



OSCIA Launches One-Day Environmental Farm Plan Renewal Workshop

Producers can now update 3rd or 4th edition EFP with one-day workshop

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2020

Guelph, ON – The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) has made it easier for producers to update their Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). Farms with a 3rd or 4th edition EFP are now eligible to renew through a new, one-day workshop.

“Farmers requested an efficient way to update their EFP and take their best management practice learning to the next level. This new option allows just that,” says Paul Reeds, OSCIA Regional Program Lead.

Since 1993, farm families have participated in the voluntary assessment to increase their environmental awareness in a two-day format. Through the EFP process, producers highlight their farm’s environmental strengths, identify areas of environmental concern, and set action plans to improve environmental conditions.

“We’re able to condense the workshop to one day for past participants because we build on the information from their previous workshop,” explains Reeds who has led hundreds of EFP workshops and recently piloted the one-day version. “Participants arrive understanding the process and knowing the soil types and slope specifics of their farm, so we’re able to get right down to business.”

Workshops are held across the province throughout the year and are fully funded by federal and provincial governments. Led by an experienced OSCIA workshop leader, the format is interactive with a combination of lectures and small-table discussions with no more than 20 participants. The sessions cover five key areas, including: pest management, soil management, surface water quality, nutrient management for growing crops; and manure management.

OSCIA encourages farmers to renew their EFP every five years. According to Reeds, there are many advantages to renewing. “First, there is more than 20 percent new material in the latest edition. A lot can change in five years. For example, environmental laws and regulations have been updated. Farming practices have evolved and the people on the farm may have changed, too.”

Workshops also provide participants with the latest information on funding programs to assist with on-farm improvements. “If you’re going to apply for a cost-share grant, many funders require you to have the latest version of EFP,” says Reeds.

To register for a one-day EFP renewal workshop, visit: <https://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/workshops-webinars/environmental-farm-plan/?lang=1>

Environmental Farm Plans originated from the Ontario farm community nearly 30 years ago. Farmers were involved in every stage of developing the original EFP through the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition. The program continues to be delivered to the farm community by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association through funding provided by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. *The Canadian Agricultural Partnership is a five-year investment by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments to encourage innovation, competitiveness and sustainability in Canada's agriculture industry.*

-30-

Media Contact:
Maria Ramirez Giraldo
Programs Analyst
519-826-3035