

# A Guide to Action for **AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS**

## Recommendations for Non-point Source Pollution Management

### Agricultural Management

- Encourage agricultural producers to develop Environmental Farm Plans.
- Provide educational programs and technical assistance to support agricultural producers in implementing beneficial crop, grazing and manure management practices (BMPs).\*

*\*See reverse side of fact sheet  
for specific BMPs*

### Natural Areas

- Encourage landowners to protect riparian areas (shorelines) and wetlands that are currently in good health and undertake riparian and wetland restoration projects in unhealthy areas.

### Land and Waste Water Management

- Encourage rural landowners to limit the use of fertilizers, pesticides and other harmful lawn-care and household products.
- Expand educational efforts related to the installation, maintenance, use and life-expectancy of private sewage systems.

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## Agricultural Beneficial Management Practices

Wetlands and fields in the Battle River watershed



### Manure Management

- Do not spread manure on frozen or snow-covered ground. If necessary, increase manure storage capacity in order to eliminate the need to spread manure in winter.
- Compost manure to reduce the volume produced
- Test the nutrient content of manure and soil to ensure manure applications do not exceed crop requirements. Apply manure based on phosphorus (rather than nitrogen) requirements.
- Consider developing manure management plans for individual farm or ranch operations.

### Grazing Management

- Limit livestock access to natural water sources and dugouts and utilize off-site watering systems.
- Utilize grazing techniques such as rotational grazing in order to prevent overgrazing.
- Ensure seasonal feeding and bedding sites are located a minimum of 30 metres from any water bodies.



Cattle along Battle River south of Camrose

### Manure and Fertilizer Application

- Apply only the amount of manure and fertilizer needed to meet annual crop nutrient uptake rates.
- Where possible, apply manure and fertilizer through direct injection.
- Where manure is surface-applied, vertical beaters are the preferred method. Incorporate manure into the soil immediately after application.
- Do not apply manure, fertilizer or other chemicals in flood-prone areas or along the shorelines of creeks, rivers, lakes and wetlands.

### Crop Management

- Utilize conservation/minimum tillage.
- Convert marginal crop land, flood-prone areas, and ephemeral (temporary) wetlands and creeks to permanent and native vegetation.
- Reduce the number of acres in summer fallow by planting cover crops or retaining crop residues or stubble on the land.
- Plant crops along the contours of the land (across rather than up and down the hill slope).



Farmer's field in the Battle River watershed