



Growing Forward The Environmental Farm Plan Program

Completed Plans versus Implemented Plans

The APF Environment Working Group has developed two definitions that track the progress of Environmental Farm Plans. Definitions for a **Completed Plan** and an **Implemented Plan** follow.

COMPLETED PLAN:

A Plan is considered to be a “Completed Plan” when:

- a producer has answered all the applicable Planning Workbook sections and completed all relevant Farm Review Worksheets
- all questions that might initially have been answered with a (?) have now either a Yes, NO or N/A response
- an action plan has been developed to resolve all red and yellow box questions
- all red box and yellow box questions have been prioritized based on the ranking on Page 75 of the Planning Workbook
- a “Statement of Completion” has been signed by both the producer and the planning advisor

Note: Planning Advisors are able to sign a **Statement of Completion** provided any Management Plans (such as Nutrient or Riparian Management Plans) action items are placed as high priorities on the producer’s action plan. In other words when time of the year, weather or other factors restrict a Planning Advisors ability to complete a particular management a “Statement of Completion” can still be issued allowing producers to submit applications for BMP funding.



Growing Forward The Environmental Farm Plan Program

Completed Plans versus Implemented Plans

IMPLEMENTED PLAN:

A Plan is considered to be an "Implemented Plan" when:

- the actions items for all the red box questions (those with high priority due to an associated high or very high level of risk) have been achieved (i.e. turned green)
- yellow boxes do not have to be dealt with for the plan to be considered as implemented

The importance of implementation is to be able to demonstrate that producers have taken actions to deal with environmental issues. A plan, in and of itself does not bring environmental improvements. Environmental benefits are only realized when practices change and environmental issues are addressed. In other words the action items (BMP's) have been implemented.

Once all the action items are implemented the producer can apply for a farm gate sign and certificate through their planning advisor.

COMPLIANCE AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Situations may arise where it may be very challenging - financially or otherwise - to remove a red box. In some instances it may be that a risk assessment (likelihood versus consequence of an adverse effect and the beneficial management practices that can be put in place to mitigate the risk) will be required. A risk assessment may lead to the removal of the red box or the development of actions to mitigate the situation but the red box may never be removed.

However, producers should not misrepresent or ignore non-compliance with legislation. If a red box item is not entirely resolved, it is important to note that the intent of an Act or Regulation must be met. Managing to reduce risk and increasing awareness are important, but so is legislative compliance.