

Virtual EFP Workshops a Success!

Shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic was declared, Manitoba Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) received several urgent requests from producers in need of completing their Environmental Farm Plan and submitting their Statement of Completion certificate to meet requirements of the CAP – Ag Action Manitoba Program.

Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development, in conjunction with Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP), responded by developing an alternate delivery model for the EFP Workshop and Review process to accommodate the necessary social distancing measures. Live, online EFP workshops were delivered via GoToMeeting with contactless EFP Workbook pickup arranged at select locations or mailed to producers. A package summarizing the presentation and providing tips on participating in GoToMeetings was distributed prior to the workshop. Producers would log in to the meeting and view the presenter's screen similar to attending an in-person workshop. They could ask questions live and/or submit questions into a chat platform fielded by another ARD Staff Member, who also dealt with any technological challenges in the background. KAP then provided contactless reviews for the participants as necessary.

Four workshops were delivered seamlessly this spring with 34 producers attending and additional virtual workshops will be scheduled once seeding is completed. Participant feedback was very positive, with many indicating this model was a great advantage as did not require travel time during busy days, yet still offered a personal approach. This new delivery method is an ideal complement to transition to-the new Online EFP Platform that is currently being developed with KAP.