



Growing Forward

Canada- British Columbia Beneficial Management Practices Program Pooled Projects

June 2011

The *Growing Forward* Canada–BC Environmental Farm Plan Program complements and enhances the current environmental stewardship practices of producers. Led by the province’s agriculture and agri-food industry, this initiative encourages producers from all parts of the province to adopt Beneficial Management Practices (BMP’s) that enhance agricultural sustainability and contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment.

Environmental farm planning is a no charge, confidential, voluntary process available to producers to identify both environmental strengths and potential risks on their farms. As appropriate, it includes a prioritized action plan to reduce the risks. The producer may be eligible to apply for cost-sharing incentives under the Growing Forward Beneficial Management Practice Program to address environmental risks that have been identified in the completed farm plan.

Many large BMP projects, such as manure treatment, require significant capital investment on behalf of agricultural producers and may require a collaborative approach in respect to capital investment, ownership and operational management. Understanding that BMP Category Caps can easily be reached on an individual basis by these larger projects, the BMP Program is now allowing for project applications to be “pooled” in order to further incent these larger collaborative projects.

The pooling of funds can be an effective way to support multi-producer projects and may result in more effective and economically viable BMPs being implemented across British Columbia. Larger collaborative projects collectively address priority provincial agri-environmental issues, such as nutrient management and/or water quality. By supporting these types of projects a larger net benefit on the environment may be achieved.

Interested producers need to consider the following requirements:

- Applicants must have a current Statement of Completion.
- Applicants must discuss the project with their Planning Advisor and/or ARDCorp Program staff and have agreed that a pooled project may be the most appropriate and cost effective approach to developing the BMP.
- Applicants will apply for Growing Forward BMP funding based on actual individual costs of the total project
- Applicants will obtain all regulatory approvals, including any required environmental assessment as a group.

For example: a \$150 K project proposed by 3 farms under project code 0201 manure treatment. If each farm is sharing the cost equally – eligible costs are \$50 K each. The cap for each farm for this BMP practice is 30% to a maximum of \$30 K. Therefore 30% of \$50 K = \$15 K. Total cost to program is 3 times \$15 K or \$45 K

For further information about Pooled Projects under the BMP Program, please contact:

ARDCorp (B.C. Agricultural Research & Development Corporation)

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