

Canada-Alberta Farm Stewardship Program (CAFSP) Q&A's

Q. What is the Canada-Alberta Farm Stewardship Program?

- A. The CAFSP is the Alberta component of the National Farm Stewardship Program, an initiative funded under the Agricultural Policy Framework. The overall objective of the CAFSP is accelerated adoption of beneficial management practices (BMPs) on Canadian farms and agricultural landscapes. This will be achieved through the provision of cost shared incentives and technical assistance to producers for the implementation of BMPs that address on-farm environmental risks.

Q. Who is eligible for funds from the CAFSP?

- A. There are two criteria that must be met to be eligible for the CAFSP. First the applicant must have an Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) that has been reviewed and deemed appropriate. Secondly, the applicant must have an Alberta Farm Fuel Number.

Q What is an EFP?

- A. An environmental farm plan (EFP) is a voluntary and confidential process used by individual farmers to systematically identify environmental risks and benefits from their own farming operation, and to develop an action plan to mitigate the risks. The EFP process allows farmers to set priorities for actions which address on-farm environmental concerns, as well as those which serve the public interest. For more information on EFPs in Alberta contact The Alberta Environmental Farm Plan Company (AEFP) at: 1 866 844-2337 or visit www.albertaEFP.com

Q. Are EFPs mandatory?

- A. No. The program is voluntary. Producers are encouraged to be involved and will only be eligible for federal financial incentives through the Canada-Alberta Farm Stewardship Program and the Greencover Canada program to undertake on-farm actions if they have developed an EFP.

Q. How do I apply for funds under the CAFSP?

- A. Once you have completed your EFP you simply attach a statement of completion certificate from The AEFP Company to the CAFSP application form and send the application in. Application forms are available when you attend an AEFP workshop.

Q. Where do I get a CAFSP application form?

- A. Application forms are available when you attend an AEFP workshop.



Q. Are CAFSP funds available for BMPs that I have already implemented?

- A. The CAFSP is NOT retroactive. Written approvals from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada must be in place before implementing your project.

Q. What are the cost shares and maximum dollars available under the CAFSP?

- A. Two levels of federal cost sharing are available: 30 per cent or 50 per cent, depending on the BMP. For BMPs funded at 30 per cent there is a mix of public and producer benefits and a significant risk of short-term income loss to the producer. For BMPs funded at 50 per cent the public benefit is higher, the producer benefit is lower or the risk of income loss to the producer is higher. The maximum program funding cap that any one producer can receive is \$30,000.

Q. Does my \$30,000 maximum have to be utilized on one project or one application?

- A. No. The maximum can apply to numerous projects, and a number of years. However, the total dollars received either on one project or on numerous projects cannot exceed \$30,000.

Q. What funds are available from the CAFSP?

- A. There are 26 categories of BMPs available in Alberta. Each category has a number of activities within it. For more information refer to the information sheets available at the EFP workshop or call 1800 667-8567. The categories for which funds are available include:

- improved manure storage and handling
- manure treatment
- manure land application
- farmyard runoff control
- relocation of livestock confinement facilities
- wintering site management
- product and waste management
- water well management
- riparian area management
- erosion control structures (riparian)
- erosion control structures (non-riparian)
- land management for soils at risk
- improved cropping systems
- improved pest management
- nutrient recovery from waste water in greenhouses
- irrigation management
- shelterbelt establishment
- enhancing wildlife habitat and biodiversity
- species at risk
- nutrient management planning
- integrated pest management planning
- grazing management planning
- soil erosion control planning
- biodiversity enhancement planning
- irrigation management planning
- riparian health assessments.

Q. Are there deadlines for applications to the CAFSP?

A. Yes, there are four deadlines per year: February 28, May 31, August 31 and November 30.

Q. How do I know when I am approved and can begin my project?

A. Once your application has been reviewed and approved you will be notified and you can proceed on implementing your project. All required licences and approvals need to be in place before the project is implemented and obtaining those licences and approvals are the applicant's responsibility.

Q. Does my cost share need to be cash?

A. Not necessarily. In-kind contributions may only include labor and use of your equipment to be valued at rates in accordance with the Alberta Farm Operations Cost Guide (available at Alberta Agriculture Food, and Rural Development – AAFRD).

Q. Are interim payments made on projects?

A. No. The applicant will be required to pay for the project and then one payment will be made after the project is completed. The applicant must provide the program with statements and invoices which detail eligible costs. Payments will be issued upon receipt of eligible invoices.

Q. Are there items that are NOT eligible for incentives?

A. Yes. The following are examples of items that are NOT eligible for incentives:

- repair and maintenance of buildings
- complete units of farm machinery and equipment
- drainage (surface and subsurface)
- in house water treatment systems
- development of domestic water supplies
- feed and feed rations
- land costs
- legal fees
- on going annual acreage payments
- tame forage rejuvenation
- transportation payments

Q. How do I get additional information about the CAFSP?

A. For more information call 1800 667-8567.