

BASIC – HIGHLIGHTS

The goal of the “Bifrost Agricultural Sustainability Initiative Co-op” (BASIC) is to work with the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton to create economic opportunities and protect a healthy environment through sustainable water management.

Highlights include:

- BASIC invested almost \$1 million to conduct a hydrologic study of Bifrost and produce a detailed LiDAR topographical survey, paid for by a Federal-Provincial grant. LiDAR is available to farmers and planners alike and makes it possible to develop accurate drainage plans.
- A second Federal/Provincial Grant (Growing Forward 2) of slightly over \$1 million is funding all BASIC activities including infrastructure, planning, engineering, design and 345 miles of drain surveys to date.
- East and West Bifrost Drainage Committees consisting of local farmers and councillors have chosen projects on a strategic basis. By seeing Bifrost as “one field”, projects are chosen that have the greatest impact – one drain can affect as many as 35–40 quarters.
- Since 2016 the Municipality has invested almost \$1.2 million in drainage rehabilitation.
- BASIC assisted the Municipality with survey and design of flood mitigation drainage plans for Riverton and Arborg.
- The Stewardship Committee, which includes Conservation District reps, is concerned with erosion control (including proposed demonstration plots) and environmental factors including fish habitats.
- The Agronomy Committee works with PESAI to study crops and varieties that grow best in excess moisture.



Flax crop trial at the Prairies East Sustainable Agricultural Initiative (PESAI) site on Hwy. 68 just west of Arborg.

- The Communication Committee publishes articles locally and established the “basic-bifrostriverton.com” website.
- Water Management Committee members work with provincial staff from Agriculture, Infrastructure, Sustainable Development and Water Resources on prioritizing and planning provincial projects and implementing Municipal projects.
- A Funding Committee searches out grants for fish and wildlife, flood control, drainage, environmental and major capital projects. Applications are being submitted to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ new “Climate Innovation Program”.
- Contacts are being made with neighbouring First Nation communities and municipalities to determine impacts from other Interlake watersheds.
- The 13-member BASIC board consists of farmers from all over Bifrost-Riverton and two Municipal counsellors. Any BASIC Co-op member is welcome to offer names for annual board elections.

B A S I C - Sustainable water and environmental management

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