

and methods for land-based manure management needed to meet the requirements of environmental legislation.

In a shift toward nonregulatory measures to support environmental sustainability, governments are looking for new ways to encourage voluntary compliance and are offering information, technical assistance, and sometimes financial incentives to help farmers adopt conservation practices and avoid environmental damage. Canada is a strong proponent of developing policies that are targeted, transparent, and cost effective, and that do not distort production and trade.

The Role of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Sector

The agricultural industry has become increasingly aware of its environmental responsibilities in recent years. Commodity and farm groups are active throughout the country in developing ways to help farmers adopt more environmentally sustainable practices while maintaining productivity.

Codes of practice are guidelines that producers can follow to ensure that their management practices are environmentally sustainable. They are most effective when initiated by members of the industry itself with the assistance of scientists and other professionals. In some provinces, codes of practice are embedded in legislation. In British Columbia, for example, the Code of Agricultural Practice for Waste Management is part of the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation under the provincial Waste Management Act. Producers operating in compliance with the code are exempt from the act's requirement for a waste management permit.

In some provinces, peer advisory programs help farmers understand the concept of environmental sustainability and prevent penalties under environmental laws. If a nuisance or pollution complaint is directed against a farmer, a peer advisor (fellow farmer) visits the farm and suggests steps that the farmer can take to comply with pertinent guidelines, codes, or legislation. In this way, education is offered and the farmer is given the chance to comply voluntarily before regulatory agencies step in and order corrective measures.

Environmental farm plans are voluntarily prepared by farm families to identify their operations' environmental strengths and weaknesses and to set realistic goals to improve environmental conditions within the limits of time, equipment, and finances. They help to balance the economic and environmental goals of farming and encourage the adoption of best management practices that support these goals. Training, advice, and practical assistance are offered through various

Code of Practice for Environmentally Sound Hog Production in Canada

Canada's hog industry is poised to expand as international markets for its products continue to grow. However, a growing number of applications for new or expanded sites are being rejected or held up for long periods at the municipal level because of environmental concerns. To assist hog farmers in dealing with these concerns, the Canadian Pork Council has developed a code of practice in partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Environment Canada, provincial governments, universities, and lending institutions. Following the code is strictly voluntary, and compliance with federal and provincial regulations is still required. This cooperation between industry and government has set the stage for the new Livestock Environmental Initiative under the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund, which will devote \$2 million to livestock research and technology development, and \$300 000 to developing an environmental certification system for the hog industry.