

### **What is the Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (AEFP)?**

The AEFP Company is a non-profit company started in April 2002. It is comprised of industry, government and other stakeholders working together to develop the Environmental Farm Plan program.

### **What is the Environmental Farm Plan program?**

The EFP program provides a voluntary, confidential self-assessment process for agricultural producers to evaluate the environmental risks and strengths of their operations and develop a plan to address those risks and strengths.

The EFP process helps producers to:

- learn more about how agricultural practices affect the environment,
- learn more about management options that protect soil, water, air and habitat quality, and
- identify what they are already doing well and where improvements could be made.

### **Why should I prepare an EFP for my farm?**

The main benefit is reducing risk. Most producers are doing a good job on their farm operations, but there might be areas where they can make improvements. Any producer who wants to operate over the long term will be managing risks like market risks, production risks, and succession plans. Managing environmental risks is another part of moving towards sustainability.

Other reasons for preparing an EFP include:

- improving farm health and safety
- maintaining water, soil, soil, and habitat quality
- building acceptance of the operation among neighbours and the public
- improving marketability of farm products
- sustaining the land's productivity for the next generation
- reducing agricultural inputs
- adding value to the farm property

### **What is involved in preparing an EFP?**

Trained EFP facilitators deliver the program to producers through two workshops and a workbook for home use. Each workshop takes 4 to 5 hours.

At the first workshop you assess the soil and site characteristics on your farm and are introduced to the EFP workbook.

Between the two workshops, you complete the worksheets in the workbook. Each worksheet is an easy-to-use checklist. There are 23 worksheets covering all aspects of agricultural operations. You complete only those that relate to your own operation. Then you prepare a draft plan to address any identified risks.

At the second workshop, you share ideas with the other participants and finalize your plan.

Next, you submit the completed workbook for a confidential review by a review

committee. And then you start implementing your plan. A follow-up workshop will be offered within three years to help you keep your plan current.

**How much does it cost to attend the workshops?**

The EFP workbook, workshop facilitator and technical assistant are provided free of charge to participating producers.

**Who can participate in the workshops?**

The main people involved in the day-to-day operation and management of the farm are encouraged to attend. Examples include a husband and wife, a farm manager and a hired hand, a mother, daughter and son, or a father, daughter and son.

**LOCAL CONTACTS**

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**OR**

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**Also, visit the Alberta Environmental Farm Plan Company  
website at [www.albertaefp.com](http://www.albertaefp.com).**