

Environmental Stewardship News

- *Highlighting information, projects & resources from the Environmental Stewardship Branch*

Un-harvested Crops

Spring management options for un-harvested crops is at the top of minds for many farmers. For more information and resources listen to the Call of the Land interviews with Trevor Wallace and Marcos Miller or go to agriculture.alberta.ca/unharvestedcrops to learn what to consider and how to proceed with un-harvested crops. Depending on when and how un-harvested crop is managed, cropping plans for the upcoming season may need to be adjusted; shorter season crops and/or early maturing varieties may need to be considered. For more information and resources, click the links below or call 310-FARM (3276):

Online Resources:

- [Spring Management Options for Un-harvested Crops](#)
- [Un-harvested Crops? Know Your Options](#)
- [Un-harvested and Overwintered Crops](#)

Call of the Land Interviews:

- [Dealing with Insured Un-harvested Crops](#)
- [Managing Un-harvested Crop](#)
- [Un-harvested Crop and Seeding](#)
- [Burning Un-harvested Crop](#)
- [Un-harvested Crop Information](#)

Alberta Soil Information Viewer

This practical tool has received a new look! Updates include the five different workflows that our clients felt would be of most use and new features include graphical tools and buffering options.

If you are new to the Alberta Soil Information Viewer, what does this mean to you? You have free access to soil information stored in database tables called the Agricultural Regions of Alberta Soil Inventory Database (AGRASID). This information can be utilized to assess the viability of your soil for crop growth, provide land comparisons between different areas and give information on soil properties, helps with site planning and environmental farm plans plus so much more.

The viewer is now accessible on mobile devices, including iPads and tablets, and can be accessed from the welcome page located at soilinformation.alberta.ca. To find out more about the various options and how to best utilize the viewer, watch the [Ag-Info Centre Webinar](#).

For more information on this or other tools and processes through the Geographic Information System group, contact [David Spiess](#).



Manure Management Update: 2017 Conference Proceedings

In January, the [Manure Management Update](#) was held in Lethbridge. Topics ranged from public trust, opportunities for manure management and the Next Policy Framework to project updates on catch basin pumping, phosphorous filter, poultry manure dryer belt and so much more. If you would like to view the various presentations online, [click here](#). For more information, resources and links to calculators check out the [manure management](#) page.

Alberta Greenhouse Rebate Program (AGRP)

The [Alberta Greenhouse Rebate Program](#) is a discretionary non-entitlement Program to facilitate the transition to greater efficiencies in the Alberta greenhouse industry. This program provides eligible greenhouse operators with a grant equal to 80% of the carbon levy paid on their purchase of eligible natural gas and propane for crop production related heating within their greenhouses. For timelines, FAQs, Forms and Survey, [click here](#).

Solar Energy for Stewardship Centre

On March 17, 2017 the announcement for Solar Energy for the Farm Stewardship Centre was released. The government is supporting energy efficiency at the Farm Stewardship Centre in Lethbridge through the installation of a 15-kW solar photovoltaic (PV) system and lighting upgrades to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To view this announcement online, [click here](#).

Agricultural Policy Framework Engagement

Alberta is working with the federal government, other provinces and territories to develop a new five-year agricultural policy framework to replace the current [Growing Forward 2](#) agreement, which expires on March 31, 2018. Albertans have the opportunity to share ideas about the future of provincial and national agriculture programs through an [online survey](#).

The online survey is open to all Albertans, but will be of particular interest to those in the agriculture sector. The survey includes discussion about key priorities such as:

- markets and trade
- science, research and innovation
- risk management
- environmental sustainability and climate change
- value-added agriculture and agri-food processing
- public trust

The [survey](#) is open until May 8, 2017. To view the press release, [click here](#).

