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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Connecting the value chain from farm to fork: National EFP Summit will take place again this November

**ABBOTSFORD – June 30, 2017** - The National Environmental Farm Plan (NEFP) steering committee invites Agri-food stakeholders from across the value chain to attend the second annual NEFP Summit in Ottawa this November. Building on unprecedented support from last year's summit, attendees will further develop this national standard designed to connect environmentally sustainable practices at the farm level with global food buyers' growing need to source sustainable ingredients.

The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is a voluntary, whole-farm, self-assessment tool that helps farmers and ranchers identify and build on environmental strengths, as well as mitigate risks on their operations. The NEFP would not be a replacement program, but rather a harmonization effort across the existing EFP programs nation-wide. Through a producer-driven national standard, the NEFP will be able to ensure consistency for buyers, regardless of where in Canada they source their products.

The 2017 National EFP Summit will bring stakeholders together once again to learn about the NEFP steering committee's progress and participate in valuable conversations that will further guide the national harmonization effort.

"BC ARDCorp, as delivery agent for the BC Environmental Farm Plan, is very supportive of an EFP program that has a national basis. For a second year, we have put forward staff and financial resources to support the investigation of an NEFP and a presence at the NEFP Summit. Having a standard EFP platform for all of Canada just makes sense from both an environmental and a farm product marketing perspective." says Allen James, BC ARDCorp Chair and BC poultry producer.

The NEFP is well underway with work being led by a steering committee made up of stakeholders representing the entire agri-food value chain. Four sub committees are working toward developing a national protocol as it relates to data collection, standards and verification, all of which will be supported through comprehensive communications and stakeholder

outreach. National EFP Summit attendees will hear from each committee, along with subject matter experts, about the progress to-date. These updates will serve to start a dialogue amongst attendees that will further guide this national standard. “We encourage BC agri-food stakeholders to join the rest of the country at the 2017 National EFP Summit so you too can be part of building this *Made-in-Canada* solution,” said James

Stakeholders can learn more about the NEFP and register for the 2017 National EFP Summit by visiting [www.nationalefp.ca](http://www.nationalefp.ca). The NEFP is always welcoming new stakeholders to become involved in shaping this made-in-Canada solution. Interested organizations should contact co-chairs Drew Black or Paul Watson.

Visit <http://www.nationalefp.ca> to view stakeholders currently involved. Several BC organizations attended 2016 summit including Agriculture Research & Development Corp. (ARDCorp), BC Dairy Association, BC Grain Producers, BC Egg Marketing, and BC Fruit Growers.

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