

Report prepared for Peace River Agricultural Development Fund

Title of Project: Wildlife Management & Environmental Stewardship Awareness for BC Grain Producer's
Report Title: Final Report
Covering Period: April 1, 2004 – March 31, 2005
Organization(s): BC Grain Producers Association.
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Objective: The purpose of this project was to participate on committees representing the grain industry perspective on environmental & wildlife conflict issues. Also to create on-farm environmental awareness among the producers, inform local producers of Provincial and Federal initiatives and the availability of programs, best management practises and resources to become better environmental stewards.

Description of Activities:

Local involvement by directors of the BC Grain Producer's Association through committees established by the Peace River Regional District.

- The **PRRD Wildlife Committee** is essential in the reduction of wildlife conflicts in all Ag sectors in the Peace Country. Irmie Critcher, director with BCGPA attends several stakeholder meetings a year to represent the grain farmer's perspective on this committee. Through cooperation with various agencies and interest groups wildlife impact mitigation measures are being implemented on a local level. This group also assists with advice and technical expertise to various agencies to develop programs for mitigation and compensation to landowners. Currently a working relation is being established with the Ministry of Water Land&Air Protection (WLAP) to develop a program called "The Economic Incentives & Environmental Stewardship Project" which will constitute an incentives program for agricultural landowners to maintain wildlife habitat.
- **Pesticide Container Collection Council**, this committee that was established in 1992 with the goal to develop environmentally sound options for the collection and disposal of pesticide containers. There have been some changes to the collection program, which needed direction from the members, and this committee has been revitalized in the year 2004. The BC Grain Producers have been actively involved in setting new standards and direction to maintain this collection program as well as looking for alternative methods and educating the public in the use and disposal of pesticide containers. Edmund Rath, director with BCGPA has volunteered his time on this environmental issue.

Through Robert Vanderlinden the BC Grain Producers also have representation on the newly formed

- **North East Invasive Plant Committee.** The NEIPC has established objectives to conduct an invasive plant strategy for the region, including encouragement to the public to report invasive plants, have a systematic approach to record the presence of invasive plants, develop and maintain invasive plant inventory as well as prevent establishment of invasive plants. Having input in this strategy session is essential for grain farmers as the management of weeds directly impacts the use of herbicides on the farm and keeping them off the farm is the most environmental friendly alternative.

Provincial involvement for the BCGPA include the

- **Environmental Working Group (EWG)**, which was formed under the Agriculture Policy Framework (APF) Environment pillar. This working group and the BC Ag Council were responsible to launch an industry led voluntary Environmental Farm Planning Program (EFP) for the Province of BC. With co-operation with AAFC, MAFF, WLAP, Environment, DFO and other agencies the producer representative had input into the compiling of EFP workbooks, reference materials, Riprarian&Nutrient management resource materials, EFP planner training guidelines, delivery group application guidelines as well as acceptance and funding of Beneficial Management Practices.

Representation to the Provincial

- **Agriculture Environment Partnership Initiative Management Committee (AEPI)**, approving applications for projects from the entire province to deal with Agriculture & Environmental conflicts (i.e. Stewardship Initiatives, Demonstration projects, wildlife conflict prevention, predator damage compensation programs)
- **Partnership Committee (PC)** Meetings dealing with regulatory requirements and liaisons with agencies & agriculture industry, assisting in the prevention of Agriculture & Environmental conflicts and helps achieve workable solutions.

General Involvement:

- The BC Grain Producers are affiliated with the **Grain Grower's of Canada**, through this communication we have been able to obtain information on what is affecting the grain industry on a national level in regards to environmental research, environmental regulatory requirements, Canadian on Farm Food Safety (COFFS) and Green House Gas Mitigation. We are currently involved with the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Council which is conducting a project called Pilot Emissions Removal & Reduction Learning Initiative to measure carbon sequestration in zero till soils.

Extension and demonstration:

1. Reported at BCGPA directors meetings and various e-mails
2. Interaction with AAFC through Working Group consultations
3. Information on EFP's through articles in local papers
4. Membership mail out
5. Power Point Presentation at Annual Info seminar by EFP-coordinator
6. Committee reports at Annual info seminar & Verbal updates to producers

Accomplishments:

BC Grain Producers have taken a lead in the delivery of Environmental Farm Plans in the BC Peace River. We have decided to become a commodity based EFP delivery group and have been approved for funding. We have hired a provincially approved Planning Advisor and launched our EFP program in 2004. The directors of the BC Grain Producers have participated in the first EFP workshop and our planner has since offered workshops to the Grain Producers in the BC Peace. A Steering Committee from the BC Grain Producer's directors has been formed to assist the Planning Advisor. The Pesticide Container Collection Program has removed a tremendous amount of waste from the environment and is very popular with farmers.

Finances:	Budget:	Actual:
Income:	\$9,796.00	\$3,809.53
Expense:	\$ 9,796.00	\$3,809.53

Details on separate sheet

Summary comments, conclusions:

The Environmental Farm Plan delivery is now a stand-alone program and is completely funded through the Agriculture Policy Framework. Being pro-active in the implementation of environmental farm planning was a step to help farmers become more environmentally aware in our region. The BC Grain Producer's need to maintain a strong presence on these committees and establish new committees as issues arise, a quick response to problems involving the environment is essential to avoid further conflicts, costs and or new regulations.

Variations from original work plan:

None identified

Attachments: Financial Actual vs. Budget summary
"In kind" listing
Membership mail out
Enviro project report to farmers
News articles