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About the Alberta EFP

The Alberta Environmental Farm Plan is a voluntary, whole-farm self-assessment that helps producers identify their environmental risks and develop plans to mitigate those identified risks. It was initially developed by farmers, for farmers, as a proactive response to legislation, an early effort at gaining social license, or often now called public trust. Farmers, farm organizations and governments quickly saw the value of the farm plan as an educational and planning tool and rallied around the concept. Many people view the EFP as a key delivery mechanism to achieve environmental outcomes, and it still is today.

The program is administered mainly through an online platform. Producers can sign up independently or with an EFP technician. The webbook has 25 chapters, of which the producer chooses those that apply to their operation. As they move through their planning process, the producer answers assessment questions and then plans the steps for improvement that make sense for their farm or ranch.

Over the past five years, the four main strategic goals of the program were

1. The Alberta EFP workbook, program and online tool will be adapted to accommodate a potential increase in producer uptake. To accomplish this, ARECA will need to simplify its EFP delivery mechanism.
2. With federal and provincial legislation, the EFP workbook will enable producers to meet the SAI FSA 2.0 at a minimum bronze level.
3. ARECA will directly contribute to the national coordination of provincial and territorial EFP programs.
4. Communication strategies will be developed and reviewed annually. The EFP program's communications strategy will deliver messages to producers through stakeholder groups and various media organizations.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.



ARECA ED Report

The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program is brought to you by the Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA). Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation is a strong financial supporter whose guidance and counsel we have relied on over the past decade and will rely on into the future.

Governed by a producer Board of Directors and as a farm organization, ARECA is privileged to continue developing and delivering EFP to Alberta's producers and supply chains.

Our strong Stakeholder Advisory Committee, drawn from various agricultural sector interests, has provided excellent direction, guidance and oversight to EFP. The advisors have kept EFP current and very much in tune with farmer and supply chain needs.

Alberta EFP is part of a national effort. The collaboration among the various provincial EFP programs has been critical to the program's continuous improvement, efficiencies and quality. Working with Producer Commissions, Canadian Forage and Grassland Association, Environment and Climate Change Canada and others have been instrumental to the producer uptake and use of the EFP program.

ARECA extends a huge thank you to our voluntary network of Environmental Farm Plan Technicians from Agricultural Service Boards, Applied Research and Forage Associations, and individuals from several other groups. These folks are a significant part of our EFP effort. They promote and provide individual support in helping individual producers develop the EFP for their farms and ranches.

A huge thank you to Lisa, Tanya, Devon, and Sonja, the very capable ARECA folks who lead, develop and manage our EFP Program.

Ultimately, the long-standing value of Alberta EFP as an education and extension program ensures Alberta producers have a simple, effective tool for managing the environmental risks of agriculture, having a positive impact on Alberta's ecosystems, assisting supply chains with sustainable sourcing of farm products, and in furthering market and consumer confidence in the food we grow.

Alan Hall
Executive Director, ARECA

EFP Director Report

Lisa Nadeau

It has been a busy and exciting five years for the Alberta EFP Program, one full of transition and growth. This makes my role both a challenging and exciting one. Through the growth, I always try to maintain our focus: what makes a difference and will benefit the Alberta Producer.

One of the biggest changes was the uptake of our online platform, the EFP Webbook. The original, purposeful design of the EFP workbook meant an EFP technician would walk the producer through the binder in person over a 2-day workshop. With producers now able to complete their EFP independently online, we are conscientious not to lose sight of the program's important education and awareness components. We are continuously working to improve and enhance the learning elements for producers through campaigns, outreach, enhancements to the tools, digital resources, and producer feedback.

The EFP program currently supports multiple layers for learning

- One-on-one support through workshops, technician support and staff support.
- On-demand support to allow for increased access for all Alberta producers.
- Creating a meaningful plan that relates to their farm.

With the program existing entirely online came the importance of ensuring the privacy of producer data. We worked closely with experts and consultants to ensure we were not only meeting our contractual requirements but were exceeding industry standards in keeping that data secure. We have incorporated program staff and EFP technicians training to ensure our policies and practices follow each stage of the process.

We also refine the program regularly to ensure Alberta farmers remain competitive in global markets. Part of the picture is our collaborative work with other provincial and territorial EFP programs in Canada. This collaboration allows us to align programming and ensure we are heading in a similar direction when telling the sustainability story of Canadian producers while maintaining regional relevance. On the international stage, the EFP program did significant work to ensure alignment with global standards. The Alberta EFP program pursued benchmarking against the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform's Farm Sustainability Assessment 2.0 (FSA), and aligning to FSA Silver Level. This alignment allows Alberta-made products to reach markets with internationally recognized sustainability claims. The EFP program has also become a valuable component of the secondary education classroom, working its way into the curriculum of agricultural courses at Lakeland College, Lethbridge College, and Olds College. These post-secondary institutions are recognizing EFP as a useful tool for engaging youth in the environmental pressures that face agricultural operations today. It is valuable to engage the next generation of farmers to think about a farming operation through an environmental lens and see how one farm fits within the larger context of the industry. Working with today's youth also builds public trust as they become the producers of tomorrow.

We have a solid team of staff at ARECA who are working hard to provide a strong EFP program for Alberta producers. The EFP technicians actively delivering EFPs in their community are advocating for the program and agri-environmental practices that work for Alberta producers. Being part of such a tenacious team is a pleasure and honour, and I am excited for the next five year EFP journey. I was lucky to have an exceptional counterpart cover my maternity leave in 2022. Tanya Moskal-Hébert's capable leadership ensured no interruptions to EFP programming, and our projects did not lose momentum during my absence.

EFP Director Report

Tanya Moskal-Hébert

It was an honour and privilege to cover for Lisa Nadeau as Director, Alberta EFP, during her maternity leave. The Alberta EFP has changed significantly from the initial development of the 4-inch binder in the early 2000s, which I was involved with while working for the provincial government. However, the one thing that has not changed in the last 20 years is the focus on the Alberta producer, originally developed by farmers, for farmers, the Alberta EFP was a proactive response to legislation to maintain social license. Today, it is viewed as a key delivery mechanism to achieve environmental outcomes, providing opportunities for sustainable sourcing. The EFP still demonstrates the stewardship of Alberta producers.

During my time as Director, we took the Alberta producer focus and carried it into building program integrity through a fulsome program content review. First, with our knowledgeable on-the-ground technicians, we connected to producers, their practices and their frustrations. And then with a science-based technical review. We continued to build partnerships across the industry and with other EFP programs across Canada sharing and implementing best practices. The Alberta EFP engaged producer groups and stakeholders with reduced producer administrative burden, ecosystem management and increased sustainable sourcing opportunities. All the while maintaining the producer-focused delivery and communications.

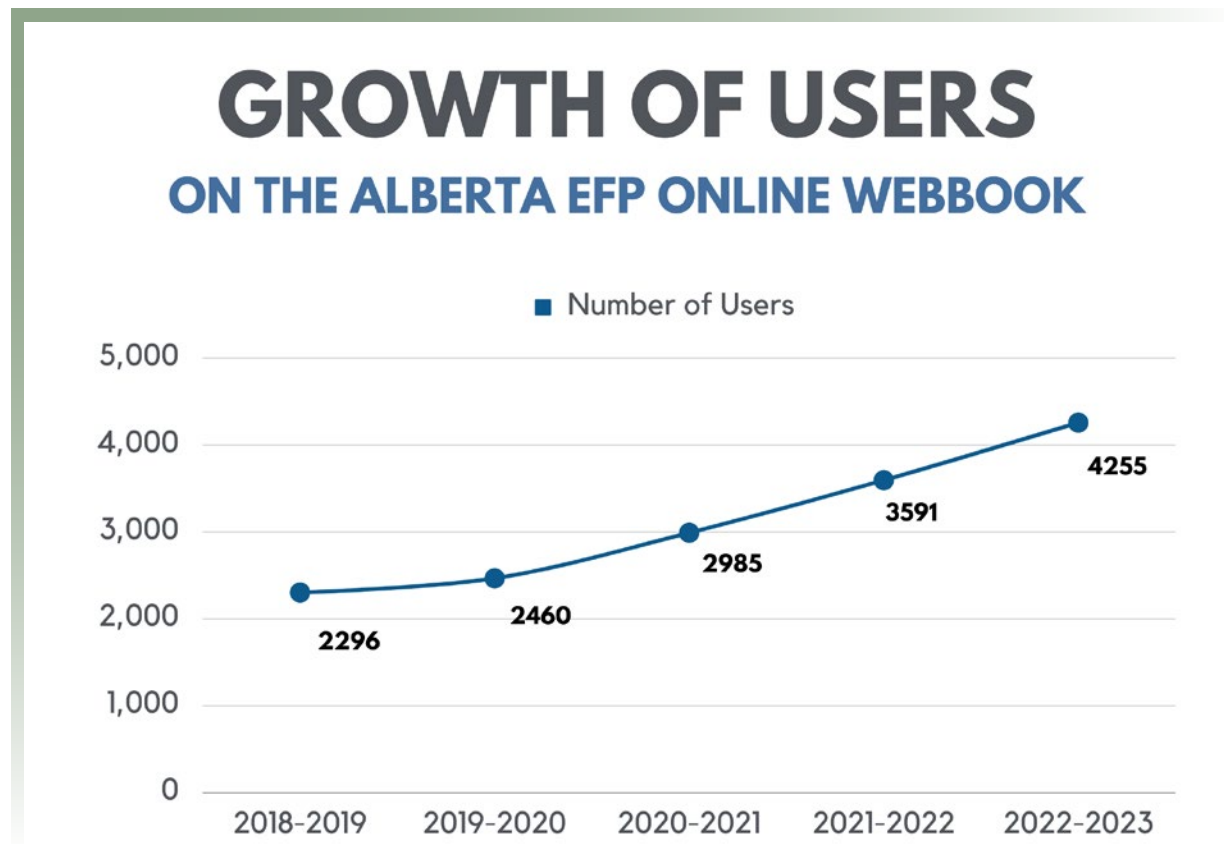
Ultimately, these were big shoes to fill, but I know that the Alberta EFP is back in good hands, supported by ARECA and the direction in which AEEP is moving towards. It will continue to serve producers well in the years to come, assisting them in identifying environmental risks, allowing them to demonstrate the stewardship that has always been there, and bringing opportunities to the producers of Alberta.



Facts and Figures

Program Growth

There has been significant growth between 2018-2023 for the Alberta EFP. The number of accounts fluctuates on our online system, yet the program has grown 130% since we began tracking these numbers in 2018. While producer accounts increase in a manageable way month over month, the program has supported significant growth in the past five years while maintaining content integrity and increasing use in sustainable sourcing opportunities.



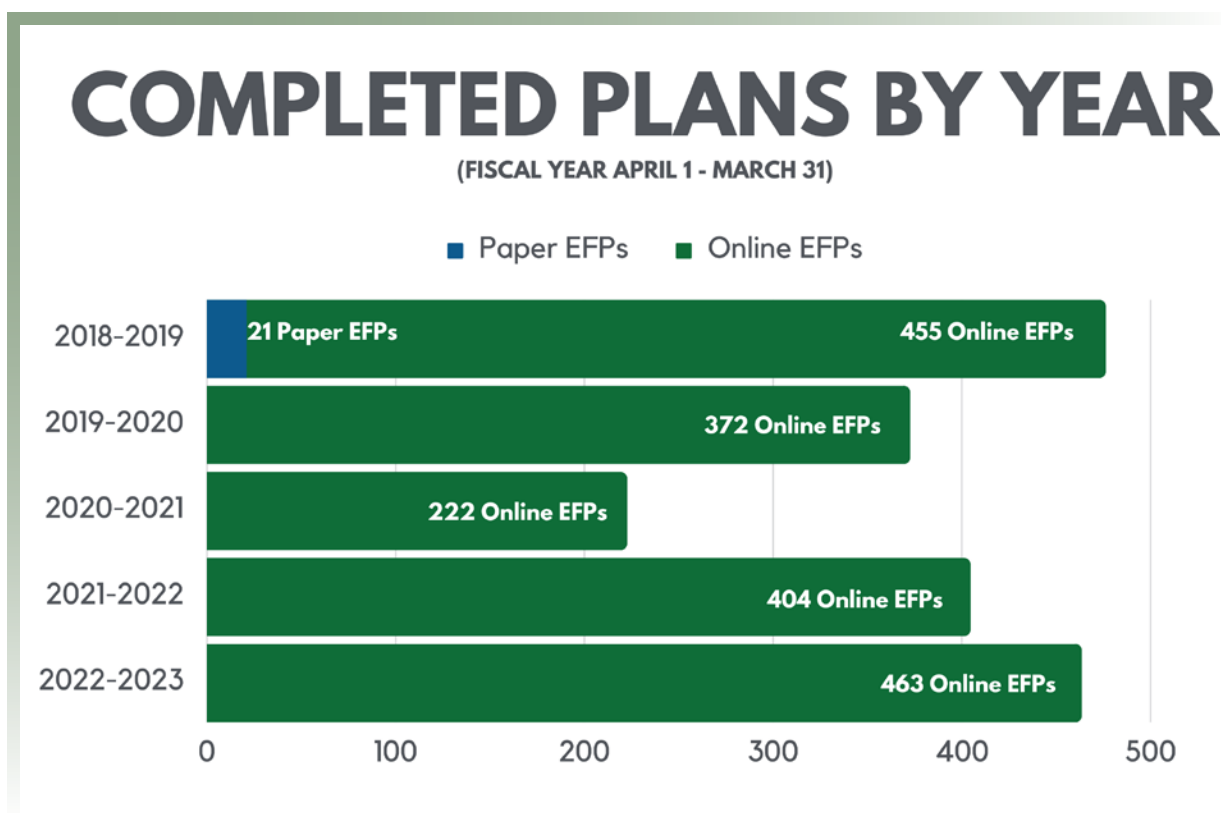
Technician Support

While the technicians are an essential part of how we operate, slight fluctuations have occurred month to month. Alberta EFP continually trains new technicians. While we support Alberta producers across Alberta, we see a direct link to the number of environmental farm plans completed in the regions where technicians are present. In the past five years, Alberta EFP completed 1,937 EFPs, even with a reduction of our technician network by 17%. Moving forward, Alberta EFP is developing a plan to ensure a strong support network exists for producers so the program can continue to grow.

Facts and Figures

EFPs Reviewed

The number of EFPs reviewed increased dramatically midway through the program cycle. The increase corresponded to two critical components of our program development. At this time, Alberta EFP had several years to manage and refine webbook processes. A notable decrease in plans completed was seen throughout the first year of Covid-19 in 2020-2021. As time progressed, the program adjusted to other online support methods to continue uptake of the program. As industry groups develop their strategic visions around environmental stewardship and accessing new markets, they increasingly look to the Alberta EFP to partner with to support their efforts. We have also seen an increase when new funding programs require an EFP. These incentives bring awareness to environmental risk planning.



What I love most about the EFP is that each producer gets a customized, personal report and action plan that works for their unique operation. It really is wonderful and a highlight for me as a technician to talk with producers who say that they learned something new and enjoyed the process after completing their plans.

Sonja Bloom, EFP Technician, Foothills Forage & Grazing Association



Sonja Bloom

Farmer Supports

The flexibility of the EFP program ensures producers can receive the support they need to complete their workbook. The program has developed tools that Alberta producers and industry can use to build their Environmental Farm Plan.

- The on-demand webbook allows producers to register, learn and plan on their schedules. Regardless of the day of the week or time of day, the webbook is conveniently available to support farmers and ranchers with their environmental planning. Plus, the Alberta EFP webbook design allows producers to choose only the content that applies to their farm.
- The webbook is full of great resources from reputable organizations across Alberta. Alberta EFP regularly reviews, updates and adds resources to ensure the most relevant information is readily available.
- The webbook is also reviewed to provide a user-friendly design that is easy to navigate. In addition, the creation of support videos and materials helps producers troubleshoot potential technical issues.
- When producers sign up to start their environmental farm plan, they get paired with local technicians who can help answer questions and provide feedback quickly.
- EFP techs and program staff provide the level of support the producer needs, offering one-on-one help, group workshops, or answering questions along the way.
- Alberta EFP hosts regular in-person and online workshops. This allows producers to work through any questions with technicians, staff and even other producers. This peer-to-peer learning can provide a lot of context for the producer.
- Program staff are available to support producers by phone or email. Once again, navigating their Environmental Farm Plan with another person there to support them can help them reach their completion certificate more seamlessly.

Fact

In the past 5 years, AAFP has hosted 98 workshops and grown the producers in the online system by 130%.

Technicians Network

EFP is the single best tool that helps a farmer / rancher understand their environmental risks and learn new things about their operation.

Ken Lewis, EFP Technician, Red Deer County



Ken Lewis

In the last five years, Alberta EFP has maintained a network of 40+ technicians. These technicians are critical to the success of the program. The EFP technicians are identified through their municipality or local research association, and they provide many producers with local context to make their plans as relevant as possible.

EFP technicians play a dual role for the Environmental Farm Plan program. They are often the leaders in their community, coordinating workshops and supporting farmers through the program. At the completion of the program, they review and approve the plans to help producers receive their certificates. This personal support is a critical part of the Alberta EFP's success. There are no two farms in Alberta that are exactly the same. Our EFP technicians understand this fact and support producers in developing a plan that is relevant and actionable on their farms.

AEFP hosts training for EFP technicians throughout the year through webinars, regular updates, workshops, mentorship programs, and an annual training/networking event. EFP Technicians are encouraged to support the EFP program further by being involved in committee work and providing critical on-the-ground feedback to program staff.



Stakeholder Advisory Committee

The Alberta EFP recognizes that to strengthen the program, regularly connecting with the industry is critical to serving all Alberta producers. The Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) provides guidance and advice to the Alberta EFP Program to build a stronger EFP program which forms the basis of a non-commodity-specific sustainability designation. This purpose recognizes the benefits that this will offer Alberta's (and Canada's) producers who may have diverse operations, including livestock and multiple crops. That purpose has evolved, and the SAC helps to determine if substantive changes to the EFP workbook meet the Alberta agriculture industry's needs. Alberta EFP connects with this committee several times per year to garner their feedback on the program's strategic direction and important program updates. Various industry stakeholders comprise the stakeholder advisory committee and we express our gratitude to the following organizations for their time and commitment, including:

- Alberta Government
- Alberta Barley
- Potato Growers of Alberta
- Alberta Beef Producers
- ARECA
- Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
- Rural Municipalities of Alberta
- Alberta Wheat
- Alberta Federation of Agriculture
- Alberta Milk
- Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada



Staff over 5 Years

The Alberta EFP has consistently had a team of knowledgeable and dedicated people. With backgrounds in science, environment, sustainability and agriculture, each has contributed to improving the service standards and growing the opportunities for the program.



(From left to right): Tanya Moskal-Hebert (EFP Special Projects), Devon Lloyd (EFP Program Manager), Lisa Nadeau (EFP Director), Alan Hall (ARECA Executive Director), Tabitha MacKinnon (ARECA Administrator), Linda Hunt (Program Director, Alberta Farm Mental Health), Sonja Shank (Program Coordinator).

Lisa Nadeau has been with AEF, as the program director, since 2017. In January 2021, she became the Program Director leading all aspects of the program. Lisa has a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science with a double major in Land Reclamation and Human Dimensions of Environmental Management. Due to her education and previous experience, she has a strong knowledge transfer foundation. Throughout her time at Alberta EFP, Lisa has been integral in refining the program as producers provide feedback and new science-based findings emerge.

Tanya Moskal-Hébert was the interim program director from December 2021 to December 2022, joining EFP in September 2021; she continues to work with the program. Tanya has a Master of Science in Land Reclamation and Remediation and brought 20 years of previous experience with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, where she spent much of her time as a Manager in the Extension area of the Environment Stewardship Division. Her assistance in developing the original Alberta EFP in the early 2000s was an excellent foundation for her work. She has worked to build partnerships across the industry to provide sustainable sourcing opportunities for producers through the EFP.

Staff over 5 Years

Devon Lloyd - Devon grew up in Fairview, AB and has a background in environmental and agricultural fields. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences. Devon joined Alberta EFP in 2018. Devon has developed and implemented support systems for both technicians and producers to ensure that Alberta EFP always provides a human connection.

Sonja Shank has been with Alberta EFP since June 2020. With a Master of Science in Animal Nutrition and as an owner/operator of a cattle and equine operation, Sonja is uniquely qualified to support farmers as they build their Environmental Farm Plans. Sonja's strong critical thinking skills and attention to detail ensured that the Alberta EFP maintained quality programming by updating the program with the latest information and process development.

Alan Hall - Alan grew up on a farm in the Barrhead area, completed his schooling at the University of Alberta and has spent his entire career working with and supporting farmers and ranchers in various ways. He now leverages his connections in the industry and strong networking skills as the Executive Director at the Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA).

Dr. Paul Watson - worked for the Alberta EFP as the program director from January 2015 to December 2020. During his tenure, he began many initiatives that have had a lasting effect on the program today. Paul used his combined experience as a research scientist and knowledge of computer programming to lead the development of the online webbook, moving the program to its mostly digital platform. He also initiated building the HBAT module, the EFP+ program, and the contributions to the National Environmental Farm Plan harmonization initiative.

Fact

In the past five years, Alberta EFP has supported 2289 new farmers registering for their EFP.



EFP delivery moved to an online platform when I became a technician. It was a bold but wise move at the time. The transition has made program and producer updates easier and kept EFP relevant.

Kim Barkwell, EFP Technician, Leduc/Wetaskiwin County



Kim Barkwell

Program Highlights

Renewal Period

Alberta EFP started this funding cycle by launching a 10-year renewal period. The Stakeholder Advisory Committee strongly recommended the program change as Alberta EFP at that time was the only EFP in the country not to have a renewal period. The Alberta EFP communicated this change with a strategic plan to ensure that producers were aware of the change and the associated implications for their EFP.

This change allowed the program to demonstrate producers' commitment to their action plans and will enable them to keep up to date as new knowledge on practices becomes available. The Alberta EFP staff are continually updating the program, and the renewal period ensures that producers can learn from the new resources regularly.

Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool

ARECA worked closely with a series of technical experts, biologists, and programmers to develop The Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool (HBAT). The backend filters through a complex system of data, while maintaining a simple, easy-to-use frontend for the user. The chapter was carefully written to guide producers through an assessment that will define the habitats that support potential species at risk they may have based on the location of their operation. This project was undertaken with the financial support of Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Producers are provided with stewardship opportunities that can maintain or enhance habitat on their operation. The HBAT was designed to balance the needs of the farm with the needs of the ecosystem and provides a series of selections for the farmer to pick from so they can tailor their activities to best suit their farm. The workbook provides resources and support organizations to help them implement their plans.

The Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool provides producers with a way to connect with their natural environment to feel positive about supporting biodiversity on their land. The HBAT was taken to a national stage by linking with the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association, where the program is being developed and implemented in stages across Canada. This Alberta initiative has contributed to the national conversation as the provincial tools roll out nationwide.

Fact

The HBAT filters through over 250 beneficial management practices to make a custom plan for the producer's operation.



EFP+

In recent years, major corporations have committed to increasing the proportion of sustainably-sourced agricultural products they purchase. With major international companies committing to sustainable sourcing, Alberta producers will increasingly be called upon to demonstrate that they produce agricultural products sustainably. Alberta EFP recognizes that changes are coming to the agricultural industry and is working towards having EFP meet or exceed international sustainable sourcing standards.

Companies wishing to make sustainability claims using the FSA international standard can do so by having their producers complete an EFP+ workbook. If producers have already completed the regular EFP workbook, upgrading to an EFP+ workbook is simple. Producers can benefit from still receiving the support of an EFP Tech through the process and take advantage of the other benefits of a current EFP.

Fact

As of 2021, the FSA is implemented in more than 43 countries with 126 different crops grown by an estimated 200,000 farmers.

Chapter Additions and Updates

Fact

Over 1,473 Environmental Farm Plans have been completed through the AEFP Webbook in the last five years.

The Alberta Environmental Farm Plan online webbook is an on-demand system that enables producers to create and access their farm plans on their schedules. The tool has linked to over 500 of resources so that producers can learn and plan with relevant and current information each producer can choose the chapters that apply to their operation. We have many permutations of environmental plans because producers choose what makes sense for their farm or ranch.

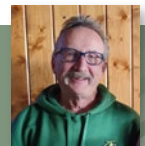
It is a goal to ensure that each producer has meaningful options in their sector. The AEFP routinely updates, adds and streamlines content in the online webbook to ensure that Alberta producers are supported when managing their environmental risk. All chapters have been reviewed with a multidisciplinary team to ensure a positive user experience with updated resources. However, a few areas have had special attention. In the last five years, EFP has added or revised content on the following topics.

- Large predators
- Wetlands
- Risk calculations on soil erosion, surface water contamination, groundwater contamination
- Woodlots
- Beekeeping
- Irrigation
- Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool
- Horticulture

Alberta EFP strives to make the program meaningful for all Alberta producers. The program is adaptable to a wide range of operations. In 2021 the Alberta EFP co-developed with the Alberta Beekeepers Commission and the Native Bee Council so that Alberta beekeepers can participate in the EFP Program and assess environmental risks on their operation. Through this process, Alberta EFP created an EFP module that maintained program quality and provided an appropriate action plan for Alberta beekeepers.

Producers are always very appreciative after going through the EFP, which is very satisfying. Makes me understand that we are helping producers do even a better job than what they are already accomplishing on their operations.

Murray Warnke, EFP Technician, Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation



Murray Warnke

— Privacy and Data Management —

Alberta EFP has always made the privacy of Alberta producers a key feature of all our program decisions. The webbook has additional security features and an internal process to ensure that Alberta producers can feel comfortable that their information is secure. Whether a producer is discussing their plan with their EFP technician, adding new information through the webbook or receiving communications, their information is secure.

In 2021, the EFP program reviewed the program's privacy and data management policies. Various steps are taken to ensure that the program meets and exceeds legislation. This security will enable the program to develop a newsletter, to build the program's communications strategy. It will also ensure that the EFP program can maintain the public's trust in handling their farm information. February 2022 saw the completion of this rigorous process. The Alberta EFP privacy policy is publicly available on the website to ensure complete transparency.



Fact >>>

All user data is confidential. The Alberta EFP program operates using above-industry standard privacy and data management policies.

Fact

Alberta EFP has grown its Facebook audience by 65% and our Twitter audience by 20% in the last 5 years. Much of this growth is due to our partnerships with industry groups who support the program and its work.



Communications

Over the last five years, Alberta EFP has ensured that Alberta producers and producer groups can easily link to the program. The main focus for all forms of communication was to ensure that the program benefitted Alberta producers using a wide variety of channels and tactics. Over the past several years, we have showcased our new program features in traditional forms, such as farm media articles and advertisements.

Alberta EFP has the benefit of the webbook, which is a communications channel. It is the greatest tool we have with the participants of the program, and in terms of knowledge transfer is a place where scientific research can reach the broader producer community very easily.

In the fall of 2019, the Alberta EFP updated the program website to create more seamless functionality with the online workbook and provide a better user experience for a more significant number of producers and industry groups in the same place. As timely information was required, Alberta EFP introduced a blog, FAQ and event calendar as features to the website.

In 2020, Alberta EFP updated the communications plan to include brand guidelines and a full communications audit. The updated communications plan built on the previous work as the program was experiencing rapid growth and had additional interest across Canada.

Fact

Over the past five years, Alberta EFP has contributed to the National EFP conversation in over 327 meetings through National EFP meetings and sharing information across jurisdictions.

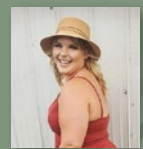
National Leadership (NEFP)

Alberta EFP has contributed to the national discussion on Environmental Farm Plan Programs through various committee work and presentations. Over the last five years, Alberta EFP has contributed on the national stage to the National Environmental Farm Plan, playing an integral role in coordinating the meetings. EFP practitioners also meet regularly to collaborate and share knowledge across jurisdictions to improve operations and economies of scale.

Other groups that Alberta EFP has contributed to through presentations or committee work are the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Crops, Fertilizer Canada, Compost Council of Canada, Canadian Forage and Grassland Association - Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tools in Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Saskatchewan, Prairie Greenhouse Gas module, Birds Canada, National Index on Agri-Food Performance, Soil Conservation Council of Canada,, Seeds Canada, ProAction, Wilton Group, Sustainable Production for Canadian Food Systems, Canadian Agri-food Policy Institute (CAPI).

Some people have been living on their farms their entire lives, so it is easy to become 'blind' to some potential environmental risks. The EFP works as a flashlight to bring light to some of the environmental risks on your farm. The EFP program is a chance to highlight those issues, bring them to light, and provide solutions or best management practices. You generally know where your issues are, but the EFP program will point them out in a supportive, solution-based way. Like trying to find something in the dark.

Heather Musterer, EFP Technician, Lamont County



Hannah Musterer

Looking to the Future

Things are not slowing down for the EFP Program. We anticipate increased uptake of the EFP Program over the next five years. We are seeing a growth in requirements for EFPs across Alberta and the country. Whether it is to meet sustainable marketing pressures of Dairy Farmers of Canada's proAction program, the Potato Growers of Alberta's environmental requirements of a current EFP, or the requirement of an EFP for some funding programs under the new Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, producers with a current EFP will realize the benefits.

To support this growth, we will continue providing high-quality training for EFP technicians across Alberta. In areas where there is low technician coverage or demand for EFPs exceeds the capacity of local technicians, we have piloted using rover technicians to provide better coverage. The success of this pilot drove us to incorporate these rovers into our regular programming going forward. Further, in-person the program will continue offering virtual EFP workshops throughout the province.

We will continue striving towards a streamlined workbook to maintain program integrity while handling increased users. In spring 2023, we plan to launch the latest version of the EFP workbook 4.0. The new version will feature the new optional Beekeeping chapter and streamlined content from the previous version. Through careful review of the workbook content, we reduced the number of questions by 18%. AEFP has begun upgrading the benchmarking of the EFP workbook to the latest version FSA 3.0 at a gold level. The benchmarking process should wrap up in spring 2023, with a new version of EFP+ available for producers.

The EFP program will continue to support Alberta and Canada in being recognized as a world leaders in sustainable agriculture and agri-food production by bringing education and awareness to evolving areas such as water, soil health, climate change and environmental protection. We will continue to refine and improve the Habitat & Biodiversity Assessment Tool (HBAT) by updating the species database and producing a more user-friendly Habitat Management Report. We are currently working on incorporating greenhouse gas emission content within the workbook. We have worked with a master's student from the University of Alberta who compiled a list of beneficial management practices (BMP) relevant to Alberta producers and their impact on greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). We then compared this information with the BMPs already included in the EFP. We also engaged a team to review existing greenhouse gas calculators to explore possible use within the EFP. We will analyze the data collected to determine the best way to incorporate a GHG module within a future version of the EFP workbook.

The Agricultural Research & Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) will use these next five years to deliver and further streamline the EFP program to reduce producer burden while supporting the continuation and expansion of sustainable agricultural production within Alberta. Program strengthening and delivery through continuous improvement are required if Alberta producers want to maintain access to domestic and global markets for their commodities and to preserve the trust of the public and the communities where they operate.

ALBERTA Environmental FARM PLAN