

Sustainable Poultry Farming Group

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Newsletter

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Groundwater Protection Program

Expanding manure supply and markets

The Groundwater Protection Program (GPP) has been three years in the making and will continue to evolve as environmental issues and producer needs solidify. Over the years, the SPFG has been

SPFG constantly examines the effectiveness of the GPP ... dealing with existing and emerging environmental issues ... (in a) common sense

SPFG's 3RD CONVEYOR (LATEST ADDITION TO THE FLEET) SHOWN BEING LOADED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH 2 LOADERS

working to strengthen its' connections with poultry producers and markets. Market orders to areas as remote as Naramata, 100 Mile

SPFG Program Partners

- | | |
|--|---|
| ⇒ B.C. Investment Agriculture Foundation | ⇒ Environment Canada |
| ⇒ B.C. Broiler Hatching Egg Producers' Assn. | ⇒ Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada |
| ⇒ F.V. Egg Producers' Assn. | ⇒ B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food |
| ⇒ B.C. Broiler Hatching Egg Producers' Assn. | ⇒ Abbotsford Aquifer Stakeholder Group |
| ⇒ B.C. Turkey Assn. | |

At A Glance ... What's Inside

Groundwater Protection Program	1
Director's Corner	2
B.C. Investment Agriculture Foundation Update	3
Opportunities Section	4

Director's Corner

Rob Schreurs, B.C.B.H.E.P.Assn. Director Gives Views on SPFG Progress

I have been a representative for the Broiler Breeder Association on the Sustainable Poultry Farming Group for about three years. It has been a pleasure working with SPFG coordinator Kevin Chipperfield, who has been there since its inception, and the other poultry representatives and members of government – both Ministry of Agriculture & Foods (MAFF) and Ministry of Environment (MOE). I believe the main reason for the success of the SPFG is its ability to bring producers and government together to find the proper solutions for everyday and future problems as we head into the next century.

One of SPFG's main agendas is the Groundwater Protection Program, or the GPP. It is through this program that the removal of excess manure from the Abbotsford Aquifer and other areas of the Valley is accomplished. As the population of the Fraser Valley increases and the urban areas encroach onto agricultural land, there will definitely be more concern for area residents in regard to handling and odour of poultry manure. As the people, and in turn government, become more concerned with the environment – including fish-bearing streams, water quality and overall health - poultry producers must become better educated with respects to manure management. This being said, I think it becomes important that government adopt a balanced approach in cooperation with all the feather industry groups, and assist financially to help find solutions such as proper manure storage facilities and spreading techniques. But most important is maintaining a proper relationship and perception with the people of the Fraser Valley on manure management.

This makes it all the more important for SPFG, and especially the GPP, to work with other agencies to find viable options for poultry manure management. These options may include finding more distant markets and encouraging proper nutrient use in the Fraser Valley. It is sure to be a continued learning and positive process as the feather groups grow and we head into the next century.

GPP Pleases Users - -

What Poultry Producers Have to Say

I couldn't afford to tie up \$ in a conveyor system... machine and system works great. - Corry Spitters, Roaster Producer

I like it.... It takes a lot of pressure off me when I'm getting rid of my manure. The system works slick and it saves me time and money ... I call the conveyor the bottomless manure spreader. - Henry Klassen, Turkey and Chicken Producer

With the conveyor and large trucks, we are able to clean up a large stockpile in a hurry ... a quick way of loading a lot of manure. - John Janzen, Egg and Turkey producer

I appreciate very much the arrangement that the SPFG has made to alleviate the manure surplus. The SPFG system has really helped the problem a lot ... it has tightened up the manure supply so that manure can be a value added product - Dan Wiebe, Chicken, Turkey, and Hatching Egg Producer

Conveyor system is extremely well designed making loading simultaneously with 2 loaders easy 2 modest sized loaders couldn't begin to tax the loading abilities of the conveyor - Daryl Arnold, SPFG Chair and Chicken Producer

Groundwater Protection Program Continued ...

House, and Sechelt to areas as close as Delta are being filled as needed. To fill those market orders, a consistent supply of poultry manure is of course needed.

The SPFG constantly examines the effectiveness of the GPP from the perspective of dealing with existing

B.C. Investment Agriculture Foundation – NEW \$ Allotted to Manure Storage Program

The Manure Storage Enhancement Program (MSEP), operated by the B.C. Investment Agriculture Foundation was originally established with a budget of \$650,000. The SPFG has recently learned that additional funds of \$250,000 have been allotted to the MSEP for use by livestock and poultry producers, and under certain conditions, crop producers. Under this program, approved projects will receive reimbursement of up to 20% of eligible activity expenditures up to a maximum grant amount of \$10,000. Under the MSEP, eligible activities include, but are not limited to: investigation of manure production rates and existing storage capacity; covering existing uncovered manure storage facilities; constructing environmentally responsible manure storage facilities; and engineering design of storage facilities. Activities not eligible include purchase of machinery or equipment for handling manure. Application forms are available at the offices of SPFG, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, and marketing boards.

Groundwater Protection Program Cont'd

and emerging environmental issues. With this in mind, the SPFG ensures the GPP adheres to a common sense management approach which fits in with today's business and marketing strategies.

Looking ahead to further interests of poultry farmers, the SPFG has three highlights to offer from this years' activities:

- ◆ Construction of a new conveyor system to bring the poultry producer owned fleet to three;
- ◆ Instituted a three option approach to its' manure hauling and management program;
- ◆ Initiated a "1998 Groundwater Protection Program Questionnaire".

GPP Questionnaire Designed to Better Understand Producer Needs

The questionnaire is designed to gather input from poultry producers in order to better understand their needs as the SPFG continues to create and update environmental projects and programs as well as identify the best ways to achieve a greater level of success in the coming years.

SPFG Expands Conveyor Availability to Poultry Producers

Yes – that's right, poultry producers now have a third conveyor available to them for loading manure. Again, a worthwhile partnership has been struck to provide funds to expand the GPP. In this case, a unique partnership and funding mechanism was struck with a wide range of sponsoring organizations. Below, the participating organizations and their contributions are listed:

- ◆ Environment Canada through the Georgia Basin Initiative (\$12,000);
- ◆ Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer Stakeholder Group which channeled funds from the Cities of Sumas (\$2,500) and Abbotsford (\$2,500),
- ◆ B.C. Investment Agriculture Foundation (\$4,000).

The total cost of the conveyor is \$26,500. The SPFG is providing the difference of \$5,500 to complete the financial picture.

On behalf of Fraser Valley poultry producers, the SPFG would like to thank the above sponsoring

Groundwater Protection Program Continued ...

organizations for their interest and commitment to the GPP.

GPP - a series of options for Fraser Valley poultry producers

The GPP continues to offer poultry manure hauling services to ‘distant markets’ for ‘dry’ manure, and as the occasion presents, ‘wet solid’ manure. Two factors allow the SPFG to deliver to distant markets: use of large volume trucks along with the ability to load these trucks through the use of poultry producer owned On-farm Conveyors (picture shown on page 1).

In an effort to increase manure shipments to distant markets, the SPFG previously had two financial options that were used to meet the individual needs of poultry producers.

Option #1 was classified as a straight user fee (\$0.75 per cubic yard) which was designed for poultry producers who only shipped occasionally. However, **Option #2** was designed for producers shipping manure all year through the SPFG. In this case, poultry producers became members through a membership fee approach which was based on a reduced conveyor usage fee (\$0.50 per cubic yard).

Option #3 which is now available is to provide an incentive to producers with a covered manure storage facility. The SPFG feels use of a manure storage facility will increase flexibility for manure loading and pickup arrangements as well as expanding manure hauling in the slower period (mid-summer to early fall).

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Option #1

160 cubic yards/cycle x 6.5 cycles = 1050 cubic yards
1050 cubic yards x \$0.75/cubic yard = **\$790 total per year**

Payment of fee in this scenario is on a per usage basis.

Note: an additional charge (over the \$790) for conveyor delivery will be added depending on your farm’s proximity to the Abbotsford area.

Option #2

Using the same volume of manure per cycle shipped with the GPP, membership fee for this farm would be $\$790 \times \frac{2}{3} = \530 total per year (or \$0.50/cubic yard)

Option #3

Using the same volume of manure per cycle shipped with the GPP, membership fee for this farm would be **\$0.00 total per year** (provided manure is being hauled consistently through the GPP throughout the year and not just during the winter season)

Note: As in Option #1 & 2, a charge for conveyor delivery will

Opportunities Section

Part-Time Job

The SPFG is looking for a farmer (preferably poultry) to haul the manure conveyor from farm-to-farm on an on-call basis as need arises. The person should be a bona fide farmer with mechanical aptitude and experience hauling large equipment on public roads. Remuneration to be discussed. Please call Kevin at the SPFG office (ph.# 604-556-7781) for further information.

Poultry Manure Suppliers

A Chilliwack grower looking for an annual supply of poultry manure of 2,500 - 3,000 cubic yards has recently contacted the SPFG office. The grower’s fields are located near Hwy. #1 and Lickman Rd. For further information concerning this marketing