

Agricultural Update

ACLA Communications Co-ordinators Meeting

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Ministry of Agriculture
and Food
Ministry of Rural Affairs



Environmental Farm Plan

Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan Workshop Results:
APRIL 18, 2005 to February 12, 2013 [APF + CY+ GF interim]

Top Ten:	COUNTY/DISTRICT NAME	TOTAL WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS	TOTAL PEER REVIEWED ACTION PLANS
1	HURON	1007	851
2	BRUCE	975	702
3	WELLINGTON	916	709
4	PERTH	862	878
5	CHATHAM-KENT	851	690
6	GREY	799	677
7	NIAGARA	702	436
8	MIDDLESEX	654	587
9	DUFFERIN	650	387
10	SIMCOE SOUTH	628	387
	Provincial Totals	17463	13,246

Outline

- Status of the Environmental Farm Plan – or – Growing Forward 2 - for 2013
- Bi-national research day
- New initiatives in drainage
- Agricultural trends that are driving change

Environmental Farm Plan

Fiscal Years: April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2013

	Municipality	Number of Projects Completed	Government Cost-share Funding Paid (\$)	Total Investment in Completed Projects (\$)
1	Huron	1844	\$7,662,997	\$23,853,078
2	Chatham-Kent	1640	\$4,992,712	\$20,579,032
3	Middlesex	1544	\$5,923,004	\$19,918,047
4	Bruce	1316	\$5,724,161	\$17,341,412
5	Niagara	1256	\$5,144,528	\$20,067,914
6	Perth	1227	\$5,955,030	\$19,993,626
7	Simcoe	1222	\$6,172,131	\$17,318,255
8	Lambton	1156	\$4,641,455	\$16,862,960
9	Essex	1110	\$5,477,703	\$22,930,250
10	Wellington	947	\$4,474,744	\$14,625,304

Environmental Farm Plan

Rank by # Completed Projects		Rank by Cost Share Paid	
Rank	Category	Rank	Category
1	Precision Agriculture	1	Improved Manure Storage and Handling
2	Improved Cropping Systems	2	Improved Cropping Systems
3	Water Well Management	3	Precision Agriculture
4	Upland/Riparian Area Habitat Management	4	Erosion Control Structures
5	Farmyard and Horticultural Facilities Runoff Control	5	Farmyard and Horticultural Facilities Runoff Control
6	Improved Pest Management	6	Upland/Riparian Area Habitat Management
7	Improved Manure Storage and Handling	7	Manure Land Application
8	Shelterbelt Establishment	8	Improved Pest Management
9	Energy Conservation	9	Water Well Management
10	Resource Planning	10	Manure Treatment

Growing Forward 2

- **Programs for Farm Businesses**
 - Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan
 - Growing Your Farm Profits
- **Funding assistance for GF2 will focus on:**
 - Business and leadership development
 - Productivity Enhancements
 - Climate Change Adaptation
 - Market Development
 - Value Added Products
 - Assurance systems (i.e. food safety, traceability, organics, environment)
 - Emergency Preparedness and risk reduction
 - Training opportunities – precision agriculture, chemical handling, etc.

Growing Forward 2

- **What is Growing Forward 2?**
 - Comprehensive federal-provincial framework which encourages innovation, competitiveness and market development
 - Designed to help industry capitalize on opportunities and contribute to the economy
 - Helps farm, food and bioproducts businesses to collaborate, build their own plan, and select opportunities to help grow profits, expand their markets and manage risks.

Bi-national Research

SHARING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, & DATA TO IMPROVE GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY
A BI-NATIONAL WORKSHOP

Save the Date!
June 13 - 14, 2013
Key Spencer Leadership Centre
London, Ontario

This bi-national workshop is aimed at water, soil and agricultural scientists and engineers who want practical solutions to common challenges:

- How do we measure the effectiveness of agricultural best management practices (BMPs)?
- How do we scale up data from site to watershed to Great Lakes?
- What are the tools needed to solve technical problems in the field?
- Are we all speaking the same language when it comes to data collection and report presentations?
- What are the social and economic impacts and challenges to implementing BMPs?





This workshop will also include a significant field component connecting applied research, problem-solving, tools and technology.

Jointly hosted by

Ontario
Government of Quebec
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH



New Initiatives in Drainage

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- New BMPs
 - Phosphorus
 - Controlling Soil Erosion on the Farm
 - Cropland Drainage
 - Drainage Design and Construction Review Manual (*in progress*)
 - Natural channel design, innovation and research
 - Beaver Creek – Fort Erie
 - Holland Marsh – Bradford West Gwillimbury
 - Norfolk
 - OMAF/MRA Environmental Components of Drainage Designs study
 - Ausable Bayfield WBBE study
 - Rural Stormwater Management Project
 - DIG – *Drainage Investment Group*
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Contact Information



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Growing Forward 2

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/about/growingforward/gf2-index.htm>

OMAF/MRA Environment Information

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/environment/index.html>

Healthy Lake Huron

<http://healthylakehuron.com/>



Looking Forward – Trends in Agriculture

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- Increased interest in soil health
 - Definition of soil health
 - Changes in cropping patterns
 - Addressing field management challenges
 - Increased interest in cover crops
 - For soil health enhancement
 - Increased use of plant nutrients versus commercial nutrients
 - Brings new challenges
 - Changes in agricultural industry
 - Tillage practices – mostly combination of practices, hard to define
 - Commodity prices, changes in livestock production
 - Local land ownership versus land rental, investment landowners
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