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# The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)

- Developed by Farmers, for Farmers
- A voluntary self-assessment of 23 different areas of your farm

The EFP helps identify and address environmental risks on your farm

# History and Influence of the EFP

- Began in 1993 as a pilot project
- ~ 70% of Ontario Farmers have participated
- Over 35,000 participants since 1993

The program has been adopted across  
Canada and around the world



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# The EFP self-assessment will:

- Help you see your farm in a new way
- Increase awareness about risks on your property
- Identify actions to reduce those risks
- Benefit your farm operation's productivity and profitability
- Reduce health and safety risks for your family and employees
- Help you apply for cost-share funding and learn about opportunities for support



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# The Process:

**1**

**Attend 2-Day EFP workshop**

**2**

**Complete ALL applicable Worksheets in your EFP Workbook. Create an Action Plan to address identified risks (all questions rated as “1” or “2”)**

**3**

**Submit your completed EFP Workbook to the Workshop Leader for review and verification**

**4**

**Implement you Action Plan(s)**



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# Worksheet 2: Water Wells

- A well provides DIRECT access to groundwater.  
**PROTECT IT!**





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# Worksheet 3: Pesticide Handling and Storage



- Take a Grower Pesticide Safety Course
- Try to avoid winter storage
- Don't use a freezer for storage



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# Worksheet 4: Fertilizer Handling and Storage

- Try to avoid winter storage
- Monitor your storages
- Use the Ontario Agri Business Association (OABA) Fertilizer Checklist

[www.oaba.on.ca](http://www.oaba.on.ca)





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# Worksheet 5: Storage of Petroleum Products

- Monitor, Monitor, Monitor
- Check for leaks or spills
- Monitor tank condition
- Track fuel levels

Regulated by the Technical Standards  
and Safety Authority (TSSA)

1-877-682-8772







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# Worksheet 6: Disposal of Farm Wastes

- Burning releases dioxins and other compounds
- Burning increases risk of:
  - Heart disease
  - Asthma
  - Nausea
  - Headaches
  - Rashes
  - Cancer



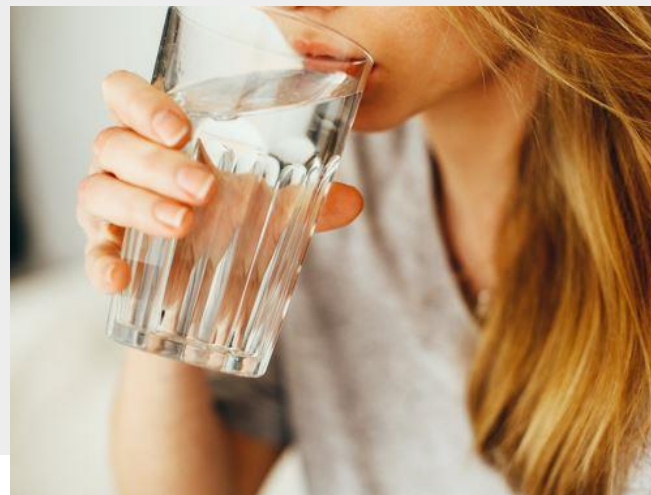
Reduce Reuse Recycle



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# Worksheet 7: Treatment of Household Wastewater

- Size the system properly
- Treat all water
- Maintain leaching beds
- Pump and maintain septic tanks





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# Worksheet 8: On-Farm Storage, Treatment, and Management of Manure and other Prescribed Materials

- Identify ALL yards, manure and NASM storages
- Follow the Nutrient Management Act
- Manage runoff from storages





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# Worksheet 9: Disposal of Livestock Mortalities





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# Worksheet 10: Storage and Feeding of Ensilage

- Manage runoff as it has high:
  - Acidity
  - Ammonia levels
  - Nitrate levels
  - Iron levels
  - Biological oxygen demand



Always be aware that silage may generate silo gas.





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# Worksheet 11: Milking Centre Wastewater



Remember to:

- Minimize water use
  - Minimize milk in wastewater
- Store with liquid manure or treat separately



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# Worksheet 12: Nuisances and Normal Farm Practices

- Communication is key  
Explain what you are doing and why.

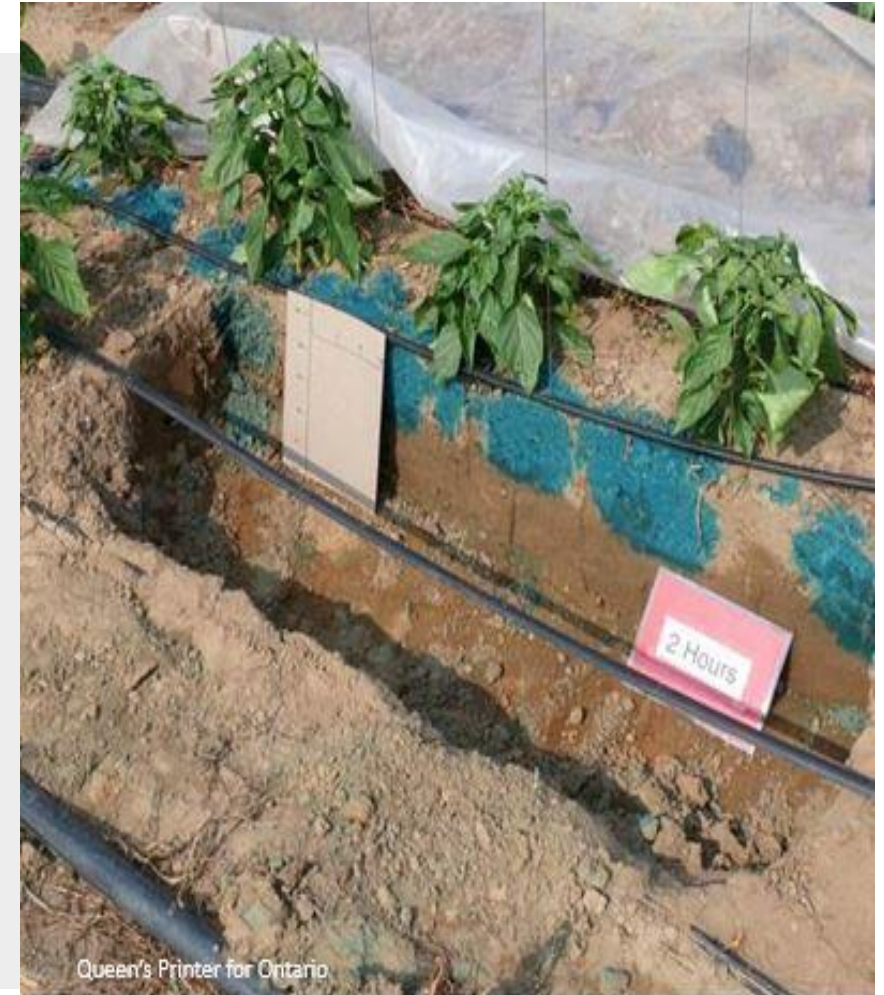




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# Worksheet 13: Water Efficiency

- A permit to take water may be required
- Use water as efficiently as possible
- Invest in more efficient technology
- Consider developing a written plan to deal with low water conditions



Queen's Printer for Ontario





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# Worksheet 14: Energy Efficiency

- Minimize fuel use
  - Maintain equipment
  - Update lighting systems
  - Insulate buildings
  - Dry crops naturally
- Saves money and reduces impacts on the environment





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# Worksheet 15: Soil Management

- Keep your soil on the field
- Add organic matter
- Reduce tillage and compaction
- Vary your rotation
- Manage drainage

How much have you invested in this soil?  
How will you ever get it back?



Andrew Barrie, OMAFRA



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# Worksheet 16: Managing Nutrients in Growing Crops

- Test your soil
- Fertilize based on crop needs/ removal rates
- Apply in good conditions
- Plant cover crops
- Reduce nutrient loss through leaching or runoff





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# Worksheet 17: Use and Management of Manure

- Right RATE
- Right TIME
- Right PLACE





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# Worksheet 18: Horticultural Production

- Use IPM practices
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Manage your fertigation system
- Include cover crops in your field crop rotation





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# Worksheet 19: Field Crop Management

- Maintain at least 30% cover at all times
- Have winter cereals or forages in your rotation
- Always use pedigreed seed
- Attend local OSCIA meetings for the newest information

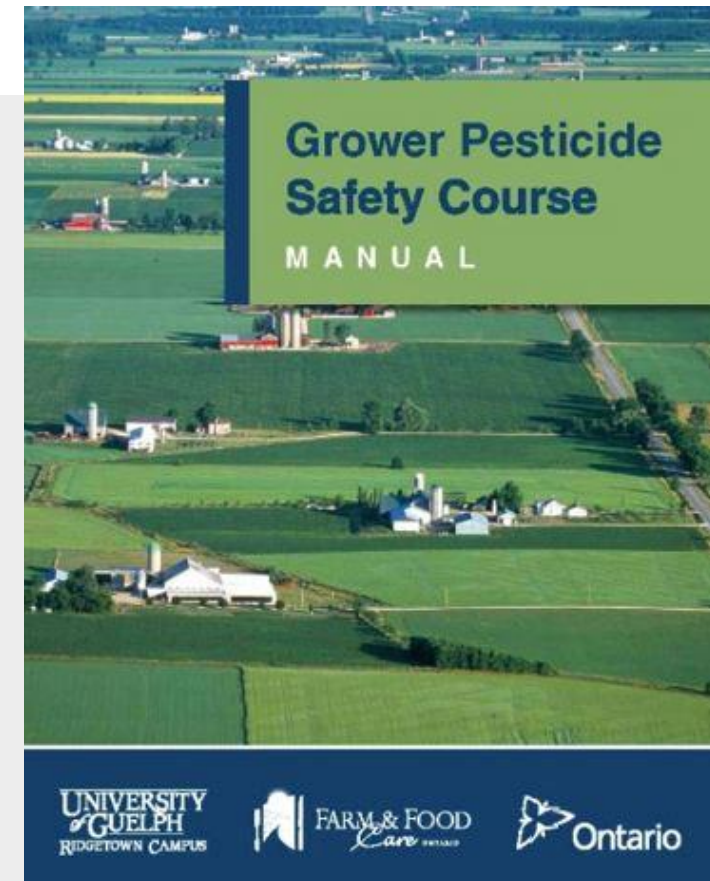




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# Worksheet 20: Pest Management

- Take the Grower Pesticide Safety Course
- Always read and follow the label
- Use IPM practices
- Keep good records
- Triple rinse the sprayer



Ontario Pesticide Education Program: [www.opep.ca](http://www.opep.ca)



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# Worksheet 21: Stream, Ditch and Floodplain Management

- Keep livestock out of water courses
- Provide alternative water sources
- Protect the stream banks
- Intensive cropping and floodplains do not mix







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# Worksheet 22: Wetlands and Wildlife Ponds

- Maintain buffer strips
- Leave wetlands wet
- Restrict livestock access
- Learn about nuisance wildlife

Wetlands are amazing at filtering water.  
**The more the better.**





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# Worksheet 23: Woodlands and Wildlife

Manage woodlands properly:

- Harvest regularly with a forestry professional
- Maintain wildlife corridors
- Have a management plan
- Maintain or provide habitat



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