Growing Forward
Environment and Climate Change Program – an Update

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Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

October 30, 2009
41st Drainage Engineers Conference
Guelph, Ontario
Overview

• Introduction to Growing Forward Framework
• Environment and Climate Change Program
  – Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)
  – Canada-Ontario Farm Stewardship Program (COFSP)
• A Closer Look at Best Management Practices
  – Uptake in Year One of COFSP
  – Requirements
  – Enhanced Cost-Share Programs
• Future
Growing Forward
- National Policy Direction

• A commitment by the federal and provincial government to support three outcomes:
  1. A competitive and innovative sector
  2. A sector that contributes to society’s priorities
  3. A sector that is proactive in managing risks

• Growing Forward framework agreement signed by Ministers in July, 2008 in Quebec City

• Canada-Ontario bilateral and contribution agreement signed in March 2009

• More than $300 M will be invested toward the Growing Forward outcomes (non-business risk management) over 5 year (2008/09 to 2012/13)
  – Funding is cost-shared on a 60:40 basis between the federal and provincial governments
Components of Growing Forward

- AgriStability
- AgriInvest
- AgriInsurance
- AgriRecovery
  Delivered by Agricorp

- Best Practices Suite
- Innovation and Science Suite
  Environment and Climate Change Program supported here
  Delivered by OMAFRA and Third Parties
Best Practices Suite – A Program Platform to Build On and Integrate Across

Environment & Climate Change ➔ Food Safety & Traceability ➔ Business Development ➔ Biosecurity

Educate, Assess, Evaluate, Implement

Environment and Climate Change Program launched June 22, 2009
Environment and Climate Change Program

- Continuing Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)
  - Third Edition EFP workbook used at EFP educational workshops
  - Peer-reviewed, deemed appropriate EFP Action Plan required to access cost share

- One cost-share program: Canada-Ontario Farm Stewardship Program (COFSP) available for supporting on-farm projects
  - Includes familiar elements from 2005-2009:
    - List of Eligible Best Management Practices (BMP categories)
    - Fixed cost-share percentages, fixed caps for each BMP category
    - Maximum level of funding available under COFSP per producer
Environment and Climate Change Program (continued)

• On-farm program delivery: Continuing successful collaborative model of governments working with farm organizations
  – OMAFRA has signed agreement with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture on behalf of the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition and local program delivery is provided by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA)
• Enhanced educational workshops – specific subjects (future)
• Enhanced technical assistance for BMP implementation
  – Agreement in place to provide enhanced support for First Nations farmers and working with Conservation Authorities to encourage technical assistance
• Opportunities for Food Processing and Beverage Industry
  – Move toward capacity and program development to support environmental management in food and beverage industry
Environmental Programs

Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan

NOW AVAILABLE

- Canada-Ontario Farm Stewardship Program
- Year One (2009-10) Fully Subscribed
- Enhanced cost-share programs
  - Lake Simcoe Farm Stewardship Program
    - Fully Subscribed For 2009-10
  - Species At Risk Farm Incentive Program
    - Fully Subscribed For 2009-10
  - Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program
    - Pending
  + many other local programs (e.g. conservation authorities)
Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan --Year One to-date

Education tool – and risk assessment – encouraging BMPs on farms

April 2009 – October 5, 2009

- 52 Workshops
- 503 Participants
  - 74% New
  - 26% Returning
- 680 Peer Reviewed
Cost-Share Program – COFSP Year One (2009-2010)

• Legal farm entity - Registered Farm Business Number (FBRN)
• Projects must be identified in peer reviewed, “deemed appropriate” EFP Action Plan, move from a “1” or “2” rating towards a “3” or “4”
• Select a BMP from the eligible list for Ontario (28 BMP categories)
• Maximum Growing Forward contribution of $30,000 per legal entity
• Cost-share level 30% or 50%, depending on BMP selected
• Maximum cap for each BMP category
• Funding for 4 selected BMP practices limited if previous participation from 2005-March 2009, encourage new actions not same projects
• Strict deadlines for project completion – Program Year One – Claims submitted to OSCIA (Guelph) by January 15, 2010
# 2009-10 List of COFSP Eligible Best Management Practices

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<th>Product and Waste Management</th>
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<td>Relocation of Livestock Confinement and Horticultural Facilities from Riparian Areas</td>
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<td>Wintering Site Pasture Management</td>
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<td>Improved Cropping Systems</td>
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## 2009-10 List of COFSP Eligible BMPs continued

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Farm Water Treatment Equipment for Agricultural Use</td>
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<td><em>Livestock Mortality Management</em></td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Ponds for Agricultural Water Supply Management</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td><em>Livestock Nutrition Planning to Reduce Greenhouse Gases</em></td>
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Program Enrolment – COFSP Year One

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<th>Enrolment Forms</th>
<th>Number of Farm Operations</th>
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<td>Past Participant in APF or CY cost-share programs</td>
<td>653 (62%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>New participant under Growing Forward</td>
<td>397 (38%)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Farm Businesses Participating</strong></td>
<td><strong>1050</strong></td>
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Participation by Major Sector
(Allocated Projects, COFSP Year One)

Source: Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, October 5, 2009
Top 12 On-Farm BMPs

# of Projects (based on allocations, COFSP Year One)

Total: 1829 approved projects

Source: Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, October 5, 2009
Top 12 On-Farm BMPs by $ cost share (allocations, COFSP Year One)

- Improved Manure Storage/ Handling: $1,997
- Improved Cropping Systems: $1,016
- Farmyard/Hort. Facilities Runoff Control: $921
- Precision Agriculture: $586
- Upland/Riparian Area Management: $523
- Manure Treatment: $292
- Improved Pest Management: $273
- Water Well Management: $264
- Nutrient Recovery from Waste Water: $225
- Product & Waste Management: $224
- Erosion Control Structures: $207
- Energy Conservation Measures: $205

$ value of cost-share allocated to BMP category

Source: Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, October 5, 2009
Erosion Control (Riparian)
BMP Category 11
50% to $20,000
Erosion Control Structures (Non Riparian) BMP Category 12 50% to $20,000
Requirements

BMP 11 and 12

- Projects require the submission of detailed design sheets and sketches as part of the Project Justification and Assurance Forms.

- Projects must be designed in accordance with the specifications included in OMAFRA publication 832 “Agricultural Erosion Control Structures – A Design and Construction Manual.”
Requirements (cont’d)

• Designs must be completed by a certified individual (Certificate of Achievement), a Professional Engineer, or qualified staff of a Conservation Authority.

To Obtain a Certificate of Achievement:

If previously certified as a Soil Erosion Control Contractor, two options:

1. Take the Agricultural Erosion Control Structures Training Workshop and pass an exam**
2. Write and pass the exam (nominal fee of $50 - write the exam at an OMAFRA Office)

OR

If not previously certified as a Soil Erosion Control Contractor, must attend a training session and pass an exam.

• Certificates of Achievement valid for 5 years

** Software underdevelopment for Training Workshop
**BMP – Erosion Control Structures**

**June 22, 2009 to October 5, 2009**

### Erosion Control Structures (Non-Riparian)

**Investment in BMP 12**

- **Farmer Investment**: $146,552
- **$ COFSP cost-share**: $131,152
- **Other Funding**: $0
- **Gross Project Cost**: $277,704

### Erosion Control Structures (Riparian)

**Investment in BMP 11**

- **Farmer Investment**: $175,742
- **Other Funding**: $83,573
- **$ COFSP cost-share**: $206,774
- **Gross Project Cost**: $466,089

**Enhanced cost-share programs**

Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program and Lake Simcoe Farm Stewardship Program
Preliminary Summary of Year One Program Achievements

• Strong demand for cost-share funds ($7.3 million) demonstrates farmers’ willingness to undertake voluntary environmental improvement projects (approximately 1,800 projects in process)

• Encouraging first time participants – 38% of applicants to COFSP in Year One were new (i.e. did not participate under the Agricultural Policy Framework)

• Increasing environmental awareness and risk assessment – formal EFP educational process, with 608 new EFP’s peer reviewed

• Very successful at leveraging dollars at 4:1
  – $23 million invested by farmers, $1.7 million from other sources including other ministries and agencies to advance government priorities

• Encouraging participation from all segments
Future - COFSP Review

• All 2009-10 cost-share funds for COFSP have been fully committed
• COFSP currently under review:
  – to ensure that the program continues to meet industry needs
  – to ensure the program continues to meet Growing Forward and provincial priorities
• As a result, the COFSP Project Proposal Applications for program year two (2010) are not available at this time
• Information on year two COFSP will be available once the program review is completed
• It is anticipated that applications may be available before the end of 2009
• OSCIA and OMAFRA websites will have updated information as it becomes available

Note: Producers should only proceed with project implementation (where seeking cost-share assistance) after receiving final approval to proceed from OSCIA Guelph office
QUESTIONS?

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On-Farm Environment and Climate Change details available on OSCIA’s website at:
www.ontariosoilcrop.org

Or for more information on Growing Forward in Ontario:
Website: Ontario.ca/growingforward
E-mail: growingforward@ontario.ca
Phone number: 1-888-479-3931 (1-888-GRWFWD1)