

# Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan

## Cost Share Dollars for Greenhouse Growers!

**Oxley-Wridge Farms and Wridgeview Greenhouses** grow 300 acres in mixed crops, harvest 50 acres of orchard and produce 40 pounds of tomatoes per vine per year under glass. Environmental farm planning has taught the Wright brothers - fifth generation farmers on this land - about soil care, wind erosion and cover crops. Greg Wright says, "I did the Environmental Farm Plan about five years ago for Oxley-Wridge Farms and just updated it." He adds, "It made me think about things differently and it has helped us improve the farm." Enhancements include installing a drip irrigation system, double-walled fuel storages, variable-speed motors (for energy savings) and skirting apple trees with mulch.

Wridgeview's Environmental Farm Plan highlighted opportunity for improvement in nutrient recovery and irrigation. It led the Wrights to make changes at the greenhouse, Rodney says, "Our latest investment was a retrofit. We installed a raised trough system which is going to allow us to collect and someday reuse 30 per cent of our nutrient solution and that's good for us and good for the environment."

The Wrights are committed to the EFP process. Rodney says, "Taking care of the environment is something our family takes very seriously." Greg adds, "Hopefully we're making it so there can be a sixth generation of this family on the farm."

The Environmental Farm Plan program was created by farmers for farmers through the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition (OFEC) in 1992. Since then, the program has evolved to the current Third Edition and is now offered, in various formats, throughout Canada as part of the Environment Chapter of the Agricultural Policy Framework. Cost-share funding for Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) comes from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs. In order to be eligible for cost-share funding, a farmer must have their EFP peer-reviewed and deemed appropriate.



**For more information, or to register for an Environmental Farm Plan workshop contact: the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association at 1-800-265-9751 or [www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org).**



Greg Wright, Oxley-Wridge Farms (left), and brother Rodney Wright, Wridgeview Greenhouses (right)

The Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) - A Federal - Provincial - Territorial Initiative  
Le Cadre stratégique pour l'agriculture (CSA) - une initiative fédérale-provinciale-territoriale

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