

# Frequently Asked Questions on the Growing Forward 2 On-Farm Stewardship Program

## What is the On-Farm Stewardship Program?

The On-Farm Stewardship Program is designed to support the implementation of beneficial management practices (BMPs) that reduce the risk of agricultural contaminants entering surface and ground water supplies. Funded by *Growing Forward 2 (GF2)*, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative, the Program provides financial support to active producers for the implementation of approved projects that minimize impacts on water supply and quality.

The flood has raised producer awareness of many management strategies being promoted through the Stewardship Programs, including riparian grazing management and properly locating winter livestock feeding areas. Please see below to view eligible projects.

### ***PROGRAM MAXIMUM: \$50,000***

Activity Code	Project	Cost Share	PROJECT Maximum
<b>Category A: Grazing Management</b>			
101	Riparian Area Fencing and Management	70% govt. funding	\$50,000
102	Year-Round/Summer Watering Systems	50%	\$30,000
103	Portable Shelters and Windbreaks	50%	\$10,000
104	Wetland Restoration	70% govt. funding	\$50,000
<b>Category B: Manure Management</b>			
201	Improved Manure Storage Facilities	50%	\$50,000
202	Livestock Facility Runoff Control	50%	\$50,000
203	Livestock Facility and Permanent Wintering Site Relocation	50%	\$50,000
<b>Category C: Improved Pesticide Management</b>			
301	Improved Pesticide Management	50%	\$10,000
<b>Category D: Fuel and Used Oil Storage</b>			
302	Fuel Storage	30% govt. funding	\$3,000
303	Used Oil Storage	50%	\$2,000
<b>Category E: Innovative Stewardship Solutions</b> (cost share and funding maximum determined on a case-by-case basis)			

## How do I know what program I should apply to for funding; the Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) or *Growing Forward 2*?

- If you are replacing infrastructure that was damaged or destroyed in the flood, contact the Disaster Recovery Program first.
- If you wish to *proactively* address the risk to water quality or control the severity/frequency of possible future flood damage to your operation, contact the *GF2* Program.

## Am I eligible to apply for funding?

You are eligible to complete and submit a program application to the On-Farm Stewardship Program if you:

- Are an active producer operating in Alberta and;
- Have received an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) certificate or letter of completion from Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD), and have the certificate or letter in your possession. **You will need to submit this with your program application.**
- If your livestock facility is considered a Confined Feeding Operation, you are not eligible for Category B: Manure & Livestock Facilities Management under the GF2 On-Farm Stewardship Program. Please refer to the GF2 Confined Feeding Operations Stewardship Program.

**Who can I contact if I need help completing an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) or a Program Application?**

- Call Diana Bingham, On-Farm Stewardship Coordinator, at 780-632-5487. You will be provided with contact information for an available support staff person in your local area.

**How can I apply for funding?**

- Complete a program application for the program area that fits their operation type and their proposed project.
- Application forms are available on the Alberta GF2 website or by contacting the Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276).

**Can I fax or email my application in?**

- No, faxes and email will not be accepted, unless authorized by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- Submit directly to the On-Farm Stewardship Program, c/o Deb Sutton #206, 7000-113 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T6H 5T6.

**Can I apply for funding under more than one project category or activity code?**

- Producers can apply for more than one eligible project to a max funding of \$50,000 per applicant.
- The applicant must complete all applicable sections in the appropriate application form, submit an aerial photo or sketch for each project and complete a project budget for each project.

**Do I have to get approval for my project before I can start working on it?**

- The application must be received by the GF2 On-Farm Stewardship Program before any purchases can be made.
- Notification of application received and approval will be given in the form of a letter.

**How long do I have to complete my project?**

- Two years from the date on the approval letter or the end of GF2 (March 31, 2018), whichever comes first.

**Will a site inspection take place once I have completed my project?**

- Funded projects will be picked at random to be inspected by ARD to ensure completeness, and to determine whether they are meeting your environmental objectives set out in your application and in the Program Terms and Conditions.
- The Wetland Restoration and Livestock Facility and Permanent Wintering Site Relocation projects require a site inspection prior to construction taking place.

**Can I complete a project on public grazing land, Provincial or Federal leased land?**

Yes, an individual producer can complete a project on land other than their own, however...

- proper permission or authorization by the legal landowner must be obtained;
- a program application must be completed and approved, and
- all responsibility for the project including all costs incurred to complete the project must be assumed by the applicant.

