



Aug 22, 2006

This is a current schedule, please pass on to interested people. Thanks, Darrell Toma

Workshops- Best Management Practices of Leading Farmers

We are conducting a pilot program of best management practices in Alberta and BC with young farmers and the project is sponsored by the Canadian Young Farmers' Forum and ACAAf. We have workshops in late August, September and October. Ideally, we are seeking 10-15 people per location. See website www.bmpknowledge.com for some project information. This workshop is intended for full-time farmers/ growers, internet-based, and who desire to work on their management skills. A self-assessment tool and a Guide book are included for participants. We expect to cover alliances, leading farmer management approaches, marketing and related topics. You will have a chance to meet with other leading farmers in the process and benchmark yourself on best management practices.

Orientation on Best Management Practices

Best Practices have been researched through CARDS nationally and validated with international experts and farmers in Canada, Mexico and the USA. The process will help people to learn, innovate and improve their current knowledge. Use of case studies from experiences of W Cdn farmers will provide new benchmarks. Due to the ACAAf program there is a modest fee (\$150 partly refundable at project end) to participants in this project.

Workshop Schedule- each one is three hours long

Place	Date	Location
Abbotsford	Sept 19 9am-noon	Ag Centre 32160 South Fraser Way
Kelowna	Sept 20 9am-noon	Best Western hotel
Kamloops	Sept 20 3pm-6pm	Best Western hotel
Lethbridge	Sept 26 9am-noon	LCC Animal Husbandry Facility, east of Ag Cdn Research Stn, Jail Road
Olds College	Sept 27 9am-noon	Olds College-Learning Resource Centre, Room 806
Vegreville	Sept 28 9am-noon	Vegreville Rec Centre- 2 nd Floor

Sponsors: CYFF, ACAAf (BC/AB).

To register, contact: Darrell Toma, PAg, CMC 780-413-9262; dtoma@look.ca
www.tomaandbouma.com

Other contacts are AB- Rod Scarlett- CYFF (780-416-6530) and in BC- Steve Thomson, BCAC (250-470-8253).



Agenda- September Sessions

BMP Instructor: Darrell Toma, PAg, CMC, Toma & Bouma Management Consultants, Edmonton. He has over 25 years of experience in the sector and has been involved in the project since 2002.

Introductions- Session 1

Overview of Best Management Practices-from research and industry
Self-Assessment Tool- on Website- benchmark for next meeting
Group Feedback on Top Gaps- discussion
Set Next Meeting for BMP Topics- in October
Evaluate meeting, place and timing- discussion

Session 2- Your Benchmark and Issues (September)

Session 3- Next Steps and evaluation (October)

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The sessions are limited to 10-15 farmers per group in the pilot to ensure adequate discussion time. Materials include BMP Knowledge Guide book and slides will be used to discuss case study examples. Participants are encouraged to discuss their key issues in BMP topic areas. We have a focus on young farmers, say less than 45 years in age, as the project is sponsored by the Canadian Young Farmers' Forum. The format has been used in Alberta and Mexico workshops and of much interest to participants once they understand the concepts.

The core research Team:

- Darrell M. Toma, MSc, PAg, CMC, CAC, Toma and Bouma Management Consultants, Edmonton. He published the new Best Practice Knowledge Guide, and conducted research since 2002. See www.tomaandbouma.com
- Terry Betker, PAg, CAC, of Meyers Norris Penny, Winnipeg, has extensive farm experience, was a Board member of the CFBMC and assisted in the guide. He has been involved in the research since 2002.
- Advisors to the project findings included: Dr. John Reddon, U of Alberta, Rob Napier, Australia, Dr. Andrew Fearne, U of London, UK, and Dr. Danny Klinefelter, Texas A&M, USA.
- Results have been presented in Canada to conferences and in Mexico to a Texas A&M APPEX conference. The concept was presented in Brazil to the IFMA (International Farm Management Association) meetings by the CFBMC. It was also presented to a Mexican farm management conference in 2006.
- Further research and industry projects are being discussed to help in the application of this important concept to help farmers compete in the global markets.

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