

LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS - SIX MILE RED ANGUS RANCH

Corinne & Clayton Gibson

Corinne and Clayton Gibson operate the Six Mile Red Angus ranch, a purebred and commercial cattle operation at Fir Mountain. The Gibsons' want an environmentally sustainable ranch and they found the Saskatchewan Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) to be helpful in achieving their goals.

"I can't even tell you how many things we've learned," Corinne says. "The ranch has been here for 50 years and we are third generation ranchers. We're inheriting an older ranch, and like all old farms, this one is built near a water source."

Their EFP gave them a road map to environmentally sound practices and helped provide financial assistance.



What is the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)?

The EFP is designed as an awareness and educational tool and is not a regulatory program. It is a completely voluntary and confidential program. Producers that are participating in the program are doing so because they are interested in understanding and addressing environmental issues in agriculture.

The EFP's five-step process helps producers understand their current environmental risks and how these risks may affect their farming operation now and in the future. In Saskatchewan the EFP is delivered by the Provincial Council of Agricultural Development and Diversification Boards (PCAB). The Gibsons' attended a workshop where trained professionals introduce the concepts behind the EFP and worked with them to assess the soil and site characteristics of their operation. They then used a workbook to review all aspects of their operations in order to identify potential risks and solutions. Once the workbook was completed, the Gibsons' attended a second workshop where they finalized their action plan, with the help of facilitators, and determined the steps required to manage any identified risks and prioritize action items.

A peer review committee, made up of producers who have already have endorsed Environmental Farm Action Plans, reviews the completed action plans. Once the Peer Review Committee feels that a plan is adequate, they endorse it. The producer then receives a Certificate of Endorsement from PCAB acknowledging their efforts in the development of an EFP.



"When we purchased the land we realized we had a big creek running through our corral system, so we knew there would be some problems," Corinne says. "Before fixing up or rebuilding the older corrals we wanted to be aware of the government guidelines so when we did rebuild or repair we were in compliance."

Saskatchewan Environmental Farm Plan Testimonials

continued

After the peer review committee has endorsed the plan, producers can begin implementation and are eligible to apply for financial assistance under the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program (CSFSP).

The Gibsons' receive funding approval

"Now we've been approved for our first phase of funding to move our intensive livestock facilities to a different location," Corinne says. "The important thing we have learned (from the EFP) is the distance you should keep between intensive livestock and waterways."

Corinne says the ranch has made a number of other changes, with more on the way. "We're implementing more rotational grazing, varying our wintering sites for the cattle, and spreading out manure usage and fertilizer."

The Gibsons' would also like to replace existing watering systems with a more energy efficient operation and replace existing farm fuel tanks with proper ones.

"The people at PCAB and the Environmental Farm Plan facilitators have been really accommodating," Corinne says, adding, "It's a long-term plan for us. It was very well worth it. I'd take it again just to freshen up."



ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN

EFP

Sustainable Futures

Provincial Council of Agriculture Development and Diversification Boards for Saskatchewan Inc. (PCAB) is an independent non-profit organization representing grassroots agriculture in Saskatchewan. We work closely with industry and government to ensure timely and effective delivery of agriculture programs in the province. PCAB is committed to working with both government and industry to ensure a cooperative, efficient approach to agricultural program delivery.

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