



Farmers committed to environmental stewardship

SUSTAINABLE SOURCING



Definition: Sustainable sourcing means buying goods from suppliers who adhere to a code of practice that reduces the social, economic, and environmental impacts of food production, processing and distribution.

Why is it Important?

In recent years, major corporations have committed to increasing the proportion of sustainably-sourced agricultural products that they purchase. Unilever, the third largest consumer goods company in 2012, is an example: they have committed to sourcing 100% of their agricultural materials sustainably. Similarly, McDonald's has committed to sustainable sourcing through the [Verified Beef Program](#). With major international companies committing to sustainable sourcing, Alberta producers will increasingly be called upon to demonstrate that their products are produced sustainably.

Alberta EFP (AEFP) recognizes that changes are coming to the agricultural industry and is working towards having EFP meet or exceed international sustainable sourcing standards. As a first step, AEFP partnered with [Alberta Barley](#) on a benchmarking project to compare Alberta's EFP to three international standards ([Sustainable Agricultural Initiative Farmer Assessment](#), [International Sustainability & Carbon Certification](#), and [Unilever's Sustainable Agriculture Code](#)). The results of this study are being used to further develop Alberta's EFP.

Environmental Impact

Areas addressed under this category include soils stewardship and conservation, agrochemical use, nutrient management, biodiversity enhancement and protections, and waste and water quality. The [benchmarking study](#) found that AEFP met or exceeded many environmental requirements. Those that were not met, are easily attainable with minor changes to the AEFP workbook.

Social Impact

Examples of social impact are human rights, child labour, anti-corruption, worker conditions, social protection, employment relations, human development and social dialogue. Since many of these social issues are covered by Canadian legislation, AEFP is evaluating the need to include social impact in the current plan.

Economic Impact

The economic impact aspects of sustainable sourcing are economic viability, sustainable management and supply chain responsibilities. This is not currently covered under AEFP, but may be in the future.

For more information on Alberta EFP or sustainable sourcing, including web links, visit www.albertaefp.com/sustainable-sourcing.