

February 2017



EAGLE CREEK
WATERSHED GROUP

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**CHECK OUT OUR
WEBSITE at
eaglecreekwatershed.ca
for information on all
programs.**

Phone us at
306-831-6009 if you
have questions or need
assistance in navigating
around our website.

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EAGLE CREEK WATERSHED NEWS

4R Nutrient Stewardship by Glenn Barclay PAg

What do the 4 R's stand for?

The Right Fertilizer Source, at the Right Rate, at the Right Time, and in the Right Place.

If nutrients are inadequate in a crop system, fertility is mined from the soil and the crop never attains optimal yield. If nutrients are supplied in excess, the possibility of nutrient movement away from the crop increases. Both cases can negatively affect the profitability of the farm.

Macronutrient Mobility:

Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K) and Sulphur (S), the four macro nutrients, respond differently in the environment. Soil mineral and organic particles have a net negative charge. Anions (negatively charged ions) are repelled from soil particles and move freely in soil water. Cations (positively charged ions) are attracted by the soil particles, minimizing their movement.

Nitrogen - While plants take up N as both nitrate and ammonium, the majority of N in our soils is found as nitrate. Soil nitrate is an anion and therefore very mobile. Unused or excess nitrate-N can move through the soil profile into groundwater (leaching). The amount of nitrate-N and the speed it moves through a soil profile is greater in sandy compared to clay soils. **Sulphur** - Plants take up S in the sulphate-S form only. Sulphate is also an anion (negative charge), so nutrient mobility described for nitrate-N also applies equally to sulphate-S. **Phosphorus** - While plant-available P exists as an anion (negatively charged), P always complexes with other elements to form a cation (positively charged). The majority of the P in our soils can be found as calcium phosphate, a cation. This reduces P movement to a minimum unless excessive P is applied (heavily manured soils). **Potassium** - In the soil, K occurs on its own as a cation (positively charged). It binds to soil and organic matter in a manner similar to that described for P above. Soil K is slightly more mobile than P, again more so in sandy soils than clay soils.

There is funding to help you with the 4R's!

Precision Farming BMPs are available to reduce nutrient loss and potential risks to ground and surface water quality, and to improve energy efficiency.

Both of the following BMPs are rebates, but you must have an Environmental Farm Plan in order to be eligible for the rebate.

Variable Fertilizer Equipment: 30% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$5,000

Variable Rate Mapping: 30% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$2,000

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Farm Stewardship Program

Beneficial Management Practice	Funding Level	Pre-Approval/ Rebate
Livestock Site Management		
Relocation of Livestock Confinement*	60% to \$50,000	Pre-Approval
Fencing to Protect Surface Water*	50% to \$10,000	Rebate
Farmyard Runoff Control*	50% to \$30,000	Pre-Approval
Riparian Area Grazing Management and Fencing*	50% to \$10,000	Pre-Approval
Native Grassland Grazing Management*	50% to \$10,000	Pre-Approval
Carcass Disposal Plans	75% to \$30,000	Pre-Approval
Manure Management		
Manure Storage Enhancements	30% to \$50,000	Pre-Approval
Manure Application Equipment and Technologies	30% to \$30,000	Rebate
Land Management		
Natural Waterway Erosion Control*	75% to \$30,000	Pre-Approval
Creek and Stream Crossing*	50% to \$20,000	Pre-Approval
Native Plant Establishment*	75% to \$10,000	Pre-Approval
Protecting High Risk Erodible and Saline Soils*	50% to \$10,000	Rebate
Shelterbelt Establishment	\$1200/mile to \$5,000	Rebate
Water Flow and Erosion Control*	50% to \$20,000	Pre-Approval
IPM Collection and Monitoring	50% to \$1,000	Rebate
Irrigation Management		
Irrigation Management Planning	50% to \$2,000	Rebate
Irrigation Equipment Modification	30% to \$50,000	Pre-Approval
Variable Rate Irrigation Technology	30% to \$15,000	Pre-Approval
Precision Farming		
Variable Rate Fertilizer Equipment	30% to \$5,000	Rebate
Variable Rate Mapping	30% to \$2,000	Rebate
Agricultural Wastes		
Used Oil Storage	50% to \$2,000	Rebate
Grain Bag Recycling	50% to \$5,000	Rebate
Environmental Solutions		
Environmental Solutions	20-50% of \$50,000	Pre-Approval

*Available through AEGP without EFP, all BMPs available with an EFP
There is a Multi-Producer Erosion Control BMP. Contact AEGP tech for details.

DEADLINES for the Farm Stewardship Program:

Pre-Approval Application must be submitted by June 30th 2017.

Rebate Applications must be completed and submitted by January 31st, 2018

What to expect from the online Environmental Farm Plan by Kandra Forbes

By now you have possibly received notice to renew your Environmental Farm Plan. This is your chance to highlight your farm's environmental strengths, identify areas of environmental concern, and set realistic action plans to improve environmental conditions. If you have never done an environmental farm plan or yours is up for renewal, here is what to expect from the online Environmental Farm Plan. Remember: it's all at your own pace!

Go to: efp.saskatchewan.ca

Step 1: What yard sites do you have and what do they look like?

For this step, you are asked to outline your farm sites. This includes the yard where you live as well as any other yard sites that you have.

To be prepared, have a labelled map (sketched or aerial) of the site and all the structures. You will need to upload this image to accompany your information.

Step 2: Information about your fields

You are asked to group your fields by selecting fields that have similar soil and landscape that you manage in the same way. Examples of groups include cultivated land, hilly cropland, bush pasture, etc.

Have a map, document, soil test or some sort of resource ready to attach.

Step 3: There are 24 chapters that deal with specifics. I know that sounds overwhelming, but it's not that bad! You can unselect chapters that don't apply to you. If you are a strictly a crop farmer you likely won't have to worry about livestock facilities. If you are a mixed farmer, well, grab a coffee and get comfy!

Step 4: After going through the chapters and self assessing your operation you hopefully were reminded of certain things you maybe have forgotten to do that prevent you from getting the highest score. Maybe you learned some new things!

That brings you to the Action Plan portion. You have a chance to look back at all your low scores and ask yourself what changes are feasible for your operation.

For example:

Many people forget to test their water regularly either for their house or livestock. Make it your plan to do more regular testing and make a file so you can see if your water quality changes over time.

Once you have completed your Environmental Farm Plan you are set to apply for certain Beneficial Management Practices and receive funding! For information about the BMPs contact Glenn Barclay at 306-831-6009.

For technical assistance or more information on the Environmental Farm Plan Program please contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 or email aginfo@gov.sk.ca.

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For the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) an Environmental Farm Plan is not needed.

Grants for decommissioning wells and developing water sources for spraying operations or livestock enterprises are available.

Contact Glenn Barclay at 306-831-6009 for information.

Application Deadline is August 1st 2017.

Premises Identification: What you should know

Written by Dwayne Summach MSc PAg
Regional Livestock Specialist
Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

Premises Identification (PID), livestock identification and tracking animal movements are the three pillars of traceability. In January of 2017, legislation was amended to change the requirement for premises identification from voluntary to mandatory requirement. A premise identification number is a unique identifier consisting of nine alpha numeric characters assigned to a premise by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The primary purpose of this identification number is to allow the producer to be contacted in the event of an animal disease outbreak, or an animal or public health emergency such as a flood or fire. The information provided to obtain a premise identification number is stored on a secure website and may be reviewed by federal or provincial government officials or their designated agents involved in traceability for the purposes of preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from animal diseases and natural disasters. The information will also be verified for accuracy.

All owners of all types of livestock should register their premise(s) that they control. This includes producers with backyard poultry flocks, or a few head of beef, producers that derive their livelihood from the sale of livestock, feedlots, hog barns, etc. Other places that are required to register include boarding stables, community pastures, abattoirs, fair and exhibition grounds, among other premise types. A full list of who should obtain a premise identification number may be obtained at premisesid.saskatchewan.ca

The registration form may be filled out on paper or as an electronic fillable pdf or directly online. The information required is straightforward – name, address, contact information, legal land location and holder of title, species present and the capacity of the premises (defined as the maximum number of animals routinely present at the site). Assistance is available online through the detailed Premises Identification External User Guide. Additional information may be obtained at Saskatchewan.ca and using the search function for “premises identification system”.

You may also call the Agriculture Knowledge Center at 1-866-457-2377 or the livestock specialist at 306-463-5445 for assistance.

For password resets or forgotten premise identification numbers, you may contact the database administrator at 306-798-7437.