South Saskatchewan River Watershed AEGP

South Sask River AEGP Technicians

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We can direct you to technical support and help with applications for the **Farm Stewardship Program**, the **Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure Program**, and the **Invasive Plant Control Program**.

Summer Field Tours

The South Sask River AEGP hosted invasive weed tours where participants spent the day improving weed ID skills and discussing control measures.

Selecting a Proper Wintering Site

Research over the past decade has suggested you get your cows out of the corrals and have them winter extensively. It's good for your livestock, your land, and the watershed as a whole! But how do you choose a proper site? Things to consider are:

Wind Protection –Wind chill can have a major impact on winter feeding requirements. A breeze of 20 km/hr will make -10°C feel like -20°C, which will increase energy requirements 20%. Tree and shrub cover is the simplest solution, if available. There is one drawback, though, with using vegetation as windbreak; because they are rooted and stationary, animals will congregate in that same area every year, causing manure to build up and potentially causing damage to the trees. Portable windbreaks are another option. It is recommended for optimal manure management you should move windbreaks at least once a month during the winter.

Soil Texture and Topography - When the ground softens in the spring, moisture will infiltrate through the soil, and the build-up of manure on top of it. Light, sandy land and a high water table can lead to future water quality concerns. Also consider topography; where will spring run-off accumulate? Run-off brings things like nitrates and coliforms from manure along with it!

Land Use – Tame pasture or hay land is often an ideal location for extensive wintering systems. It is not recommended to feed bales on native pasture, due to the potential invasion of weeds and aggressive grass seeds that may be present in the hay. Feeding on hay land helps return some of the nutrients that have been removed by the crop, and can be a valuable source of "free" fertilizer. When choosing a site, also consider access. Will you be able to get to your livestock in the dead of winter to deliver feed?

Water – What is available as a winterized water source? Studies in Alberta have shown that ruminants (cows and sheep) can successfully use snow as a water source – but there must be enough soft, clean snow available. On average, the moisture content of snow is 10:1. So it takes 10 gallons (45 litres) of snow to create one gallon (4.5 litres) of water. Assuming a pregnant cows needs eight to ten gallons of fresh water per day, that means 80 gallons of snow per head per day! Other alternatives include winter pipelines, winter solar systems, and frost-free nose pumps.

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Growing Forward 2
A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

Government of Saskatchewan

South Saskatchewan River Watershed Stewards

Canada

The **South Saskatchewan River Agri-Environmental Group Plan** is a producer based group dedicated to raising watershed awareness among local area farmers and ranchers. Producers within the boundaries of the South Sask River Watershed are able to access the **Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program**. The CSFSP provides ***cost-shared funding*** to encourage the implementation of **Beneficial Management Practices.** The BMPs help address issues of water quality, nutrient management

Map: Government of Saskatchewan

Beneficial Management Practices

Irrigation Management Planning
Irrigation Equipment Modification
Variable Rate Irrigation Technology
Natural Waterway Erosion Control
Creek and Stream Crossings
Protect High Risk Erodible & Saline Soils
Native Plant Establishment
Shelterbelt Establishment
Used Oil, Filter and Fluid Storage
Relocation of Livestock Confinement Facilities
Fencing to Protect Surface Water
Farmyard Runoff Control
Riparian Area Grazing Management , Fencing
Manure Application Equipment & Technologies
Manure Storage Enhancements
Integrated Pest Management
Variable Rate Fertilizer Equipment
Variable Rate Mapping

Recycling Agricultural Materials

The chemical reactions that occur during the burning of plastics, such as polyethylene grain storage bags, produce an array of toxic substances that are detrimental to both human health and our environment. The residue from burning these bags releases highly toxic materials into the atmosphere and potentially into the soil where toxins could impact water and soil quality. When materials containing chlorine are used, dioxins and new furans may form, which can cause health effects ranging from cancer to nervous system disorders. Government of Saskatchewan

Grain Bag and Twine: Grain bag rollers are located at recycling sites and are available for producers to roll used bags. Bags will be stored at the collections sites until transportation to the recycler is arranged.

Simply Ag: co-ordinates the grain bag and twine program.

Sites: Unity– 306-228-2893
Rush Lake– 306-784-3121
Prince Albert– 306-960-5299
Humboldt– 306-682-1955
Cudworth– 306-682-1955
Saskatoon– 306-933-2343

Empty Pesticide and Fertilizer Container: For no charge, farmers can drop off their clean empty containers at the nearest collection site. Containers 23 litres and smaller are collected through this Clean Farms program. Containers larger than 23 litres should be returned to the point of sale or to the manufacturer for disposal.

Clean Farms: the program operates each growing season. For site locations visit http://www.cleanfarms.ca/maps_sk_s.

Silage Bags/Net Wrap/Bale Wrap: Watch for information in the future for recycling options. The more interest shown by RMs and producers, the more likely there will be programs to address recycling these products. If interested, please contact Simply Ag at 306-955-5477.

Livestock Biomedical Waste Disposal

Sharps are hazardous to cattle and wildlife. If eaten they can cause hardware disease and if stepped on can cause lameness. Medicines improperly disposed of are a risk for soil and water contamination. Sharps should be placed in a puncture proof container, clearly marked and have a tight fitting lid. Sharps containers can be purchased for a nominal fee and can be picked up for a fee, or dropped off at designated locations at no cost. Sharps are considered bio-medical waste and as such are subject to regulations for bio-med waste.

Pesticides & Vet Supplies: For obsolete or unwanted agricultural pesticides (identified with a Pest Control Product number on the label) and food animal health medications that are used by primary producers in the rearing of animals in an agricultural context (identified with a DIN number, Ser. Number or Pest Control Product number on the label).

Clean Farms: picks up pesticides and certain vet supplies approximately every three years, at designated local retailers. Sites vary depending on the year.

For information on Used Oil Recycling, Batteries and Household Waste
Visit www.saskwastereduction.ca