

proAction® Environment: Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) and Agri-environmental Support Plan (PAA)



Under the Environment module of proAction®, each farm is required to have an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) or Agri-environmental Support Plan (*Plan d'accompagnement agroenvironnemental*, PAA) (EN1). An EFP or PAA is an opportunity to evaluate areas of strength and potential environmental risks associated with an individual farm operation. The EFP and PAA provide a farm with an increased awareness of areas of potential environmental concern and relevant legislation and regulations, and help outline site-specific, individualized plans to address, monitor or compensate for identified areas of risk. These plans are designed and delivered by provincial bodies, and their contents are adapted to each region. Farmers should contact their provincial EFP office, regional réseau Agriconseils (Quebec), or provincial dairy association for further information.

ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN (EFP) (ALL PROVINCES EXCEPT QUEBEC)

EFP delivery differs by province. The EFP is designed either as a farm self-assessment that can be delivered through workshops or online, or an independent assessment conducted with an EFP advisor or other independent party. In the course of completing an EFP, farmers or their advisors develop an action plan that lists all identified risks, along with a timeline and options to address them.

An EFP is only considered complete when it includes a completed action plan. In most provinces, the completed action plan will be accompanied by a certificate or statement of completion.

Note: In British Columbia, there are two levels of EFP: completed and implemented. At a minimum, dairy farmers are expected to reach the “completed” level, from which they should receive a statement of completion. A certificate is only provided in British Columbia where the EFP is “implemented”; this is not a proAction requirement, but would show that the proAction requirement for the completed level has been met. In Nova Scotia, a farmer receives the EFP report from their third-party reviewer as verification of completion of an EFP. There is no certificate or separate statement of completion provided for farmers in Nova Scotia.

Topics covered within an EFP may include, but are not limited to:

- Water Sources
- Nutrient Management
- Pesticide Handling and Storage
- Pest Management
- Fertilizer Handling and Storage
- Stream, Ditch and Floodplain Management
- Storage of Petroleum Products
- Wetlands
- Manure Storage
- Woodlands and Wildlife
- Milking Centre Wash Water
- Pasture Management
- Water Use Efficiency
- Irrigation
- Energy Efficiency
- Climate Change
- Soil Management
- Species at Risk



AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT PLAN (PLAN D'ACCOMPAGNEMENT AGROENVIRONNEMENTAL, PAA) OR EQUIVALENT (QUEBEC ONLY)

The PAA is offered in the province of Quebec and is the approximate equivalent of the EFP in other provinces. The program is delivered on a one-on-one basis with an agronomist, generally through agri-environmental clubs. The PAA program takes individual farmers through a range of environmental risk areas that could be relevant for their farms, and draws attention to applicable environmental regulations and localized risk factors (e.g. presence of water, slope and soil type, etc.) that increase awareness of potential concerns and of recommended practices to address or monitor them. In the course of completing a PAA, agronomists will develop an action plan that lists identified risks, along with a timeline and options to address them.

A completed PAA will have an agronomist's signature, with the date of completion.

Topics covered within a PAA include:



Adaptation to climate change and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions



Management of fertilizers and residual materials on the farm



Soil health and conservation



Management and use of water in agriculture



Integrated pest management



Biodiversity in agriculture

PAA-Equivalent

The PAA-equivalent is only available to farmers in Quebec. Due to the format, cost and stringent nature of programming and regulations within the province, farmers in Quebec have the option to complete this program instead of completing a full PAA. This option constitutes a self-assessment of risks, to be completed online, designed with the PAA and EFP programs in mind. It also requires the farm to prepare an action plan to address identified concerns on the farm.

A completed PAA-equivalent will have a confirmation of completion, with the date of completion or of latest update.

The PAA-equivalent covers the same topics as the PAA.

