

CONCERN
Nutrient leaching

SOLUTION
Upgrade
irrigation system



Growing Concern

“I just can’t put my finger on it. That field is just not producing like it should” said Sasha Bentall of Cutter Ranch located at the base of the majestic Rocky Mountains.

She should know. Both Sasha and her husband, Tyler, come by farming honestly. Having been raised on family ranches, the pair have a deep-rooted knowledge of where food comes from and what it takes to grow it.

Like the nearly 5,000 farms in B.C. that have already completed an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP), Sasha and Tyler were interested in how they could do better by the environment.

Environmental concern was one of the key motivators to begin the process, but as they worked on their EFP with Planning Advisor, David Zehnder, they uncovered potential production benefits as well. To complete the EFP, many aspects of the ranch were assessed such as nutrient management and irrigation systems. Together it was determined that there was a problem with the irrigation system. It wasn’t as efficient as it could be, which means that water was being wasted.

Sasha and Tyler felt growth in one of their fields was lackluster, so they took some additional steps in the EFP process. They successfully applied to the program for funding to assist in the process. First, an irrigation expert

designed a new system for the ranch. With the financial contribution from the Beneficial Management Practices Program they went on to purchase and install a wheel line as recommended by the expert. After running the new irrigation system over the summer, Sasha and Tyler realized their gut feeling was right; less water was being wasted and the field was producing better than ever.

What do Sasha and Tyler think about the Environmental Farm Plan? Sasha made it clear how they feel about the process and its outcomes when she wrote, “We are now running full throttle with our wheel line irrigation.

I am amazed as I watch the fields grow thicker, faster and greener than they ever have. I used to be certain that we were under fertilizing but now I realize that by over watering, we were washing all our nutrients away. Our fields are so healthy now. The program is already having so many beneficial effects on our farm, our abilities and our land. Many thanks, Sasha Bentall & Tyler McNaughton, Cutter Ranch”.



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The EFP and BMP Programs are funded through Canadian Agricultural Partnership. For more information on these programs, visit the [Environmental Farm Plan website](#) or call **250.940.6150**