

MANITOBA

Adoption of Environmental Farm Plans in Manitoba



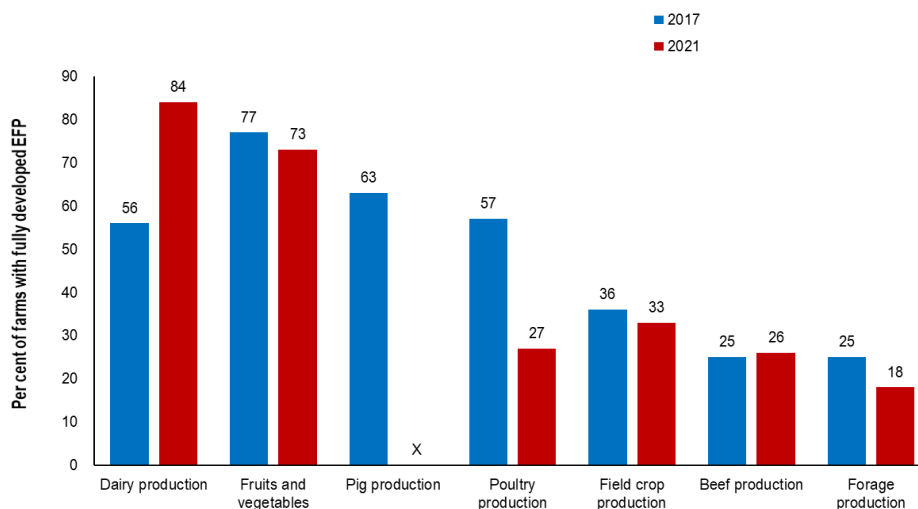
Statistics Canada, in collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, implements the Farm Management Survey (FMS) every five years, as a follow-up to the Census of Agriculture. The survey collects production and farm management practice data from Canadian farm operators. The most recent FMS, conducted in 2021, surveyed 18,000 crop and livestock farms across Canada that had a total agricultural sales value of \$10,000 or more.¹ This report provides insights on the adoption of Environmental Farm Plans (EFPs) in Manitoba.

EFP is a provincially delivered program that enables farmers to identify environmental risks and assets related to their farming operations and create an action plan to address the identified environmental risks. The action plan specifies areas where adoption of beneficial management practices would provide value in eliminating or mitigating the identified risks.

In 2021, 27 per cent of farms in Manitoba reported having an EFP; eight per cent of farms were developing an EFP, while 64 per cent reported having no EFP for their farms. Of those farms that reported having an EFP, 36 per cent developed their EFP within the last two years, and 29 per cent within the past five years (Figure 1).² There was no change in the implementation of EFP by Manitoba farms between 2017 and 2021.

Adoption of EFP significantly varies by farm type. In 2021, dairy farms had the highest proportion of farms with an EFP in place, an increase of 28 per cent from 2017.³ Farms producing fruits, vegetables, berries and nuts reported the second highest percentage of farms with a valid EFP (73 per cent) followed by field crop producers (33 per cent) and poultry producers (27 per cent). While data is not available for 2021, 63 per cent of pig producers reported having an EFP in 2017. The percentage of poultry and forage farms with a fully developed EFP decreased by 30 per cent and 7 per cent between 2017 and 2021, respectively.

Figure 1. Percentage of Farms with Fully Developed EFP by Farm Type in Manitoba



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 32-10-0205-01

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¹ For more information about the FMS, visit:

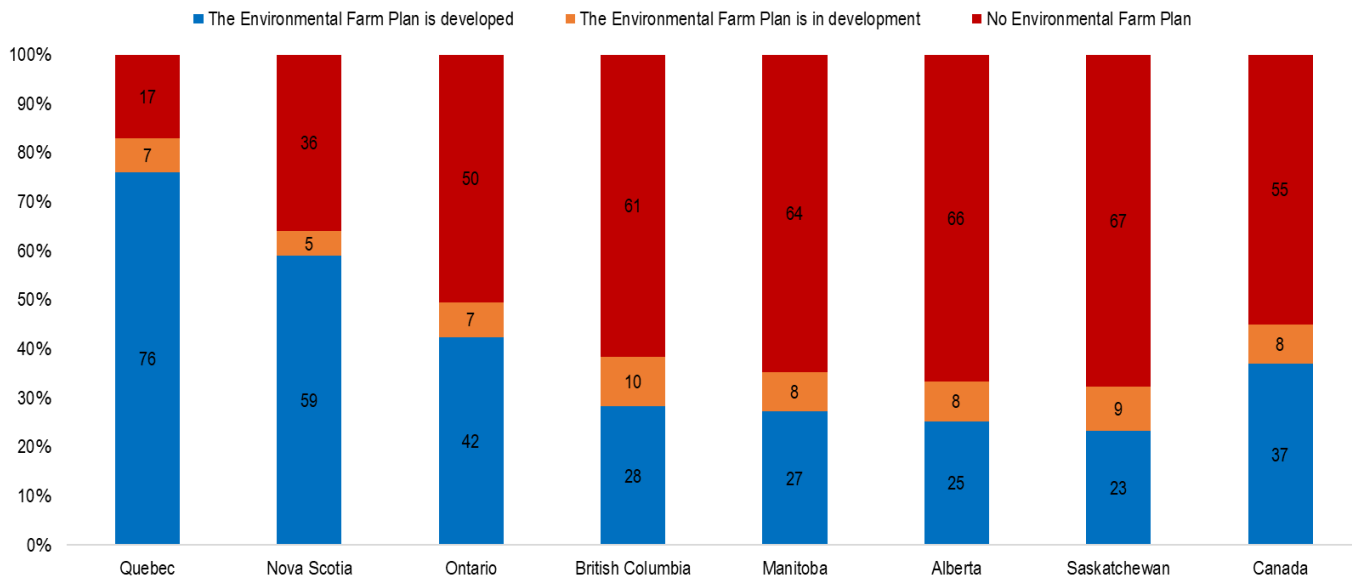
[Surveys and statistical programs - Farm Management Survey \(FMS\) \(statcan.gc.ca\)](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/26-667-x/2021001/article/00001-eng.htm)

² EFP should be updated every five years to be considered relevant.

³ Dairy farmers are required to have an EFP by dairy industry standards.

At the national level, Eastern Canada showed higher EFP adoption rates, compared to Western Canada (Figure 2). Seventy-six per cent of farms in Quebec reported having an EFP in 2021, followed by Nova Scotia (59 per cent) and Ontario (42 per cent). Manitoba farms reported the highest percentage (27 per cent) of EFP implementation among the prairie provinces. However, it is below the national average of 37 per cent.

Figure 2. Adoption of EFP by Province



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 32-10-0205-01

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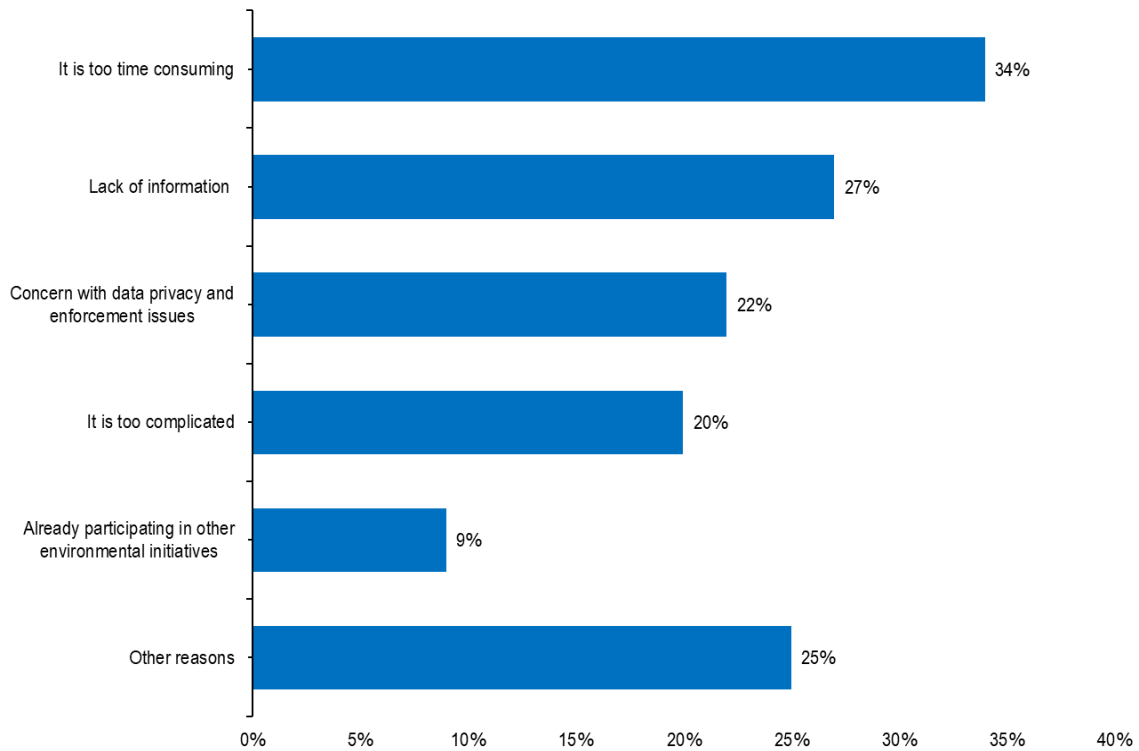
As shown in Figure 3, the main reason reported by Manitoba producers for not having an EFP on their farm was the time required to develop one. Thirty-four producers who did not have an EFP in place indicated it was ‘too time consuming.’ Important to note, that until 2021, farmers were required to attend mandatory EFP workshops in person and to complete their EFP on paper. Recognizing the time required for this process, Manitoba Agriculture in partnership with Keystone Agricultural Producers re-developed the EFP program in Manitoba. As of 2022, the EFP can now be conveniently accessed at any time through an online platform.⁴

‘Lack of information’ and ‘concerns with data privacy and enforcement issues’ were the second and third most important factors cited hindering the implementation of the EFP program in Manitoba. Manitoba’s online EFP is a confidential self-assessment which uses state-of-the-art cyber security and data protection technology to ensure producer information is always safe and secure.

Increased awareness about the benefits of having an EFP and better understanding of the confidentiality considerations related to data collection might increase the adoption of EFPs in Manitoba. Furthermore, another barrier to EFP implementation is the perceived complexity of the EFP. The good news is that the online EFP version addresses this concern and it greatly simplifies the process of developing an EFP.

⁴ The online version of the Manitoba’s EFP can be accessed here: www.ManitobaEFP.ca.

Figure 3. The Reasons for Not Having an Environmental Farm Plan in Manitoba in 2021



Statistics Canada, Table 32-10-0205-01

Manitoba Agriculture, Foresight and Analysis, 2023-03-28

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