



Environmental News

Summer 2017 Issue

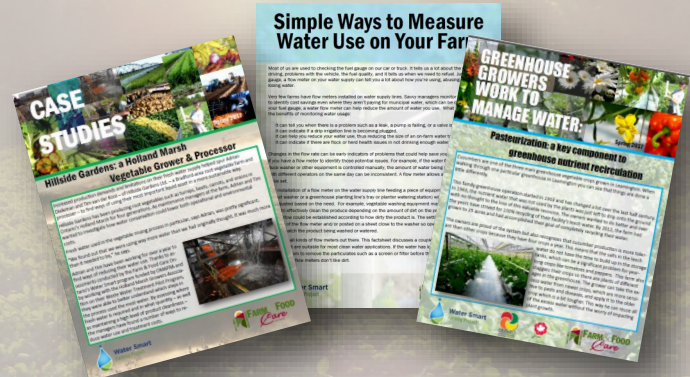
This newsletter highlights Farm & Food Care's environmental initiatives. Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

Water Smart Update

Farm & Food Care Ontario (FFCO) is in the final phase of wrapping up the a two-year Water Smart Farming Project. Good news stories from farmers and processors about efficient water use have shown significant value. Some of the key outcomes of the project have been increased awareness and education around new technology and tools that can reduce water use on farms. Growers have reported better decision making information from the adoption of equipment such as soil moisture probes, flow meters and rotameters. Irrigators who adopted soil moisture meters into their system are now able to make better decisions about when to irrigate – and for how long. FFCO plans to communicate more of these good news stories from the Water Smart Farming Project, sharing strategies that have effectively managed water use on Ontario farms. Communication items Farm & Food Care Ontario will be delivering from the Water Smart Farming Project include:

- Case studies (2)
- Factsheets (3)
- Good news stories (6)
- Videos (4)

For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/2uWgFLX>



BMP Program Design Recommendations

Earlier this summer, FFCO was asked by OMAFRA to lead a project focused around adoption of environmental Best Management Practices (BMPs). The purpose of this project is to review available literature and conduct jurisdictional scans to better understand all the factors influencing farmers' adoption of BMPs with the ultimate goal of designing more effective funding programs. This project also gives agriculture the opportunity to shape and influence future program designs.

Past programming has shown that one size does not fit all. By understanding the motivators and drivers of different types of farmers, we can then tailor programming and/or messaging to different types of individuals with the goal of having a greater impact on BMP adoption. The information gathered in this study will be of interest to government program designers, farm commodity groups, agricultural non-governmental organizations, conservation authorities, universities and other public institutions.



Veterinary Sharps Disposal

In an effort to clean up the countryside, two Farm & Food Care Ontario staff attended the Pork Congress in Stratford to assist Ontario Pork in collecting veterinary sharps. Producers were very appreciative of this program and brought numerous containers. With a booth outside the doors of

the event, 36 large biohazard bags were collected and safely disposed of. For more information on sharps pick-up options, please contact the animal care team.



Phosphorus Test Strip Kits

FFCO, with funding from the Water Smart program (OMAFRA), is helping to distribute phosphorus testing kits so farmers can test waters around their farms.

Healthy soils and clean water are vital to the communities in which we live and work, and to the business of farming. Test Strips are a good way to do some monitoring of the water that flows onto, around and off a farming operation. Although not as good as real lab samples, these test strips can be used as a tool to get a basic understanding of phosphorus levels, and may provide some indications if or how farming activities are impacting the nutrients in waters around a farm. For more information, contact Bruce Kelly,

bruce@farmfoodcare.org

Sample Recording Sheets:

Event Recording Log:				
Sample Event: (Name/date/description)				
Event Type:	Heavy Rain	Snowmelt	Baseflow	
Sample #				
Flow Level				
	Mid	Peak	Falling Limb	Baseflow
Pathway	Creek/Ditch	Surface Runoff	Tile Outlet	

Local Food Week Farm Tour



On June 6th, Farm & Food Care along with sponsor groups took media food influencers on a Farm Tour for Local Food Week. We visited Weber's Turkey Farm, had lunch catered by Fraberts Fresh Food, and learned from Fred Vaughn, of Vaughn Agricultural Research Services about his operation.

Upcoming events & meetings

- Joint Animal Care and Environment Council Meeting September 20, Guelph
- Breakfast on the Farm, September 16, Listowel ON
- Livestock Emergency Response Courses September 26th & 27th - Listowel & Glencoe
- Harvest Gala, November 2, Guelph

New in the news

- What about photosynthesis? Ontario greenhouses are getting charged for carbon their plants—<http://bit.ly/2tlkOaY>
- 30 Years of Pesticide Safety - <http://bit.ly/2gPTE8e>
- Invasive species phragmites taken root in Scugog - <http://bit.ly/2uGQB7>
- On Farm Projects improving Lake Huron Water- <http://bit.ly/2uhuZxQ>

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