




Data management considerations

NEFP Summit – November 2nd, 2017



The next 90 minutes

- Overview of the activities and findings of the data management committee
 - Survey of provinces and territory
 - Freedom of information and privacy (FOIP)
 - The value of the data – what do we want to do with it anyway?
 - Data sharing – privacy, sustainability claims and aggregation
 - Kathryn Bremner – data collection in Nova Scotia
 - Jacques Nault, Logiag – Views on data potential
 - Table discussions
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Data management committee members

- ▶ Alanna Gray, KAP
- ▶ Alison Speirs, BC Min of Ag
- ▶ Cindy Bradley-MacMillan, OMAFRA
- ▶ Denis Tremorin, Pulse Canada
- ▶ Doug Sell, AB grain farmer
- ▶ Jamie Hewitt, AAFC
- ▶ JoAnn Pineau, PEIFA
- ▶ John Russell, NB Alliance of Agriculture
- ▶ Karen Clark, DFC
- ▶ Kathryn Bremner, NSFA
- ▶ Korice Moir, consultant
- ▶ Louis Dionne, CSC
- ▶ Maarten VanOord, NB dairy farmer
- ▶ Mark Walker, CCGA
- ▶ Paul Watson, ARECA
- ▶ Susie Miller, CRSC




Why data? What value?

- ▶ What value is there in collecting data? What is the goal of data at a national level?
 - ▶ Demonstrate how farm operations and management already protect the environment
 - ▶ Identify areas for improvement
 - ▶ Policy initiatives, research, knowledge translation and transfer
 - ▶ Commodity interest
 - ▶ Trend analysis, demonstration of continuous improvement
 - ▶ Commodity-level
 - ▶ Support efforts of individuals to meet sustainability requirements within their market or commodity

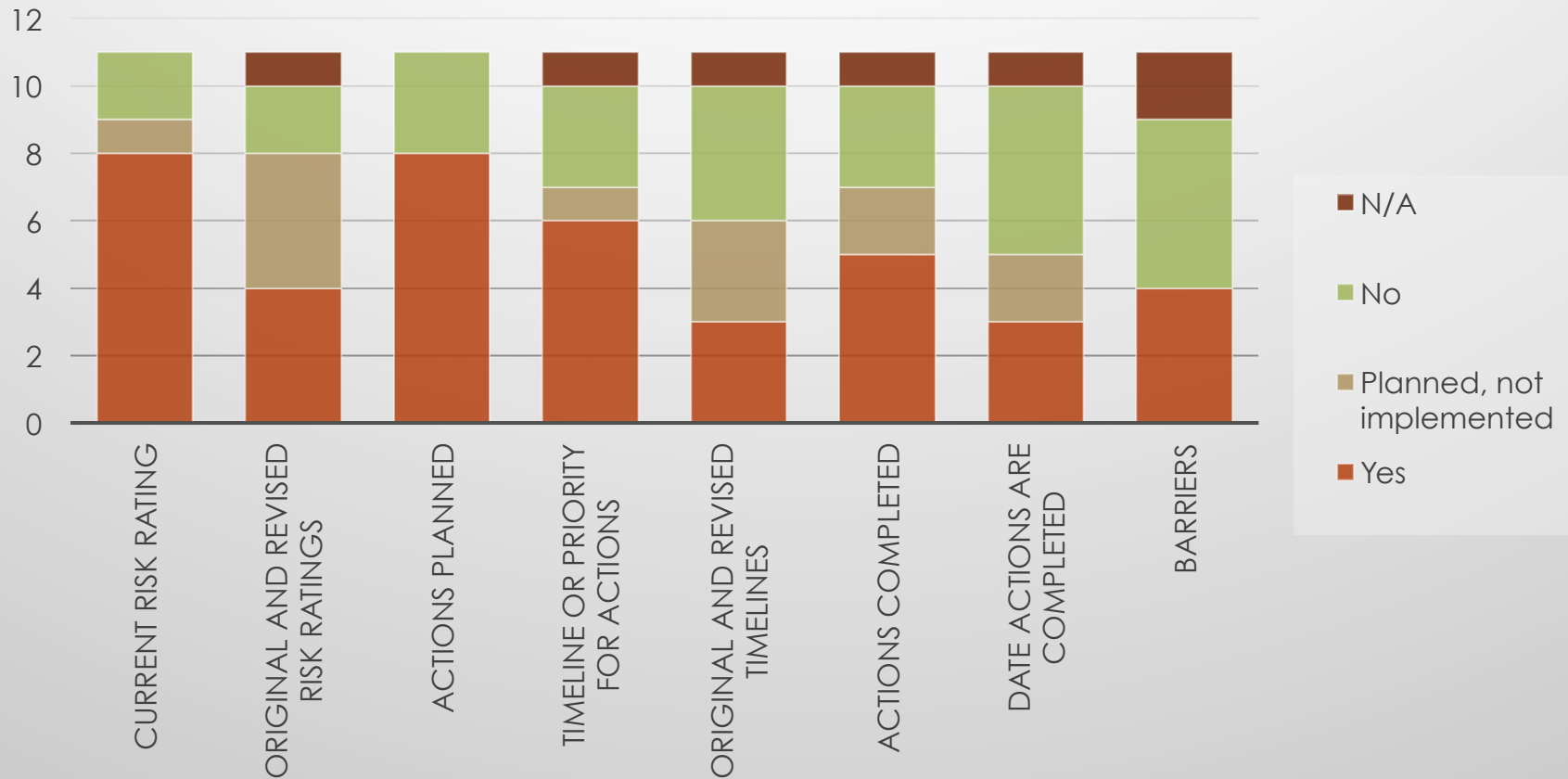


Surveying the lay of the land

- ▶ Purpose: find out what data collection and data usage is occurring across EFP programs
 - ▶ Responses from 10 out of 11 jurisdictions
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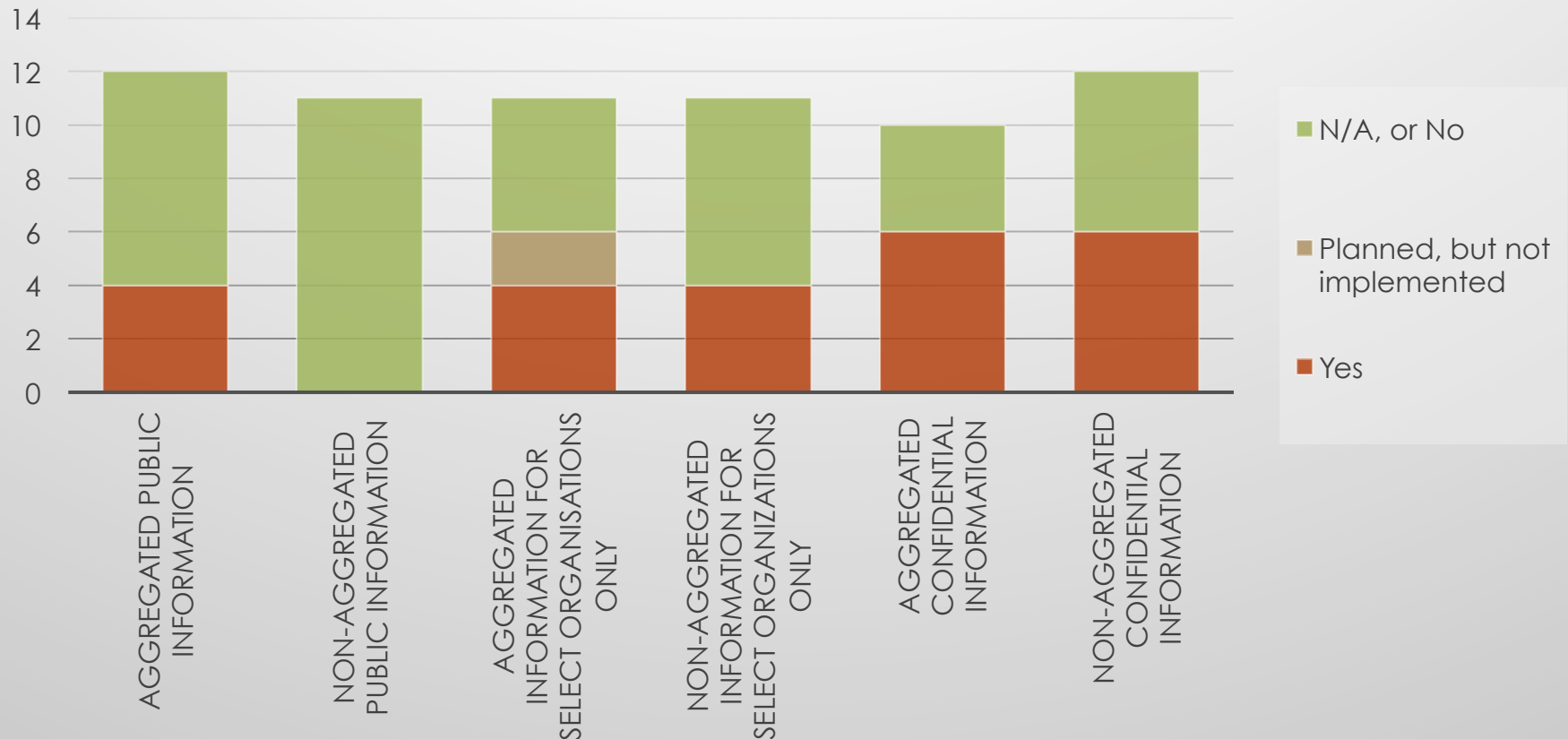
Surveying the lay of the land

Does your province or territory collect and store farmer inputs from the EFP:



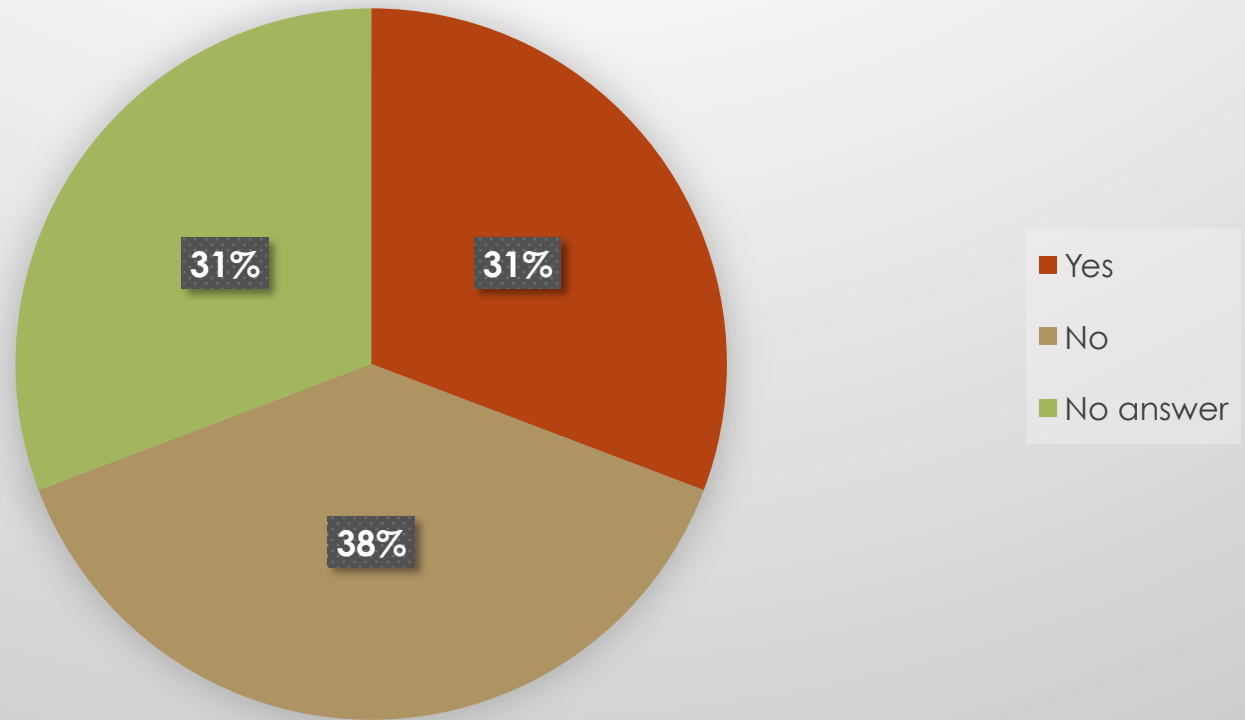
Surveying the lay of the land


If your province or territory collects and records identifiable business or location data of those completing the EFP, is it available as ...?



Surveying the lay of the land

Is information inputted by farmers subject to Freedom of Information Requests?






Freedom of Information and Privacy (FOIP)

- ▶ Is FOIP a significant challenge?
 - ▶ If provinces don't collect data because of FOIP, then FOIP is a roadblock to NEFP data sharing
- ▶ Some provinces have circumvented this by:
 - ▶ having NGO (not subject to FOIP) collect and hold data, no private data held by or provided to government
 - ▶ Storing individual farm ratings and actions separately from producer-identifiable information
- ▶ Discussions held with FOIP experts
 - ▶ “P” in FOIP stands for privacy – all laws have a process to exclude the release of data deemed to be private
- ▶ Conclusion: issue is manageable



Committee discussions

- Privacy protection - Safeguards to be put in place
 - no individual farm to be identifiable without express permission; consent forms for data sharing; IT tools
 - aggregate level – Use farm data for aggregation, accessible by commodity groups
 - Committee Opinion: Individual data should be stored at provincial level only. Only aggregated data should be shared with a future NEFP database.
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Committee discussions



- Aggregation is complex!
 - Notation of risks differs by jurisdiction – what is “low risk”?
 - Farm size – a large farm in NB ≠ large farm in SK
 - Mixed production – how to classify a farm that has 25 cows, 50 pigs, 15 hens and 1000 (maple syrup) taps?
 - Crop commodities – how to classify farm with canola one year, soya the next, etc.?
 - The desired outcome of the data may influence how it is aggregated – e.g. aggregate by commodity vs. aggregate by question with high risk
 - Regional identifiers – aggregated data by watershed may be necessary for BMP program development




Committee discussions

- ▶ Sustainability and buyers - Data management overload?
 - ▶ Buyers interested in individual EFP contents should obtain that information from individual farmer.
 - ▶ Need for data to form baseline
 - ▶ Consideration to be given by provinces if they could simplify the transfer of data between individual EFP and buyer?
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Parting thoughts

- Reporting will take time and procedures
 - More work needed:
 - How / what to aggregate
 - Privacy safeguards
 - Reporting
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Thank-you!

