



GEORGE MORRIS CENTRE

## ***Report Shows BMPs Can Improve Farm Profitability***

**Guelph, ON (March 21, 2007)** Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) can protect environmental resources, but the cost of adopting these practices is often seen as a barrier.

The George Morris Centre was commissioned by the Crop Nutrients Council to evaluate the impact of BMPs on farm profitability, and partnered with Cordner Science to complete the study. The report concluded that the majority of practices evaluated, including soil testing, minimum tillage, no tillage, and nutrient management planning had economic benefits which not only offset the cost of implementation but, in fact, improved profitability.

Economic models were built, using data from surveys conducted with 1,000 producers across Canada. The aim was to determine the economic benefit required to encourage producers to use BMPs, specifically those related to crop nutrients.

“It is important to provide producers with a method for assessing the benefits and costs of BMP implementation” states Cher Brethour, Senior Research Associate and lead author of the report. “Results can vary based on the site specific nature of the farm, including landscape, farm size, and management. This is a first step to providing producers with information necessary to measure the economic viability of adopting these practices into their operations.”

The majority of respondents to the survey who had already adopted BMPs experienced net economic gains. To assist non-users in adopting and using BMPs, the respondents suggested providing additional information, written materials, workshops, extension assistance and funding. The conclusions of the report provided the necessary results for encouraging adoption of these practices.

To read the complete report, please visit [www.cropnutrients.ca](http://www.cropnutrients.ca) or [www.georgemorris.org](http://www.georgemorris.org)

Joanne Falk  
Manager, External Relations  
George Morris Centre  
519-822-3929, ext. 218  
[joanne@georgemorris.org](mailto:joanne@georgemorris.org)