

LANIGAN/MANITOU WATERSHED NEWS

Highlighting the Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan

June 2006 Issue

Introducing the Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan

Producers throughout the Lanigan/Manitou area now have an opportunity to work together as a group to address agricultural activities that can impact water quality.

The Group Farm Plan can help you make changes that benefit both the management of your farm and the environment, particularly water resources. With the Group Farm Plan, you can have hands-on, one-on-one advice and assistance from a local advisor who will help you make a management plan for your farm or ranch, explain how you can access funding through the Group Farm Plan, and provide expertise from start to finish on your projects.

The Group Farm Plan is meant to focus on a priority issue in the watershed relating to agriculture, and implement two Beneficial Management Practices which address it. The issue already identified by local producers is the protection of surface and ground water, to be addressed with two agricultural Beneficial Management Practices: wintering site management and riparian area management.



Area covered by the Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan

Beneficial Management Practices covered by the Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan

1. Wintering Site Management

These practices assist producers in reducing the risks of nutrients and pathogens that may enter ground and surface water from wintering cattle within confined feeding areas. Since each livestock operation functions differently depending on herd size, land base and accessibility to water, shelter and feed, the Group Farm Plan advisor will help you choose from one or a combination of wintering feeding techniques such as swath grazing, bale grazing or stock piled forages.

Wintering site management practices include:

- Establishing shelterbelts
- Building portable shelters and windbreaks
- Installing alternative winter watering systems
- Improving field access and upgrading alleyways/access lanes
- Modifying existing fences

Under the Group Farm Plan, wintering site management projects are cost-shared at 50 per cent to a maximum of \$15,000 until March 31, 2008.

2. Riparian Area Management

These practices help producers protect and enhance riparian areas on their farm or ranch. Riparian areas are the lands adjacent to streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands, where the vegetation and soils are strongly influenced by the presence of water. Under good

management, riparian areas are reliable producers of forage, can provide shelter for wildlife and breeding areas for fish, and will enhance water quality and quantity.

Riparian area management practices include:

- Installing alternative watering systems to manage livestock within the riparian area
- Establishing riparian buffers: planting of non-invasive forages, shrubs and trees
- Fencing to manage grazing and improve riparian conditions/function
- Grazing management in surrounding uplands – including cross-fencing for rotational, seasonal, rest, swath and extended grazing systems and alternative watering systems for improved grazing management
- Improving stream crossings

Under the Group Farm Plan, riparian area management projects are cost-shared at 50 per cent to a maximum of \$20,000 until March 31, 2008.



Introducing Nancy Gray, P. Ag

A name familiar to many producers is Nancy Gray of Watrous, who is the advisor responsible for the Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan and will be working on the project until 2008.

Nancy was born and raised on a mixed family farm in Silton. She has worked in various livestock industries (beef, pork, and poultry) and crop agronomy. In the past, Nancy was employed with Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food as an Extension Agrologist in Watrous. She is also an Environmental Farm Plan facilitator.

"I look forward to assisting producers in developing their plans for livestock wintering sites and riparian area management. Farmers today are creating a world in which the benefits of their good management of resources will go on for a long time."

For More Information:

Nancy Gray

Lanigan/Manitou Group Farm Plan Advisor

306-946-3135

306-946-8107 (cell)

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The Group Farm Plan and Individual Environmental Farm Plans

Both plans are part of the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program. They are different methods of accessing funding to implement Beneficial Management Practices.

Each producer involved in the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program can access a maximum of \$30,000 until March 31, 2008 through either the Group Farm Plan and/or the individual Environmental Farm Plan.

If you have an Environmental Farm Plan for your operation, the Group Farm Plan is complementary to it, and you may still take advantage of educational opportunities and technical assistance available in the Group Farm Plan. However, producers who have not completed an Environmental Farm Plan can also join the Group Farm Plan.

Please call Nancy Gray for information on the Group Farm Plan and/or the Environmental Farm Plan at 306-946-3135.

The Group Farm Plan Steering Committee

A seven-person steering committee oversees the delivery of the Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan. Several steering committee members are also part of the Lanigan/Manitou Watershed Advisory Committee, which is working with the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority to develop a source water protection plan for the Upper Qu'Appelle River Watershed.

Jerry Sopatyk	Meacham producer; Co-chair, Lanigan/Manitou Watershed Advisory Committee
Russel Kirzinger	Termuende Research Farm supervisor; Lanigan/Manitou Watershed Advisory Committee member
Dr. Paul Paquet	Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary; Lanigan/Manitou Watershed Advisory Committee member
Barrie Broad	Administrator for the Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan from the Western Beef Development Centre and Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute
Janice Bruynooghe	Outlook producer; Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Forage Council
Doug Moen	Viscount producer
Stan Gordon	Leroy producer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 27, 2006

WESTERN BEEF DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
FIELD DAY

Termuende Research Farm near Lanigan
Registration from 9 – 9:30 am. No charge.
Keynote speaker, beef on a bun lunch, field
tours, technical presentations.

Steak BBQ for \$10 at 5:30 pm

Call Brenda at 306-682-3139 for more details.

June 29, 2006

ECONOMICS AND PROFITABILITY OF
BENEFICIAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Meacham Hall, 10 am – 4 pm

\$10 registration fee

Pre-register by calling Duane at 306-665-7356.

July 18, 2006

WELL DECOMMISSIONING DEMONSTRATION
Nokomis – The Saskatchewan Watershed
Authority will demonstrate how to properly seal
abandoned wells.

No charge to attend.

Watch your mailbox for times and locations.

Call Morgan at 306-787-9938 for more details.



Western Beef
Development Centre



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