

Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP)

Terms and Conditions

1.0 PURPOSE & DESCRIPTION

The object of RALP (the “**Program**”) 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

There is limited funding available under the Program. Applications will be processed throughout each fiscal year of the Program, will be assessed against program eligibility criteria, and will be subject to program funding constraints.

Submission of a completed application does not guarantee that the applicant will receive payment under this Program.

Successful applicants must enter into a land use agreement to receive Program funding. Terms of the agreement may be viewed at <https://www.alberta.ca/resilient-agricultural-landscape-program.aspx>.

Carbon sequestered under the Program will be ineligible for carbon credits/GHG offsets (e.g. Federal GHG Offset System) for the duration of the Land Use Agreement. The Program is intended to be complementary to those offset programs and not duplicate accounting of sequestration efforts.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 In these Program Terms and Conditions:

Applicant: means a person who submits an Application.

Application: means an application for funding under the Program.

Cost Determination: means the formula for the Grant that will be paid in respect of an Eligible BMP Activity, as set out in the Funding List.

EFP Approval: means an Environmental Farm Plan certificate or completion letter issued by Agricultural Research & Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) under the Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (AEFP) program.

Eligible Applicant: means an Applicant that has been approved to participate in the Program.

Eligible BMP Activity: means a Proposed BMP Activity that has been approved under the Program, and includes its approved Allowable Enhancements.

Eligible Lands: means lands that are eligible under the Program.

Federal Crown: means His Majesty in Right of Canada.

Funding Category: means a category of BMP activities that may be approved as an Eligible BMP Activity, as listed in the Funding List.

Funding List: means the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) 2023-2028 Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) Funding list available on the Alberta Sustainable-Canadian Agricultural Partnership Program website: <https://www.alberta.ca/resilient-agricultural-landscape-program.aspx>.

Grant: means funds payable to an Eligible Applicant under this Program.

Grazing Association: means an entity that:

- a) is a cooperative incorporated under the *Cooperatives Act (Alberta)* or a society incorporated under the *Societies Act (Alberta)*;
- b) is responsible for the care, handling and management of livestock and forage resources; and
- c) holds a grazing disposition issued under the *Public Lands Act*, *Forest Reserve Act* or *Provincial Parks Act* for the benefit of its members.

Implementation Cost: means a cost of preparing to implement an Eligible BMP Activity that is eligible for Program funding, as set by the Minister in relation to a Minimum Requirement or Allowance Enhancement listed in the Funding List for the Funding Category, and subject to the Program maximums.

Intake Cycle: means a period in which the Program is accepting applications.

Land Use Agreement: means the agreement between the Minister and Eligible Applicant regarding the conduct of the Eligible BMP Activity and the conditions of the Grant.

Minister: means the Minister of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation and his authorized representative(s).

Primary Producer: means an individual, a corporation registered in Alberta, a post-secondary institution, an applied research organization or a forage association that is:

- a) responsible for the day-to-day management of an agricultural operation (such as an annual crop, bee, or livestock operation) in Alberta that produces at least \$25,000.00 worth of farm commodities sold annually;
- b) is responsible for input costs for that operation; and
- c) is not a landlord whose only interest in the operation is ownership of the land.

Program: means the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program.

Program Application Form: means an application form for the Program, as posted on the Program Website. There is a separate Program Application Form for the "Wetlands" Funding Category.

Program Terms and Conditions: means these terms and conditions.

Program Website: means the Minister's website for this Program, at <https://www.alberta.ca/resilient-agricultural-landscape-program.aspx>.

Project Lands: means the lands on which a Proposed BMP Activity is to be located.

Project Term: means:

- a) for an Eligible BMP Activity under the “Wetlands” Funding Category:

Intake Cycle	Term
April 3, 2023 – January 31, 2024	April 3, 2023 – January 31, 2026
February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025	February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2027
February 1, 2025-January 31, 2026	February 1, 2025-January 31, 2028.

- b) for all other Eligible BMP Activities:

Intake Cycle	Term
April 3, 2023 – November 30, 2023	April 3, 2023 – November 30, 2025
February 1, 2024 – November 30, 2024	February 1, 2024 – November 30, 2026
February 1, 2025 - November 30, 2025	February 1, 2025 – November 30, 2027

Proposed BMP Activity: means the BMP activity that an Applicant proposes to implement, as described in the Application.

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP): means the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

Wetlands Completion Report: means the completion report issued to the Eligible Applicant pursuant to the Alberta Wetland Replacement Program at the conclusion of the Eligible Applicant’s wetlands restoration project.

3.0 ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Eligible Applicants

3.1.1 To be an Eligible Applicant, an Applicant must be one of the following:

- a) subject to (b), a Primary Producer; Grazing Association and either:
- i) a registered owner of the Project Lands, or entitled to become the registered owner under a contract, court order or any other legal instrument;
 - ii) have an agreement of purchase and sale for the Project Lands under *the Veterans’ Land Act*; or
 - ii) have a valid land rental agreement (or lease agreement for agricultural Crown Lands) to manage the Project Lands, and acknowledgement from the registered owner regarding the Applicant’s implementation of an Eligible BMP Activity on the Project Lands; or
- b) if the Application concerns the “Wetlands” Funding Category, a Primary Producer that (i),(ii) or (iii) above; or
- c) any other individual or organization deemed by the Minister to be eligible for the Program.

3.1.2 The Minister may approve an Indigenous applicant as an Eligible Applicant even though the applicant does not meet the definition of a “Primary Producer”. The Program is committed to supporting the success of Indigenous business in the agriculture and food sector. It is understood that Indigenous businesses may have distinct characteristics reflective of regulatory, operational, cultural, and other factors affecting their business

history and operation. The Program aims for flexibility in its delivery in order to reduce barriers and ensure its accessibility. In this provision, “Indigenous” means First Nations, Inuit, or Métis.

3.1.3 The following are not eligible to apply to the Program:

- a) agribusinesses offering custom services, consulting services or general services to agricultural clients (includes commercial applicators);
- b) federal, provincial, and municipal governments, agencies, and institutions; and
- c) any other person deemed by the Minister to be ineligible for the Program.

3.2 Eligible Activities

3.2.1 To be an Eligible BMP Activity, a Proposed BMP Activity must:

- a) match the description of an Eligible BMP Activity on the Funding List, and include its Minimum Requirements;
- b) be located on an agricultural operation in Alberta; and
- c) be in respect of Eligible Lands.

3.2.2 A Proposed BMP Activity may not be an Eligible BMP Activity if:

- a) it was started before the Intake Cycle in which the Application is submitted;
- b) it is funded by research funding;
- c) It is funded by federal; or
- d) carbon sequestered under the Proposed BMP Activity has already been assigned under a carbon credit/GHG offset program (e.g. Federal GHG Offset System) at the time of Application submission. The Program is intended to be complementary to those offset programs and not duplicate accounting of sequestration efforts.

3.3 Eligible Lands


3.3.1 Subject to 3.3.2, to be Eligible Lands, the Project Lands must be one of the following:

- a) privately owned farmland, including managed land for agricultural production (e.g., crop land, grazing, orchards, etc.);
- b) a wetland, woodlot or yard site associated with a farm entity/operation;
- c) land rented for agricultural production from another private third party, provided that the landowner has consented to the implementation of an Eligible BMP Activity on the land;
- d) federal, provincial, or municipal land, under lease for the purpose of agricultural practices; or
- e) Indigenous lands being managed for the purpose of agricultural production.

3.3.2 If the Application concerns the “Wetlands” Funding Category, to the Eligible Lands, the Project Lands must be any of (a) to (e) above, but not Crown land.

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF ELIGIBLE BMP ACTIVITY

4.1 An Eligible Applicant applying under the “Wetlands” Funding Category must have developed, constructed, installed or otherwise be ready to implement its Eligible BMP Activity by January 31 of the second year of their Project Term. An Eligible Applicant applying under other Funding Categories must have developed, constructed, installed, or otherwise be ready to implement the Eligible BMP Activity by November 30 of the first year of their Project Term.

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- 4.2 An Eligible Applicant applying under the “Wetlands” Funding Category must submit a Wetlands Completion Report with their application.
 - 4.3 An Eligible Applicant must implement its Eligible BMP Activity in a manner that does not cause adverse effects on wildlife or the environment.
 - 4.4 An Eligible Applicant must manage and maintain the Eligible Lands to ensure that the Eligible BMP Activity continues to provide its original benefits.
 - 4.5 An Eligible Applicant must continue to maintain, practice, or otherwise implement its Eligible BMP Activity throughout their Project Term.
 - 4.6 Eligible Applicants who did not submit a valid and current EFP Approval as part of the Application must obtain their EFP Approval during the term and include a copy of the EFP Approval with the final report.

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION COSTS

- 5.1 The following annual Implementation Costs may be incurred throughout the course of the Project Term and must be submitted by November 30 of the third year of the Project Term:
 - (a) seed;
 - (b) seeding operation;
 - (c) inoculant;
 - (d) trees/shrubs/wildflowers;
 - (e) grazing service fees
- 5.2 All other Implementation Costs must have been incurred and paid by November 30 of the first year of the Project Term.

6.0 PAYMENT AND FUNDING LEVELS

- 6.1 The maximum Grant that an Eligible Applicant may receive under the Program for all Applications over the duration of the Program is:
 - a) \$150,000, if the Eligible Applicant is a Primary Producer;
 - b) \$300,000, if the Eligible Applicant is a Grazing Association, or an Indigenous applicant approved under section 3.1.2.
- 6.2 The minimum Grant that an Eligible Applicant may receive in respect of an Application is \$2,000.
- 6.3 The amount of the Grant per Eligible BMP Activity shall be calculated in accordance with the Cost Determination set out in the Funding List.
- 6.4 No Grant is payable in respect of an Eligible BMP Activity for which the Eligible Applicant has received (or will receive) federal funding.
- 6.5 If the Eligible Applicant receives provincial or municipal funding for the Eligible Applicant’s implementation expenses for an Eligible BMP Activity, the amount of the Grant shall be reduced so that total provincial and municipal funding does not exceed 100% of the Eligible Applicant’s implementation expenses.
- 6.6 The Program shall pay the 50% of the Grant after execution of the Land Use Agreement, and 50% after receipt of a satisfactory final report.

- 6.7 Payments may be considered farm support payments, and AGR-1 tax slips will be issued in the name of the Eligible Applicant, if applicable.

7.0 REPORTING

- 7.1 An Eligible Applicant may be required to submit an interim report that covers the period up to the point that the Eligible Applicant is ready to implement its Eligible BMP Activities. The reporting period and report due date will be stated in the Land Use Agreement. The report must include:
- an update on the status of the Eligible BMP Activity; and
 - documentation that establishes, to the satisfaction of the Minister, that the Eligible Applicant established the Eligible BMP Activity on the Eligible Lands during the period and is ready to implement. Examples of acceptable documentation include invoices, receipts, and site photos.
- 7.2 An Eligible Applicant must submit a final report that includes:
- documentation that establishes, to the satisfaction of the Minister, that the Eligible Applicant continued to implement the Eligible BMP Activity on the Eligible Lands throughout the term. Examples of acceptable documentation include invoices, receipts, and site photos;
 - a narrative describing how each of its Eligible BMP Activities changed the Eligible Applicant's practice management;
 - information for the performance measures specific to each BMP type;
 - any other documentation requested by the Minister; and
 - a copy of the Eligible Applicant's valid and current EFP Approval, if the Applicant did not submit it as part of its Application.

8.0 LAND USE AGREEMENT

- 8.1 The Minister shall pay a Grant subject to the terms and conditions in the Land Use Agreement, which shall provide for, among other things:
- the maximum amount of the Grant;
 - calculation of the payment per Eligible BMP Activity, including verification of Implementation Costs;
 - the Eligible Applicant's obligation to maintain and implement the Eligible BMP Activity on the Eligible Lands until the end of the Project Term;
 - termination of the Land Use Agreement and repayment of part of the Grant, in circumstances such as sale of the Eligible Lands during the Project Term, or the Eligible Applicant's election to terminate the Land Use Agreement before the end of the Project Term;
 - the Eligible Applicant's obligation to comply with all laws and obtain all required approvals when installing, implementing, and maintaining the Eligible BMP Activity;
 - reporting by the Eligible Applicant;
 - audit, evaluation, and inspection by the Minister; and
 - default by the Eligible Applicant and repayment of the Grant, in circumstances such as failure to maintain the Eligible BMP Activity on the Eligible Lands until the end of the Project Term.
- 8.2 If there is a conflict or inconsistency between a provision of these Program Terms and Conditions and the Land Use Agreement, the latter shall take precedence.

9.0 APPLICATIONS

- 9.1** There is limited funding in the Program. Applications will be reviewed on a continuous basis during each Intake Cycle. Applications will be evaluated and recommended for approval according to the eligibility criteria and funding constraints.
- 9.2** Applications with a grant value under \$2,000 will not be processed.
- 9.3** Applications must include:
- a) a completed Program Application Form with all documents required to be submitted pursuant to that form, including a signed Applicant Declaration;
 - b) either:
 - i) a copy of the Applicant's EFP Approval in respect of the Project Land that is valid and current as of the date of the Application; or
 - ii) if the Applicant does not have a valid and current EFP Approval, confirmation by the Applicant that it will obtain an EFP Approval and provide it with the final report; and
 - c) all supplementary documentation requested by the Minister.
- 9.4** Applications must be signed by a properly authorized representative. The Minister may require evidence of authorization. Designates are not permitted to sign Applications unless they have Power of Attorney (submitted with the Application). Personal representatives may sign on behalf of estates.
- 9.5** Applications must be delivered to the Minister at RALP@gov.ab.ca or to:

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership - Resilient Agricultural Landscape
Program (RALP)
Suite 303, 7000-113 Street NW
Edmonton, AB, T6H 5T6

- 9.6** Applications must be received by the Minister (or, if sent by mail, postmarked by) on or before the date specified on the Program Website.
- 9.7** The Minister may reject any Application that the Minister deems to be inaccurate, incomplete or ineligible, including applications with a grant value under \$2,000.
- 9.8** Submission of an Application does not entitle an Applicant to funding under the Program.

10.0 VERIFICATION, MONITORING, AND AUDITS

- 10.1** The Applicant consents to the Minister releasing any information contained in the Application, or related to it, and obtained by the Minister in the course of verifying the Application, to any other government department, agency or other body for the purposes of verifying the Application, determining the Applicant's eligibility for the Program, or both. The Applicant expressly authorizes the Minister to obtain information from any government department, agency or other body to verify the contents of the Application and to determine the Applicant's eligibility for this Program.
- 10.2** Eligible Applicants must give the Minister and representatives of the Minister access to examine their farming or business operation during the term of the Land Use Agreement. Eligible Applicants must make available to the Minister all records, books of account, income tax returns, invoices, databases, and audit and evaluation reports in relation to the Project that are

necessary for the audit and evaluation of their Eligible BMP Activities. If an Eligible Applicant fails to provide such information, the Eligible Applicant may forfeit its right to further payments of the Grant, and may be required to repay some or all of the Grant already paid.

11.0 INELIGIBLE FOR CARBON/GHG OFFSETS

- 11.1** Carbon sequestered under an Eligible BMP Activity will be ineligible for carbon credits/GHG offsets (e.g. Federal GHG Offset System) for the duration of the Land Use Agreement. The Program is intended to be complementary to those offset programs and not duplicate accounting of sequestration efforts. Eligible Applicants will be required to allow the Minister to disclose some of their project information to other government departments, agencies or other bodies so they may verify the Eligible Applicant's eligibility for federal or provincial carbon offset/GHG programs.

12.0 FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION

- 12.1** An Applicant who provides false or misleading information under this Program forgoes all rights to benefits from this Program.

13.0 MINISTERIAL GRANTS REGULATION

- 13.1** Payments under this Program are grants subject to the *Ministerial Grants Regulation* (AR 215/2022), as may be amended or replaced from time to time. In addition to complying with the Land Use Agreement, a successful Applicant must comply with the Regulation.

14.0 CHANGES TO THE PROGRAM

- 14.1** The Minister may change or terminate the Program at any time without notice. Any revisions to the Program, a Program Application Form, the Program Terms and Conditions and/or Funding List will be posted on the Program Website.
- 14.2** Applications are subject to the Program Terms and Conditions and Funding List as posted on the Program Website as of the date that the Application was received by the Minister.

15.0 MINISTERIAL DISCRETION

- 15.1** The Minister has the absolute discretion to determine the eligibility of any Applicant or Project under the Program. Notwithstanding anything in these Program Terms and Conditions, the Minister has the absolute discretion to not approve any Application. The decision of the Minister is final.