

# Navigating the Verification Waters: Three Producer Perspectives

Producer Panel, CRSC Fall Meeting

October 19, 2016



# Stuart Holmen

Paradise Valley, AB

International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC)



# Our Farm









# Adm Sustainability

- Started in the Sustainability Program in 2013
- Certified through the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC) Process
- Gone through An Audit in 2015

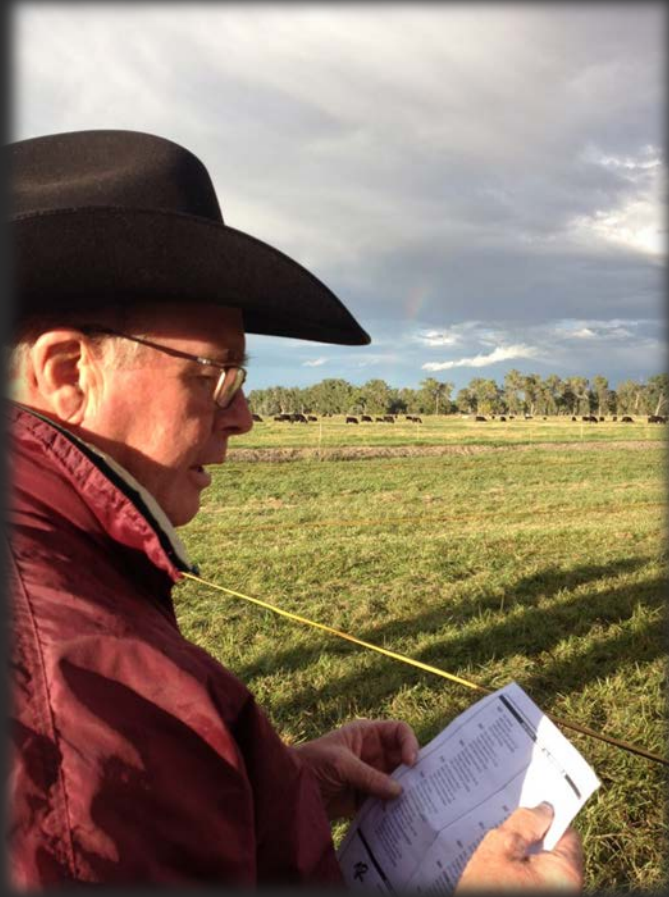




# Cecilie Fleming

Granum, AB

Verified Beef Production Plus (VBP+)

















































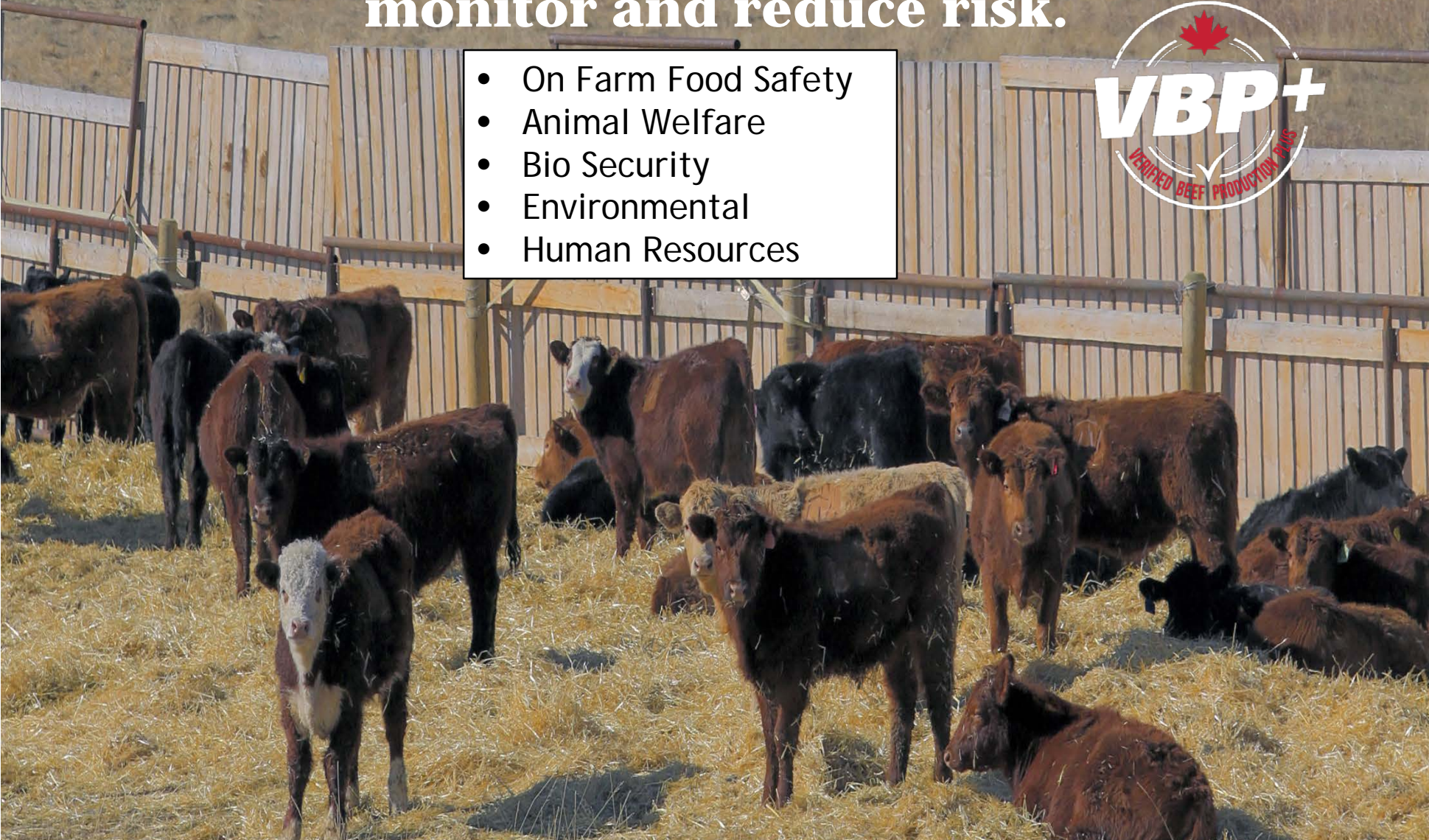






**VBP+ enables beef producers; farm, ranch and feedlot, to showcase the sound on-farm practices they adhere to and help prevent, monitor and reduce risk.**

- On Farm Food Safety
- Animal Welfare
- Bio Security
- Environmental
- Human Resources





# What? Did you just say audit?

- We consider our audit an educational audit, not a judgemental audit.
- If there are any gaps in your current production practices and what we are auditing again, you don't fail...a corrective action request is issued and time is given to correct.
- Our auditors are producers as well, specially trained and selected to understand all producers and all production practices
- We are here to help prove what you do right.

There is nothing  
to be scared  
about when  
being audited!





# VBP+ Goals

- When all is said and done, the VBP+ program will be:
- Easy and affordable for producers to adopt
- A national program which delivers an auditable program which matches the indicators promoted by the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef.
- Available for both Cow-Calf and Feedlot





# **The new tool for Canadian beef producers**





**Simple. Practical.  
Trusted.**







# William Van Tassell

Lac-Saint-Jean, QC

Quebec Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)



# Plan

- My farm
- Characteristics of my region
- Environmental farm plan (EFP)
- Agri-environmental fertilization plan (PAEF)
- PAEF-EFP Relationship

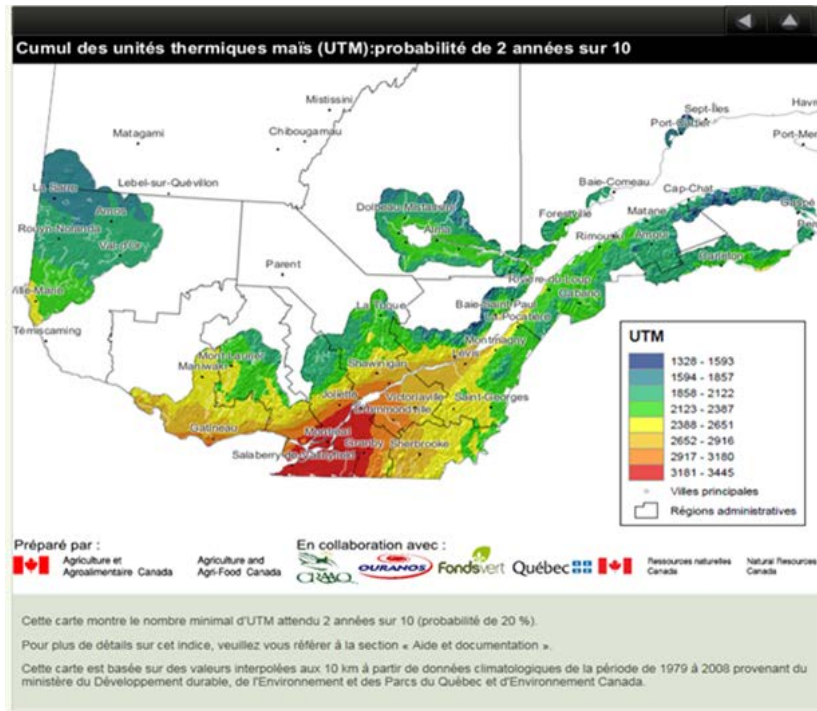
# My farm

- Location : Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean
- 1 000 Acres
- Crops: wheat, soybean, canola, flax, malt barley
- Fertilization: mineral and organic (manure)
- Operated by myself with the help of my son and my wife





# Agronomy



- Long term rotation (4 years)
- CHU: area under 2 300

# Characteristics of this area/ challenge

- Short season crops
  - Less than 2 300 CHU
  - Less varieties and cultivars than the south of the province (yield)
  - Additional costs due to shipment of grains to different processors
- Cereals and canola are the common crops, but...
  - New changes: soybeans and corn are more common.



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# Opportunities

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- Local microclimate
- Opportunity for niche production : hemp..., organic grain production..., etc.
- Contamination of crops by pests developed in other corn and soybean growing areas, e.g. soybean cyst nematodes or phragmites (common reed)

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# Environmental Farm Plan

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- Agri-environmental support plan (PAA)
  - Analyzes agricultural operations so that action plans can be developed to undertake agri-environmental measures for the farm
  - Agrologists make the assessment of the farm's agricultural and environmental practices and discuss with farmers a plan to enhance good practices and make changes to increase the farm's environmental performance
  - The PAA sets a time-line to achieve changes and improvement
  - To obtain funding from MAPAQ's program Prime-Vert, the plan must be approved by an agrologist recognized by the agrologists association of Quebec (OAQ)
  - PAA elements are listed in the chart filled out by the agrologist and approved by the grower
  - Required information are listed in the file: [PAA](#)



# Some sections of the EFP

The agrologist completes this PAA with the farm producer, and both sign it.

Keep this document, as you may be required to produce it to qualify for government funding.

We strongly recommend consulting the following documents (if they are available to you) when producing the PAA (contact your MAPAQ regional office as necessary):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agri-environmental fertilization plan (PAEF)</li> <li>- Phosphorus report</li> <li>- Farm map</li> <li>- Underground drainage map</li> <li>- Aerial photographs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Slope and runoff maps</li> <li>- Historical yields</li> <li>- Soil maps</li> <li>- <a href="#">Inventory of cropland degradation in Québec</a> (MAPAQ, 1990)</li> </ul>
<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ The questions preceded by an "R" refer to Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MDDELCC) regulations.</li> <li>→ Yellow boxes  may relate to areas where the business can improve.</li> </ul>	

**Cultivons l'avenir 2**  
Une initiative fédérale-provinciale-territoriale

Canada

Québec

## ACTION PLAN 2016

The action plan identifies the steps that must be taken as part of an integrated approach to agri-environmental management and their order of priority. This approach and the related support and follow-up are intended to encourage the agricultural operation to adopt more environmentally-friendly production methods on the farm.



Table 1: List of elements to improve				
Question number	List of areas for improvement determined in the overall assessment	List of related fields	Comments	Recommended actions regarding elements to improve

### Table 2 : Recommended actions

[illegible]

## APPENDIX

### Overall Assessment (PAA Questionnaire)

## 2. PORTRAIT OF THE AGRICULTURAL OPERATION

## 2.1 Types of agricultural production

Production		Order of importance <sup>11</sup>	Production		Order of importance	Production		Order of importance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maple syrup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fruits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Potatoes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Poultry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Field crops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Swine	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beef cattle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Market garden vegetables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenhouse crops	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dairy cattle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ornamental horticulture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Goats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheep	<input type="checkbox"/>	Specify		<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Horses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Apples	<input type="checkbox"/>			

## 2.2 Detailed breakdown of areas

Areas	Owned (ha)	Leased (ha)	NA 12
Cropped			
Fallow			
Used for maple syrup production			

\*R\* 2.3 If you indicated leasing, do you have all of your leases?<sup>13</sup>

Yes ☐ No ☒ NA ☐

**2.4 Answer this question if you produce crops. If not, check off NA and go to question 2.5.**

NA ☐

Crop	ha	Crop	ha	Crop	ha	Crop	ha



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# Agri-environmental fertilization plan (PAEF)

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- Nutrient farm plan
- A nutrient farm plan is compulsory for cash crop farms of more than 15 hectares
- The Environment Quality Act:
  - For each parcel in an agricultural operation and each annual growing season (maximum of 5 years), the crop grown and the spreading limits for fertilizers
- Agricultural Operations Regulation (REA) : chapter 23 & 24
  - The PAEF must contain all the information required for its implementation such as fertilizer rates and the spreading periods and methods

# Connection between PAEF and EFP

- PAEF is compulsory (REA)
- Information used in the PAEF is used in the EFP
  - Annual phosphorus report
  - Fertilizer (mineral)
  - Manure management
  - Tillage
  - Yield, etc.
- Soil health and water conservation
  - Action in EFP may be derived & monitored based on data in the PAEF
- Funding for agrologists is associated to EFP/regulation to PAEF



# PGQ efforts

- Life cycle assessment
- Papers and pamphlets for good practices
- Communications through web and magazines
- Action to improve quality: Development of a concept: « Attitude-Qualité » with seed trade association
  - Forums: how to reduce toxins and produce grains of better quality through the different ag. practices
  - The expectations of traders and processors



Questions?