

Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) 2023-2028 Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) Funding List

Version 1 June 2023

The Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program’s (RALP) objective is to increase the environmental resiliency of agricultural landscapes by accelerating adoption of beneficial management practices (BMPs) that maximize provision of Ecological Goods & Services (EG&S), particularly increased carbon sequestration and enhanced climate resilience. There are some BMPs that provide significant natural value but offer limited private benefits for producers or have prohibitive costs. To address this, funding is offered on a per-acre payment basis for a term of three years. In this way, RALP can better support producers in their ability to implement projects on their land that over time can provide significant benefits for the producer, the public and future generations.

Table 1 lists the types of BMP projects that are eligible for Program funding (“**Eligible BMP Activity**”). To qualify, the applicant’s BMP project must match the descriptions in **Table 2**, and meet the “Minimum Requirements” (if any) for that project type. The applicant has the option to adopt one or more of the “Allowable Enhancements” for that project type. **Table 3** lists the BMP cost maximums.

The Program will pay a per-acre fee that is calculated to cover the applicant’s implementation cost, and may also pay an opportunity cost. Additionally, applications will be evaluated based on project size, carbon sequestration improvement, number of livestock impacted, and water quality & biodiversity enhancement, which may result in an **impact adjustment** up to 15% added to the total payment per-acre fee.

The program funding maximum is **\$150,000** for active primary producers and **\$300,000** for grazing associations, community pastures, and approved Indigenous applicants. The minimum payment under the Program is **\$2,000**.

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a continuous basis within the intake period of each year.

Please note: Successful applicants must complete and implement their Eligible BMP Activity within the first year, i.e., if applying in Year 1, the applicant’s BMP must be put into practice by November 30, 2023.

Applications are only **retroactive** to the start date of each intake cycle year. Project must be established within the term of each intake cycle dates. Applications cannot be received for future years outside the intake cycle date.

Intake Cycle Schedule (retroactive to the start of the intake year):

Year 1 April 3, 2023 – November 30, 2023

Year 2 February 1, 2024 – November 30, 2024

Year 3 February 1, 2025 – November 30, 2025

Wetland Intake Cycle Schedule (retroactive to the start of the intake year):

Year 1 Intake cycle April 3, 2023 – January 31, 2024

Year 2 Intake cycle February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025

Year 3 Intake cycle February 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026

Table 1. RALP Eligible BMP Projects

Funding Category	Eligible BMP Activity
Pasture Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity Code 100 Riparian area management • Activity Code 101 Rotational grazing of tame pasture or native rangeland • Activity Code 102 Adding legumes to existing forage stands • Activity Code 103 Targeted grazing for invasive plants
Cropland Conversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity Code 200 Annual cropland conversion to native forages • Activity Code 201 Annual cropland conversion to tame forages • Activity Code 202 Strips/ Grass waterways/ Salinity • Activity Code 203 Intercropping
Tree Establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity Code 300 Shelterbelts • Activity Code 301 Eco-buffers • Activity Code 302 Establishment of pollinator strips
Wetland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity Code 400 Wetland restoration and Activity Code 401 Construction of new wetlands

Table 2. RALP BMP Project Descriptions

Implementation Costs are the BMP project costs that are eligible for Program funding. The Program will contribute to the cost of the items/activities listed in column 2 of Table 2. Some items/activities have a set cost maximum (see Table 3 “BMP cost maximum table” at Appendix A.)

Minimum Requirements are the items/activities that a BMP project must include in order to be eligible for funding.

Allowable Enhancements are project elements that may make a BMP more effective. They are eligible for funding if the applicant chooses to include them in their BMP project. They are optional.

Cost Determination is the formula for the payment that the Program will pay for an Eligible BMP Activity. It is a combination of Implementation Costs, Opportunity cost (if applicable) and Impact adjustment (if applicable; see Table 3 at Appendix A).

Opportunity Cost are the Program’s estimate of the profit that an applicant foregoes by implementing a practice change.

Please note: the Wetland category has a flat fee per acre.

Pasture Management	Implementation Costs
<p>Riparian area management</p> <p>Riparian area fencing and management helps to limit livestock access to environmentally sensitive areas on farms and ranches. A riparian area is the green zone around rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands, and is a transition zone or interface between upland and aquatic ecosystems. Managing livestock around riparian areas provides protection for aquatic life, riparian vegetation, wildlife habitat and water quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riparian area management plan must show incremental improvement over current management <p>New water developments, i.e., new wells, spring development, dugouts as well as water lines and waterers connected to them will not be covered. For this funding see the Water Program.</p>	<p>Minimum Requirement - your project must include any one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fencing for controlled access or exclusion as part of a riparian area fencing and management project Purchase and planting of native trees and shrubs and/or non-invasive introduced species of grass and legumes Seed and seeding operation Off-site watering system if being used to restrict livestock access to riparian areas. May include portable watering systems, stock tanks, pumping systems, plumbing materials, power sources (solar panels), and alert systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Material for surface, shallow or deeply buried pipelines if used to distribute water within a pasture and/or protect a water source. Accredited technical (Professional Agrologist-P.Ag or Certified Crop Advisor-CCA) support to develop management plans Watercourse crossing <p>Allowable Enhancements</p> <p>Any items listed above</p>
<p>Riparian area management: <i>Cost determination: Implementation Costs + Impact Adjustment</i></p>	
<p>Pursuant to The Water Act, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA) must be notified for any projects that involve the placement, construction, maintenance, replacement or removal of a watercourse crossing to ensure compliance with the Water Act’s Code of Practice. The Code of Practice for Watercourse Crossings can be found here (http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/codes/CROSSING.PDF). Please call the Regulatory Approval Centre at 780-427-6311 for more information.</p>	
<p>Rotational grazing of tame pasture or native rangeland</p> <p>Emphasis on the four rotational grazing principles: balance forage supply and livestock demand; distribute grazing pressure across the pasture; provide rest for pasture plants during the growing season to help plants recover; and avoid grazing during sensitive times.</p>	<p>Minimum requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross-fencing for controlled access as part of a rotational grazing management project <p>Allowable Enhancements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-site watering systems. May include portable watering systems, stock tanks, pumping systems, plumbing materials, power sources (solar panels), and alert systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Material for surface, shallow or deeply buried pipelines if used to distribute water within a pasture and/or protect a water source.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotational grazing plan must show incremental improvement over current management • Pasture must be divided into cells or paddocks for managed grazing (allowing rest and recover) • Plan should also include protection of riparian areas and or water sources, and • Management schedule that includes monitoring of forage health. <p>New water developments, i.e., new wells, spring development, dugouts as well as water lines and waterers connected to them will not be covered. For this funding see the Water Program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accredited technical (Professional Agrologist-P.Ag or Certified Crop Advisor-CCA) support to develop management plans • Watercourse Crossing
<p>Rotational grazing: <i>Cost determination: Implementation Costs + Impact Adjustment</i></p>	
<p>Pursuant to The Water Act, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA) must be notified for any projects that involve the placement, construction, maintenance, replacement or removal of a watercourse crossing to ensure compliance with the Water Act's Code of Practice. The Code of Practice for Watercourse Crossings can be found here (http://www.gp.alberta.ca/documents/codes/CROSSING.PDF). Please call the Regulatory Approval Centre at 780-427-6311 for more information.</p>	
<p>Adding legumes to existing tame forage stands</p> <p>Addition of alfalfa or other perennial legumes into established tame pasture and hay fields, for example through drilling, broadcasting, or mixing in with mineral application. Introducing legumes into forage stands can improve forage quality and digestibility, as well as reduce the need for nitrogen fertilizer.</p>	<p>Minimum requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legume seed • Seeding costs if rejuvenating a pasture <p>Allowable Enhancements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accredited technical (Professional Agrologist-P.Ag or Certified Crop Advisor-CCA) support to develop management plans • Inoculant
<p>Adding legumes to existing forage stands: <i>Cost determination: Implementation Costs + Impact Adjustment</i></p>	
<p>Targeted grazing for invasive plants</p> <p>Controlling invasive weeds, shrubs, and trees with livestock grazing.</p> <p>Animals grazing on undesirable pasture plants by nature and/or by management and training limit, or eliminate herbicide use and increase pasture productivity.</p> <p>Grazing plans should include a detailed map of the site. The plan should also include a prescription for grazing that includes the stocking rate (number of animals per unit area), grazing frequency and animal movement (rotation) that will obtain the desired vegetation management</p>	<p>Minimum Requirement - your project must include any one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing service fees for contracting a targeted grazer to manage qualifying noxious/invasive weed infestations. • Fencing may include cross fencing and permanent fencing • Off-site watering systems, may include portable watering systems, stock tanks, pumping systems, plumbing materials, power sources (solar panels), and alert systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Material for surface, shallow or deeply buried pipelines if used to distribute water within a pasture and/or protect a water source. • Accredited technical (Professional Agrologist-P.Ag or Certified Crop Advisor-CCA) support to develop management plans <p><i>Please note: if you own your own livestock for targeted grazing you cannot apply for grazing fees.</i></p> <p>Allowable Enhancements</p>

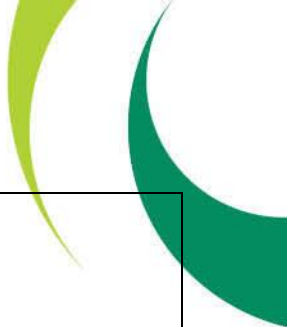
<p>goals. Inclusion of information about access to water is also important.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted grazing plan must show incremental improvement over current management <p>Noxious weeds include those that are provincially regulated (https://www.alberta.ca/provincially-regulated-weeds.aspx) or those classified as noxious in local municipal bylaws.</p>	<p>Any items listed above</p>
<p>Targeted grazing for invasive plants: <i>Cost determination: Implementation Costs + Impact Adjustment</i></p>	
<p>Cropland Conversion</p>	<p>Implementation Costs</p>
<p>Annual cropland conversion to native forages</p> <p>Annual cropland conversion to tame forages</p> <p>Reduces inputs such as fertilizer and fuel in areas of marginal return, reduces erosion and increases soil carbon. Additional support if converting to native forages, to allow for the increased cost and risk associated with establishment.</p> <p>New water developments, i.e., new wells, spring development, dugouts as well as water lines and waterers connected to them will not be covered. For this funding see the Water Program.</p>	<p>Minimum requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forage seed (tame or native) Seeding costs <p>Allowable Enhancements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perimeter fencing Inoculant Ag Lime or equivalent Soil testing (required if you are requesting funding for Ag Lime or equivalent) Off-site watering systems. May include portable watering systems, stock tanks, pumping systems, plumbing materials, power sources (solar panels), and alert systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Material for surface, shallow or deeply buried pipelines if used to distribute water within a pasture and/or protect a water source. Accredited technical (Professional Agrologist-P.Ag or Certified Crop Advisor-CCA) support to develop management plans
<p>Annual cropland conversion to native forages: <i>Cost determination: Implementation Costs + \$200 Opportunity Cost + Impact Adjustment</i></p>	
<p>Annual cropland conversion to tame forages: <i>Cost determination: Implementation Costs + Impact Adjustment</i></p>	
<p>Strips/ Grass waterways/ Salinity</p> <p>Establishment of perennial forages in water runs, saline areas, or saline recharge zones. Protects against erosion, increases productivity or reduces size of saline areas, increases soil carbon.</p>	<p>Minimum Requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forage Seed (tame or native) Seeding costs <p>Allowable Enhancements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ag Lime or equivalent Soil testing (required if you are requesting funding for Ag Lime or equivalent) Inoculant Accredited technical (Professional Agrologist-P.Ag or Certified Crop Advisor-CCA) support to develop management plans
<p>Strips/ Grass waterways/ Salinity:</p>	

Cost determination: Implementation Costs + \$200 Opportunity cost + Impact Adjustment

<p>Intercropping</p> <p>Includes increasing new soil-building crops into rotations and increasing legumes in rotations. Reduces nitrogen use and increases soil health.</p> <p><i>Note that the practice has to be carried on for three years. Can be on different fields if the acres are significant every year</i></p> <p>Scenario 1 Intercropping: interplanting two annual crops at the same time (must include one pulse). Both crops must be harvested (seed or forage).</p> <p>Scenario 2 Cover Crop Cocktail: three or more annual crops planted together (must include one legume or pulse).</p> <p>*If you are using a commercial blend, note the name and supplier of the brand and percentage and seed type of pulse/legume/annual crop seed, and percentage of cereal/oilseed if it is included in the blend.</p> <p>New water developments, i.e., new wells, spring development, dugouts as well as water lines and waterers connected to them will not be covered. For this funding see the Water Program.</p>	<p>Minimum Requirements</p> <p>Intercropping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulse seed (purchased or owned) cereal or oilseed crops are ineligible expenses • Seeding costs <p>Cover crop cocktail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulse or Legume • Other annual crop seed that are not cereal or oilseed • *Commercial cover crop cocktail that includes pulse and/or legume • Seeding costs <p>Allowable Enhancements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-site watering systems. May include portable watering systems, stock tanks, pumping systems, plumbing materials, power sources (solar panels), and alert systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Material for surface, shallow or deeply buried pipelines if used to distribute water within a pasture and/or protect a water source. • Perimeter fencing • Inoculant • Accredited technical (Professional Agrologist-P.Ag or Certified Crop Advisor -CCA) support to develop management plans
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Intercropping:
Cost determination: Implementation Costs + Impact Adjustment

Tree Establishment	Implementation Costs
<p>Shelterbelt</p> <p>Establishment of permanent shelterbelts which supports winter-feeding management, reduces manure nutrient build-up around farmyards, livestock facilities, and fields.</p> <p>Eco-buffers</p> <p>Creation or widening of buffers (trees or shrubs) in agricultural fields adjacent to surface water sources to protect existing riparian areas such as reshaping of edges and fields.</p> <p>These functions are not necessarily mutually exclusive, and a well-designed riparian forest buffer should be able to provide many of them at once.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank stabilization and erosion control • Water temperature cooling and evaporation reduction 	<p>Minimum Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-year establishment costs i.e. site preparation • Purchase of trees and shrubs <p>Allowable Enhancements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood and plastic mulch • Irrigation system components including (but not limited to): trickle or drip systems, delivery hose/pipe and emitters • Soil and water testing (Soil testing is important to determine which species will thrive in the area) • First year fencing expenses for the purpose of excluding livestock from the shelterbelt. • Accredited technical (Professional Agrologist-P.Ag or Certified Crop Advisor-CCA) support to develop management plans



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality enhancement through absorption and filtration of sediments, nutrients and other pollutants • Flood risk reduction and groundwater recharge • Wildlife habitat 	
<p>Shelterbelt & Eco-buffers if converting cropland: <i>Cost determination: Implementation Costs + \$200 Opportunity Costs + Impact Adjustment</i></p> <p>Shelterbelt & Eco-buffers if converting forages: <i>Cost determination: Implementation Costs + 100 Opportunity Costs + Impact Adjustment</i></p>	
<p>Establishment of pollinator strips</p> <p>Purpose is to create areas that provide habitat and food for native pollinators and increase species biodiversity.</p> <p>Recommend planting a diversity of plants with different blooming periods across the growing season. Native plant species are encouraged as well as introduced, non-invasive plant species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting must include more than one species to be eligible. • Planting of annual flowering commodity crops such as canola is not eligible. • Eligible on acres of existing cropland and margins, not eligible in pasture land or land used for rotational grazing. • Plan should include management schedule for maintenance activities 	<p>Minimum Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-year establishment costs i.e. site preparation • Purchase of trees, shrubs grass or wildflower seed. <p>Allowable Enhancements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood and plastic mulch • Irrigation system components including (but not limited to): trickle or drip systems, delivery hose/pipe and emitters • Soil and water testing (Soil testing is important to determine which species will thrive in the area) • Accredited technical (Professional Agrolgist-P.Ag or Certified Crop Advisor-CCA) support to develop management plans
<p>Establishment of pollinator strips if converting cropland: <i>Cost determination: Implementation Costs + \$200 Opportunity Costs + Impact Adjustment</i></p> <p>Establishment of pollinator strips if converting forages: <i>Cost determination: Implementation Costs + \$100 Opportunity Costs + Impact Adjustment</i></p>	
<p>Wetland Restoration & Construction of New Wetlands</p>	
<p>Wetland restoration and/or construction of a new wetland*.</p> <p>Funding is available to agricultural landowners participating in Alberta Environment and Protected Areas Wetland Replacement Program (WRP). All grants are subject to WRP terms and conditions.</p> <p>Completion report is required showing the number of acres & date of completion.</p> <p>*Not applicable on Crown Land. Can apply on municipal or county land leased for agricultural production with a valid lease agreement.</p> <p>https://www.alberta.ca/wetland-replacement-program.aspx</p> <p>Cost determination: Flat rate payment of \$1000 per acre</p>	

Appendix A

List of other Federal Programs:

On-Farm Climate Action Fund delivered by:

- Results Driven Agricultural Research (nitrogen management, cover cropping, rotational grazing)
- Canola Council of Canada (nitrogen management)
- Canadian Forage and Grassland Association (rotational grazing)
- EcoCert Canada and the Canada Organic Trade Association (nitrogen management and cover cropping)

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP)

AAFC Agricultural Clean Technology Program

AAFC Living Labs

ECCC Nature Smart Solutions Program

NRCAN 2 Billion Trees Program (2BT)

Table 3: Beneficial Management Practice (BMP) cost maximums

Accredited technical support (P. Ag or CCA)	Up to \$2,000.00	Cost per new BMP	
Ag lime or equivalent	Up to \$200	\$/ac	Includes product, equipment and labor. One time payment.
Fencing - Barbed/page wire	\$10	\$/m	Includes materials and installation
Fencing - Electric	\$5	\$/m	Includes materials and installation
Grazing service fees	Up to \$6,000	Cost per new BMP	For contracted grazier only, not applicable if using own livestock. Cost is a maximum amount
Seeding operations	\$30	\$/ac	Includes equipment and labor
Soil testing	\$200	\$/quarter section	Includes sampling and analysis. Required if requesting funding for Ag lime or equivalent
Trees	\$5	\$/tree or shrub	Includes seedlings and labor
Pollinator strips - grass or wildflower seed	\$60	\$/ac	Includes seed and labor
Impact adjustment	Payment per acre may be adjusted up to 15% if the impact adjustment is included on the application. This will be based on the carbon sequestration capacity of the BMP activity, number of livestock, number of acres, improvement of water quality and biodiversity (if applicable) and degree of practice change over the three year land use agreement.		