Farmers' relationship with nature: how and why it matters

Adrian Semmelink  
*Univ. of British Columbia, Canada*, alsemmelink@gmail.com

Kai M.A. Chan  
*Univ. of British Columbia, Canada*, kaichan@ires.ubc.ca

Terre Satterfield  
*Univ. of British Columbia, Canada*, terre.satterfield@ires.ubc.ca

Follow this and additional works at: https://cedar.wwu.edu/ssec

Part of the Fresh Water Studies Commons, Marine Biology Commons, Natural Resources and Conservation Commons, and the Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology Commons

https://cedar.wwu.edu/ssec/2018ssec/allsessions/311

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Conferences and Events at Western CEDAR. It has been accepted for inclusion in Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference by an authorized administrator of Western CEDAR. For more information, please contact westerncedar@wwu.edu.
Beneficial Management Practice Adoption in BC: Motivations, Challenges, and Solutions

Adrian Semmelink
University of British Columbia
Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference
April 4-6th, 2018
Acknowledgements

Supervisory committee: Kai Chan, Terre Satterfield, and Deborah Henderson

Special mention: Mollie Chapman, Alejandra Echeverri

Funding for this project has been provided in part by the Governments of Canada and British Columbia through *Growing Forward 2*, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

Special thanks to Mark Raymond (BC Ministry of Agriculture), Alison Speirs (BC Ministry of Agriculture), and Geoff Hughes-Games (ARDCorp) for feedback and support

*Most of all, thank you to all of our survey and interview participants*
Beneficial management practices (BMPs)
Methods

What did we do?

• Surveyed 166 farmers and ranchers across BC (mail and online)
• Follow-up interviews with 30 farmers and ranchers across B.C. (on-farm)
• Surveyed 30 relevant government staff (online)
Methods

What did we do?
• Surveyed 166 farmers and ranchers across BC (mail and online)
• Follow-up interviews with 30 farmers and ranchers across B.C. (on-farm)
• Surveyed 30 relevant government staff (online)

What did we ask participants?
• Motivations for farming / ranching
• Preferences regarding different beneficial management practices
• Challenges to adopting beneficial management practices
• Solutions to increasing the adoption of beneficial management practices
On protecting riparian areas:
“We got them to build fences along the lake and along the creek so that the cows couldn't get down to the water.”

Diverse motivations

Why do you farm?:
“We want to raise our kids in this atmosphere.” [Family]

“Play a part in protecting animals and nature.. you can learn more about natural processes and how they work.” [Stewardship / Learning]

“To provide for our family.” [Financial]

On plants and animals as family:
“They are family to us and we respect them.”
Diverse motivations

Why do you farm?:
“To get rich and retire soon [laughter].” [Financial]
“We are stewards of the land and of our animals.” [Stewardship]
“Family. It is what I do.” [Family]

On protecting riparian areas:
“I don't believe in them. That's a waste of land.”

On plants and animals as family:
“Plants are meant to be eaten, animals are meant to be eaten, or as companionship, they're not people.”
Riparian Practices

On riparian fencing:
Government staff = Farmers

On management plans:
Government staff > Farmers

On stream crossing improvements:
Farmers > Government staff
Barriers

Sample size: 154 to 160 (farmers) & 28 to 29 (government)
Sample size: 143 to 157 (farmers) & 27 to 28 (government)
Lessons learned

- Diverse motivations matter
Lessons learned

• Diverse motivations matter

• Farmers prefer BMPs with tangible benefits (some exceptions)
Lessons learned

• Diverse motivations matter

• Farmers prefer BMPs with tangible benefits (some exceptions)

• Many perceived barriers less important to farmers compared to government staff
Lessons learned

• Diverse motivations matter

• Farmers prefer BMPs with tangible benefits (some exceptions)

• Many perceived barriers scored lower by farmers compared to government staff

• Financial solutions most popular