

Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program Cost-Shared Incentives for Beneficial Management Practices April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010

What is the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program?

The Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program (CSFSP) is the Saskatchewan component of the National Farm Stewardship Program launched under Growing Forward. The program is designed to help Saskatchewan producers address on-farm environmental risk.

The CSFSP provides eligible Saskatchewan producers with financial assistance to implement beneficial management practices (BMP) to help maintain or improve the quality of soil, water, air or biodiversity resources.

A BMP is defined as any agricultural management practice which:

1. Ensures the long-term health and sustainability of land-related resources used for agricultural production.
2. Positively impacts the long-term economic and environmental viability of agricultural production.
3. Minimizes negative impacts and risk to the environment.

How does the CSFSP work?

To be eligible for funding through the CSFSP, applicants first need to complete an environmental farm plan (EFP). An EFP is a voluntary, confidential, self assessment tool used by producers to raise awareness about environmental risks and opportunities on their operations. As part of an EFP, producers develop their own action plans to identify management practices that can reduce environmental risk on their operations. Upon completing the EFP, producers will be provided with a Guide to the Canada Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program. The Guide provides a more complete description of the eligible BMPs listed in this factsheet.

The Provincial Council of Agriculture Development and Diversification Boards (PCAB) has experienced, trained program representatives to help producers through the EFP and CSFSP process. Once producers have completed their EFP and received their Certificate of Endorsement, they should contact their local PCAB program representative to discuss the implementation of their plan and application for financial assistance.

Below is a list of the BMPs eligible for cost-shared funding in Saskatchewan. For each BMP, limits are provided on the cost-shared funding. The maximum funding available through the program for each farm is \$50,000. If a producer makes an in-kind contribution of labour or equipment to implementing a BMP project, this would be considered as part of the overall project costs.

Funding can be pooled for large infrastructure projects such as manure storages, or relocation of intensive livestock operations. To be eligible for pooled funding, applicants need to demonstrate there is an environmental benefit for producers to build one locally shared facility as opposed to multiple units on individual farms. Eligibility for pooling project funds will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

BMP	BMP Description	Cost-Share	Caps
1. Improved Livestock Site Management			
09-101 Relocation of Livestock Confinement Facilities	Relocation of facilities such as corrals, paddocks and wintering sites away from stream banks/lakeshores. Also eligible: cost of installing electricity and natural gas utilities at new sites, engineering design work.	60%	\$50,000
09-201 Fencing to Protect the Environment	Fencing livestock field access lane upgrades, fence modifications for watering site management and control of invasive plants, fencing for grazing management in stream bank/lakeshore areas/uplands and to improve pasture health.	50%	\$30,000
09-202 Fencing to Prevent Damage by Big Game Wildlife	Fencing around feed supplies and orchards to prevent big game wildlife damage.	30%	\$10,000
09-301 Utilizing Portable Windbreaks and Shelters	Relocate winter feeding away from the yard site and to protect sensitive areas.	50%	\$15,000
09-302 Remote Water Systems	Remote and permanent systems to protect stream banks, lakeshores, high risk marginal soils, for wintering site management, and in conjunction with the relocation of livestock confinement facility.	50%	\$15,000
09-401 Farmyard Run-off Control	Upstream diversion around farmyards, downstream protection for catch basins, retention ponds, constructed wetlands and effluent treatment. Also eligible is engineering design work.	50%	\$10,000

2. Improved Manure Management			
09-501 Manure Storage Improvements	Improved barn features to decrease manure volume, more efficient manure cleanout systems to reduce water use and decrease manure volumes, improved features to prevent risks of water contamination, slurry storage covers to reduce odours and GHG emissions and containment systems for solid manure.	30%	\$30,000
09-601 Manure Storage Increases	Increased storage to meet winter spreading restrictions, including satellite storage. Also eligible engineering design work.	30%	\$30,000
09-701 Manure Application Equipment and Technologies	Specialized/modification to equipment for improved manure application.	30%	\$10,000
09-702 Manure Nutrient Planning	Consultative services to develop manure nutrient management plans, planning and decision support tools. (No longer eligible: regular crop nutrient planning).	50%	\$4,000
3. Improved Land Management			
09-801 Modifying and Revegetating Waterways	Constructed works including: gully stabilization, bank stabilization, erosion control matting, in-channel control, retention ponds, erosion control dams, mechanical wind screens, etc. Also eligible: engineering design work.	75%	\$20,000
09-901 Planting Vegetation to Protect Riparian (stream bank and shoreline) Areas	Planting forages for buffer establishment and stream banks/lakeshore protection, conversion of portions of fields in annual cropland to perennial forage near stream banks/lakeshores or fields where annual cropping impacts sensitive areas such as headwaters and recharge zones not intended for large scale conversions. Also eligible: plantings for on-farm restoration or establishment of native woodlands or natural areas to native species of forage, shrubs and trees near stream banks/lakeshores.	50%	\$20,000
09-902 Improved Stream and Creek Crossings	Stream bank crossings near streams and lake shores.	50%	\$20,000

09-1101 Protecting Marginal High Risk Soils	Perennial forage crop establishment for soils at risk such as severely erodible or saline soils. Plantings for on-farm restoration or establishment of native pastures, woodlands, slough and pothole areas, natural areas and wetlands and forage buffer strips to prevent wildlife damage. Also eligible: consultative services to develop soil erosion and salinity control plans. (No longer eligible: planting annual cover crops).	50%	\$5,000
09-1601 Shelterbelt Establishment	Establishment of shelterbelts for livestock site facility improvements, dugout snow trap, wildlife habitat enhancement and protection of high risk soil. Also eligible: establishment of ecobuffers (mixed species with no rows).	\$200/mile	\$5,000
4. Water Well Management			
09-1001 Decommissioning Abandoned Wells	Sealing and capping old water wells.	75%	\$6,000
09-1002 Protecting Existing Wells	From surface contamination.	50%	\$6,000
5. Improved Product and Waste Management			
09-1201 Agricultural Product's Safe Storage and Handling	Improved on-farm single use storage and handling of agricultural products such as liquid fertilizer, silage storage with proper containment, double walled petroleum storage products and single use pesticide storage facilities. (No longer eligible: dry fertilizer facilities).	30%	\$10,000
09-1202 Agricultural Waste's Safe Storage and Handling	Improved on-farm storage, handling and disposal of waste such as livestock mortalities, fruit and vegetable cull piles, and wood waste. Also eligible: composting of agricultural waste and incineration with appropriate technical advice and approval and engineering design work.	30%	\$10,000
6. Improved Pest Management			
09-1301 Pesticide Application Systems (Drift Reduction Technology)	Equipment modification for improved application such as Drift Reduction Technology.	30%	\$5,000
09-1302 Information Collection and Monitoring	Network Capable weather stations, trap crops and pest monitoring devices.	30%	\$5,000

09-1303 Integrated Pest Management for Insect, Vertebrates and Non-vertebrate Pests	Integrated approaches (biological control agents and cultural control practices such as raptor platforms, scaring and repellent systems and devices) for insect, vertebrate and non-vertebrate pests.	30%	\$5,000
09-1304 Integrated Pest Management for Invasive Plants	Integrated approaches (cultural, mechanical and biological) for control of invasive plant species such as leafy spurge, purple loosestrife and scentless chamomile.	50%	\$5,000
09-1305 Native Plant Re-establishment	Establishment of native plant species to reclaim native plant areas and prevent the re-entry of invasive plants.	30%	\$5,000
09-1306 Integrated Pest Management Planning	Consultative services to develop integrated pest management plans, planning and decision support tools. (Not eligible: general crop protection management plans)	50%	\$2,000
7. Improved Irrigation Management			
09-1401 Irrigation Equipment Modification	Irrigation equipment modification/improvement to increase water or nutrient use efficiency.	30%	\$10,000
09-1402 Irrigation Management Planning	Consultative services for planning improved water use efficiency and reduced environmental risk of existing irrigation systems, planning and decision support tools.	50%	\$2,000
8. Improved Cropping Systems			
09-1501 Low Disturbance Placement of Seed and Fertilizer	Equipment modification on seeding implements for reduced tillage seeding and post seeding implements for low disturbance placement of seed and fertilizer.	30%	\$5,000
09-1502 Chaff Collectors and Chaff Spreaders	Installed on combines.	30%	\$10,000
09-1503 Precision Farming Applications - GPS	Precision farming applications: GPS information collection, GPS guidance (auto steer, light bars, software) manual and variable rate controllers for variable rate fertilizer and manure application. GPS information collection is available for combines, but GPS guidance (auto steer, light bars, software) is not available for harvest equipment (combines, swathers).	30%	\$15,000

How to apply

After completing an Environmental Farm Plan and having it endorsed, producers can apply for up to \$50,000 in funds in the adoption of environmental beneficial management practices on their farms.

Step 1:

Complete a Saskatchewan Environmental Farm Plan

The Provincial Council of ADD Boards, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, offers a voluntary, confidential assessment process to increase awareness of farm practices and environmental sustainability and to provide tools for developing and implementing environmental farm plans (EFP). Producers participate in a series of EFP workshops that are available throughout Saskatchewan.

Step 2:

Apply for funding to assist with the implementation of your environmental farm plan.

Producers whose plans have been completed, reviewed and deemed appropriate are eligible to apply to the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program which offers cost-shared incentives up to \$50,000 to support the implementation of beneficial management practices to reduce on-farm environmental risks.

Applicants are encouraged to have contact with their PCAB Program Representative during the application process. Applications that are signed by a Program Representative prior to submission to PCAB for project approval are expected to have fewer delays in the approval process. This signature verifies the completeness of the application, but it **does not** constitute project approval.

Applicants will also be required to sign an Authorization to Disclose Information/Records for the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program (CSFSP). The information provided by the disclosure statement will be used to assess producer eligibility for benefits under the CSFSP.

Purchases made or works completed (i.e. seeding forages) will be considered as eligible expenses should an application be submitted and approved at a later date. Contact your PCAB Program Representative for more information. **However, producers who make purchases or complete works prior to receiving approval have no guarantee that their projects will be approved and thus assume the risk of not receiving CSFSP funding.**

For more information on the EFP and CSFSP contact your local PCAB Program Representative listed on the PCAB website at www.saskpcab.com; or all PCAB toll free at 1-866-298-7222.