

Planning for Biodiversity

A Guide for BC Farmers and Ranchers

Companion Document to the

Canada - British Columbia Environmental Farm Plan

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The Canada – British Columbia EFP Biodiversity Steering Committee

Niels Holbek, BC Agriculture Council (Chair)
Sylvia von Schuckmann, BC Ministry of Environment
Geoff Hughes-Games, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Dave Trotter, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Mark Wonneck, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Lavona Liggins, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
John Patterson, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Laura Maclean, Environment Canada
King Campbell, Ducks Unlimited Canada

Contributors

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Preface

The purpose of this Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) supplemental publication is to help farmers and ranchers increase their understanding of biodiversity and what it means to their operations. The guide provides a definition biodiversity, highlights the importance of biodiversity at various levels, lists the main principles of managing for biodiversity, and provides a template for developing a biodiversity plan for farms and ranches in British Columbia.

The idea for this publication emerged from a Biodiversity Workshop held in October 2005 in Kamloops, BC. EFP Planning Advisors and agency representatives who were interested in delivering the biodiversity component of the Agricultural Policy Framework to producers identified the need for this document.

References to farms and farming in this guide include all farms and farming activities, plus ranches and ranching.

Limits of Liability

Unlike the other EFP program publications, this guide is not specifically a risk assessment tool. It is intended primarily as a source of information and a management planning tool for farmers, ranchers and EFP Planning Advisors.

The biodiversity assessment, planning, implementation and monitoring steps presented are designed to be used by farmers and ranchers with or without the assistance of an EFP Planning Advisor.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this guide, but it should not be considered the final word on the areas of practice that it covers. You should seek the advice of appropriate professionals and experts because the specifics of your situation may differ from those set out in this guide.

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A GUIDE FOR BC FARMERS AND RANCHERS**

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For more information contact:

The BC Agriculture Council: 604-854-4483; www.bcac.bc.ca

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