



Saskatchewan Watersheds Environmental Agriculture Program (SWEAP)

On Farm Climate Action Fund Program

PROGRAM GUIDE

April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

What is the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)?

OFCAF, funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, provides financial support to producers to accelerate the adoption of beneficial management practices (BMPs) that both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and boost production efficiency, resiliency and sustainability on their farms and ranches.

Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW) is delivering OFCAF funding to benefit Saskatchewan producers through the **Saskatchewan Watersheds Environmental Agriculture Program (SWEAP)**. The BMPs that are eligible under SWEAP focus on three categories:

1. Nitrogen Management
2. Cover Cropping
3. Rotational Grazing

ELIGIBILITY

- All producer payments for BMP adoption are considered “farm support payments”, therefore considered as income for the farm business and are subject to Income Tax and will be issued an AGR-1.
- Any project funded through SWEAP cannot be funded by any other OFCAF program.
- Invoices must be dated between February 1, 2025, and March 31, 2028.
- All projects must be endorsed by a licensed agrology professional (a member of a recognized Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists or a Certified Crop Advisor).
- BMPs must be either new to the farming operation or on acres where that BMP has not been implemented prior to 2022.
- Producers must provide at least 15% in-kind to each project.
- Total Rebate across all BMP categories cannot exceed \$100,000 from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2028, from all OFCAF delivery partners.
- Producers work directly with SAW’s Agri-Environmental Coordinators to complete and submit their applications.
- Submission of an application to SWEAP is not a guarantee of funding.



To validate the implementation of SWEAP beneficial management practices, applicants must take GPS and date stamped photographs of the projects. Photo verification is required for the listed BMP to be eligible for funding:

GPS Photo Requirements: See Photo Guidelines for full detail		
Cover Crop	Photo Set 1	1 wide angle & 1 close up photo from each quarter being applied for once crop is established & identifiable
	Photo Set 2	After October 1st 1 wide angle & 1 close up photo from each quarter being applied for to show 6" of vegetative growth/regrowth prior to snow fall
Legumes		1 wide angle & 1 close up photo from each quarter being applied for once crop is established & identifiable
Equipment Upgrade		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 photo of drill & 1 close up photo of drill before upgrade • 1 photo of drill & 1 close up photo of drill after upgrade or photo of new drill
Fencing		Before of proposed fence location and after photos of fence line installed
Virtual Fencing		Before and after photo of base station installation and photo of collars on cattle.
Water System		Before photo water system site and after photo of water system installed
Improving Pasture Composition	Photo Set 1	1 wide angle & 1 close up photo of pasture prior to rejuvenation from each quarter being applied for
	Photo Set 2	1 wide angle & 1 close up once legume in pasture stand is established & identifiable from each quarter being applied for

- All individuals or recognized legal entities including sole proprietorships and partnerships must have a Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) Business Number or Social Insurance Number

OFCAF contributions are considered taxable income by the Canadian Revenue Agency, therefore Ultimate Recipients must provide a valid Canadian Revenue Agency Corporate Income Tax Number (Ex. 123456789RC0001) or a Social Insurance Number (SIN).



SWEAP PROGRAM PROCESS

1. Call SAW at 306-541-9902 or email info@saskwatersheds.ca
2. Project details will be added to the Project Screening List and program requirements are emailed to interested producer
3. Projects are screened
4. An Agri-Environmental Coordinator is assigned to a project and supports the producer through application process

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

For an application to be assessed, applicants must submit:

- Eligibility (applicant, activity, costs, timelines)
- Alignment with OFCAF priorities and objectives
- Estimated number of acres under BMP implementation
- BMP Practice will be assessed and ranked using the highest GHG emissions reductions factors.

Practices ranked highest to lowest:

1. Rotational Grazing
2. Cover Cropping
3. Intercropping
4. Legumes in Rotation
5. Dual Nitrification and Urease Inhibitors
6. Polymer Coated Urea
7. Split Fertilizer Application
8. Soil Mapping
9. Soil Testing
10. Agronomic Services
11. Equipment Upgrades



APPLICATION PHOTO VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Saskatchewan Watersheds Environmental Agriculture Program (SWEAP) requires GPS and date stamped photos as part of the application process. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that required photo documentation is completed for SWEAP applications.

Beneficial Management Practices that Require Photo Verification:

- Cover Crops/Intercrops** – 1 wide angle photo and one close up photo taken of each quarter section after establishment and again at the same location(s) after October 1st to show the vegetative growth/regrowth that will be sustained over the winter months
- Legumes in Rotation** – 1 wide angle and 1 close up photo that clearly shows the crop established taken of each quarter section once the crop has germinated and is easily identifiable
- Equipment Upgrades** –
 - If upgrading existing seeding equipment, then a photo should be taken before and after the work is done
 - If purchasing new seeding equipment, then photos should be taken of the current drill showing the absence of the side dressing, midrow banding, side banding or injection component, as well as photos of the new equipment showing the upgrade. The before photos should show the seed openers to demonstrate that they did not have the ability to band, inject or side dress fertilizer (for example single shoot openers). The after photos should show the seed openers to demonstrate that they have the ability to band, inject or side dress fertilizer (for example mid-row or side banders)
- Fencing and Watering Systems** – before and after photos taken at the same locations to show the implementation of the new infrastructure
- Improving Pasture Composition** – 1 wide angle photo of each quarter section
 - Prior to seeding and again at the same location(s) after the legumes have germinated and are identifiable
 - 1 close up after photo showing the legume seedlings

Free app downloads that can be used to capture this information:



Time Mark



GPS Camera 55 Field Survey (Apple)

* Other apps may be used provided it puts the date and GPS stamp on the photos.

NITROGEN MANAGEMENT BMP DETAILS

Legumes in Rotation

Support for the adoption of new BMP activities that use annual, biennial and perennial legumes crops to improve soil health, to lengthen the crop rotation to reduce disease and pest pressure, and to reduce the need for synthetic nitrogen fertilizer.

Funding:

- **Incorporating annual & biennial legumes into the crop rotation** – up to \$35/acre up to 1000 acres annually to a maximum of \$100,000
- **Incorporating perennial legumes into the crop rotation** – up to \$50/acre up to 1000 acres annually to a maximum of \$100,000

Applicants MUST have GPS Stamped photos taken during the growing season for each quarter section – one wide angle photo and one close angle photo to identify the crop.

ELIGIBLE COSTS	INELIGIBLE COSTS & RESTRICTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs of legume seed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Annual legumes can include crops such as peas, lentils, chickpeas, soybeans or fababeans ◦ Biennial legumes include crops such as clover ◦ Perennial legumes can include crops such as alfalfa, sainfoin, cicer milkvetch or birdsfoot trefoil • If seeded by the applicant, the cost of seeding determined by the current Saskatchewan Custom Rate Guide based on the type and size of equipment used <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custom seeding costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs for legumes on acres where seeding legumes (annual, biennial or perennial) is not new and has been a routine practice used by the farmer on those acres prior to 2022 • Seed purchased prior to February 1, 2025, cannot be used as an eligible cost, however it can be used towards the minimum 15% in-kind contribution from the producer • Seed used from inventory cannot be used as an eligible expense, however it can be used towards the minimum 15% in-kind contribution from the producer • Fertilizer, inoculant, and crop protection costs • Projects without GPS stamped photos taken during the growing season on each quarter



NITROGEN MANAGEMENT BMP DETAILS

Polymer Coated Urea (PCU) & Urease & Nitrification Inhibitors

Support for the adoption of new BMP activities that use enhanced efficiency fertilizer products to improve nitrogen use efficiency and reduce losses to the environment through volatilization, leaching and denitrification.

Funding:

- **Polymer Coated Urea** – 85% of the cost difference between the PCU and regular nitrogen fertilizer up to \$25,000 annually, to a maximum of \$100,000
- **Urease & Nitrification Inhibitors** – 85% of the costs up to \$25,000 annually, to a maximum of \$100,000

ELIGIBLE COSTS	INELIGIBLE COSTS & RESTRICTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Polymer Coated Urea such as ESN• Dual Inhibitors – see fact sheet for list of eligible products or contact SAW to confirm product eligibility• A nitrification and a urease inhibitor used together – contact SAW to confirm product eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applying both polymer-coated urea and dual inhibitors on the same land is not an eligible expense• Acres where nitrogen stabilizers or PCUs have been used prior to 2022• Biological or microbial fertilizer options• Urease inhibitors when not combined with a nitrification inhibitor• Nitrification inhibitor when not combined with a urease inhibitor• For blended inhibitor products (for example, SuperU), only the cost of the inhibitor product is eligible. A quote for the inhibitor portion of the blend must be identified on the invoice OR submitted by the retailer for that date of purchase• For polymer-coated urea projects, the cost or quote for regular nitrogen fertilizer must be identified on the invoice OR submitted by the retailer. This price should be for the same date as the PCU purchase



NITROGEN MANAGEMENT BMP DETAILS

Equipment Upgrades

Support for the adoption of new BMP activities to upgrade the fertilizer delivery system on the seeding equipment to allow for banding, side dressing or injection to improve fertilizer use efficiency.

Funding:

- **Equipment Upgrades** – Up to \$200/foot of seeding equipment for upgrades to allow for banding, side dressing or injection of fertilizer to a maximum of \$30,000

Applicants MUST have GPS Stamped photos taken before and after of equipment upgrades.

ELIGIBLE COSTS	INELIGIBLE COSTS & RESTRICTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parts and labor costs to upgrade owned seeding equipment to allow for mid-row or side banding, side dressing or injection of fertilizer• If purchasing new or used equipment with an upgrade from the currently owned drill, a quote is required from an equipment dealer outlining the cost of the upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equipment repairs• Variable rate technology/sectional control• If purchasing used equipment, the rebate will not exceed 10% of the purchase price of the seeder• Equipment upgrade projects without before and after photos provided with the application• Application must also include the related BMP implementation that will be made possible with the equipment purchase• Accompanying OFCAF funded BMP OR historical nitrogen use information will be required• Equipment upgrade project applications involving leased equipment



NITROGEN MANAGEMENT BMP DETAILS

Split Fertilizer Application

Support for the adoption of new BMP activities to split fertilizer application to better match nutrient availability with crop uptake during the growing season. Initial fertilizer application must be at the time of seeding and the second fertilizer application must be in crop.

Funding:

- **Split Fertilizer Application** – 85% of the equipment and labor costs for the in-crop application up to \$25,000 annually, to a maximum of \$100,000

ELIGIBLE COSTS	INELIGIBLE COSTS & RESTRICTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Labor and equipment costs associated with the second pass of fertilizer completed after crop establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Historical nitrogen use information will be required• Costs for split fertilizer application projects on land where this is not a new practice as of 2022• The amount of Nitrogen applied in the Split Fertilizer Application cannot exceed what was applied in the prior years.• Fall fertilizer application is ineligible under the Split Fertilizer Application activity• Spring fertilizer application before seeding is ineligible under the Split Fertilizer Application activity• Costs related to the management of nutrients other than nitrogen• Costs of the fertilizer itself for split fertilizer application. If an eligible inhibitor product was used as a new practice, the inhibitor could be a separate application to SWEAP



NITROGEN MANAGEMENT BMP DETAILS

Soil Testing, Soil Mapping and Agronomic Services

Support for the adoption of new BMP activities to gain a better understanding of the available soil nutrients to make key decisions based on the 4 R's of nutrient management (right form, right rate, right time and right place). Optimizing nutrient management can lead to improved crop yield and quality, reduced fertilizer costs, improved soil health and reduced impacts to the environment.

Funding:

- **Agronomic Services** – 50% of the costs to a maximum of \$10,000
- **Soil Testing and Soil Mapping** – 50% of the costs, (the total rebate for soil testing and soil mapping cannot exceed \$20,000 combined)
- **Funding caps include all prior OFCAF Funding from 2022-2025**

ELIGIBLE COSTS	INELIGIBLE COSTS & RESTRICTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil testing costs, including lab fees for single depth sampling • Soil mapping costs • Costs to prepare a nitrogen management plan or fertilizer prescriptions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs for acres where soil testing, soil mapping or agronomic services is not new and has been a routine practice used on those acres prior to 2022 • Agronomic services costs do not include crop scouting • Changing sampling depths is not considered to be a new practice • Costs related to nutrients other than nitrogen are not eligible • A copy of the soil test results, soil maps and/or nitrogen management plan must accompany the application • For soil testing and soil mapping projects, if the producer has not applied for another OFCAF funded practice on those acres, additional information is required to quantify the GHG impact of the reduction in nitrogen use on-farm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Historical application rate of N fertilizer on the acres in question ◦ New application rate of N fertilizer on the acres in question (post soil test/soil map) • Many companies and agronomy consultants offer comprehensive soil testing, mapping and planning services. A cost breakdown per activity is required

COVER CROPPING & INTERCROPPING

Cover Cropping

Support for the adoption of new BMP activities that use regionally appropriate spring or fall planted cover crop species to provide soil cover, to maintain a living root into the winter, **sustain a minimum of 6” of vegetative growth** through the winter to reduce soil erosion and to improve soil health and structure.

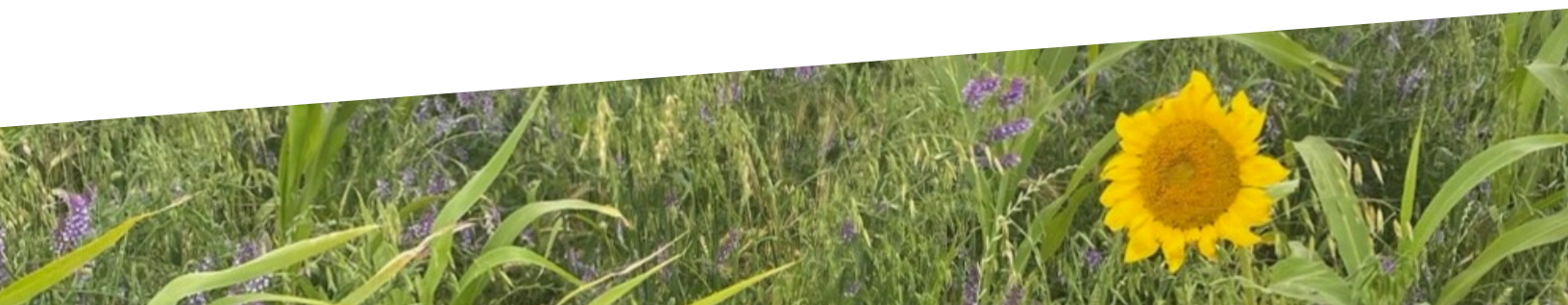
Funding:

- **Cover Cropping** – up to \$50/acre, to a maximum of \$100,000

Applicants MUST have two sets of GPS Stamped photos for each quarter section

1. **Taken during the growing season -on each field one wide angle photo and one close angle photo to identify the crop prior to harvest.**
2. **Taken after Oct 1 to demonstrate 6 inches of regrowth- one wide angle photo and one close angle photo to identify the crop.**

ELIGIBLE COSTS	INELIGIBLE COSTS & RESTRICTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible cover cropping projects can include regionally appropriate fall planted cover crops as well as spring planted cover crops under seeded with the main crop (Intercropping) and full season annual cover crops in a rotation. • If seeded by the applicant, the cost of seeding determined by the current Saskatchewan Custom Rate Guide for the type and size of seeding equipment used. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custom seeding costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs for cover crops where growing and leaving cover crops undisturbed over-winter is not new and has been a routine practice used by the farmer • Costs related to mechanical or chemical termination of the cover crop • Crops that will be harvested or grazed leaving less than 6 inches (15cm) of cover crop growth over winter • Crops that can be harvested in the next growing season intended for market (e.g. winter cereals) • Perennial species • Fertilizer and crop protection costs, including biological products and inoculants • Costs related to rejuvenation of existing forages, pastures or hay land • Projects without GPS stamped photos taken during the growing season on each quarter and again after October 1 showing the regrowth to be sustained over winter



COVER CROPPING & INTERCROPPING

Intercropping

Support for the adoption of new BMP activities that use intercropping crop species approved on a case-by-case basis to provide soil cover, to maintain a living root into the winter, **sustain a minimum of 6 inches of vegetative growth** through the winter to reduce soil erosion and to improve soil health and structure.

Funding:

- **Intercropping** – up to \$50/acre, to a maximum of \$100,000

Applicants **MUST** have two sets of GPS Stamped photos for each quarter section

1. **Taken during the growing season -on each field one wide angle photo and one close angle photo to identify the crop prior to harvest**
2. **Taken after Oct 1 to demonstrate 6 inches of regrowth- one wide angle photo and one close angle photo to identify the crop.**

ELIGIBLE COSTS	INELIGIBLE COSTS & RESTRICTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible intercropping projects can include regionally appropriate crops under seeded with the main crop (Intercropping) • If seeded by the applicant, the cost of seeding is determined by the current Saskatchewan Custom Rate Guide for the type and size of seeding equipment used <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custom seeding costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs for Intercrops where growing is not new practice and has been a routine practice used by the farmer • Costs related to mechanical or chemical termination of the intercrop • Crops that will be harvested or grazed leaving less than 6 inches (15cm) of intercropping growth over winter • Crops that can be harvested in the next growing season are intended for market (e.g. winter cereals) • Perennial species • Fertilizer and crop protection costs, including biological products and inoculants • Costs related to rejuvenation of existing forages, pastures or hay land • Projects without GPS stamped photos taken during the growing season on each quarter and again after October 1 showing the regrowth to be sustained over winter



ROTATIONAL GRAZING

Fencing Infrastructure

Support for the adoption of new rotational grazing strategies to improve forage quality, increase resilience to climate variability and improve soil health.

Funding:

- **Cross fencing and perimeter fencing to support the Rotation Grazing Plan** – up to \$10/impacted acre up to \$30,000. Funding for fencing and watering systems cannot exceed \$30,000 combined
- **Virtual Fencing** – up to \$10/impacted acre up to \$30,000. Funding for fencing and watering systems cannot exceed \$30,000 combined

Applicants MUST have GPS Stamped photos of before and after photos of fencing

ELIGIBLE COSTS	INELIGIBLE COSTS & RESTRICTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cost of fencing materials to support the grazing management plan. This may include cross fencing, wildlife friendly fencing, temporary and perimeter fencing• Cost of virtual fencing materials (base station and collars) to support a rotational grazing plan• Cost of remote watering systems to support the grazing management plan which must be powered by a renewable energy source• Custom fencing costs – if the producer did the work themselves, the labor and equipment costs are based on the current Saskatchewan Custom Rate Guide• Fencing and watering systems projects require the submission of a rotational grazing plan. SAW has Grazing Specialists available to develop the grazing plan at no charge to the producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued implementation of a practice that occurred prior to February 7, 2022, on the same acres• Costs for perimeter fencing are not eligible unless the need for it is clearly demonstrated in the Rotational Grazing Plan• Removal and replacement of old or existing fences• Leased materials are ineligible• Labour to install collars• Used fencing and watering system materials• Texas gates & portable corral panels• Projects without GPS stamped photos taken before and after project completion• Non-profit organizations are not eligible to apply



ROTATIONAL GRAZING

Water Systems

Support for the adoption of new rotational grazing strategies to improve forage quality, increase resilience to climate variability and improve soil health.

Funding:

- **Watering Systems to support the Rotational Grazing Plan** – up to \$30,000 to a maximum of \$7500 per system. Funding for fencing and watering systems cannot exceed \$30,000 combined

Applicants MUST have GPS Stamped photos before and after photos of water system installation

ELIGIBLE COSTS	INELIGIBLE COSTS & RESTRICTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cost of remote watering systems to support the grazing management plan which must be powered by a renewable energy source• Costs to install the remote watering systems - if the producer did the work themselves, the labor and equipment costs are based on the current Saskatchewan Custom Rate Guide• Fencing and watering systems projects require the submission of a rotational grazing plan. SAW has Grazing Specialists available to develop the grazing plan at no charge to the producer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Watering systems eligible for funding through the Ministry of Agriculture Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure Program are not eligible under SWEAP• Continued implementation of a practice that occurred prior to February 7, 2022, on the same acres• Generators to power remote watering systems or other non-renewable power sources• Costs for water source development• Projects without GPS stamped photos taken before and after project completion• Non-profit organizations are not eligible to apply



ROTATIONAL GRAZING

Improving Pasture Composition

Support for the adoption of new rotational grazing strategies to improve forage quality, increase resilience to climate variability and improve soil health.

Funding:

- **Improving Pasture Composition by seeding legumes (alfalfa, sainfoin, clovers, etc)** – up to \$50/acre, to a maximum of \$100,000

Applicants MUST have two sets of GPS Stamped photos for each quarter section

1. **Taken during the growing season -on each field one wide angle photo and one close angle photo to identify the crop prior to seeding**
2. **Taken after establishment, one wide angle photo and one close angle photo to identify the legume establishment.**

ELIGIBLE COSTS	INELIGIBLE COSTS & RESTRICTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seed costs for the legume (sainfoin, alfalfa, clover, etc)• Seeding costs – if the producer seeded the crop, the cost of seeding would be determined by custom seeding rates in the current Saskatchewan Custom Rate Guide based on the type and size of seeding equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued implementation of a practice that occurred prior to February 7, 2022, on the same acres• Seed, materials and supplies purchased prior to February 1, 2025, are not eligible for funding, however these may be considered as part of the in-kind contribution to the project• Seed from inventory may be used towards the minimum 15% in-kind contribution• Projects without GPS stamped photos taken before and after project completion• Non-profit organizations are not eligible to apply





SAW

**Saskatchewan
Association
of Watersheds**



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