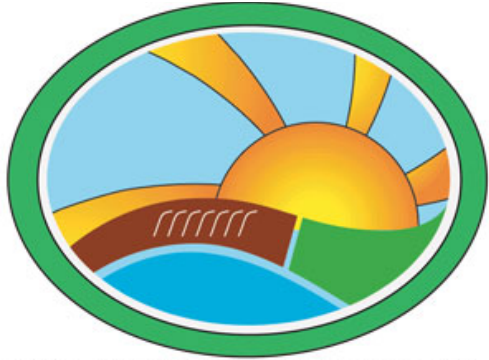


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## EFP Definition

**“An EFP is a voluntary, confidential, producer driven planning exercise that uses specifically designed resource materials and technical assistance to develop a farm plan that identifies on-farm environmental risks and establishes a priority sequence of action items for addressing those risks.”**



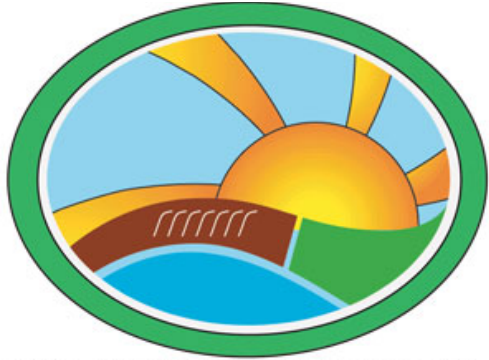
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## **Voluntary**

There is no legislative or regulatory requirement that compels a producer to undertake an EFP

That said, there are many reasons why producers will undertake develop an EFP for their farm or ranch

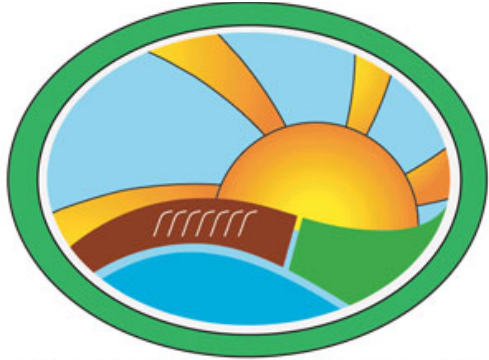


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**Confidential**

The details of an EFP are known only to the producer and his or her Planning Advisor unless the producer decides otherwise

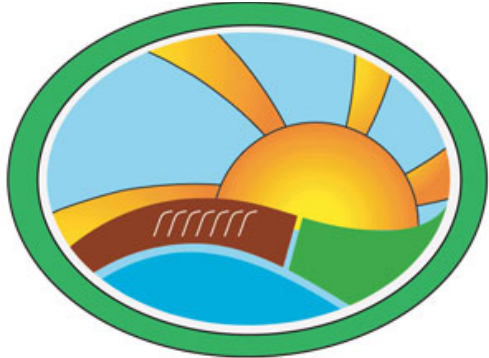


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## **Producer Driven**

**The producer is an active and critical participant in the development of an EFP. It is possible for a producer to do an plan independently but it can only be “approved” by a Planning Advisor.**



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# Planning Exercise

The process follows a standardized sequence of questions relevant to BC farms and ranches.

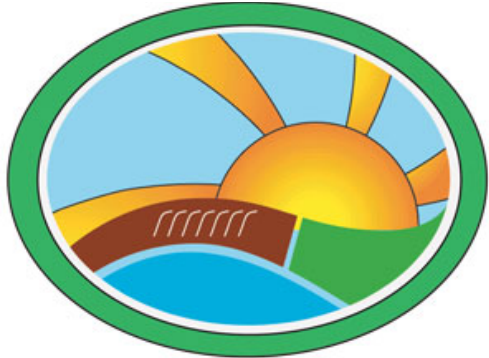
## Planning Workbook

The Canada – British Columbia  
Environmental Farm Plan Program  
*delivered by the*  
British Columbia Agriculture Council



Canada





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# Resource Materials

*A Reference Guide as well as numerous other technical EFP documents have been developed by MAFF.*

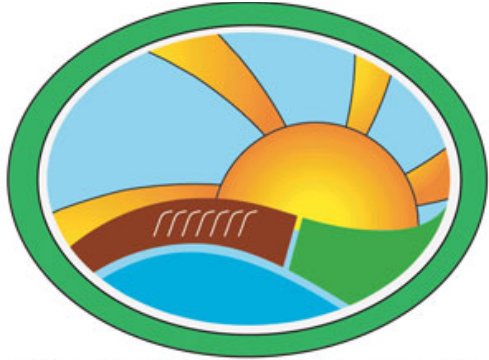
## Reference Guide

The Canada – British Columbia  
Environmental Farm Plan Program  
delivered by the  
British Columbia Agriculture Council



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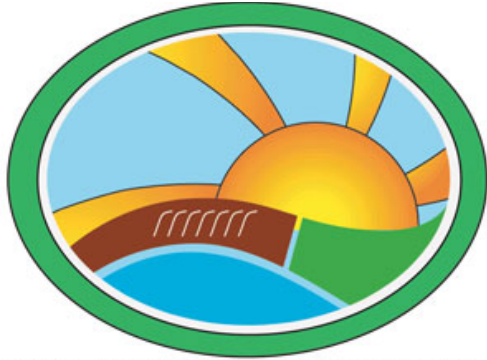


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## Technical Assistance

- “Environmental Farm Planning Advisors” (PA) have been trained by BCMAFF
- They have been evaluated and examined by the BCAC and placed on a recognized list
- Agency Partners, including AAFC, DFO, WLAP and EC



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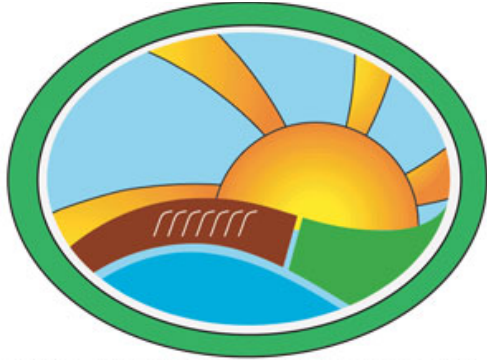


# Environmental Risks

**On-farm activities that pose an environmental risk to soil, water, air and bio-diversity.**

# Example Cattle Watering



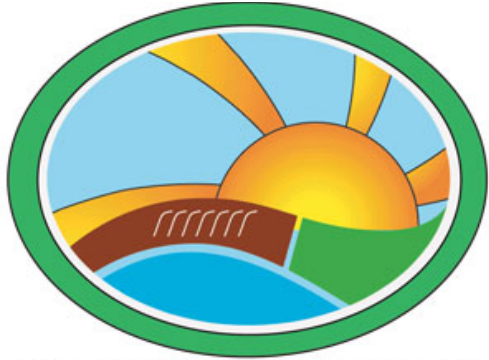


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## **Delivery Groups**

**18 Farm Organizations throughout BC have entered into subsidiary Contribution Agreements with the BC Agriculture Council to deliver the EFP Program to their members and any other interested producers**

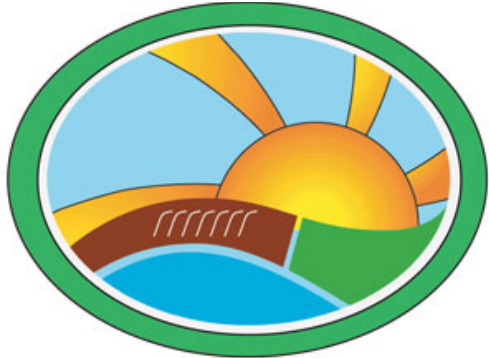


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## **Delivery Groups Funded**

- **BC Cattlemen's Association**
- **BC Fruit Growers' Association**
- **Certified Organic Association of BC**
- **BC Greenhouse Growers' Association**
- **Comox Valley Farmers' Institute**
- **BC Pork Producers Association**
- **BC Potato and Vegetable Growers' Assoc.**
- **BC Landscape and Nursery Association**
- **BC Grain Growers' Association**

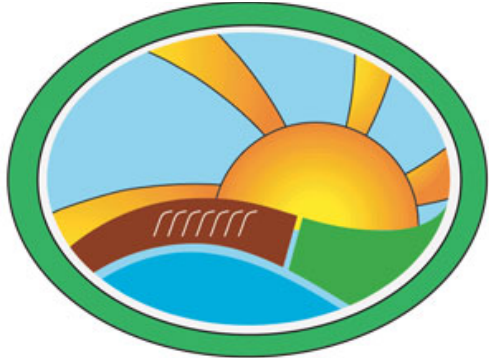


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## **Delivery Groups Approved**

- **Peace River Forage Association of BC**
- **Creston Valley Agriculture Society**
- **BC Milk Producers' Association**
- **Poultry Group**
- **Berry Group**
- **Island Farmers Alliance**
- **Highway 16 Farmers' Institute**
- **Horse Council of BC**
- **United Flower Growers**

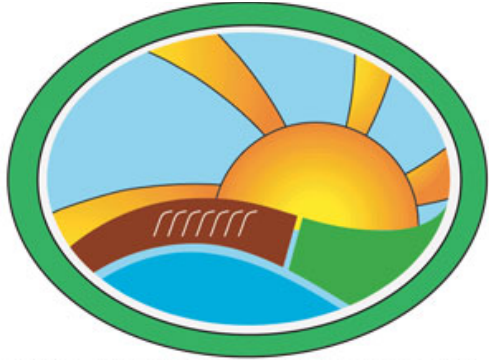


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## Planning Advisor Criteria

- College or University training strongly recommended
- Sound understanding of BC Agriculture.
- Ability to achieve and maintain trust of producers, farm organizations, agencies and BCAC
- Ability to effectively communicate oral and written

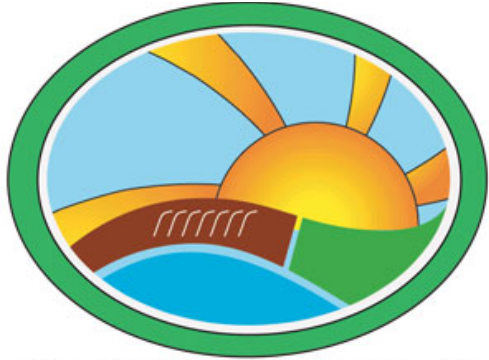


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## **PA Qualifications**

- **Must take 2 weeks of core training**
- **Must receive a 75% mark on training and exam**
- **Must sign and maintain code of practice**
- **Must sign confidentiality agreement**
- **Must attend annual upgrading**
- **May take supplemental training**

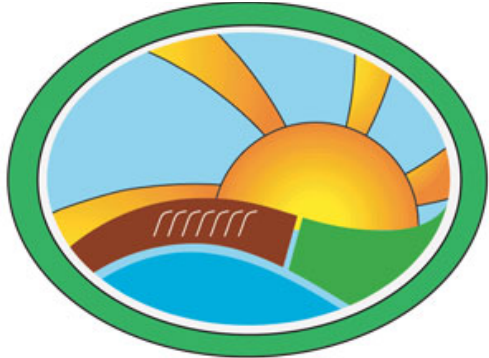


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## **EFP On Farm Process**

- **Participate in a workshop delivered by a Planning Advisor**
- **Complete the Planning Workbook using the Reference Guide for assistance**
- **Review the Planning Workbook with the Planning Advisor.**
- **Complete Nutrient Management and/or Riparian Management Planning as triggered**
- **Complete a list of priority action items**
- **Have the plan approved by the Planning Advisor**



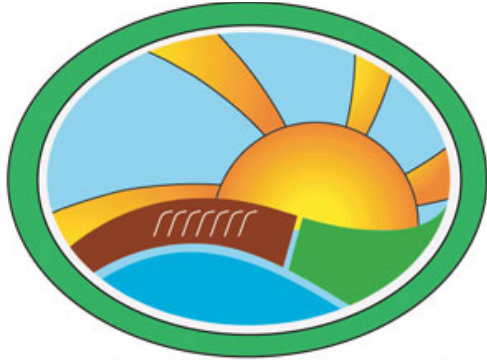
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# Incentive Programs

**Cost share assistance is available for producers to implement their EFP Action items through the following National programs:**

- **National Farm Stewardship Program**
- **Greencover Program**

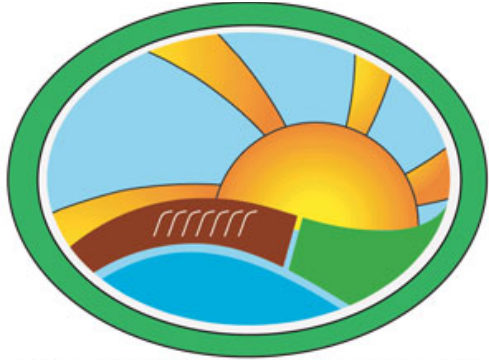


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## **BMPs**

- 
- A photograph of a red tractor with a manure spreader attachment, spreading a large amount of brown manure onto a grassy field. The tractor is moving away from the camera, leaving a wide trail of manure. In the background, there are trees and a house.
- **Beneficial Management Practices**
  - **Designed to reduce "on-farm" environmental risks**

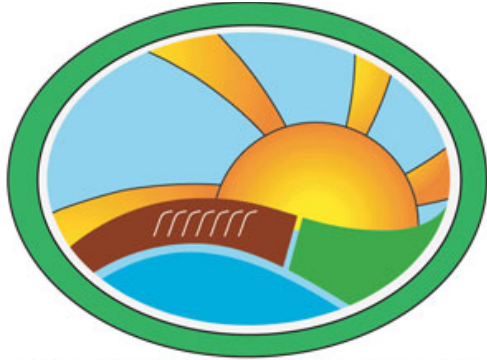


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## Eligible Practices

- manure storage expansion
- manure application and treatment
- farmyard runoff control
- relocation of livestock confinement facilities
- wintering site management
- riparian area management
- erosion control measures

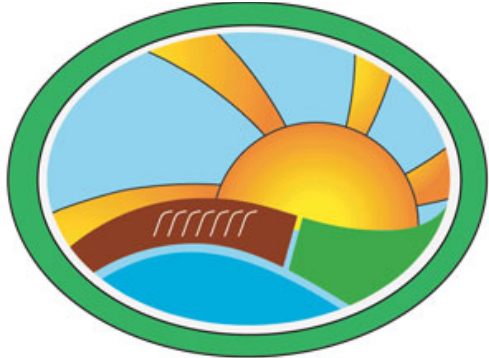


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## Eligible Practices

- improved pest management
- irrigation efficiency
- shelterbelt establishment
- enhancing wildlife habitat and biodiversity
- preventing wildlife damage
- planning assistance for pest, grazing, water and irrigation management

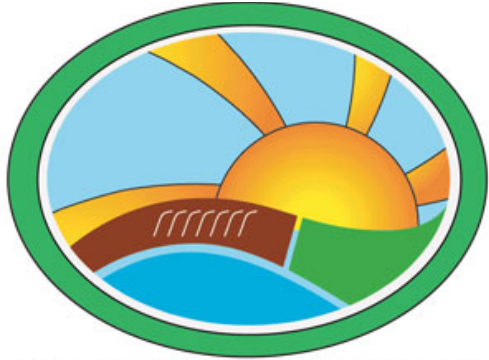


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## **Cost Shares and Caps**

- **30% to 50% from program funds.**
- **\$30,000 per farm from program funds.**
- **Caps for individual categories.**

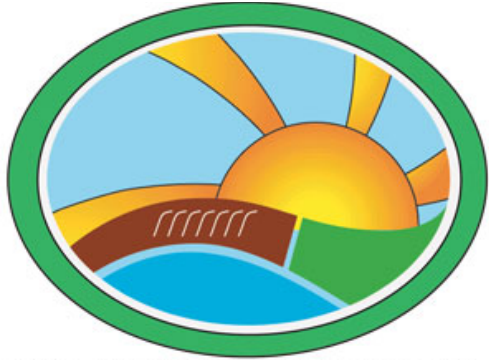


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## Funding Partners

- Numerous funding sources with similar objectives
- Seeking Partners
- Hope to lever additional BMP funding
- MOU with Ducks Unlimited

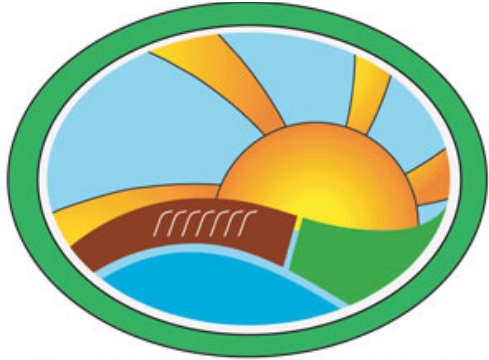


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## Program Benefits

- **Increased producer confidence and satisfaction.**
  - Producers know where they stand
- **Improved agricultural sustainability/ practices.**
  - We are in it for the long term
- **Increased recognition of agricultural stewardship.**
  - public confidence in the sector

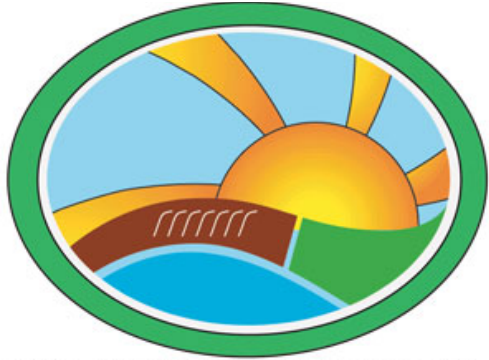


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## Program Benefits

- **Improved farm/ranch profitability**
  - make fertilizer dollar go further
  - reduce tillage costs
  - minimize cost of pesticides
- **Maintain/enhance marketing opportunities**
  - product differentiation
- **Contingency Planning**
  - dealing with the unexpected

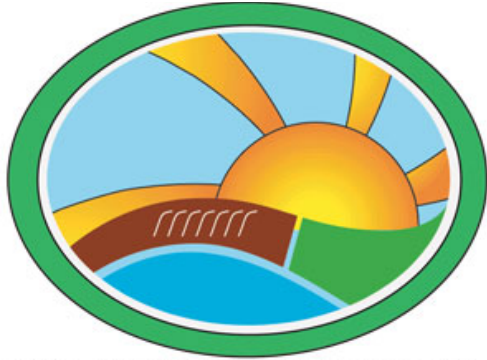


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## Program Benefits

- **Demonstrated due diligence on the part of the producer.**
  - good business practice
- **Reduced need for new legislation/ regulation.**
  - no problem, no laws
- **Improved relationships with regulatory agencies.**
  - environmental partners are supportive

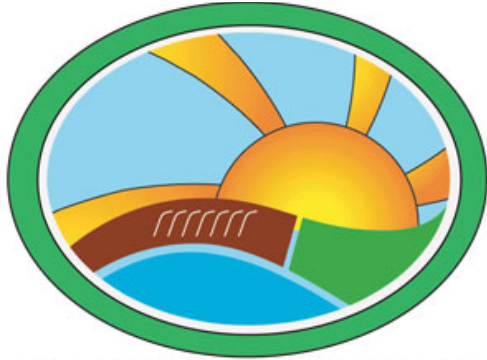


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## **Program Status to Mar 31**

- **Over 100 Planning Advisors trained**
- **18 Delivery Groups approved for funding**
- **203 Workshops**
- **1662 Participants**
- **112 EFPs approved**
- **~ 200 BMP applications (to date)**



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## **Questions?**

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