

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

Agriculture Stewardship Program

GUIDELINES



Canada



1.2 AGRICULTURE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The **Agriculture Stewardship Program** is designed to increase environmental sustainability, and climate change mitigation and adaptation, by providing technical and financial support to the development, promotion and implementation of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs). Activity areas include soil conservation, climate change mitigation, soil health, nutrient management, integrated pest management, riparian management, water quality, water use efficiency, and on-farm product and waste storage. The program will support environmental protection activities and promote the sustainable use of natural resources. Approved projects are funded on a cost-shared or per acre basis.

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PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Summary of BMPs

See Appendix A for project requirements.

BMPs	Level of Assistance	Program Funding Cap
1. SOIL HEALTH AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT		
1.1 Erosion Control Structures	55%	\$30,000 annually up to \$100,000
	Advanced Merit* 75% of eligible expenses	\$35,000 annually up to \$100,000
1.2 Spring Tillage of Forages	\$30 per acre	\$3,000 annually up to \$6,000
1.3 Strip Tillage	\$30 per acre	\$5,000 annually up to \$15,000
1.4 Transition to Zero Tillage	\$50 per acre	\$10,000 annually up to \$30,000
1.5 Incorporating Soil-building Crops in Rotations	\$100 per acre	\$5,000 annually up to \$15,000
1.6 Increasing Perennial Forages in Rotations	\$200 per acre	\$10,000 annually up to \$20,000
1.7 Improved Liquid Manure Application	Injection \$100 per acre	\$10,000 annually up to \$20,000
	Dribble Bars \$50 per acre	\$5,000 annually up to \$10,000
1.8 Introduction of Reduced Tillage	\$30 per acre	\$5,000 annually up to \$15,000
2. MANURE AND LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT		
2.1 Manure Storage Systems	50%	Solid Storage: \$25,000
		Liquid Storage: \$50,000
2.2 Covered Feedlots and Exercise Yard	50%	Covered Feedlot: \$25,000
		Exercise Yard: \$10,000
2.3 Improved Silage Storage	30%	\$20,000
3. AGROFORESTRY		
3.1 Innovations in Agroforestry	75%	\$15,000
4. WATER SUPPLY AND MANGEMENT		
4.1 Alternate Livestock Watering Systems	50%	\$10,000
4.2 Riparian Fencing	50%	\$20,000
4.3 Stream Crossings for Livestock and Farm Machinery	50%	\$25,000
4.4 Water Use Efficiency and Water Treatment	50%	\$25,000
4.5 Water Supply and Irrigation Efficiency	30%	\$20,000
4.6 Water Well Protection Measures	75%	\$10,000
5. INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT		
5.1 Pest Monitoring for Data-Based Decisions	50%	\$2,000 annually up to \$5,000
5.2 Pest Suppressant Crop at the time of Commercial Crop	\$200 per acre	\$2,000 annually up to \$5,000
5.3 Invertebrate Biological Control	50%	\$2,000 annually up to \$5,000
5.4 Anti-insect Barriers	50%	\$2,000 annually up to \$5,000
6. DEMONSTRATION TRIALS		
6.1 Agri-Environmental Trials	Varies by project	\$25,000

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Eligible Recipients

- Mi'kmaq First Nations and other Indigenous groups;
- Agricultural landowners;
- Agricultural producers; and
- Others may be considered upon request.

NOTE:

- Recipients must have valid Environmental Farm Plans (EFPs).

Funding

- Level of funding varies by BMP, as detailed in **Appendix A: Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)**

Project Requirements

- A Project Advisor will be assigned to each BMP project;
- Physical works projects:
 - Must be discussed with the Project Advisor prior to the beginning of construction;
 - Must adhere to the construction guidelines provided by the Project Advisor;
 - Require a site visit by the Project Advisor prior to construction; and
 - Must be maintained and properly managed for 15 years.
- Field management or crop-based projects:
 - Are subject to verification of application information or project completion through aerial imagery;
 - May require additional documentation to demonstrate field or management practices history as requested by the Project Advisor; including time stamped, geographically referenced photos;
 - Are subject to site visits by the Project Advisor to confirm acceptable implementation and completion; and
 - Acreage for payment is determined by the Project Advisor.
- Producers must notify the Project Advisor of heightened biosecurity requirements prior to site visits;
- Recipients must obtain all required licenses, permits, approvals and/or authorizations prior to project initiation and must comply with all applicable municipal, provincial and federal legislation.



CLAIMS PROCESS

- The payment process and required documentation for claiming will be outlined in the project approval letter and/or funding agreement.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Recipients must meet the eligibility criteria and submit a complete application to the Department of Agriculture;
- Applications will be assessed on a **first come-first serve basis** or **for merit and impact**;
- If the project is not approved, all incurred costs are the responsibility of the applicant;
- Assistance will be available until BMP-type application windows close, or until funds are totally allocated within that year, whichever comes first; and
- Projects may be funded below the maximum contribution rate upon assessment and availability of funding.

HOW TO APPLY

Completed applications may be submitted to the attention of the Program Officer via regular mail or email. There will be application intake periods advertised on the program website.

Email Applications:

Applications may be submitted via email at agstewardship@gov.pe.ca
Please include the program name in the subject line.

Regular Mail Applications:

Applications may be submitted via regular mail at:
PEI Department of Agriculture
11 Kent Street
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown PE C1A 7N8
(902) 368-4880 (telephone)



PUBLIC TRUST

- Projects approved for funding under the Sustainable CAP which have demonstrable links to increasing public trust may be eligible for additional project funding.



REGIONAL COLLABORATION

- Projects that are assessed to demonstrate benefits and impacts to more than one Atlantic province may be eligible for funding on a regional basis.



EVALUATION AND CONTROL

- A complete evaluation of this program is planned to ensure that the objectives and results are achieved and to assess the relevance of its renewal. Program metrics are collected and reported on an on-going basis.



GUIDING PRINCIPLE

- Sustainable CAP programs are available to all Canadians who are eligible to participate in those programs. Wherever possible, the needs of under-represented groups, including Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and persons with disabilities, were considered during program development.

Appendix A: Eligible Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)

1. SOIL HEALTH AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

BMP Description	Level of Assistance	Eligible Activities/Expenses	Ineligible Activities/Expenses	Other Requirements
1.1 Erosion Control Structures The installation of erosion control structures reduces topsoil loss due to erosion and helps to prevent the contamination of surface and groundwater from materials bound to the eroded soil particles. Projects with advanced merit* may include those with fields near environmentally sensitive areas or watersheds, fields where projects would involve multiple landowners, or fields where erosion has impacted adjacent landowners or transportation corridors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55% of eligible expenses; • \$30,000 annually up to \$100,000. <hr/> Advanced Merit* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% of eligible expenses; • \$35,000 annually up to \$100,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of diversion terraces, grassed waterways, farmable berms, grassed filter strips, and supporting infrastructure; • Soil excavation and redistribution costs; • Erosion control matting, silt fencing, rock, straw and energy dissipaters; • Seedbed preparation, fertilizer, lime, and grass seed; • Subsurface drainage of grassed waterways; • Surface inlets and culverts; and • Silt retention ponds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities related solely to subsurface drainage of land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project Advisor will provide technical support for the project's design and layout; • Project must be completed to the standard approved by the Project Advisor; • Applicants must verify the project location and requirements with the contractor prior to construction; • Structures must be seeded with a recommended grass seed/cereal mix and stabilized with erosion control matting immediately after construction; • All construction work must be completed by September 15; and • Soil health testing may be required at the project location as recommended by the Project Advisor. <p>* Advanced Merit Section must be selected and completed on the application form to be considered.</p>
1.2 Spring Tillage of Forages Tilling in the spring, instead of the fall, can reduce soil erosion and nutrient loss to leaching in the late fall and winter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30 per acre; • \$3,000 annually up to \$6,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acreage in perennial forage and moldboard plowed or crop residue managed with Primary Residue tillage in the spring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acreage with crops established in the spring through no-till seeding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forage must be perennial, such as grasses, forage legumes, or diverse legume and grass mixtures; and • Forage must have been established a minimum of one full year prior to spring tillage (i.e. planted the spring prior) <p>NOTE: under-seeded forages in cereal year is not considered one full year prior.</p>
1.3 Strip-Tillage Strip-tillage prepares the planting zone for the spring crop while leaving most of the residue and soil in place. It allows the tilled strip to shed water and warm quickly in the spring with the benefits of reduced GHG emissions, reduced fuel usage, improved soil health, and reduced soil erosion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30 per acre; • \$5,000 annually up to \$15,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acreage prepared for seeding using strip-tillage equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acreage with crops established in the spring through conventional tilling or no-till seeding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strip tillage equipment must be approved by the Project Advisor; • Applicants may use strip tillage equipment they have built or manufactured on their own if the resulting tillage practice fits program requirements; • The tilled strip must not exceed 1/3 of the new row width (i.e. 10-inch tillage strip in 30-inch corn rows); • Strip-tillage must be the only tillage pass completed before planting, in the time period since the previous crop;

1. SOIL HEALTH AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT (cont.)

BMP Description	Level of Assistance	Eligible Activities/Expenses	Ineligible Activities/Expenses	Other Requirements
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must provide the previous crop history and crops to be grown in the next three years; A minimum of 25 acres must be enrolled; and Requires a three-year forward commitment of strip tillage.
1.4 Transition to Zero Tillage No-till or Zero tillage is planting a crop without tilling to prepare a seedbed. The crop is planted directly into the residue of the previous crop. The benefits include reduced input costs to prepare a seedbed, reduction in GHG emissions, improved soil health, reduced compaction, and reduced soil erosion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$50 per acre; \$10,000 annually up to \$30,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acreage planted with a no-till planting system for three consecutive years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acreage with crops established in the spring or fall through conventional tilling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must provide the previous crop history and crops to be grown in the next three years; No-till equipment must be approved by the Project Advisor; All crops must be established using no-till equipment; No-till equipment must be used a minimum of two years within the three-year commitment; A minimum of 25 acres must be enrolled; and Requires a three-year forward commitment of continuous no-till with annual payments based on continued no-till practice.
1.5 Incorporating Soil-building Crops in Rotations Incorporating soil-building crops into annual rotations, without removing the biomass, other than through advanced grazing management, can increase soil organic matter and improve the structure of the soil. Benefits can include increased soil productivity, improved water holding capacity, reduced GHG emissions, and reduced soil erosion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$100 per acre; \$5,000 annually up to \$15,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acreage planted with an approved annual full season soil building crop. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acreage that will be harvested and biomass removed; Acreage on less than a 3-year rotation; and Acreage in warm season grasses planted later than early July (weather dependent). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must provide information on the crop species and reasons it was selected; The crop species selected must be from the approved soil building crop list, or as determined by the Project Advisor; Must be a three year or greater crop rotation; The crop must not be harvested or have biomass removed for one full growing season, though chopping and mulching is recommended, and advanced grazing management is permitted; Crops must not be tilled or desiccated before the following spring; and Soil building crops established by under-seeding with a cereal must have cereals mulched and not harvested.

1. SOIL HEALTH AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT (cont.)

BMP Description	Level of Assistance	Eligible Activities/Expenses	Ineligible Activities/Expenses	Other Requirements
1.6 Increasing Perennial Forages in Rotations The establishment of a perennial crop for two consecutive years within an annual rotation can increase soil organic matter and improve the structure of the soil. Maintaining a living crop within the soil for as long as possible, reducing tillage events, and limiting biomass removal, provides benefits such as increased soil productivity, improved water holding capacity, reduced GHG emissions, and reduced soil erosion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$200 per acre; • \$10,000 biennially up to \$20,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acreage with an approved perennial crop for two consecutive years in an annual rotation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acreage in long-term pasture, long-term forage, or fallowed land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must provide information on the perennial crop species and reasons it was selected; • The crop species selected must include perennial forage crops and be approved by the Project Advisor; • Applicants must provide the previous 5-year crop history and crops to be grown in the next three years; • Harvest and biomass removal is limited to one cut per year, though chopping and mulching is recommended, and managed grazing is permitted; • Crops must not be tilled or desiccated for the entire duration of the two-year agreement; and • A two-year forward commitment is required with a single payment in the second year.
1.7 Improved Liquid Manure Application Manure is a significant source of nutrients and a beneficial soil amendment. Manure application through injection or with dribble bars can reduce potential nitrogen losses into the air, or through leachate, while increasing nitrogen available to the crop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injection \$100 per acre; • \$10,000 annually up to \$20,000. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dribble Bars \$50 per acre; • \$5,000 annually up to \$10,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acreage with manure application through injection or applied with dribble bars. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acreage with manure broadcast using conventional system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must provide a detailed description of intended manure application practice, estimate date of application, and crop to be planted; • Applicants must notify Project Advisor immediately after application for verification of the practice; • Funding is limited to one payment per field per year; and • Manure application must align with the beneficial management practices in the latest PEI Manure Management Guidelines.
1.8 Introduction of Reduced Tillage Reducing tillage before or after the crop has been harvested will increase crop surface residue levels. Improving soil conservation practices, such as reduced tillage, can benefit soil organic matter levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30 per acre, • \$5,000 annually up to \$15,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acreage with annual crops established through reduced tillage practices that had previously been moldboard plowed (in the last three years). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acreage that does not demonstrate decreased tillage intensity compared to recent cropping history; • Acreage that does not have residue present after tillage/planting and; • Acreage that is maintained in a perennial crop for greater than one growing season. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must demonstrate that the reduced tillage is a new practice for the operation; • Applicants must provide documentation that demonstrates this is a new practice (i.e. recent equipment purchase, lease agreements); • Applicants must provide a detailed description of the previous crop history and tillage practices, as well as crops to be grown in the next three years and intended tillage practices; • A three-year forward commitment is required with annual payments based on continued reduced tillage; • The new reduced tillage equipment must be used a minimum of two years within the three-year commitment (i.e. if forage is grown within rotation,

1. SOIL HEALTH AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT (cont.)

BMP Description	Level of Assistance	Eligible Activities/Expenses	Ineligible Activities/Expenses	Other Requirements
				<p>one year of no tillage within the three-year commitment is permitted);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding is limited to one payment per field per year; and • The threshold for eligibility of tillage practice improvement may be determined by the STIR value in RUSLE2 equation software.

2. MANURE AND LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

BMP Description	Level of Assistance	Eligible Activities/Expenses	Ineligible Activities/Expenses	Other Requirements
<p>2.1 Manure Storage Systems</p> <p>Improvements in manure storage systems can significantly reduce environmental risks related to contamination of surface and groundwater. Manure storage projects will be assessed and funded based on the environmental risk reduction to be achieved through the project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of eligible expenses up to \$25,000 for Solid Storage; • 50% of eligible expenses up to \$50,000 for Liquid Storage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site preparation, construction, and material for manure storage systems; • Engineering design and fees; • Solid manure storage pads with roof or liquid containment; • In-ground or above-ground liquid manure concrete tanks; • Concrete in storages below slotted floors; • Transfer systems (barn to storages or between storages); and • Manure storage covers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floor slats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must demonstrate environmental merit in the improvement of their existing manure storage system and be addressing an issue within the current system; • Applicants must provide a development permit and an engineered plan, completed by a Professional Engineer; • Project must align with standards listed in the latest PEI Manure Management Guidelines; • Project must be designed and completed to the standard provided by the Project Advisor; • Upon project completion, the recipient must submit a Field Review of Construction Declaration from the Professional Engineer responsible for the design; and • Manure systems must be sized to hold a minimum of 270 days of liquid manure production and precipitation; or 60 days of solid manure production with adequate field storage.

2. MANURE AND LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT (cont.)

BMP Description	Level of Assistance	Eligible Activities/Expenses	Ineligible Activities/Expenses	Other Requirements
<p>2.2 Covered Feedlots and Exercise Yards</p> <p>Improvements in the management of manure can significantly reduce environmental risks related to contamination of surface and groundwater. Transitioning cattle to a feedlot with impermeable base and roof reduces concerns related to surface and groundwater contamination from run off or infiltration.</p> <p>Creating a solid base for livestock exercise yards and managing runoff reduces environmental risks. Projects will support the construction of exercise yards adjacent to covered feedlots.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of eligible expenses up to \$25,000 for Covered Feedlots; • 50% of eligible expenses up to \$10,000 for Exercise Yards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site preparation, construction, and material; and • Engineering design and fees. <p>Covered Feedlot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete base below livestock in a feedlot; and • Roof directly above livestock area of feedlot <p>Exercise Yards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete or asphalt base and a minimum 12" perimeter curb or wall of exercise yards adjacent to feedlots; and • Effluent containment facility materials for exercise yards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material for concrete floors for alleys or areas under feed bunks; • Material for roofing over feed bunks or alleys; • Stabling or fencing; • Ventilation systems; • Fencing around perimeter of exercise yard; and • Feeding and watering infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must be addressing an environmental issue with the current system; • Applicants must provide a development permit, unless constructing an impermeable base in an existing structure; • An engineered plan may be required and/or pre-engineered fabricated trusses with construction following the 2020 National Building Code; • Project must be designed and completed to the standard provided by the Project Advisor • Project must align with standards listed in the latest PEI Manure Management Guidelines; • Impermeable base of feedlot must be concrete floors at a minimum of 5 inches thick and use 5-8% air-entrained, 4000 PSI concrete with steel 10M rebar both ways at 24-inch centers; and • Covered feedlots must be sized to hold a minimum of 60 days of solid manure production with suitable additional storage capacity (manure storage or adequate field storage) • Applicants must ensure that livestock are confined to the covered feedlot and exercise yard facility for the duration of the year that they are in a feedlot environment.
<p>2.3 Improved Silage Storage</p> <p>Improved silage storage can reduce environmental risks associated with silage leachate to surface and groundwater and reduce plastic waste from agricultural systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% of eligible expenses up to \$20,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site preparation, construction, and material for bunker or upright silos; • Engineering design and fees; • Concrete or asphalt base and concrete walls for silos or bunkers; • Engineered precast concrete walls; and • Effluent containment facility materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities that aim to improve trafficability at a silage storage site; and • Concrete blocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project must be a change of practice from the current silage storage system and provide an environmental benefit over the practice currently used by the farm or on the properties associated with the farm; • Applicants must provide a development permit; • An engineered plan may be required, completed by a Professional Engineer (for projects with a roof, or poured concrete walls); • Project must be designed and completed to the standard provided by the Project Advisor; • Project must have walls (poured or engineered precast) to contain leachate; • Upon project completion, the recipient must submit a Field Review of Construction Declaration from the Professional Engineer responsible for the design, if applicable; and • Silage storage must be used exclusively for storing silage.

3. AGROFORESTRY

BMP Description	Level of Assistance	Eligible Activities/Expenses	Ineligible Activities/Expenses	Other Requirements
3.1 Innovations in Agroforestry Agroforestry is the strategic integration of trees and shrubs with crop or livestock production to increase sustainability and resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% of eligible expenses up to \$15,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of Eco-buffers, Shelterbelts, Silvopasture, or Willow Buffers; Trees and shrubs for planting Consulting fees; Planting materials; Tree guards; Weed barriers; Livestock exclusion fencing; and Labour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orchards or vineyards; Single species hedgerows; Whole field conversion to forest; and Agroforestry systems in already forested sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must be a Bona Fide farmer; The agroforestry system must be enrolled in the ALUS program upon completion; Project design must be approved by the Project Advisor; and Projects may be redirected to other tree planting programs if appropriate.

4. WATER SUPPLY AND MANAGEMENT

BMP Description	Level of Assistance	Eligible Activities/Expenses	Ineligible Activities/Expenses	Other Requirements
4.1 Alternate Livestock Watering Systems Alternate livestock watering systems provide a reliable source of water for livestock away from traditional sources of water such as streams and wetlands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of eligible expenses up to \$10,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site preparation Watering systems, pumps and devices, including renewable energy powered pump systems; Electrical costs, including the service entrance panel; Power line extension; and Service pole. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must obtain a Buffer Zone Activity Permit if the buffer zone or stream will be disturbed during installation; and Powerline extension is limited to 500 meters from the closest electrical grid and includes installation of single-phase lines and poles.
4.2 Riparian Fencing Riparian fencing provides protection and integrity for stream banks and ensure water quality by preventing livestock from entering the stream.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of eligible expenses up to \$20,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fencing materials; and Labour and equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fencing materials not related to fencing livestock from the stream. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must obtain a Buffer Zone Activity Permit if the buffer zone or stream will be disturbed during installation of fencing; and Applicants must have active pasture with livestock.

4. WATER SUPPLY AND MANAGEMENT (cont.)

BMP Description	Level of Assistance	Eligible Activities/Expenses	Ineligible Activities/Expenses	Other Requirements
4.3 Stream Crossings for Livestock and Farm Machinery Improved stream crossings for livestock and farm machinery prevent stream crossing washouts during extreme weather events and allow for proper fish passage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of eligible expenses up to \$25,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site preparation, construction and materials for stream crossings including culverts and bridge materials; Engineering design and fees; Removal of existing faulty crossing; and Seeding and site stabilization. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must obtain a Buffer Zone Activity Permit if the buffer zone or stream will be disturbed during the project; There must be on-going agricultural activity across the stream with no other suitable access points and the field must have been in production for a minimum of 10 years; Stream crossings may be relocated if approved or recommended by the Department of Environment, Energy, and Climate Action; Recommended erosion control mitigation measures must be followed throughout the construction period; and The project site must be seeded and stabilized immediately after construction.
4.4 Water Use Efficiency and Water Treatment Agriculture water use efficiency projects are intended to improve the efficiency of agricultural water use on the farm, and in warehouse and wash facilities. Improving wash water quality can alleviate water supply issues on farm and managing wastewater from on-farm wash lines prevents untreated wastewater from entering surface water bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of eligible expenses up to \$25,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modification, improvement, and installation of equipment or systems for improved water use efficiency; Improvements to, and installation of, water quality treatment systems to alleviate water quality issues; and Design and construction of agricultural wastewater treatment systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to irrigation equipment or processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project must be designed and completed to the standard provided by the Project Advisor; An engineered plan may be required, completed by a Professional Engineer; and An <i>Environmental Impact Assessment</i> of the project may be required.

4. WATER SUPPLY AND MANAGEMENT (cont.)

BMP Description	Level of Assistance	Eligible Activities/Expenses	Ineligible Activities/Expenses	Other Requirements
4.5 Water Supply and Irrigation Efficiency A consistent, high quality, and reliable water supply with acceptable environmental impacts is important to agricultural production in a changing climate. Use of irrigation efficiency technology can improve water supply and reduce the impact on surface water base flows.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% of eligible expenses up to \$20,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modification, improvement, purchase and installation of drip irrigation equipment for improved water use efficiency; • Emitters for trickle or drip irrigation systems; • Monitoring equipment; • Fertigation equipment; • Backflow prevention; • Purchase and installation of underground pipelines; • New water wells and electric pump installation; • Transition to a well and tank for spray water from surface water; and • Electric motor and pump upgrades. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overhead irrigation equipment (i.e. wheel move structures, traveling reels); • Electrical power transmission, service meter and connection to electrical grids; and • Internal combustion engines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project must be completed to the standard provided by the Project Advisor; • Backflow prevention is required for projects with fertigation; • Pipeline projects require the conveyance of water from a property that has an existing water supply to a property that does not have an existing water supply; and • A Groundwater Exploration Permit may be required for certain well drilling projects.
4.6 Well Water Protection Measures Wells that are well maintained, properly sealed, with runoff diverted, are better protected from contamination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% of eligible expenses up to \$10,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well abandonment and decommissioning; • Earthwork at wellhead to divert runoff; • Fencing or establishing grass at wellhead; • Pitless adaptors; • Upgrades to wellheads to prevent seepage; • Flow control for artesian wells and backflow prevention; and • Casing extensions to elevate a wellhead. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing new wells. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decommissioning of most wells must be performed by a licensed well driller; and • Project must be completed to the standard provided by the Project Advisor.

5. INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

BMP Description	Level of Assistance	Eligible Activities/Expenses	Ineligible Activities/Expenses	Other Requirements
5.1 Pest Monitoring for Data-Based Decisions IPM plans with improved pest monitoring and forecasting through data collection, can provide crop protection while reducing the use of pest control products. Decision-making for the use of pest control products is based on information obtained and records kept through the growing season.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of eligible expenses; • \$2,000 annually up to \$5,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation and implementation of IPM monitoring and forecasting plans; and • Resources and materials required as part of the plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pest control products or application costs; and • Equipment for pest control product application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must submit an IPM plan as described in the application form; and • Upon project completion, applicants must provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Summaries or examples of the IPM strategies implemented as part of the plan; ○ Summaries or examples of the monitoring data sheets identifying the fields, pest data, and monitoring protocol; and ○ Brief summary report outlining the results and value of the process.
5.2 Pest Suppressant Crop at the time of Commercial Crop Pest suppressant crops, for example trap crops, and those that encourage beneficial organisms can assist producers in managing pests, mitigating reductions in quality and yield of crops along with reliance on pest control products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$200 per acre; • \$2,000 annually up to \$5,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acreage planted or established with an approved crop that aims to deter or mitigate the effects of pest damage or enhance the presence of beneficial organisms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acreage enrolled in the ALUS Program; • Acreage under regulated buffer zones; and • Acreage in crops that may become a nuisance or pest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The crop species selected must be approved by the Project Advisor; and • Applicants must submit an IPM plan, including the acreage and type of commercial crop, species of pest suppressant crop to be used, and references providing evidence of the effectiveness of the strategies outlined.
5.3 Invertebrate Biological Control Invertebrate biological control agents (IBCA) can assist in managing pests on-farm in lieu of pest control products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of eligible expenses; • \$2,000 annually up to \$5,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invertebrate biological control agents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bio-pesticides; • Non-conventional pest control products such as insect pheromones or botanical oil extracts; and • Labour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Products must not require further authorization from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for their use; • Applicants must submit an IPM plan, or rationale for why the pest is not monitored; and • Upon project completion, recipients must provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Record of the release dates for the IBCA; and ○ Brief summary report outlining the results and value of the process.
5.4 Anti-insect Barriers The use of physical anti-insect barriers can assist in managing pests while reducing the use of pest control products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of eligible expenses; • \$2,000 annually up to \$5,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of physical anti-insect barriers for use in field production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour for installation; • Greenhouse application of anti-insect barriers; and • Covers solely for frost or temperature control. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must submit the acreage and type of crop species to be covered, and the type of pests to be managed; and • Upon project completion, recipients must provide a brief summary report outlining the results and value of using the barriers.

6. DEMONSTRATION TRIALS

BMP Description	Level of Assistance	Eligible Activities/Expenses	Ineligible Activities/Expenses	Other Requirements
6.1 Agri-Environmental Trials Demonstrations and trials of new Beneficial Management Practices can assist in understanding the benefits and challenges of implementation of the BMP, as well as demonstrate the practice and transfer knowledge within the industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varies by project, up to \$25,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and implementation of field trials or demonstrations of novel BMPs; Per acre funding rate; and Laboratory costs of sample analysis up to \$1,000 per trial, per year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase of machinery or equipment; Trials without environmental benefit (i.e. crop variety testing); and Trials of well-established BMPs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must demonstrate the necessary technical and agronomic support is available for the trial; such as Professional Agrologists, Certified Crop Advisors, etc.; Trials must be completed to the standard indicated by the Project Advisor; Applicants must submit a project proposal describing the project objective, summary of the work, field locations, sampling procedures, and a detailed breakdown of each of the estimated financial costs per acre; Funding rates will be determined by the Program Administrators and based on the complexity and cost of the trial, as well as the risk of crop loss; Trials must include a check plot of the grower's current practice, to be included in the eligible acres under the program; Recipients must submit a final report outlining the results and value of the process; and The trial may be repeated for up to two additional years, if merited and upon re-application and approval.