

Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) Project on Non-Point Sources

Submitted by CASA

The Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) are the driver for air quality management across the country under the national Air Quality Management System and are becoming increasingly stringent. The 2011-2013 Air Zones Report for Alberta indicates 5 of the 6 air zones in Alberta are either approaching or not achieving the CAAQS for fine particulate matter and the North Saskatchewan air zone is approaching the CAAQS for ozone. The Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) Project on Non-Point Sources, composed of government, non-government, airshed, and industry members, began in November 2015 to help address non-point air emissions contributing to these ambient air quality levels in Alberta. Non-point source emissions are the smaller but numerous air emissions from many different, aggregated and diffused sources. While individual emissions from non-point sources may be relatively small, these sources can have notable cumulative effect.

To address cumulative effects, management of air emissions from both point-sources (e.g. smoke stacks) and non-point sources (e.g. transportation, energy, industry, agriculture, institutional, and residential sectors) is needed. Potential management actions to reduce non-point source emissions may require different approaches as compared to the traditional management of point sources. CASA has a unique ability to build relationships and provide a neutral forum in which this type of multi-stakeholder and multi-interest work can be done. The CASA Project on Non-Point Sources will investigate a range of regulatory and non-regulatory options, and by fall 2017 will recommend potential management actions. Additional details can be found on the CASA website: [casahome.org/CurrentInitiatives/Non-PointSource\(NPS\)ProjectTeam.aspx](http://casahome.org/CurrentInitiatives/Non-PointSource(NPS)ProjectTeam.aspx)



Alberta
Barley



Farm Sustainability Extension Working Group hires extension coordinator to boost on-farm sustainability awareness

(Calgary, Alberta), May 2, 2016 –The Farm Sustainability Extension Working Group (FSEWG) is pleased to announce that Jolene Noble of Manning, Alberta, has been hired as an Extension Coordinator to develop, coordinate, and implement an extension program to increase Alberta producers' awareness of on-farm sustainability.

Organized by the FSEWG with funding support from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's Growing Forward 2 Program, this collaborative role is in place to address a growing need for the crop sector to meet high sustainability standards to maintain and expand international market competitiveness.



“Sustainable agriculture is becoming increasingly important in building market access opportunities and ensuring the long-term viability of our industry,” says Noble. “I look forward to contributing to these end-goals by working with producers to bring awareness to social license issues and highlighting on-farm best management practices.”

Noble brings extensive professional program coordination experience from the beef industry where she successfully managed programs for youth and advocacy. Additionally, she has actively participated in programs such as the McDonald's Sustainability Pilot Project, Verified Beef Production, and the Environmental Farm Plan from a producer perspective on her family's mixed farm.

In this position, Noble will support the crop commissions in better understanding farmer readiness with respect to internationally recognized sustainability standards and best management practices. This information will be derived via phone survey to be conducted by Ipsos Reid this summer, building on the information compiled through the Alberta Crops Sustainability Certification Pilot Project that was collaboratively delivered during the spring of 2015. Noble will subsequently develop and deliver coordinated extension programming to support the crop commissions' membership in positioning their operations to meet current and emerging sustainability market standards.

The FSEWG is comprised of Alberta Barley, Alberta Canola Producers Commission, Alberta Pulse Growers Commission, and the Alberta Wheat Commission. Working on behalf of our producer membership, we are committed to assessing and meeting areas of need for on-farm sustainability extension and education.



**Alberta
Barley**



For more information, please contact:

Megan Madden
Communications Coordinator
Alberta Canola Producers Commission
(780) 454-0844
megan@albertacanola.com

Victoria Russell
Communications Specialist
Alberta Wheat Commission
(403) 219-7906
vrussell@albertawheat.com

Ellen Cottee
Communications Coordinator
Alberta Barley
(403) 219-7914
ecottee@albertabarley.com

Rachel Peterson
Communications Coordinator
Alberta Pulse Growers Commission
(780) 986-9398
rpeterson@pulse.ab.ca



Alberta
Barley



Alberta's Crop Commissions hire Ipsos Reid to survey farms' sustainability practices

Alberta's four major crop commissions are addressing a growing need for the grain sector to meet high sustainability standards needed to maintain and expand international market competitiveness. The crop commissions contracted Ipsos Reid to conduct a phone survey of Alberta growers in late June to gain a better understanding of farmers' readiness to benefit from internationally recognized sustainability standards and beneficial management practices.

Jolene Noble, Extension Coordinator for the newly formed Farm Sustainability Extension Working Group (FSEWG) says, "Canadian agriculture has a very positive image in the global market place and Alberta growers are progressive, innovative, and dedicated to the stewardship of their land." This reputation positions the Alberta farmers to be leaders in the sustainable agriculture movement and capitalize on emerging market opportunities.

"We are living in a world where fewer and fewer people have a connection to agriculture. At the same time there is a growing interest by consumers as to where their food comes from," says Jason Lenz, Vice Chairman with Alberta Barley. "Sustainability is increasingly important to consumers, restaurants, and food retailers, so we need to be able to demonstrate that we are producing a sustainable product and dedicated to continued improvement on this front."

In mid to late June, growers will be receiving phone calls from Ipsos Reid to answer questions regarding their production practices. Results from this survey will enable the industry to quantify the great work that Alberta growers are already doing on farm sustainability. Building on the work from the Alberta Crops Sustainability Certification Pilot Project from spring of 2015, the working group will assess the results and provide resources and extension support to continue advancing on farm sustainability production practices in Alberta.

Contact:
Jolene Noble
Extension Coordinator
Farm Sustainability Extension Working Group
780.887.9446

The FSEWG is comprised of Alberta Barley Commission, Alberta Canola Producers Commission, Alberta Pulse Growers Commission, and the Alberta Wheat Commission. Working on behalf of our producer membership, we are committed to assessing and meeting areas of need for on-farm sustainability extension and education.

McDonald's Sustainable Beef Pilot Wrap Up

Submitted by AF

McDonald's Corporation exceeds 30 billion dollars globally in purchases every year. McDonald's had made a commitment back in 2014 to begin purchasing a portion of its beef supply from verified sustainable sources in 2016. Beef is an important part of their environmental footprint, about 30%. Recognizing that there was no common global definition of 'Sustainable Beef' and there was an opportunity to understand how to measure, verify and communicate sustainability of beef production to consumers; they decided to fund a multi stakeholder pilot project in Canada to support fulfilling their commitment.

On June 1, 2016 McDonald's Canada announced the successful conclusion of their Verified Sustainable Beef Pilot. It was a wrap up celebration where all their stakeholders were invited. Andrew Brazier, McDonald's Worldwide Supply Chain Management Director said, "The end of the pilot is only the beginning of this journey; McDonald's is committed to working with the Canadian beef industry." The pilot developed a set of regionally specific indicators, in consultation with a cross-industry advisory group, that were aligned to the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef's (GRSB) principles and criteria along with a mechanism for third-party verification. A total of 183 on-site 3rd party verifications occurred across Canada in the pilot: 154 cow/calf and backgrounder operations, 24 feedlots, 2 packers, 1 patty plant and 2 dairy farms. In Alberta, 118 were cow/calf and 20 were feedlot operations. Chain of Custody was tracked through BIXS (Beef Infoxchange System) for the pilot timeframe of January 2014 through April 2016. A total of 8,967 head of cattle were tracked through the entire supply chain.

During the pilot McDonald's has sourced just over 300,000 lbs of Canadian beef trim from verified sustainable sources, enough for 2.4 million burgers. They will continue to support the development of the beef sustainability framework in Canada and are an active member of the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB). McDonalds will also be launching the start of their Farm Forward program to support the farming industry across Canada. This is a program that they have been running in the United Kingdom and Ireland since 2012. This will be another unique opportunity for the Canadian beef industry as it was obvious that producers want continued feedback on their operation and how they can improve.

The CRSB feels that the McDonald's pilot has positioned them to moving forward. Communication is key to this work is building trust in the market and with customers. The CRSB has committed to having a fully launched verified sustainable beef program by the fourth quarter of 2017. Producers involved in the Pilot will be transitioned into the new CRSB verification program.

More details can be found in the final report for McDonald's Sustainable Beef Pilot at:

<http://www.mcdvsb.com/uploads/2/4/9/5/24957525/mcd-final-report.pdf>

Also visit the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef at:

<http://crsb.ca/>



#101 - 90 FREEPORT BLVD NE
CALGARY, AB T3J 5J9

PHONE: **403.250.1197**

TOLL FREE: **1.877.302.2344**

FAX: **403.291.9216**

EMAIL: **INFO@EGGS.AB.CA**

WEB: **WWW.EGGS.AB.CA**



Partner Profile: Egg Farmers of Alberta

Submitted by Egg Farmers of Alberta

Organization Overview

Egg Farmers of Alberta (EFA) is a not-for-profit organization that was incorporated in 1968, for the purpose of providing effective promotion, control and regulation of the marketing of eggs in Alberta. EFA represents the province's more than 170 registered egg farmers, who are dedicated to providing Albertans with a stable supply of fresh, high quality, nutritious, locally produced eggs.

The Egg Farmers of Alberta Board of Directors is comprised of six elected egg producers, who focus their collective time and energy on setting the strategic direction for the organization, in a manner that is congruent with the Board's core values.

Alberta's egg industry operates under the provincial *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act – Egg Farmers of Alberta Plan Regulation (258/97)*, *Egg Farmers of Alberta Board Authorization Regulation (279/97)* and *Egg Production and Marketing Regulation (293/97)* – which is supervised by the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council, a government agency charged with overseeing all agricultural marketing boards and commissions in Alberta.

EFA's Vision: Healthy Food, Healthy Farms, Healthy Families

EFA's Mission: Cultivating a sustainable egg industry together with farmers, consumers and other stakeholders.

Alberta Egg Industry Snapshot: 2015 stats

Registered producers: **177 egg farmers**

Total egg production: **52,605,664 dozen eggs**

Average flock size: **12,250 hens**

Alberta Egg Industry Economic Contribution: 2013 stats

Farm cash receipts: \$78 million

Gross Domestic Production (egg farmers): \$72 million

Total number of jobs created directly/indirectly by egg farmers: 1,542

Feed purchased by egg farmers: 70,756 tonnes

Total annual economic activity: \$337 million

EFA's Agri-Environmental Initiatives

Egg Farmers of Alberta developed a comprehensive sustainability strategy in 2014, which encompasses everything we do and enables us to more effectively tell our story. For Alberta egg farmers, sustainable egg production is socially responsible, environmentally sound and economically viable. The sustainability strategy identified EFA's key pillars:

HEALTHY BIRDS

HEALTHY FARMS HEALTHY EGGS

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

In addition to managing the provincial implementation of the Canadian egg industry's on-farm animal care and food safety programs, which are mandatory requirements for being licensed to produce eggs in Alberta, EFA launched Canada's first on-farm environmental program in 2014. Portions of PEEP were derived from the Environmental Farm Plan. EFA believes that the key to effective environmental management is through a systematic approach to planning, controlling, measuring and improving environmental performance.

The Producer Environmental Egg Program (PEEP) is intended to help egg farmers better identify their impacts on the environment and facilitate the use of best practices. PEEP provides information about impacts of on-farm activities and helps establish goals for improvement. The PEEP assessment is focused on key impact areas such as energy use, water consumption and manure management, which helps farmers identify and address environmental risks and opportunities, to improve their carbon footprint.

EFA also initiated an egg environmental footprint project in 2012, to better understand and quantify the environmental impact of egg production in Alberta, through Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). The first of its kind in Canada, the study involved collecting data from egg farmers covering the life cycle stages of an egg, from feed production to grading. The infographic created to share the environmental and nutritional contribution of one serving of eggs can be found on the EFA website.

David Webb
Marketing & Communications Manager
Egg Farmers of Alberta
Phone: 403-250-1197
Email: david.webb@eggs.ab.ca
Website: www.eggs.ab.ca
Facebook: www.facebook.com/EggFarmersAlberta
Twitter: @EFA_AB_eggs

Wetland Incentives for Agriculture

Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society (AWES)

Overall: Mission is to increase awareness of the values of agroforestry and woodlots in the landscape

Payment: Technical assistance and contract services to assist in repairing riparian areas and upland forests through afforestation. Provides assistance in potential funding options for related services.

Where: Across Alberta

More info: <http://www.awes-ab.ca>

Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS)

Overall: Designed as a way to protect wetlands and other natural features by paying farmers and ranchers for the increased ecosystem services that they produce when they adopt agro-environmental beneficial management practices (BMPs). This is a producer-driven system, with producers and local “Partnership Advisory Committees” deciding on projects.

Payment: Establishment (or BMP implementation) costs are shared, and an annual payment for ecosystem services is made for the duration of the contract. Payments vary by community. E.g. in Red Deer County \$30.00/acre/year for ecosystem services from pasture lands, or \$40.00/acre/year for ecosystem services from croplands. Contract length varies by community, from one year to 10 years.

Where: In participating counties, as of March 7, 2016: Vermilion River, Parkland, Red Deer, Mountain View, Lac Ste Anne, Wetaskiwin, Leduc, Brazeau, Northern Sunrise, Flagstaff.

More info: <http://www.alus.ca>

Conservation Auctions

Overall: The University of Alberta is piloting a study where producers get paid for letting them restore wetlands.

Payment: Bids are submitted and the amount paid varies depending on the results of a reverse auction.

Where: Rocky View County.

More info: <http://restoreourwetlands.ca>

Conservation Offsets

Wetland Offsets

Overall: Landowners can participate in the supply of wetland conservation offsets by providing historically drained wetland areas to a wetland replacement agent to undertake wetland restoration work.

Payment: The landowner and the replacement agent may come to a financial arrangement that compensates for the lost opportunity cost of restoring or constructing a wetland in land that has been used for agricultural uses.

Where: Throughout Alberta.

More info: Alberta Wetland Policy Implementation page

<http://aep.alberta.ca/water/programs-and-services/wetlands/alberta-wetland-policy-implementation.aspx>

Alberta Wetland Mitigation Directive

<http://aep.alberta.ca/water/programs-and-services/wetlands/documents/AlbertaWetlandMitigationDirective-Jun2015.pdf>

Cows and Fish (Alberta Habitat Management Society)

Overall: Assists producers with managing wetlands and riparian areas.

Payment: Technical support.

Where: Across Alberta.

More info: <http://cowsandfish.org>

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) 10 year Wetland Restoration Lease Program

Overall: Aimed at restoring wetlands, while letting the landowner continue to manage the land.

Payment: Wetland restoration costs are paid by DUC, followed by an upfront payment and 10 annual payments, based on current fair market value for the restored wetland area. The landowner is allowed to manage the restored area during the lease, which may include haying or grazing.

Where: DUC priority delivery areas throughout Alberta.

More info: Website: <http://www.ducks.ca/resources/landowners/ten-year-lease-program>

Phone: 1-866-479-3825 Email: restoremywetlands-ab@ducks.ca

Ducks Unlimited Canada Revolving Land Purchase (RLP) Program

Overall: DUC purchases land, wetlands and upland habitat are restored, a conservation easement is placed on the title protecting the habitat in perpetuity, and the land is then sold.

Payment: Dependent on current land values.

Where: DUC priority delivery areas throughout Alberta.

More info: <http://www.ducks.ca/resources/landowners/revolving-land-conservation-program> Phone: 1-866-479-3825

Email: restoremywetlands-ab@ducks.ca

Ducks Unlimited Canada Forage Program

Overall: Subsidizes forage seed costs, in return for keeping the restored land in perennial cover and conserving associated wetlands for a 10 year term.

Payment: DUC pays up to \$100.00 per 50 lb bag of forage seed, on varieties purchased from Crop Production Services.

Where: DUC priority delivery areas throughout Alberta.

More info: <http://www.ducks.ca/news/provincial/alberta/duc-cps-announce-forage-incentive-program-for-producers>

Phone: 1-866-479-3825 Email: restoremywetlands-ab@ducks.ca

Growing Forward 2 Agricultural Watershed Enhancement

Overall: Works with legal organizations involved in watershed stewardship to implement good management practices for water quality. Includes riparian area fencing and management, remote watering systems, and wetland restoration.

Payment: 100% coverage of invoiced expenses.

Where: Areas throughout Alberta at high risk for degraded water quality.

More info:

http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/Programs/index.htm?contentId=AGRI_WTRSHED_PRG&useSecondary=true&active=yes

Growing Forward 2 On-Farm Stewardship

Overall: Designed to help producers a good management practices for water quality. Includes Riparian area fencing and management, remote watering systems, wetland restoration.

Payment: Cost share of projects, up to 70% with various maximums.

Where: Throughout Alberta.

More info: <http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/GF2Search/index.htm?role=Farmer-Rancher-Producer>

Growing Forward 2 On-Farm Water Management

Overall: Designed to help producers achieve greater water security and more effective and efficient management of their on-farm water. Includes wells, dugouts, dams, water tanks, buried pipelines, livestock waterers, etc.

Payment: Cost share of projects, 30 to 50% with various maximums.

Where: Throughout Alberta.

More info:

http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/Programs/index.htm?contentId=ONFARM_WTRMGT_PRG&useSecondary=true&active=yes

Lake Winnipeg Basin Stewardship Fund

Overall: The Fund provides financial and technical support to implement high-impact solution-oriented projects aimed at reducing nutrient loads, and improving the ecological sustainability of Lake Winnipeg and watershed.

Payment: 1/3 to 2/3 of project costs, including salaries, operating, equipment, other services.

Where: Lake Winnipeg watershed.

More info: <https://www.ec.gc.ca/eau-water/default.asp?lang=En&n=D7134110-1>

Land Stewardship Centre Watershed Stewardship Grant

Overall: Provides funding to support collaborative, community-based stewardship efforts consistent with the principles, goals and outcomes of Alberta's Water for Life strategy.

Payment: Grants are generally issued once per year to eligible groups on a per-project basis.

Where: Throughout Alberta.

More info: <http://www.landstewardship.org/apply-grant> Email: grant@landstewardship.org Phone: 1-877-727-5276 extension 222.

Municipal Environmental Units

Overall: Counties and Municipal Districts providing services to their landowners for the care of wetlands.

Payment: Ranges from simple technical advice to cash payments from various sources. Can come from many different areas and programs including industrial environmental accounts.

Where: Various counties with active environmental divisions including Clearwater and Mountain View.

More info: http://www.aaaf.ab.ca/uploads/pdf/2015_AAAF_Directory_as_of_October_1_2015.pdf

National Wetland Conservation Fund

Overall: Restore degraded or lost wetlands, assess wetland functions and ecological goods and services, encourage wetland stewardship.

Payment: Typical funding ranges from \$50,000 to \$250,000, with a maximum amount available of \$500,000 per year per project. A minimum of 1:1 matching contributions (from non-federal sources) is required.

Where: Throughout Alberta.

More Info: https://www.ec.gc.ca/financement-funding/default.asp?lang=En&n=923047A0-1#_09 Email: ec.fncmh-nwcf.ec@canada.ca

Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program

Overall: Money available to non-government organizations, stewardship groups, municipalities.

Payment: \$18.5 million available in total over three years.

Where: High priority areas for flood mitigation or drought prevention.

More info: <http://aep.alberta.ca/water/programs-and-services/watershed-resiliency-and-restoration-program/watershed-resiliency-and-restoration-program-faqs.aspx>

COMMENTS FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS

Since the AEPA was formed in 2008, it has served as a valuable forum for partners from the agriculture sector and government to discuss and address common agri-environmental policy issues in the province.

Using a consensus-based approach, the AEPA offers an opportunity for partners to increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of issues, as well as better understand perspectives of other organizations. This results in broad based input into various policy development processes.

Having input is critical since agriculture is a significant land manager and the number one renewable and sustainable resource in the province, generating substantial social, economic and environmental benefits.

As we move into 2016-2017 and beyond, working collaboratively will be of increasing importance as agri-environmental issues become more complex. Ongoing topics including the LUF, ecosystem services, and water, as well as emerging topics such as the Climate Change Strategy, GF3, and social licence, will require meaningful engagement between the agriculture sector and government to help ensure continued generation of benefits in the future.

We would like to thank all partner organizations and members of the Advisory Committee and Working Groups (including LUF, Water, and Planning) for their significant contributions and continued commitment to the AEPA. We look forward to working together again in 2016-2017.

Martin Van Diemen
Industry Co-Chair

Sean Royer
GOA Co-Chair

ABOUT US

Advisory Committee members (previously 'Board') are committed to the development of informed, proactive, trustworthy, credible and relevant input into agri-environmental policy development processes.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER/ ALTERNATE	ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED
Martin Van Diemen	Industry Co-Chair
Sean Royer	Government of Alberta Co-Chair
CROP INDUSTRY	
Terry James/Shannon Sereda	Alberta Barley Commission
Steve Marshman/Ward Toma	Alberta Canola Producers Commission
Tim van der Hoek/Leanne Fischbuch	Alberta Pulse Growers Commission
John Wozniak/Erin Gowriluk	Alberta Wheat Commission
Terence Hochstein	Potato Growers of Alberta
LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY	
Herman Bulten/Diana O'Hara	Alberta Elk Commission, Alberta Goat Breeders Association, Alberta Lamb Producers, Alberta Reindeer Association, Alberta Whitetail and Mule Deer Association, Bison Producers of Alberta, Horse Industry Association of Alberta, Ostrich Association of Alberta
Rich Smith/Bryan Walton	Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association
Mike Froese/David Hyink	Alberta Chicken Producers, Alberta Hatching Egg Producers, Alberta Turkey Producers, Egg Farmers of Alberta
Lorrie Jespersen/John Wurz	Alberta Milk
Will Kingma/Darcy Fitzgerald	Alberta Pork
ENVIRONMENTAL NON-GOVERNMENT	
Tracy Scott	Ducks Unlimited Canada
GOVERNMENTS	
Dave Burdek/Sean Royer	Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Soren Odegard/Pat Gordeyko	Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties
Andy Ridge	Alberta Environment and Parks
LIAISON	
Don Reiter/Candace Vanin	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

AEPA thanks representatives who stepped down this past year and welcomes new representatives. AEPA also acknowledges the support of partner organizations, Crop Sector Working Group and Intensive Livestock Working Group for their continued commitment.

CONTACT

Agri-Environmental Partnership of Alberta (AEPA)
Phone: 780-427-3629 (toll-free through 310-0000)
Email: info@agpartner.ca Website: www.agpartners.ca

PROGRESS REPORT 2015-2016



WHO WE ARE

A diverse partnership of the agriculture industry, government, and an environmental non-government organization, working together to proactively address agri-environmental issues from a policy perspective.

A consensus-based forum for discussion of policy issues including the land-use framework and water.

A unified voice providing advice and input into policy development processes.

OUR PURPOSE

Vision

Agri-environmental policies are balanced, support sustainable industry growth, and increase social acceptance.

Mission

To engage and build knowledge of partner organizations which enable the AEPA to provide credible, proactive, and respected input to agri-environmental policy development processes.

WHAT WE DO

Strategic Priorities

1. Engage in agri-environmental policy development processes including land-use, water, air and biodiversity.
2. Provide timely policy input on innovations and emerging opportunities that will help the agriculture industry achieve environmental sustainability.
3. Engage and build understanding with partners and stakeholders to enable the agriculture industry to be a credible partner in agri-environmental policy development processes.

OUR WORK IN 2015-2016

2015-2016 was a significant year for the AEPA, both in our operation and progress on strategic priorities.

Effective April 1, 2015, the new AEPA Strategic Plan for 2015-2018 was implemented, including the new Vision, Mission, and Strategic Priorities. Martin Van Diemen, an original member representing the poultry industry, also became the new Industry Co-chair.

Policy issues addressed this year were the continued development of the Land-Use Framework (LUF), implementation of the new Wetland Policy, and the Climate Leadership Discussion.

In regards to the LUF, AEPA and partner organizations participated in various consultations related to Environmental Management Frameworks, both in the North Saskatchewan Region and South Saskatchewan Region (specifically Biodiversity). The AEPA Advisory Committee and LUF Working Group also engaged in work related to ecosystem services.

In regards to the implementation of the new Wetland Policy, the AEPA Advisory Committee and Water Working Group discussed issues and tools to assist partner organizations and their producers in better understanding how agriculture may be impacted.

In regards to the Climate Leadership Discussion, AEPA submitted consensus input to the Climate Change Advisory Panel and attended the Government of Alberta (GOA) technical engagement session.

To further build knowledge with partners on issues related to social licence and water, AEPA hosted a tour of the City of Calgary Wastewater Treatment Centre and Loblaws Distribution Centre. AEPA also communicated with partners through tools identified in its Communications Plan, including the website, e-newsletter, and monthly updates.

This year AEPA also had opportunities to engage with the Honourable Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry (AF), the Honourable Shannon Phillips, Minister of Environment and Parks, AF Deputy Minister (DM) Bev Yee, and former AF DM Jason Krips.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2016-2017

As the AEPA looks forward to 2016-2017, engagement in LUF and water related policy development processes will continue. This will include responding to the North Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Council Recommendations Report and Draft Regional Plan when released, participating in the Regional Advisory Council nominee process for any new regions, and staying engaged in the implementation of the Wetland Policy. This will also include staying updated in work related to ecosystem services.

The AEPA will also stay engaged and provide input in the development of details in the Climate Change Strategy as it impacts agriculture, agri-environmental aspects of the social licence issue, development of Growing Forward 3 (GF3), as well as address other relevant issues as they emerge.



VISION:
Agri-environmental policies are balanced, support sustainable industry growth, and increase social acceptance