

Responding to the Challenge:

Helping Shape Agriculture's Response to Lake Erie Phosphorus Reduction Targets

Bruce Kelly

Environmental Program Manager

Farm & Food Care Ontario



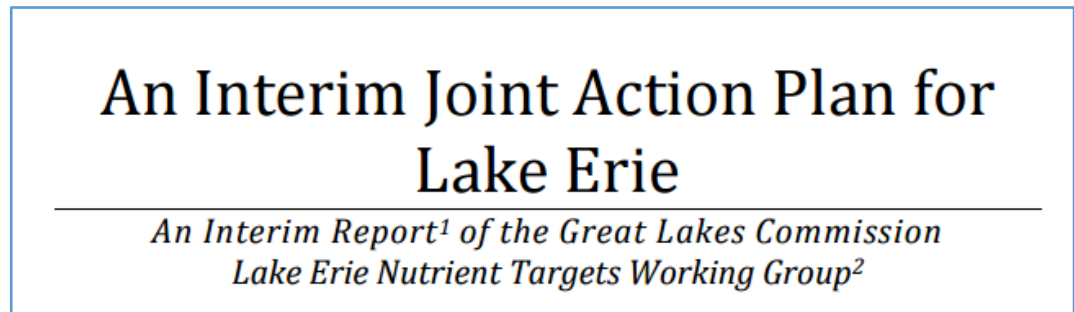
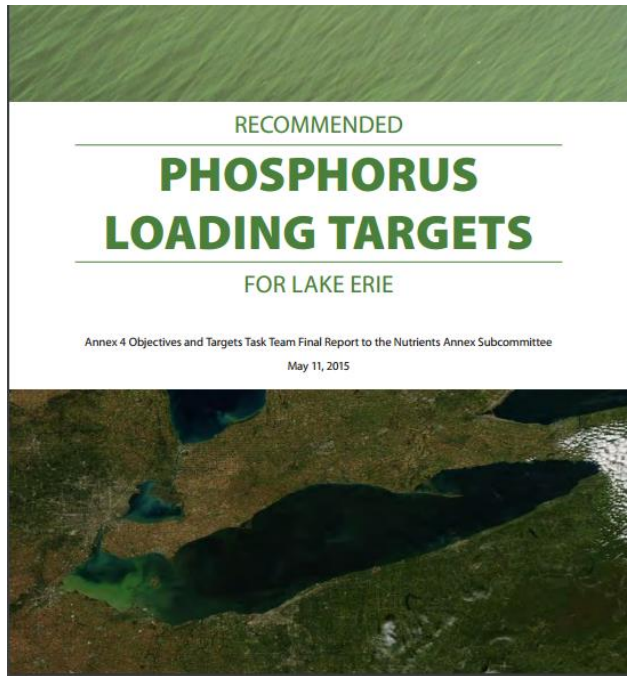
www.farmfoodcare.org



Who is Farm & Food Care Ontario?

- First coalition of its kind, whole sector approach – all types of farmers and associated businesses working together.
- Funded by members, sponsors, projects.
- Common goal – building public trust in food and farming

Commitments to Great Lakes Water Quality are not new: In 2015 the Game Changed



- 40% Reduction Targets

9 “Joint Actions”

Farm & Food Care hosted a number of meetings to help Agricultural Commodity Groups better understand the scope of this issue.



Facilitate Discussion: Listen

- Listen - July 14 – Great Lakes Agricultural Strategy Session
 - Open Meeting
 - 80 Attendees, Commodities, NGO and Conservation
- Presentations
 - **Susan Humphrey and Sandra George, Environment Canada**
Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement: Recommended binational phosphorous targets for Lake Erie
 - **Cale Selby, OMAFRA** The Joint Interim Action Plan for Lake Erie: Perspectives of the actions affecting agriculture.
 - **Ann Huber and Don King, Soil Resource Group**
We have been here before: Lessons learned from Sweep (1986-1993).
 - **Tom Bruulsema, International Plant Nutrition Institute**
Background of the industry's 4R nutrient stewardship approach.

Facilitate Discussion: Inform

- Listen – July 14 Open Meeting
- Inform – Aug 14 Open Meeting 85 Attended
- Presentations:
 - Keith Reid, AAFC - P Primer – how P behaves in soil, and why it doesn't always stay put
 - Chitra Gowda, Conservation Ontario – Phos. Agricultural Best Management Practices: What Works?
 - Ivan O'Halloran, University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus - The 4 R's and the Agro-ecosystem
 - Chris Attema, Beef Farmers of Ontario – Nutrient Management 101
 - Gabrielle Ferguson, OMAFRA – What is the loss? What can we quantify?

Facilitate Discussion: Discuss

- Listen – July 14 Open Meeting
- Inform – Aug 14 Open Meeting
- Discuss – August and February
 - Closed Meeting – Commodity groups & OABA.
 - Share ideas to respond to EC's Aug questions
 - Commodity Groups discussed response to targets
 - Share ideas, producer communications ideas
 - Commodity specific interest in understanding 4Rs
 - Developing producer committees

Facilitate Discussion: Advise

- Listen – July 14 Open Meeting
- Inform – Aug 14 Open Meeting
- Discuss – Aug & Feb Closed Meeting

- Advise – Agricultural Working Group March 20 - Commodity, CA, NGO
 - Contributing to the development of Domestic Action Plans

Contributing to Developing Domestic Action Plans: What might be the Components?

- Potential actions BMPs, and other on farm actions
 - Identification
 - Assessment
- Multi-sectoral programs (like 4Rs)
- Education and Outreach
- Research to answer specific questions
- Tracking of progress towards specific goals

