

Successful Partnerships in On-Farm Environmental Action in Ontario:

*The Environmental Farm Plan
and Related Initiatives*



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Ontario Farm Environment Coalition (OFEC)

- Represents over 30 farm organizations
- Four lead organizations:
 - Ontario Federation of Agriculture
 - Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario
 - AGCare (Agricultural Groups Concerned About Resources and the Environment)
 - Ontario Farm Animal Council (livestock)



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Outline

- Development of the EFP
- What is the Environmental Farm Plan
- How does the partnership work
- EFP and BMP adoption 2005-08
- Successes
- Building on the EFP



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Our Farm Environmental Agenda, 1992

- January 1992 - released guiding document -- Our Farm Environmental Agenda
- Identified key environmental issues in agriculture
- Proposed cooperative, voluntary approach as solution
- Government support for development leading to Environmental Farm Planning
- Require EFP for government funding



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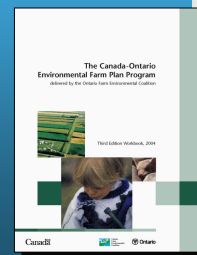
Development of OFEC

- 1990 agriculture leaders concerned about environmental regulation
- 1990/91 - Forum: Minister's Committee on Environmental Sustainability
- Brought together many farm organizations
- Common environmental concerns discussed
- Led to formation of Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition (OFEC)



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Environmental Farm Plan



What is an Environmental Farm Plan?



- Voluntary, confidential risk assessment prepared by each farm
- Rank performance in 23 topic areas
 - Water, soil, air, nature
- Builds farmers' environmental awareness
- Rank farm's performance on each topic
 - Levels 1, 2, 3, 4 (Best)
- Action Plan: actions to improve all ratings to at least Level 3 (good)
 - Short- & long-term actions, compensating factors, monitoring, barriers to action
- Confidential peer review
- Ready to take action
 - Projects eligible for cost shared funding



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Environmental Farm Plan Process

- Farmer attends workshop
- Completes workbook
- Identifies improvements needed
- Develops action plan for improvements
- Confidential peer review of action plan
- Apply for funding to make the improvements



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EFP is not.....

- ...Done by an outsider
- ...Shared with "the world"
- ...A public document
- ...A judgment of your farm



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Agricultural Policy Framework Environment Chapter

- Agricultural Policy Framework 2001-2008
 - 2001 Federal-Provincial-Territorial agreement
 - 2003 Canada-Ontario agreement signed
 - April 2005 implementation began
- Environment a key pillar of agricultural policy
- EFP became nation-wide tool
- Nation-wide agri-environmental programs
- \$78 million committed in Ontario
- Historic boost to agricultural stewardship
- Now in transition to Growing Forward, the 2009-2013 policy framework



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Why is EFP Successful?

- Local delivery
- Common sense approach
- Farmer-led, farmer driven
- Workshop training with other farmers
- Integrates environment with production & economics
- Proven, realistic practices
- Confidential



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Roles of the Partners



- Three Main Partners:
 - Canada: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)
 - Ontario: Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
 - Industry: Ontario Farm Environment Coalition (OFEC)
- Federal Government AAFC
 - Funding for education, cost-sharing & technical assistance
 - National coordination
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
 - Technical expertise, training, publications, coordination
- Ontario Farm Environment Coalition (OFEC)
 - Policy direction, industry support
 - Program delivery
 - Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA)
 - On-the-ground program delivery



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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

Canada



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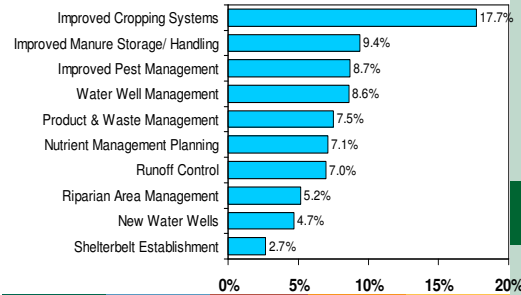


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Top 10 On-Farm Improvements

% of Projects, April 2005 to Mar 2008



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Environmental Farm Plan Accomplishments under APF 2005-08

	Number	Percent
Farm Businesses preparing EFPs*	11,778	23.8%
Peer-reviewed EFPs	8,867	75.3%
New participants		55%
Returning participants (updating EFP)		45%
Workshops held	820	
Total Farm Businesses with EFPs (1991-2008)	32,818	66.3%

* Requires a minimum of two days effort or ~25,000 person-days or ~100 person-years of effort

Canada



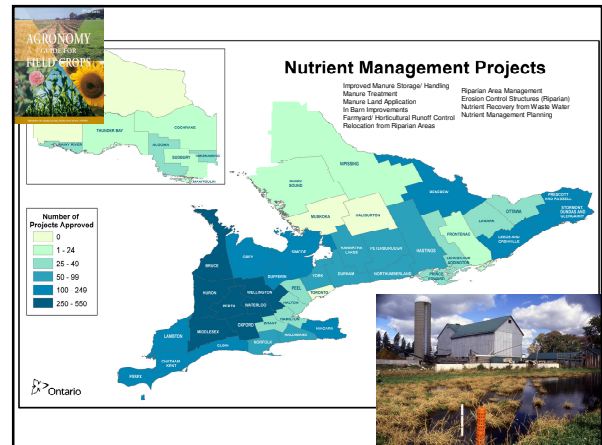
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Nutrient Management Projects



On-Farm Environmental Projects Progress Under APF 2005-08

- 12% of farms participated in cost sharing programs (5,683)
- Projects in EFP action plan are eligible
- 13,726 projects completed
 - \$198M invested
 - \$58.5M federal, \$23M provincial, \$2M other
 - >\$100M investment by farmers
 - >2 to 1 ratio of Farmer investment to government

Canada



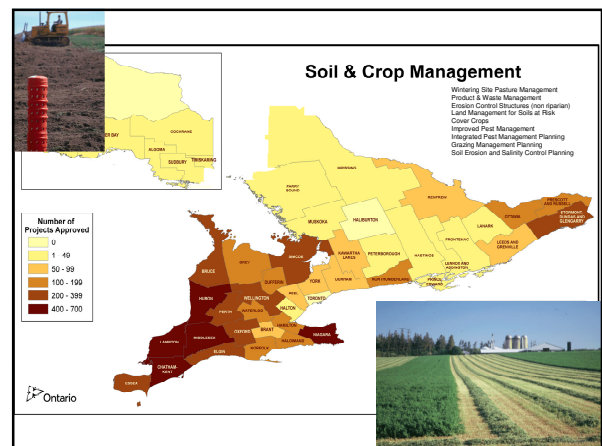
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Soil & Crop Management



Distribution by Geography & Commodities

- Distribution of projects reflects distribution of farms & of agricultural commodities (e.g. livestock, field crops)
- Reflects many regional & commodity-specific agri-environmental issues
 - Nutrient management where livestock is concentrated
 - Soil & crop management where field crops & horticulture is concentrated
- Targeting using EFP priority setting is working
- Influenced by top-up programs & Conservation Authority funding programs



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EFP Partnership Spinoffs

- Rural Landowner Non-farm Stewardship Plan
 - Adapted the EFP approach to non-farm rural landowners
- Lake Simcoe
 - EFP program allowed voluntary stewardship approach to Lake Simcoe
- Growing Your Farm Profits
 - Adapting the EFP approach to business planning



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Partnering Successes

- Multi-stakeholder development of workbook builds consensus on need for action
- Base of federal funding provides opportunities for leverage
- \$23.7 million in nutrient management funding directly linked to APF funding
- Conservation authorities role in technical assistance & funding programs



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Conclusions

- Partnerships take time & perseverance to develop
- Consensus needed but also takes time & work
- Shared priority setting & program development
- Farmer-to-farmer program delivery is key
- Confidentiality of the EFP is a keystone
- Combination of information, incentives & people make it happen



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“Top-Up” Partnership Successes

- Many partners have joined to add funding to BMPs that achieve their objectives
 - Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation
 - Source water protection
 - Wetlands restoration
 - Oak Ridges Moraine
 - Lake Simcoe
 - Species-at-risk, biodiversity



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