

The Soil-Policy Interface

NFU 46th annual convention

London, ON Nov 26, 2007

gary martens

Among the factors controlled by farmers, none is more important than the maintenance of the fertility of the soil which is the chief aim of farming and on which a continuance of good crops mainly depends. In the soil, a large store of fertility has been laid up...which may...be continually added to and improved...but by careless and injudicious management may be prodigally wasted...

- W. M. Saunders, Director of Ottawa Experimental Farm 1907



WWW.RURALRENEWAL.COM

The Agriculture Renewal Alliance is a rural revitalization facilitation group which includes members from the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, the Farmers' Independent Weekly, Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives and Keystone Agricultural Producers.

- Find and ride the wave
- Translate your message for politicians

Four Suggestions

- But first...



National Farmers Union
Union Nationale des Fermiers



“Our goal is to work together to achieve agricultural policies which will ensure dignity and security of income for farm families while enhancing the land for future generations.”

share common goals. Every member of the farm family – including children ages 14 to 21 – are full voting members of the Union. This structure recognizes that every family member contributes to the farm by working on it directly, or indirectly through off-farm employment.

Member families of the Union believe that through an organization that represents all commodities produced in Canada, it is possible to promote the family farm as the most appropriate and efficient means of agricultural production. Our goal is to work together to achieve agricultural policies which will ensure dignity and security of income for farm families while enhancing the land for future generations.

Associate Members are a valued part of the National Farmers Union family as well. Associate Members are non-farmers who understand that food issues are everyone's concern, and who want to help family farmers build a sustainable and nutritious food system in Canada.

That statement means

- That we claim to know the difference between good and bad soil health
- That we can measure soil health
 - Sarah Hargreaves, Nov 2015 NFU newsletter
- That we can change poor soil health into good soil health

Four Possible Policies to discourage bad land management and encourage good land management



Policy #1

- Adjust crop insurance premiums to reflect good crop rotations
- A 3 year rotation = standard premium rate
- A 2 year rotation = additional premium
- A 4 or greater rotation = reduced premium
- Including a perennial in an annual rotation = reduced premium

**MERITS FOR
SAFE DRIVING**

**DRIVER
PREMIUM**

**VEHICLE
PREMIUM
DISCOUNT**

+15	\$15	33%
+14	\$20	30%
+13	\$20	29%
+12	\$20	28%
+11	\$20	27%
+10	\$20	26%
+9	\$25	25%
+8	\$30	25%
+7	\$30	25%
+6	\$30	20%
+5	\$30	15%
+4	\$30	15%
+3	\$35	10%
+2	\$35	10%
+1	\$40	5%
0 BASE	\$45	0%
-1	\$100	0%
-2	\$100	0%
-3	\$200	0%
-4	\$200	0%
-5	\$300	0%
-6	\$300	0%
-7	\$400	0%
-8	\$400	0%
-9	\$500	0%
-10	\$500	0%
-11	\$700	0%
-12	\$900	0%
-13	\$1,100	0%
-14	\$1,300	0%
-15	\$1,500	0%
-16	\$1,700	0%
-17	\$1,900	0%
-18	\$2,100	0%
-19	\$2,300	0%
-20	\$2,500	0%

NEW

Policy #2

- Establish original O.M.
- 50% of original = base
- >50% of original = merits
- <50% of original = demerits
- Neutral for municipality

**DEMERITS FOR
HIGHER-RISK DRIVING**

Policy #3

- Merit system applicable to both #1 and #2
 - Soil tests,
 - nutrient management plans,
 - good manure application practises,
 - cover crops,
 - perennials,
 - straw management,
 - tree planting/maintenance,
 - wetland hosting/maintaining,

Policy #4

- Implement ALUS – alternative land use services
- Payment for ecological goods and services
- KAP, Ian Wishart, Delta Waterfowl, Manitoba, 2005
- Delta Waterfowl
 - Ontario 2007
 - PEI – province wide since 2008, \$579,000 in 2011
 - Alberta 2010
 - Saskatchewan 2011
 - Manitoba 2014

For starting a conversation



Acknowledgements

- Martin Entz, Brenda Frick, Laura Telford, Joanne Thiessen-Martens, Laura Rance, Rene van Acker, NFU, Ronald Wright, Jared Diamond, David Montgomery, Jane Jacobs, Thomas Homer-Dixon, Michael Pollan, Dan Barber, Lester Brown, Naomi Kline, Joshua Farley, Joel Salatin, Alan Savory, Vaclav Smil, Brian Walker, David Salt, Blain Hjertaas, Jeremiah Evans, Eric Garza, Jonathan Weiner, John Martens, Abe Martens, Students...

