



# Agri-Environment Services Branch



## Applied Research

The Agri-Environment Services Branch (AESB) is a recently formed national branch of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) created to bring expertise and innovative environmental solutions to farming and the agriculture and agri-food sector.

Working with clients and partner organizations, AESB provides practical, relevant and accessible agri-environment information and services.

AESB helps provide answers to environmental problems through:

- *Applied Research*
- *Information and Tools*
- *Sustainable Agriculture Systems*

**Atlantic Region** - examples of projects that AESB is working on include:

**Water Well Minder Evaluation** - AESB is evaluating a prototype water level monitoring device for water wells. The device is being field tested across Canada, including sites in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, to evaluate its effectiveness in allowing a well owner to monitor well water levels. The device, called the *Well Minder*, is manufactured by a Canadian company in Halifax, Nova Scotia. AESB is assisting well owners with installing and setting up the unit, documenting the site and installation details, and will provide on-going support. The well owner will record water levels for a one-year period, submit data to AESB on a monthly basis, and provide feedback on the usefulness of the device. *For more information, contact Carla MacKay, AESB Truro, Nova Scotia at 902-896-3651 or email: [carla.mackay@agr.gc.ca](mailto:carla.mackay@agr.gc.ca)*

**Willow Clone Trial** - AESB established a willow clone trial in Prince Edward Island in 2008 to test a variety of willow clones to determine vigour in the Atlantic climate. The site is monitored and data collection will be on-going for a number of years. *For more information, contact Chris Pharo, AESB Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island at 902-566-7310 or email: [chris.pharo@agr.gc.ca](mailto:chris.pharo@agr.gc.ca)*

**Manure Injection and Nutrient Management Demonstration** - AESB, in cooperation with AAFC Research Branch and the Newfoundland Dairymen's Association, developed a project to monitor nutrient movement in soil profiles under various manure application techniques. Results will be used to determine greenhouse gas and odour reduction as well as contribute to the development of beneficial management practices (BMPs) for cool climates. *For more information, contact Peter Murphy, AESB St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador at 709-772-4604 or email: [peter.murphy@agr.gc.ca](mailto:peter.murphy@agr.gc.ca)*

**Other AESB projects and initiatives include:**

**Willow Biomass Demonstrations in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick** - *Contact Chris Pharo, AESB Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island at 902-566-7310 or email: [chris.pharo@agr.gc.ca](mailto:chris.pharo@agr.gc.ca)*

**Evaluation and Demonstration of Irrigation Scheduling Technology Utilizing Soil and Weather Data Under Various Atlantic Canadian Conditions** – *Contact Wendy Pratt, AESB Truro, Nova Scotia at 902-896-0336 or email: [wendy.pratt@agr.gc.ca](mailto:wendy.pratt@agr.gc.ca)*

**For more information on AESB or if your organization has other project ideas you would like to discuss, please contact an AESB office near you.**

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