

Ag-E Times

...up-to-date Information from the Agri-Environment Knowledge Centre

September/October 2012

Welcome to the First Edition of our Newsletter

I would like to welcome you to the first edition of *Ag-E Times*. This newsletter is a new and additional way for the Agri-Environment Knowledge Centre (AEKC) to communicate current and emerging issues in Manitoba related to agriculture and the environment. It will highlight some of the work being done in MAFRI.

If there are additional topics of interest you would like to communicate, we would be happy to include them. If you would like to be included on our mailing list please contact us at agrienv@gov.mb.ca.

Sincerely,

Esther Salvano

A/Director Agri-Environment Knowledge Centre

Hot Off the Press

[Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship just released Manitoba's Green Plan – Tomorrow Now.](#)

[In-Crop Liquid Manure Application Increases Crop Yields interview with AEKC's Clay Sawka.](#)

Program Update

Environmental Farm Action Program

- Funding is now fully allocated.

Manure Management Financial Assistance Program

- Funding is now fully allocated for the Increased Manure Storage Capacity and Improved Manure Storage BMP categories for 2012/2013.
- Funding is still available for the Solid-Liquid Separation of Manure BMP.
- The cost share for manure treatment systems has been increased to 75% and the funding cap to \$500,000 for projects submitted before March 31st 2013.

Environmental Farm Plan

- Workshops will resume again in the fall.

Soil & Manure Management Field Clinic

MAFRI and the National Centre for Livestock and the Environment partnered once again to deliver specialized training in a genuine field setting at the Glenlea Research Farm. The seventy-five participants were made up of consulting agronomists, livestock company staff, researchers, students, journalists, regulatory staff and extension agents.

Informative and interactive lessons addressed to subjects ranging from: electrical conductivity to residue management, composting science and equipment to nutrient losses, and from in-crop manure application to how low one can go in targeting P-based application rates with solid spreaders.

Lunch was served by the Manitoba Pork Council. The farm staff played a pivotal role in a rare opportunity for participants to observe field-scale practices and equipment.



THANK YOU!

The Soil and Manure Management Field Clinic and the Manitoba Soil Science Society (MSSS) field tour were both a huge success. We thank you for your participation and hope to see you again next year!

The Future of Community Pastures in Manitoba

Canada has announced the discontinuation of the PFRA Community Pasture Program (CPP) beginning in 2013. Since the creation of *The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act* in 1939, Canada and Manitoba have jointly cooperated in a Community Pasture Program to ensure environmental, social and economic sustainability on 24 community pastures in the Province of Manitoba. This involves approximately 400,000 acres of fragile land, with ecological benefits that have been converted into permanent cover to support about 30,000 cows and about 500 patrons. Approximately 80% of the land base is provincial Crown land, and approximately 20% of the land is owned by Rural Municipalities. Less than 1% is federally or privately owned.

The first five community pastures to be divested by Canada include the following:

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>District</u>
Westbourne	Brandon
Lakeview	Brandon
Gardenton	Brandon
Pansy	Dauphin
Sylvan Dale	Dauphin

All pastures will continue to be operated under the current management system through the 2013 grazing season.

Reduce Stubble Burning

Did you know that burning stubble:

- loses about 90% of the nitrogen in the straw
- increases the need for fertilizer in the long term
- creates smoke, and
- increases greenhouse gas emissions

Please remember there is a crop residue burning restriction in place from August 1st to November 15th - authorization is required. Please visit [The Manitoba Crop Residue Burning Program](#) for more information.

Environmental Farm Plan as a Marketing Tool?

There are advantages of maintaining an up-to-date Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Statement of Completion (SoC) certificate. The primary goals of the EFP program are to assess and identify agri-environmental risks and assets on-farm through education and awareness, and the EFP is known on a national level as being the flagship program for agri-environmental certification. As of late, there is increasing interest in utilizing the EFP as a marketing and promotional tool. For example, in response to consumer demand for environmentally sustainable food products, some French fry processing plants now require Manitoba potato producers to have a valid EFP SoC certificate as one of the conditions of their contract. The AEKC will begin commodity consultation this fall to discuss ways to add value to the EFP process. Let us know if you have any suggestions / comments.

Mark the Calendar

- August 15** In manure management planning, manure applications done after this date pertain to the 2013 crop.
- September 10** In the Red River Valley Special Management Area, manure applied after this date must be incorporated within 48 hours after application if not injected (except on zero-till and perennial crop lands).
- October 23—25** [CleanFARMS](#) pesticide collection campaign starts. Check the link for a drop off location near you.
- November 10** Ban on application of manure as well as N and P fertilizers takes effect until the following April 10.
- November 15** Crop residue burning restriction ends.



The AEKC would love to hear what agri-environmental news is important to you! Please contact Dana.Hill@gov.mb.ca with your ideas and/or suggestions for future articles.