

## FAQ - Digital Farmland Health Check-Up (FHCU)

### **Q: What differences should I be aware of between the Digital Check-Up (farmlandhealthcheckup.net) and the PDF version previously submitted by email?**

A: The major differences between the current Digital Check-Up and the previous PDF version are:

- *3 fields are required to submit a Check-Up.* If you are working with smaller operations with fewer than 3 fields, there is no strict requirement on what constitutes a “field”. You can split the producer’s acreage into additional “field(s)” (areas) by any criterion that you feel is appropriate, e.g., an area with a different soil type, etc.
- *One soil test per field is required.* If a producer’s operation does not have a different soil test for each field/area, but they have at least one soil test, you can input the same values for average, minimum and maximum across all 3 “fields” (i.e., areas) as you see fit. You can select “Don’t know” for soil phosphorus average if needed.
- *Nitrogen is now a Farmland Health Challenge.*
- *Map document(s) must be submitted.* Section 1 Client Information requires that map document(s) be uploaded.

### **Q: How do I know if a producer’s farm is located within the eligible area?**

A: All 3 fields assessed as part of a Check-Up must be located fully within OR must overlap the Lake Erie and Lake St Clair watersheds. An interactive map of the watersheds is available on the Resources page (<https://www.farmlandhealthcheckup.net/ca-en/resources/>), under the “Soils Information and Additional Resources (Preparation for Farm Visit)” category. If you are unsure of a field’s eligibility, please reach out to [fhcu@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:fhcu@ontariosoilcrop.org) for direction before starting a Check-Up.

### **Q: How do I get in touch with a producer who wants to complete a Farmland Health Check-Up?**

A: There are a few ways for producers and CCAs/P.Ags to contact each other and OSCIA:

- With your permission, your name and contact information are displayed on the Digital Check-Up site at <https://www.farmlandhealthcheckup.net/ca-en/about/>. Producers who are researching the Check-Up will be able to contact you directly by choosing a CCA or P.Ag who delivers Check-Ups in their county.
- If at any time you would no longer like your name displayed, or if you have any questions about the Check-Up, please contact [fhcu@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:fhcu@ontariosoilcrop.org).
- You are welcome to make existing clients aware of the opportunity to participate in a Check-Up.

- An older PDF of the FHCU workbook is available and may facilitate completing the FHCU in some locations with poor internet connectivity. Please be aware that all FHCU must be entered into the digital FHCU site to generate the scoring and to be eligible for compensation. The PDF can be found on the Resources page (<https://www.farmlandhealthcheckup.net/ca-en/resources/>) under “Program Materials”.
  - If you prefer printouts, a limited number are available for reference. Please request via email to [fhcu@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:fhcu@ontariosoilcrop.org).

**Q: Can CCAs or P.Ags who are not delivering services in the Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair Watershed access the Check-Up resource page for their own learning experience?**

A:

At <https://www.farmlandhealthcheckup.net/ca-en/resources/>, all resources are public. There are several technical resources which you may find valuable:

- The “BMP Selection Guide” (found under the heading Program Materials) includes Best Management Practice descriptions and principles listed by farm challenge (challenges include tillage erosion, phosphorus loss, etc.)
- The resources under the heading “Soils Information and Additional Resources (Preparation for Farm Visit)”, including:
  - How to use a Soil Map
  - Using AgMaps
  - Maintaining 30% soil cover and soil cover percentage examples
  - EFP Infosheets
  - List of certified Erosion Control Contractors
  - OMAFRA’s Best Management Practices Series

At this time, only individuals who were certified under the LEADS program to deliver Farmland Health Check-Ups remain eligible to deliver Check-Ups. Opportunities to certify additional CCA or P.Ag individuals are not yet available, but details will be announced as soon as they are available.