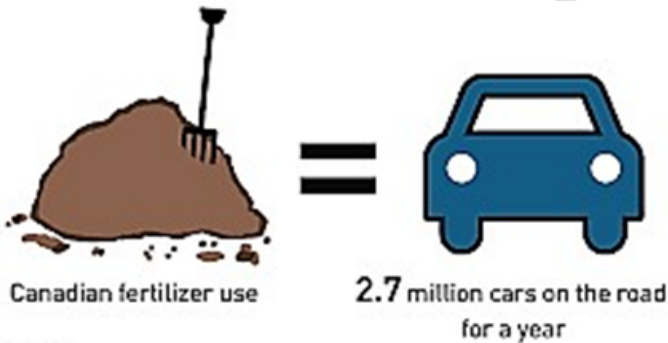


Agronomy Update

The Government's New Climate Plan

13 million tonnes CO₂e



CBC NEWS

If you have not already familiar with it, over the coming months, you are likely going to start hearing a lot about our Federal Governments' new Climate Plan. If it goes ahead as proposed, it will have a large impact on you and your farming operation. Canadian fertilizer usage presently has about the same carbon footprint as 2.7 million cars on the road for a year. In its wisdom, the Feds see cutting fertilizer usage as a great way to go about meeting its CO₂ emission targets without annoying all those car driving voters. The proposal is to not only to cap commercial nitrogen fertilizer use, but to reduce it by a whopping 30% below 2020 use

levels. Since western Canada accounts for close to 85% of nitrogen fertilizer usage and that usage had increased at about 4% per year over the last decade, it is not hard to see how this will have an out-sized impact on Prairie farming.

As the proposal stands today, there is no consideration for improved nitrogen efficiency products such as stabilizers and no allowance for currently used application techniques that cut nitrous oxide emissions – the culprit they are pursuing with this policy. Most importantly, those nitrous oxide emissions are being estimated by using criteria that does not really reflect how nitrogen is used in Western Canada and probably significantly overstates the emission levels created by Prairie farming. No, they just want a straight cut of Nitrogen fertilizer use on your farm. How they plan to reconcile this plan with the governments other stated objective of increasing food production is a bit of a head scratcher. As the yield of Canadian crops is directly linked to proper fertilizer application this creates a ceiling on Canadian agricultural productivity well below 2020 levels, with all that implies for your revenue and profits.



Every farmer needs to be aware of this plan

Finding ways to reduce the GHG footprint of agriculture is something that will benefit us all in the long run, but this government has a track record of being willing to sacrifice whole industries to meet its own philosophical goals without ever considering if practical alternatives are even available. This monthly update is a space usually reserved for agronomy – topics such as where to place your fertilizer, and tips on how to get the best agronomic response out of your John Deere drills. However, this government proposal is an assault on common sense and I thought it was important that every farmer be aware of this plan. There are a lot of decisions that will be made in the coming months that will impact you and your farm directly as the federal government unrolls its Climate Plan.

I urge everyone to contact their MP and any of the producer groups that may be involved in whatever consultation the government does decide to do, and make sure your voice is heard at the table.

For more information please follow this link to Fertilizer Canada where they outline the issues and lay out their proposal for getting the industry to net zero emissions.

<https://fertilizercanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Emissions-Reduction-Initiative-Impacts-Solutions.pdf>



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