

# Environmental Stewardship News

- Highlighting information, projects & resources from the Environmental Stewardship Branch (ESB)

## Manure Management Update 2019

Registration is now open for the Manure Management Update 2019. Roller compacted concrete, manure application challenges, the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) related programs and new manure technologies are a few of the topics at the [Manure Management Update 2019](#) taking place January 14, 2019.

New to the conference is the concurrent afternoon sessions. One will focus on the facility side of manure management with topics such as phosphorus filters, greenhouse gas emissions, fly management, and catch basins. The other session will look at manure apps and tools, nitrogen inhibitors and field application, vehicle safety, hauling, and loading. To learn more about the conference, [click to read](#) the Agri-News article.

To register, [click here](#) or call 1-800-387-6030. Early bird registration deadline is December 21, 2018.

## Public Trust Programs Accepting Applications for January

The next application submission deadline for the Public Trust programs is Friday, January 18, 2019. These programs are part of the [Canadian Agricultural Partnership \(CAP\)](#) with the goal to create and maintain public trust. If you intend to submit an application for this deadline, please contact the program coordinator prior to submission. Click on the links below for further information on the specific programs.

- [Agriculture and Food Sustainability Assurance Initiatives Program](#)
- [Public Agriculture Literacy Program](#)
- [Youth Agriculture Education Program](#)

## Future Climate Data “Gold”

The Alberta Climate Information Service (ACIS) runs the largest provincial near real time weather network in the country with 174 full meteorological stations throughout Alberta’s agricultural areas. This means that Alberta is home to the single most complete repository of quality controlled meteorological data. Each day ACIS processes more than 130,000 hourly observations, from over 425 Alberta stations. Thus providing nearly 50 million observations per year. That’s some serious climate data “gold” to assist in future climate based research and planning decisions.

This free ACIS tool provides historic information (dating back until 1961) allowing you to create timely visual maps such as current cold weather comparisons. A good example to try is the Daily Mean Relative to Normal Temperature maps at <http://agriculture.alberta.ca/acis/climate-maps.jsp>. Accessing current weather data is simple to reach on your computer and mobile device. Information can be customize by selecting precipitation, temperature, humidity, wind, growing degree days and more!

Visit ACIS at [www.weatherdata.ca](http://www.weatherdata.ca) and navigate Alberta’s weather data and historic information today. For a mobile friendly version and reliable near-real-time weather information in the palm of your hand, visit [www.weatherdata.ca/m](http://www.weatherdata.ca/m).

## Agricultural Carbon Offsets Update

One of the newest items on the [Agricultural Carbon Offsets](#) page is the [Dec. 2018 Offsets update](#). The top item to remember is that farmers must have their quarters pre-registered by the May 1st deadline. For further information see [May 1st Sign Up Date for Conservation Cropping Offsets](#) or contact [Paul Jungnitsch](#).

## Get the Dirt on Alberta Soil

Recently highlighted in Agri-News was the [Alberta Soil Information Viewer](#). This tool helps determine agricultural productivity, provides past aerial photographs, assists with planning farm expansions and even helps with the update or development of a new Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). Nothing replaces being in the field to determine soil types but this tool can assist when that is not an option. For further information, call 310-FARM (3276) or [click to read](#) the full article from Agri-News.

## What's New with AOPA

Each month under the spotlight area, the [Agricultural Operation Practices Act \(AOPA\) page](#) highlights interviews, articles, factsheets, projects and CAP program information. This month featured Karen Yakimishyn, Livestock Environment Engineer, describing the Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Producer Program under CAP. [Click to listen](#) to the Call of the Land Interview.

Chris Ullmann, Agri-Environmental Extension Specialist, outlined the options for producers that had delayed fall field activities, including manure application.

- [Click to read](#) the Agri-News article
- [Click to listen to part one](#) of the Call of the Land interview
- [Click to listen to part two](#) of the Call of the Land interview
- [Click to view](#) the Alberta Soil Information Viewer to map your short term manure storage sites

## Ag Plastics Recycling Pilot Project

Featured in the [Nov. 29, 2018 issue of The Western Producer](#) was the announcement at the Rural Municipalities of Alberta Fall Convention of the three-year pilot project for agricultural (ag) plastic recycling.

Currently, under CAP, the [Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change – Producer program](#) provides an opportunity for Alberta producers to apply for a grant in covering 70% of the purchase cost for plastic rollers and compactors. These rollers compact the agricultural sheet plastics, making it more convenient and safe to transport to an approved recycling site. Western Producer reported that the Agriculture and Forestry Minister Oneil Carlier expects the pilot project to work with the CAP program.

When further information is available, the [Environmental Stewardship page](#) and ES News will highlight this pilot project. If you wish to have more background information of the challenges with recycling ag plastics, highlights from the 2015 Market-Based Solutions for Used Ag Plastics from the [Municipalities](#) and the [Municipal Waste Authorities \(MWAs\)](#) are still available on the [Agricultural Service Board \(ASB\) page](#).



## New Design Launch of Online EFP Workbook

Keeping pace with technology in agriculture is essential to creating an industry that is sustainable for the long term. Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program launched a new, updated design for the online tool in November 2018. The refresh included new features, improved usability and strengthened communication between farmers and the EFP program. The content of the EFP workbook will remain the same, but the new design should enhance farmers' experience while completing their EFPs. To learn more, visit <http://www.albertaefp.com/blog/refreshing-the-aeFP-webbook>

## Coming Events Calendar

Check out the list below to see when and where you can connect with our AF specialists and stock up on the newest publications, factsheets and grant information. To view a list of other agricultural related events, click [here](#) for AF's Coming Events Calendar. If you would like to post an event on AF's website, please send all information to [aginfocentre@gov.ab.ca](mailto:aginfocentre@gov.ab.ca).

### Events and Topics of Interest:

*Manure Management Update 2019, Lethbridge - Jan. 14, 2019*

- ESB will be present as organizers and presenters at this event. We will also have a booth featuring related projects and demonstrating our [ManureTracker](#) app. Agenda and registration details on [AF's Coming Events Calendar!](#) Early bird rate is until Dec. 21, 2018.

*Sustainability Series Webinar: [Managing for Long-Term Sustainability at the Farm](#), Jan. 15, 2019 @ 10:00 AM MST.*

- Presenter: Mathieu Lipari from Farm Management Canada. To view past [Sustainability Series webinars](#) focused on public trust and sustainability, [click here](#). Keep watch for more webinars this winter.

*Agronomy Update 2019, Lethbridge – Jan. 15-16, 2019*

- ESB will stay with a booth for this event to share with other AF specialists and the Energy Outreach Officers. Agenda and registration details on [AF's Coming Events Calendar!](#)

*ASB Conference, Calgary – Jan. 21-23, 2019*

- ESB will share a booth with Farm Safety and Energy Outreach Officers.

*FarmTech 2019, Edmonton – Jan. 29-31, 2019*

- Environmental Stewardship staff will be attending [FarmTech 2019](#). The booth will highlight information on CAP Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change programs, energy programs, carbon offsets, [ManureTracker](#) app, Farm Stewardship Centre projects and more! Other specialists at the booth will be able to speak towards pulses, crops and some select CAP program areas.

Look for the **Farm Energy Outreach Officers** at the booth or catch them speaking at one of the following events:

- [Solar Workshop](#) with Rob Harlan by Gateway Research Group in Wetaskiwin on Jan. 22, 2019
- [Organic Alberta Central Conference](#) in Fort Saskatchewan from Jan. 25-26, 2019
- [Catalyst Agriculture Conference](#) in De Winton on Feb. 4, 2019

