

OSCIA Launching the Online FHCU

OSCIA is pleased to announce the launch of the digital Farmland Health Check-Up (FHCU) - a live interactive website platform that enables you to complete and submit Farmland Health Check-Ups using the process you are already familiar with!

Please note that PDF FHCUs will no longer be accepted by OSCIA after **September 1st, 2020.**

What are the advantages of using the digital FHCU?

- Updated content included based on feedback (e.g., nitrogen management), increasing the relevance of the FHCU for producers.
- Streamlined online format (e.g. geographic data such as counties, townships, and watersheds are now in easy-to-use drop-down menus).
- Progress bars keep track as you move through each section.
- Auto saving feature after each question so that the digital FHCU can be completed and submitted later if needed.
- Provides scores immediately after the workbook is completed.
- Avoids incompatibility and coding challenges experienced by some users with the fillable PDF format.
- Offers potential for remote completion, enabling producers and participating technical specialists to continue to complete the workbook while complying with current physical distancing guidelines.
- Enables full completion including scoring functions in English or French by toggling between languages. The updated digital FHCU workbook is also available in hardcopy (print or PDF version, although without the scoring) in both English and French.
- Highlights which specific factors have low ratings, allowing for easier tailoring of BMP recommendations for the fields being assessed.
- Incorporates several validating steps, which will increase the overall quality of submitted workbooks and reduce the need for follow up between OSCIA and technical specialist CCAs and P.Ags.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is different between the digital FHCU and the PDF FHCU I'm used to?

- The content of the digital FHCU workbook has been updated by the OMAFRA soils team to include feedback CCAs and P.Ags have provided recently, including consideration of nitrogen management.
- The digital FHCU offers drop-down menus, auto save, and a clean interface to facilitate completion, addressing technical issues experienced due to the coding behind the PDF version of the FHCU.

How can I complete the digital FHCU remotely?

- Please refer to the document "Procedure for Remote Use" for a comprehensive guide to completing the digital FHCU.
- Preparation to complete the digital FHCU remains the same as it was for the PDF version.

For Participating Certified Crop Advisors/Professional Agrologists Supporting Delivery of the FHCU

- The digital FHCU can be completed with producers through video calls. Once physical distancing measures are lifted, the digital FHCU can continue to be used, either through remote video calls or in-person meetings with producers.

How can I provide the producer with a copy of their Check-Up if I'm using the digital FHCU?

- An email with a link to download the completed digital FHCU workbook as a PDF is sent to the technical specialist and to the producer at the time of digital FHCU submission. As well, at any time after submission, a copy of a workbook can be easily exported as a PDF from within the digital FHCU website by hitting the "Download Workbook" button. This can then be sent to the producer by email.

How do I get paid for a digital FHCU submission?

- The payment process has not changed; CCAs and P.Ags still need to complete a claim form after submitting a digital FHCU and send it to [fhcu@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:fhc@ontariosoilcrop.org). The compensation rate remains a flat rate of \$500/workbook.

I don't have a computer or other device; can I still complete the digital FHCU?

- Print and electronic PDF versions of the digital FHCU are available and can be completed manually. However, to finalize the BMP recommendations, the information will have to be entered into the digital FHCU to allow scoring.
- Please note that PDF FHCUs will no longer be accepted by OSCIA after **September 1st, 2020.**

Please create an account at www.farmlandhealthcheckup.net to see the new digital FHCU!

Comments and feedback are always welcome; please forward any comments or concerns to [fhcu@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:fhc@ontariosoilcrop.org)