

A Brief Guide to Water Enforcement, Compliance, and the New 'One Stop' Approval Process

Submitted by the Farmers Advocate Office

- 1.) Environmental Protection officers (EPO's) are legislated to conduct inspections and investigations under the Water Act, Public Lands Act, Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and the Climate Change Act.
 - a. This is legislated under Part 10 Sections 118 and 127 within the Water Act
- 2.) EPO's conduct investigations and inspections after a complaint is made. They investigate the probability of a contravention of Section 36(1) and Section 49(1)

36 (1) No person may commence or continue an activity except pursuant to an approval...

49(1) No person shall commence or continue a diversion of water except pursuant to a license...

- 3.) EPO's use a Compliance Assurance Program to deliver their compliance assurance strategy which has three components:
 - a. Education
 - b. Prevention
 - c. Enforcement
- 4.) Inspections may be triaged to investigation if enough compelling "technical data" is found to move to a more in depth investigation.
 - a. **Inspections** (Sections 118-126 of the Water Act): Are used to gather technical data and verify compliance
 - b. **Investigations** (Sections 127-134 of the Water Act): Are used to "gather evidence" in order to move files forward to enforcement action.
- 5.) Landowners are issued a letter notifying them if the Department has opened an Investigation. **Alberta Environment and Parks has 2 years to issue a punitive response such as a Warning Letter or an Administrative penalty** from the date that they receive a phone call.
- 6.) **Enforcement orders** are **remedial** in nature and can be issued at any time. **There is no time limit** on an Enforcement Order.
- 7.) Enforcement orders **are appealable to the Environmental Appeals Board under Section 114 of the Water Act**. However, please note that a notice of appeal must be filed within 7 days of receiving an enforcement order.

This is the process for getting a Water Act approval:

A proposed activity under Section 1(1)(b) requires an Approval under Section 36(1) under the *Water Act*. Flood control (or flood mitigation), drainage, dewatering, erosion control, channel re-alignment,

wetland impacts, dugouts, stormwater management, etc., meets this definition of an activity under the Water Act.

- Water Act - <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/w03.pdf>
- Additional information on Water legislation can be found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/water-legislation-and-resources.aspx>

Information regarding the Environmental Approvals OneStop System can be found on the department webpage at - <https://www.alberta.ca/environmental-approvals-system-onestop.aspx>

On this webpage:

- 1) Start by creating a My Alberta Digital ID (MADI) or a My Alberta Digital for Business MADI-B account by click on the MADI link - <https://www.alberta.ca/environmental-approvals-system-onestop.aspx#toc-1>
 - If the person has an account they can move on to step 2.
- 2) Then use the Quick Reference Guide – Initiate new Water Act application – General Application
 - Link to the guides on the webpage - <https://www.alberta.ca/environmental-approvals-system-onestop.aspx#toc-2>
- 3) Then once you have reach the top of page 8 of the first guide – use the Initiate new Water Act application – Flood Control Quick Reference Guide to finish the application.

All One Stop guides: - <https://www.alberta.ca/environmental-approvals-system-onestop.aspx#toc-2>

Link to the Compliance Assurance program homepage: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/1766023>

Annual Compliance Assurance Annual Reports: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2367-9743>

More up to date Quarterly Reports: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/1766023>

Fact sheet for the Public Lands Act: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/public-lands-act>

Fact sheet for the Water Act: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/water-act-factsheet>

AgriProfit\$ Program

Submitted by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Economics and Competitiveness, a branch of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF), operates the AgriProfit\$ program.

The AgriProfit\$ Business Analysis and Research Program provides applied economic analysis and farm financial management information to: program participants, Alberta producers, and businesses and governments working with our Agriculture industry.

AgriProfit\$ provides:

- Participants with a detailed analysis of their farming operations. Participants are then able to chart the course of their business in an economically sustainable fashion by assessing their business' production, management and technology options.
- Benchmarks and farm financial management information based on real farms. An annual account of production costs and returns gives a realistic reflection of the Alberta cropping industry's profitability and allows producers to assess their competitiveness.
- Ongoing monitoring of the economic and financial performance of Alberta's agriculture industry. This helps AF respond to industry issues.

The ultimate goal of the program is to “provide good business management information to knowledgeable business managers, so they can make better business management decisions”.

Program Strengths:

- Accepted, consistent analysis standards – reliable and broadly comparable individual and “group” results.
- Not one size fits all – operations range by region and business type.
- Producers add realism to the group results.

Is there a cost to participate?

No! Other than your valuable time, this program is free-of-charge.

What's in it for producers?

AgriProfit\$ puts producers in a better position to take control of their business and make better business management decisions. Good information is the first and most important step in managing for profitability. If “all good things take time”, then good management information is well worth the time producers invest.

Participants receive:

- A detailed farm economic analysis with their production costs and returns calculated on a per unit basis (i.e. per bushel, per pound).

- A financial analysis of their “whole farm” business, revealing financial performance, strengths and weaknesses.
- A benchmark report to assess performance of their enterprise and farm over time and compare their performance to their “peers” by region, size of operation, type of operation, management practices, etc.

The following two phrases link AgriProfit\$ and farm business success:

1. You Can’t Manage What You Don’t Measure!

“Measure” your current business position

Do a basic business analysis of key enterprises and roll it up to a “whole farm” financial position.

“Measure” your business position annually

Every year of analysis adds another dimension that shows progress, opportunity for change, and strengths and weaknesses.

Use analysis to “Manage” for profit

Cost profiles and farm financial analyses form the basis of managing profit centers, financial projections, budgeting and capital investments.

2. Who’s in Control of this Business, Anyhow?

Without a business analysis a farm directs itself

When a manager uses an AgriProfit\$ analysis to make strategic decisions that improve profitability, then the manager is now in control of the business’ destiny.

Where does this information come from?

The information in the database comes from the program’s participants, who are Alberta’s crop and livestock producers. AgriProfit\$ collects farm and field level information on production, costs and returns, and investment information.

How is producer information used?

The information participants provide is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). We only publish averaged results.

How should benchmarks be used?

Benchmarks can be valuable for assessing the competitiveness of a farm, and in identifying a farm’s operational strengths and weaknesses. Benchmarks do not suggest that all producers in a region have the same “average costs”, so application of averages to individual situations requires caution. In fact, significant farm to farm variation is normal.

Overall, an AgriProfit\$ business analysis provides key management information that helps producers take control of their businesses and move towards sustainable business success. It’s designed to “measure” so producers can “manage”.

Links for the Agriprofit program and the benchmark reports:

<https://www.alberta.ca/agriprofits-business-analysis-and-research-program.aspx>

<https://www.alberta.ca/agriprofits-benchmark-informtion-for-alberta-cattlemen.aspx>

Links for signup page :

[https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/softdown.nsf/main?openform&type=AgriProfit\\$&page=download](https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/softdown.nsf/main?openform&type=AgriProfit$&page=download)

Should you have any questions, comments, or signup about the AgriProfit\$ Business Analysis and Research Program please contact:

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Infographics and Agriculture

Submitted by Paul Jungnitsch, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Introduction

An infographic is a collection of imagery and charts aimed at giving an easy to understand overview of a topic. Many different techniques and artistic styles can be used, but the aim is to communicate information quickly and clearly, with minimal text. While infographics have been used for many years ([see this famous 1869 chart of troop strength in Napoleons' disastrous Russian campaign](#)), they have grown dramatically in popularity recently. Now used by many agricultural sectors, especially to strengthen public trust with consumers, the following is a sample of the wide range of infographics available:

All Agriculture

Ag More than Ever

This advocate toolbox is filled with free, easy-to-use resources to help tell ag's story:

<https://www.agriculturemorethanever.ca/resources/>

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)

A great collection of downloadable infographics from AAFC, covering everything in agriculture from apples to canola to pulses to wheat:

<http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/about-us/publications/discover-agriculture/infographics-agricultural-products-and-their-impacts/?id=1530198199592>

Beef

Alberta Beef Producers

Worried about antibiotic use and resistance in cattle?

<https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/f1ef9cf3/files/uploaded/2015AMRupdatesmpdf-453.pdf>

Worried about hormones in cattle?

<https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/f1ef9cf3/files/uploaded/AlbertaBeefHormonesHighRespdf-578.pdf>

Worried about greenhouse gas emissions?

<https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/f1ef9cf3/files/uploaded/609.pdf>

Worried about nutrition?

<https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/f1ef9cf3/files/uploaded/Nutrition%20Infographic%28AB%29.pdf>

Alberta Cattle Feeders

Canadian beef – and Alberta's in particular – is internationally recognized for its quality and taste. But what are the key difference makers in Alberta beef production? What sets our province apart?

<https://www.cattlefeeders.ca/infographic-how-does-alberta-produce-world-class-beef/>

Feedlots 101: everything you need to know about cattle feeding in Alberta

<https://www.cattlefeeders.ca/feedlots-101-everything-you-need-to-know-about-cattle-feeding-in-alberta/>?

Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC)

Beef's Place in a Healthy Environment

<http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/beefs-place-in-a-healthy-environment-infographic/>

Canadian Cattleman's Association

It's a fact: sustainable beef production in Canada is grounded in research and innovation as well as the stewardship and conservation efforts of cattle producers. Browse this gallery to discover the different beef breeds in Canada including made-in-Canada breeds and learn about the wonders of cattle manure.

<http://www.cattle.ca/news-events/photos-videos/infographic-resources/#7>

Dairy

Alberta Milk

The Alberta Dairy Industry:

<https://albertamilk.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019-ABMilk-Infographic-full-page.pdf>

Dairy Farmers of Canada

Sustained progress: environmental efficiency of Canadian milk production

<https://dairyresearchblog.ca/2019/01/18/lca-of-milk-production-update-canadian-dairy-sector-has-one-of-the-lowest-carbon-footprints-in-the-world/>

Dairynutrition.ca

The environmental and socioeconomic life cycle assessment of Canadian milk production:

https://www.dairynutrition.ca/bundles/dfcdairynutrition/img/infographic/life_cycle_assessment.jpg

Eggs

Egg Farmers of Alberta

Understanding the environmental and nutritional profile of Alberta Eggs

<https://eggs.ab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/LCA-Infograph.pdf>

Egg Farmers.ca

A dozen reasons why Canadians want eggs from Canadian farmers. Canadian eggs come from more than 1,000 family farms across the country, including new farmers as well as those who are following family traditions of up to ten generations. Many other infographics

<https://www.eggfarmers.ca/resources/infographics/>

How do egg farmers ensure the welfare of their hens? Through a comprehensive and rigorous national Animal Care Program

<https://www.eggfarmers.ca/resources/infographics/>



Partner Profile – Organic Alberta

Who is Organic Alberta?

Organic Alberta is a membership driven association. All certified organic farmers are members of our association.

Organic Alberta's mission is to represent, support and grow Alberta's entire organic industry.

Established in 2005, we represent all 590 organic producers and processors in Alberta as well as 100+ businesses across the organic community.

Organic Alberta is the voice of organics. We communicate with and for the sector, we market the organic brand, we support producers to become organic, we cultivate organic production practices, and we advance business development. We lead the industry towards success.

What does Organic Alberta do?

Leadership

Organic Alberta is on the forefront of the organic market. From regulatory changes to innovation, we face the issues head on.

Advocacy

Organic Alberta is helping shape organics in the province by making our voice heard from the grassroots to all levels of government.

Education

Organic Alberta holds training, conferences and informational workshops regularly across the province to share advances in organics.

Our Programs

Pivot and Grow - is an online platform for new and transitioning organic grain farmers looking to find resources, to connect with experts, find organic grain prices and build marketing relationships.

<https://pivotandgrow.com/>

Young Agrarians - Young Agrarians is growing the next generation of ecological farmers in Alberta. Through potlucks, farm tours, workshops and mixers, we are building a supportive network for new and young farmers. Young Agrarians focuses on farmer-to-farmer relationships and learning and is now running an apprenticeship program.

<https://organicalberta.org/about-us/our-programs/new-farmers/>

The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security

Organic Alberta is the prairie host of The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security. The goal of this program is to help support and build a Canadian seed system that provides a solid foundation for food security, climate resilience, and community well-being.

http://organicalberta.org/about-us/our-programs/seed_security/

Mackenzie County Organic Success Program

The Mackenzie County region is home to over half of the organic producers in Alberta. The Mackenzie County Organic Success Program will increase the support offered to the farmers in this isolated part of the province by retaining an agrologist/consultant who will, among other deliverables, provide on farm agronomic and business advice/consultations.

Part of the Program is a needs analysis of the region and the development and implementation of a learning program aimed at two cohorts of producers – those in transition and new to organic growing, and those who are experienced organic growers. Each cohort will go through a separate incremental learning program introducing them to key organic business and agronomy best practices. The learning program will be delivered via an annual conference, field days, farm clubs and workshops.

http://organicalberta.org/about-us/our-programs/mackenzie_organic_success/

For more information on Organic Alberta please visit our website: <http://organicalberta.org/>

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