

AGRI-ACTION

ADVISORY SERVICE

Tools Available to Assist Landowners in the Selection of Environmental Best Management Practices (BMPs)

1. AgMaps Geoportal:

- Agricultural Information Atlas to better understand farming land.
- Mapping tool allows for various map layers that include soil type, drainage, controlled drainage potential, source water protection, erosion control options, etc.
- General Link to AgMaps: <https://www.ontario.ca/agmaps>
- Video on “How to Create Water Erosion Potential Maps”: <https://youtu.be/YN-tmSsprC4>

2. AgriSuite:

- Ontario government’s free agricultural and environmental suite of tools related to crop management, nutrient management, and minimum distance separation. Available in French or English.
- Old Version: the current released version; only works on a desktop environment.
- New Version: gradually building its capacity to match and exceed the current (old) version. Works on many platforms, including on a mobile phone, tablet, or desktop environment. The new version currently includes a Crop Nutrient Calculator, Organic Amendment Calculator, Phosphorous Loss Calculator (PLATO), Fertilizer Calculator, Manure Storage Sizing Calculator, and a Field Management Plan as accessible tools.
- OMAFRA continues to develop and integrate tools for the new AgriSuite, which will include Nutrient Management Strategy, Minimum Distance Separation (MDS), and Greenhouse Gas Emission Calculator.
- Link to old and new versions: <https://www.ontario.ca/agrisuite>

3. Soil Test Manager:

- Administered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA). Can be operated on a desktop, tablet, or smartphone.
- Allows producers to input their own soil test information and access fertility recommendations for specific fields and crops. The tool is also a resource to help producers understand their fertility management decisions related to application timing, rate, placement, and fertilizer within the 4R Nutrient Stewardship ranking system.
- Link: <https://www.soiltestmanager.ca>

4. Farmland Health Check-up:

- Tool to assess successes and challenges of soil health on your farm and identify BMPs.
- Link to Workbook and Assessment: <https://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-Farmland-Health-Check-Up.pdf>
- On-line version of the Farmland Health Check-Up is available at: <https://farmlandhealthcheckup.net/>

5. Midwest Cover Crop Council - Cover Crop Decision Tool:

- Decision tool that helps determine which cover crops are suitable for a given farm operation. Considers farm location, soil type, drainage, crop production and cover crop goals.
- Includes Ontario specific data.
- Link: <http://mccc.msu.edu/covercroptool/covercroptool.php#>

6. Soil Residue Calculator:

- OMAFRA calculator which helps monitor the percentage of crop residue as a soil cover.
- Link: https://aszczeci.github.io/crop_residue/

7. Design of Erosion Control Structures with AgErosion Software:

- The OMAFRA Agricultural Erosion Control Structures design manual (Publication 832) is helpful in assisting contractors in the design, installation, and maintenance of agricultural soil erosion control systems. This publication can be ordered from OMAFRA.
- AgErosion Software: can be used to help with the design of agricultural erosion control structures. The software can be found at and installed from the following link: <http://apps.omafra.gov.on.ca/agerosion/publish.htm>. The details of a specific farm can be added manually, or AgMaps can be used directly through the AgErosion software to locate the farm area.