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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Board of Directors -
Page 2

Farm Stewardship
Beneficial Manage-
ment Practices -
Page 2

Variable Fertilizer
Rate BMP - Page 3

Invasive Weed
Program - Page 4

Eagle Creek
Watershed Map -
Page 4

Technician Contact
Info - Page 4

EAGLE CREEK WATERSHED NEWS

The Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program and the Farm Stewardship Program – Who Is Eligible?

Applicants who own or control a minimum of 320 acres and earn a minimum of \$35,000 of gross farm income in Saskatchewan in the year of application. Applications under the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program must have an agricultural use for the water. Water resources developed solely for household use or for washing machinery DO NOT qualify.

Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure

On-Farm; 50 % of eligible costs to a maximum rebate of \$60,000 over the life of the program. Eligible projects include: Large or small diameter wells; Shallow and deep buried pipelines; Connections to rural water utilities; Dugouts and dugout expansions of at least one-third size increase; Relocation of existing live-stock water systems for environmental purposes and Protecting existing well heads.

Agri-business Development; 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum rebate of \$150,000 over the life of the program. Non-district irrigation development projects are the lesser of 50 per cent of eligible costs or \$1,000 per irrigable acre developed to a maximum rebate of \$150,000.

Community Well: Two-thirds of eligible costs to a maximum grant of \$150,000 over the life of the program.

Irrigation District In-fill; 90 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum grant of \$7 million per irrigation district over the life of the program.

Well Decommissioning; 90 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum grant of \$10,000 per project. Funding received for well decommissioning does not count against an applicant's overall program cap.

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Farm Stewardship Program (FSP) Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs):

The Farm Stewardship Program (FSP) provides eligible Saskatchewan producers with financial assistance to implement beneficial management practices (BMPs) to help maintain or improve the quality of soil, water, air, or biodiversity resources.

A BMP is defined as any agricultural management practice which: a) Ensures the long-term health and sustainability of land-related resources used for agricultural production; b) Positively impacts the long-term economic and environmental viability of agricultural production; and c) minimizes negative impacts and risk to the environment.

The program includes 14 BMPs under six categories. These six categories include:

- **Livestock Site Management;**
 - Relocation of Livestock confinement Facilities (funding level 60% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$50,000).
 - Fencing to Protect Surface Water (50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$10,000).
 - Farmyard Runoff Control (50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$10,000).
- **Manure Management;**
 - Manure Storage Enhancements (30% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$50,000).
 - Manure Application Equipment and Technologies (30% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$30,000).
- **Land Management;**
 - Protecting Riparian Areas (75% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$50,000).
 - Protecting High Risk Erodible and Saline Soils (50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$5,000).
 - Creek & Stream Crossings (50% of eligible costs to maximum of \$20,000).
 - Shelterbelt Establishment (Flat rate of \$600 per mile to a maximum of \$5,000).
- **Pest Management;**
 - Integrated Pest Management Information Collection and Planning (30% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$5,000).
 - Native Plant Re-establishment (50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$5,000).
- **Irrigation Management;**
 - Irrigation Management Planning (50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$2,000).
 - Irrigation Equipment Modification (30% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$10,000).
- **Precision Farming;**
 - Variable Fertilizer Rate Technology (30% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$7,500).

**MORE DETAILS ON THESE BMPS CAN BE SEEN ON
THE SASK AG WEBSITE at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca**

**Click on the Growing Forward 2 icon and scroll down to
Environment : Farm Stewardship Program**

**Maximum funding that can be received for all FSP projects is \$50,000.
The funding received from the FSP will not affect other funding received
from other Growing Forward programs.**

Variable Rate Treatments: Good for the Producer, Good for the Environment—John Ippolito PAg

More and more Western Canadian producers are adopting precision agriculture practices. With the use of a global positioning system (GPS) to track the location of equipment in the field, producers can apply the necessary input – such as fertilizer – in the precise amount needed and only where it is needed. This has potential benefits for the producer’s bottom line as well as for the environment.

Making variable rate fertilizer applications can be complicated in that there are a number of factors and methods involved. Two of the essential elements in the process are: 1) identifying fields that have significant nutrient variability; and 2) determining what you hope to achieve by variable rate applications on those fields. Generally producers wish to increase or decrease input use with the goal of increasing yield and ultimately improving their profit margin. However as variable rate technology advances and our understanding about the science behind it increases, benefits such as reduced crop lodging, even maturity, decreasing disease pressure, and managing protein levels may be achieved.

Nutrient variability can be due to topography, soil texture, salinity or earlier management practices. Different methods – such as soil conductivity maps, satellite images of vegetation and topographic maps – can be used to record the variations within the fields. This information is then used as the basis for developing management zones that require different treatments.

After making a variable rate fertilizer application, it is essential to record the cost of the treatments and the resulting crop yield in order to evaluate whether there is a net benefit to using these management practices in future years. Compare the results in each management zone against a check or constant rate that normally would have been used in that zone. By using this method, you can evaluate the results of the treatment in the management zones to determine if you have met your objectives. A learning curve can be expected when implementing new practices or technology on farm. It is therefore recommended a producer start with a manageable portion of land to minimize the effect of a potential unforeseen or disappointing result.

Under Growing Forward 2 – Farm Stewardship Program there is funding available to assist producers in getting started with variable rate fertilizer applications. This is known as the Precision Farming Beneficial Management Practice. It will provide some rebates on costs incurred by producers in purchasing equipment that is capable of variable rate applications. Consulting services for the purposes of creating management zone maps is also an eligible expense in this program.

For more information:

Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca and look for the factsheet “Variable Rate Treatments” in the Crops/Soils, Fertility and Nutrients folder

Visit <http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/GF2-FarmStewardship> for information on the Precision Farming Beneficial Management Practice funding.

Or contact John Ippolito, Regional Crop Specialist, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture at the Kindersley Regional Office at (306) 463-5442.

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**EAGLE CREEK
WATERSHED GROUP**

Invasive Plant Control Program

The goal of this program is to provide support and assistance to producers, rural municipalities, First Nation bands and other stakeholders for control of weeds listed as prohibited under The Weed Control Act and specific noxious weeds.

If you have these weeds on your property

**Leafy Spurge
Yellow Toadflax
Common Tansy
Russian Knapweed**

Call Glenn at 306 - 831 - 6009

EAGLE CREEK WATERSHED

