

**WATERSHED BASED COMPLIANCE PROMOTION**

\*Tuininga, K.<sup>1</sup>, Blackie, M.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Environment Canada, 4905 Dufferin Street, Downsview, Ontario M3H 5T4*

<sup>2</sup> *Consultant, 25 Wychwood Park, London, Ontario, N6G 1R4*

**ABSTRACT**

The Environmental Protection Branch of Environment Canada completed compliance promotion visits in three agricultural subwatersheds in Ontario in 2002. The objective of these individual farm visits was to raise awareness of water quality issues related to livestock access to watercourses, manure spills and runoff and to encourage compliance with the *Fisheries Act* through the adoption of environmentally sound manure management practices. Basins were selected based on degree of historical impact by manure spills, livestock numbers, volume of manure produced and availability of financial support to farmers through environmental incentive programs designed to address water quality issues. Some simple baseline data was gathered for comparison with data gathered during follow up visits by enforcement staff. Additional data was also gathered to characterize these basins based on water quality issues and allow comparison with other areas of the province. Parameters collected included such things as livestock numbers, extent of exclusionary fencing, provision of alternative water sources in the absence of complete exclusion and existence of Nutrient Management Plans, spills contingency plans and Environmental Farm Plans. A total of 278 farms were visited in the three subwatersheds. This paper will present preliminary project results including watershed selection criteria, baseline data, and basin characterization data including some comparative data on studies completed on other geographic areas in the province.

**KEYWORDS:** Compliance promotion, Fisheries Act, water quality