



Overview of Environmental/Health Programs (Agriculture Related)



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

**Land Resource Stewardship Division
October 2005**

Introduction

The purpose of this overview is to provide a general guide as to the roles of the various Departments and Agencies in regards to environmental and health programs. It is not a complete description of the responsibilities of these groups.

If you have any questions, you are encouraged to contact the telephone numbers at the back of the brochure. If the Land Management Specialist is not able to answer your questions, they will determine who is in the best position to do so.

(1) Enforcement/Permitting Agencies

Municipalities

- Municipalities require permits for all types of development within their jurisdiction.
- The Municipal Plan guides development.
- Land use tables state what is permitted in a particular zone.
- Development regulations require set backs from property boundaries, roads, flood plains, adherence to building codes, etc.
- Municipalities have the authority to prepare nuisance regulations.

Government Service Centre

One-stop shopping concept.

Health

- Food licenses, eg. dairy parlours; inspections of slaughtering facilities (food related).
- Permits for unserviced water and septic systems.
- Legislation on manure spreading near wells.
- Inspections for food premises, eg. milk parlours are conducted twice a year.
- Other than food premises, inspections are on a complaint basis only.

Environment

- Responsible for environmental permitting and investigation on behalf of the Department of Environment and Conservation.
- Responsible for the preparation of Environmental Certificate of Approval for Poultry and Livestock Operations.
- Main elements of the Certificate of Approval:
 - manure containment
 - manure spreading
 - land base
 - fuel tanks
 - Government Service Centre Environmental Protection Officers are required to complete one inspection per year of livestock and poultry operations.

Fire, Life, Safety

- At the time of application to the Government Services Centre for environmental or health permitting, it should be determined if an application for fire, life or safety is required. Developments requiring sprinklers, fire alarms or buildings with large number of staff and/or public may require a review in respect to fire, life and safety issues.

Department of Environment and Conservation

Environmental Assessment Division

- Major projects must be registered. If registered, the applicant must provide 40 copies of an overview of the project. The copies are forwarded to all levels of Government.
- Ministerial discretion may be used to require new or expanded farm applications to register, eg. currently the Minister is registering “all” mink farms.
- The Department has interpreted pelting operations as abattoirs, which require registration. Whereas fur farms are currently being registered, the pelting component would be addressed at the same time.
- Tanning operations must be registered.
- Clearing of greater than 50 hectares of land must be registered.
- Most agricultural projects are released, however, the farmer will be informed of required permits, such as the Environmental Certificate of Approval prepared by the Government Services Centre.

- If registered, the public is provided an opportunity to comment on the project.
- Inspections are not normally conducted on farm proposals.

Pollution Prevention Division

- Pesticide Training and Enforcement.

Water Resources Division

- Permitting required for culverts, bridges, water uses, development in water supplies.
- A non-domestic well requires a permit under the Water Resources Act.
- Inspections are not normally conducted in respect to the referenced permitting.

Environment Canada

- Fisheries Act.
- Will respond to reports of effluent which might be harmful to fish, eg. manure in brooks.
- The Department does not conduct routine inspections.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

- The Department will investigate activities in water bodies which negatively impact fish habitat, such as erosion/sedimentation.
- The Department does not conduct routine inspections.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

- Under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, the following must be considered:
 - Projects which involves Federal funding,
 - Projects on Federal land; and/or,
 - When Federal regulations apply.
- Projects which fall within the Act are publicized “on line” for 15 days.
- Generally, a field inspection is not required.
- Screening measures are being implemented to facilitate a review.
- Only physical projects, not activities, are considered under the Act.

Agrifoods Branch, Department of Natural Resources

- Agrifoods Branch is responsible for the release of the Environmental Certificate of Approval as prepared by the Government Services Centre.
- Application forms and information packages regarding the Certificates are available from Regional Agricultural Offices.

Recommendations:

- Apply early.
- Complete the application in full.
- Where possible, submit applications concurrently, eg. funding and permitting applications.

(2) Education/Awareness

Environmental Farm Planning

- This program provides for a confidential environmental overview of farms. The information is not released unless authorized by the farmer. This is a volunteer program.
- Step 1, the Environmental Scan, is a quick overview of the farm which takes about 15 minutes to complete. The Scan is required for all farms seeking assistance under APF.
- Step 2, The Environmental Farm Plan, is a more detailed review which results in an action plan to address priority environmental issues.
- The Scan and Plan are completed with the assistance of the Agrifoods Branch.
- The Program demonstrates the responsibility of the farmer to address environmental issues and can be used as a rationale to obtain support to address priority items.
- The Program has no relationship with other Government Departments or Agencies, however, the information can be used by the farmer to address any concerns of such agencies or to assist in the acquisition of environmental permits, notably an Environmental Certificate of Approval.

[For further information, please contact:](#)

The Land Management Specialist, Agrifoods Branch:

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East of Bay d’Espoir Highway -	Grant Martin 709-729-6647
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[The following are available from the Agrifoods Branch:](#)

- Environmental Farm Practice Guidelines for Agricultural Operations (Horticultural, Livestock and Poultry).
- Development Permits for the Construction/Expansion of Livestock and Poultry Facilities.
- The Environmental Farm Plan Workbook.
- Application Form for an Environmental Certificate of Approval for Livestock Poultry Farm.