Progress on Environmental Farm Plan and On-Farm Action

Andrew Graham
Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

Paul Smith
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
• 2001 Federal-Provincial-Territorial agreement
• 2003 Canada-Ontario agreement signed
• April 2005 implementation began
• EFP and associated cost share programs end March 31, 2008

• Environment a key pillar of agricultural policy
• Nation-wide agri-environmental programs
• Comprehensive approach
• $78 million committed in Ontario
  – Plus $23 million for Nutrient Management
  – Plus $2.8 million for Oak Ridges & Greenbelt
• Historic opportunity to build on agricultural stewardship
“Regulation is no substitute for the farmer-helping-farmer approach to environmental responsibility.”

Our Farm Environmental Agenda, 1991
How We Do Business

• Strong, long-term partnership among federal agriculture department, provincial ministry & farm organizations
• Education through EFP is key to changing attitudes & on-farm decision making
• Farm organization delivery works
• Funding & technical support from government
• One window/One application/One BMP funding list
Role of Partners

a) Guidance and Advocacy
b) Funding
c) Technical Expertise
Philosophy of EFP

- Profitability for owners
- Stewardship of the land you farm...
- And of the Environment in which we live
EFP
April 18, 2005 – October 16, 2006

• 454 workshops
• 7,328 participants
  • 52% “New”
  • 48% “Returning”
• 5,232 Peer Reviewed
Number of workbooks distributed - over 7,350
Number of workshop participants - over 7,400
Number of peer-reviewed EFP Action Plans – over 5,250

Ontario Statistics – Canada-Ontario EFP Third Edition
April 18, 2005 – October 20, 2006

% EFP Uptake
- 1% - 10%
- 11% - 20%
- 21% to 50%
- 51% to 100%

Sources: Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association, October 20, 2006; 2005 Ontario farm registration database

% EFP Uptake = \# of workbooks distributed by County / \# of registered farm businesses
EFP | COFSP | GC | Tier 1 COWSEP | NMFAP (Expired) | ORMEEP | GFSP

Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition
OFA
Ontario
Conservation Ontario
Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation
On-Farm Environment Projects Approved 2005-2006
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<td>$700,000</td>
<td>50%</td>
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Top 12 On-Farm Improvements
April 2005 to October 16, 2006

- Improved Cropping Systems - 14
- Improved Manure Storage - 01
- Water Well Management - 09
- Nutrient Management Plan - 24
- Improved Pest Management - 16
- Runoff Control - 05
- Product & Waste Management - 08
- New Water Wells - 31
- Riparian Area Management - 10
- Manure Land Application - 03
- Shelterbelt Establishment - 19
- In-Barn Improvements - 04
- New Agricultural Ponds - 32

Percent of Projects

# of Projects

0 5 10 15 20

Represents 85% of total projects across all 36 BMP categories
Bottom 10 BMP Categories
April 2005 to October 16, 2006

- Land Management for Soils at Risk
- Irrigation Management Planning
- Water Supply Expansion Planning
- Soil Erosion & Salinity Control Planning
- Spring & Sand Point Development
- Biodiversity Enhancement Planning
- Grazing Management Planning
- Invasive Alien Plant Species Control
- Riparian Health Assessment
- Species at Risk

Represents <1% of total projects across all 36 BMP categories
Sector Participation in COFSP, GC and Tier 1 of COWSEP

- Field Crops (Grains & Oilseeds): 28%
- Hogs: 16%
- Dairy: 18%
- Beef: 19%
- Horticulture/Greenhouse: 8%
- Poultry: 6%
- Other: 6%

April 2005 to November 7, 2006
## Most Popular BMP by Sector

April 2005 to November 7, 2006

### BMP Category Ranking (No. of Projects*)

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<th>Sector</th>
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<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
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<td>Grain and Oilseeds</td>
<td>Improved Cropping (892)</td>
<td>Product Storage (364)</td>
<td>Well Upgrades (203)</td>
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<td>Hogs</td>
<td>NMP (307)</td>
<td>Manure Storage (216)</td>
<td>Manure Application (169)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dairy</td>
<td>Manure Storage (349)</td>
<td>NMP (181)</td>
<td>Well Upgrades (141)</td>
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<td>Beef</td>
<td>Runoff Control (236)</td>
<td>Manure Storage (221)</td>
<td>Riparian Mgmt (176)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horticulture/ Greenhouse</td>
<td>Irrigation Mgmt (86)</td>
<td>Product Storage (84)</td>
<td>IPM (76)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>Manure Storage (137)</td>
<td>NMP (78)</td>
<td>Improved Cropping (49)</td>
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* Represents conditional approvals, final approvals and paid projects.
Canada-Ontario Water Supply Expansion Program

Number of Projects Approved
- Light green: 0 - 5
- Light blue: 6 - 10
- Medium blue: 11 - 20
- Dark blue: 21 - 30
- Dark blue: > 30

Disclaimer:
The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs does not certify the correctness of any information on this map and is not liable for any actions taken or not taken by any person.

The map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as an indicator of routes, features, nor as a guide to navigation.

Data Sources: Ontario Land Information Warehouse

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Canada-Ontario Water Supply Expansion Program: Tier 2

- Tier 2: Multi-User Water Infrastructure
- Larger scale infrastructure projects, such as regional pipelines, that provide water to multiple users (includes off-farm water conservation equipment)
- Two proposals approved for ~$970,000, Niagara
Canada-Ontario Water Supply Expansion Program: Tier 3

- Tier 3: Strategic Work - development of information & technologies and/or dissemination of information, e.g.
  - watershed plans
  - regional groundwater studies
  - groundwater exploration or testing
  - regional water management planning
  - water supply planning and feasibility studies
  - information extension activities
  - demonstration projects
  - applied research

- Approved three projects for $700,000, Niagara, Norfolk, Essex
Participation in Greencover Canada

Conservation Authority

Conservation

Participation in Greencover Canada

Programme de couverture végétale du Canada

Contact Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association for more information:

1-800-265-9751

www.ontariosoilcrop.org

- Cost share opportunities for farmers to improve riparian areas (along streams, lakes, wetlands), control erosion, and create tree windbreaks/silviculture.

- Les producteurs agricoles peuvent bénéficier d’un programme à hauteur de participation d’un financement pour la réalisation de projets d’amélioration de la couverture végétale.
Greencover Canada

Cost-share opportunities are available for Ontario farmers to implement management projects for riparian areas (alongside watercourses, ponds, lakes and wetlands) and tree windbreaks/shelterbelts.

In association with the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan (EFP), Greencover Canada offers 50 percent cost-share and up to $20,000 in federal contribution per registered farm business for a wide assortment of projects that could benefit any size or type of farm operation. The program is designed to help producers improve land management practices, promote sustainable land use, protect water quality, reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance biodiversity and wildlife habitat.

Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) delivers the Greencover Canada program across Ontario on behalf of the governments of Canada and Ontario. OSCIA also delivers the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) and the Canada-Ontario Farm Stewardship Program on behalf of the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition, and Tier 1 of the Canada-Ontario Water Supply Expansion Program.

Producers can use technical design and planting information available in printed materials, and they may choose to invite Watershed Stewardship Specialists from the local Conservation Authority (or other conservation agencies) to the farm to gain valuable technical assistance. There may also be opportunities to gain additional cost-share funding from these agencies to further reduce personal financial commitment to a specific project.

Funding for Greencover Canada is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs under the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF), an agreement among federal, provincial and territorial governments to make Canada’s agricultural sector a world leader in environmentally sustainable production.

Available until March 31, 2008
Greencover Canada Demonstration Project Locations
Greencover
Canada
Demonstration
Projects

UTRCA #1

UTRCA #2
Greencover Canada Demonstration Projects