

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of the Alberta Irrigation Efficiency Program is to assist Alberta's agricultural producers with the purchase of energy-efficient, low pressure centre pivot irrigation (LPCP) equipment, or to upgrade existing high-pressure centre pivot irrigation equipment to LPCP irrigation equipment to increase energy efficiency.

2.0 Definitions

2.1 In these Program Conditions, the following terms have the following meanings:

LPCP Equipment: means equipment for an LPCP System (e.g. drop tubes, pressure regulators, filters, sprinkler heads and nozzles), **but does not include motors to drive pumps;**

LPCP Pump Modifications: means end gun booster pumps or trimmed impellers (and directly attached fittings for either) that are installed to make an existing pump compatible with LPCP Equipment;

LPCP System: means a low pressure centre pivot irrigation system;

Eligible Cost: means a cost that qualifies for payment from the Program, as defined in section 3.2;

Minister: means the Minister of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) and his authorized representative(s).

3.0 Eligibility

3.1 To be eligible to apply, an applicant must own an irrigated agricultural operation in Alberta, and must not have already been confirmed as being eligible for the Program, or approved for payment from the Program.

3.2 The Eligible Costs for the Program are the costs for any of the following:

- A One or more pieces of LPCP Equipment purchased by the applicant and installed at the applicant's operation as part of a new LPCP System or an upgrade to an LPCP System; plus costs of design and installation;
- B One or more LPCP Pump Modifications purchased by the applicant and installed at the applicant's operation as part of an upgrade to an LPCP System; plus costs of installation;
- C A pivot control panel upgrade (including base stations for telemetry) purchased by the applicant and installed at the applicant's operation, plus costs of installation.

Equipment must be **new** and purchased from a licensed irrigation supply dealer, and any installation may only be done by a licensed service provider. The cost of delivery and GST are not eligible. The eligible equipment must have been purchased by the applicant after April 1, 2008. (Note that applicants are required to install the equipment within six months after submitting the application.)

3.3 No cost is eligible for this Program if it has been funded (or approved for funding) by a federal program (e.g. Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA)) or a provincial program.

3.4 As funding for the Program is limited to \$200,000 per fiscal year for three years (2008/09, 2009/10, and 2010/11), not all eligible applications will be accepted. **Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.**

4.0 Applications

4.1 The final deadline for applications to the Program is March 15, 2011. However, as funding is limited to \$200,000 per fiscal year, applicants should apply early.

To be eligible for payment from Program Year 1 (2008/09), applications must be received by March 27, 2009.

To be eligible for payment from Program Year 2 (2009/10), applications must be received by March 15, 2010.

To be eligible for payment from Program Year 3 (2010/11), applications must be received by March 15, 2011.

If an application is received within the deadline above but after funds for that Program Year have been allocated, the application will be considered for the following Program Year, subject to availability of program funding.

4.2 An application must include (a) a completed Application Form; (b) invoice for the Eligible Costs, showing a list of items and total cost; (c) proof of payment by the applicant of at least 20% of the total invoice; (d) any supplementary documentation requested by ARD.

4.3 Applications must be delivered to: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, **Irrigation and Farm Water Division, Attention: Alberta Irrigation Efficiency Program**, 306 JG O'Donoghue Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, AB T6H 5T6.

4.3 ARD may reject any application that is inaccurate or incomplete.

4.4 No applicant may add additional claims for Eligible Costs after an application has been submitted.

4.5 ARD shall contact applicants within 30 days of receipt of the application to inform them whether they are eligible for the Program. Applicants may not receive approvals until as late as March 15, 2011.



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5.0 Other obligations

5.1 An applicant that has received funding from the Program must have the eligible equipment installed and operational at the applicant's operations within six months after the date of application. Failure to meet this obligation will entitle the Minister to obtain a refund from the applicant in accordance with section 8.

6.0 Verification

6.1 The applicant agrees to provide such other information and records, and access to their farming or business operation, as the Minister may require to verify the applicant's eligibility for payment from the Program or to verify information provided in an application. For example, the Minister may require farm or other business or professional records, books of account, and income tax returns.

7.0 Program Payments

7.1 The Minister shall pay a grant to an eligible applicant to reimburse it for Eligible Costs. The maximum payment per applicant is 40% of the Eligible Costs, to a maximum of \$4,000.

7.2 No applicant shall be eligible or approved for more than one payment from the Program over the term of the Program.

7.3 Applicants may not assign or defer any payment under this Program.

8.0 Refunds

8.1 If, after making payment under the Program, the Minister determines that (1) an applicant is not eligible under this Program; (2) a cost is not an Eligible Cost; (3) an applicant has contravened any of these Program Conditions; (4) the applicant received any payment under the Program not in accordance with the Program Conditions; then the Minister shall notify the applicant in writing. The applicant must refund to the Minister of Finance (Alberta) any payments demanded by the Minister. Payment is due within 30 days of the date of the notice. Failure to make repayments creates a debt owing to the Crown in Right of Alberta that can be set off against any money the Crown or a Crown agent owes to the Applicant.

9.0 False or Misleading Information

9.1 No applicant shall provide false or misleading information under the Program. Any applicant that provides false or misleading information shall forgo all rights to benefits from the Program.

10.0 Ministerial Discretion

10.1 The Minister has the absolute discretion to determine the acceptability of any application or a claim for an Eligible Cost. The decisions of the Minister are final.

11.0 Debts to Government or Third Parties

11.1 The Minister may deduct from the applicant's entitlement under the Program any amount due and owing to the Province of Alberta or agents of the Province of Alberta.

12.0 Changes to the Program or Program Conditions

12.1 The Minister may change or terminate the Program, or revise the Program Conditions, without notice from time to time. An application received after the Program Conditions are revised shall be administered according to the conditions applicable as of the date that the application is received.

13.0 Grant Regulation

13.1 Payments under this Program are grants subject to the *Agriculture and Rural Development Grant Regulation*. The applicant acknowledges that, in addition to complying with these Program Conditions, the applicant must comply with the *Agriculture and Rural Development Grant Regulation*.

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