

## On Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) – Backgrounder

### OFCAF Overview

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Results Driven Agriculture Research announced that it will be open to receiving applications for the Federally funded On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) program starting August 4, 2022. Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) was announced as one of 12 national delivery partners for the federally funded program in February 2022. Over the last several months, RDAR has been preparing to launch the program.

RDAR will administer \$33M of the total \$185M Fund to benefit Alberta farmers and ranchers. As a delivery partner, OFCAF aligns directly with [RDAR's 2022 – 2027 Strategic Framework](#), which emphasizes investments in sustainability and on-farm adoption of Best / Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs).

For RDAR, OFCAF will be an important resource to advance producer competitiveness, profitability, and productivity. OFCAF will increase farm operations' economic, environmental, social and governance (eESG) factors while delivering direct, cost-shared payments to producers to accelerate the adoption of BMPs that promote carbon storage and greenhouse gas reduction, while improving biodiversity and soil health.

### Read OFCAF Press Releases

- [Government of Canada announces up to \\$182.7 million to partner organizations to help farmers lower emissions and improve resiliency to climate change](#)
- [OFCAF Recipient Organizations](#)
- [RDAR to Deliver Federal Funding Program to Help Alberta Producers Tackle Climate Change](#)

### About OFCAF

The OFCAF program is designed to help producers tackle climate change by supporting new actions to lower greenhouse gas emissions. This is intended to help de-risk new initiatives, while expanding, sustaining and documenting activities that may not occur without this funding.

The On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) is a cost-sharing funding program that helps producers adopt different practices by offsetting 85% of the cost. Alberta farmers and ranchers can apply for up to \$75,000 in funding for to implement practices related to nitrogen management, rotational grazing, and cover cropping.

### OFCAF Program Details

The program will operate from August 4, 2022, to March 31, 2024.

OFCAF funding will be allocated for new practices completed between April 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023. To receive OFCAF funding, applicants must be an active producer, corporation, or registered partnership that can demonstrate a minimum of \$25,000 of gross farm income in Alberta. Additionally, applicants must work with a Professional Agrologist (PAg) or Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) to develop an BMP action plan to identify the cost difference from usual on-farm practices. All applications to OFCAF must be submitted online through RDAR's grant management portal: [ARGO](#). Once a project is completed, applicants are required to submit invoices for all eligible BMPs. Funding will be delivered to each applicant.

### OFCAF Funding Details

- Applicants are eligible for a maximum of 85% reimbursement of eligible cash expenditures across all three activity categories
- A maximum of \$75,000 combined grant payment from all government sources between April 1, 2022, and March 31, 2024
- Minimum project cost is \$2,500

- Maximum of 10% up to \$2,000 allowed for Professional Agriologist or Certified Crop Advisor for workplans created and approved
- Applicants must pay for 100% of the upfront costs with no payment in kind.
- All payments will be considered as taxable income

#### Important OFCAF Dates

Topic	Activity	Year 1	Year 2
Applications	Open	August 4, 2022	February 13, 2023
Applications	Close	November 7, 2023	November 30, 2023
Invoices	Submitted	January 6, 2023	January 31, 2024
Payments	Sent by	March 31, 2023	March 31, 2024

#### Nitrogen Management Benefits

The OFCAF program supports the adoption of new BMPs that improve nitrogen (N) fertilizer efficiency. Improved N fertilizer efficiency decreases the opportunity for losses of N as nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), a greenhouse gas, as well as losses by leaching and volatilization as ammonia gas. OFCAF funds are available to compensate for the price difference to shift N-fertilizer application from the fall to spring season or any equipment related costs in support of this practice.

#### Cover Cropping Benefits

The OFCAF program supports the adoption and on-farm implementation of BMPs that can improve soil health (organic matter, nutrient cycling) while reducing erosion risks associated with annual cropping systems. Benefits of cover cropping may include the retention of soil nutrients in an organic form to prevent losses, reduced risk of water logging for soils subject to spring flooding and increased forage or grazing opportunities.

#### Rotational Grazing Benefits

The OFCAF program supports the adoption and on-farm implementation of BMPs that strengthen rotational grazing strategies by improving forage quality with deep-rooted, nitrogen-fixing legumes (alfalfa, sainfoin) and increasing soil health (organic matter, nutrient cycling). OFCAF also supports the installation of materials to increase resilience to changing climates.

Improvements to rotational grazing systems may allow producers to extend the grazing season into fall and sometimes winter. Additionally, a properly managed grazing system can benefit poor soils because nutrient and organic matter contributions from the system can improve soil structure and health.

#### The OFCAF Website

To help farmers and ranchers prepare to apply for funding, RDAR has created an [OFCAF website](#) that hosts all the information, documentation and supporting resources needed to navigate the OFCAF program and apply for funding.

#### OFCAF Program Documents

- [OFCAF Program Details](#)
- [OFCAF Program Guide](#)

#### OFCAF Overviews' Webinar Series

- **Webinar for Professional Agriologists (P.Ag.) and Certified Crop Advisors (CCA)**  
On August 2nd at 12pm MST, OFCAF will host a webinar series specifically for P.Ag and CCA's. This webinar will provide attendees with the targeted information needed to answer producer OFCAF questions and help producers complete their OFCAF Activity action plans.  
[Register here.](#)



- **‘OFCAF Overviews’ Webinar for Farmers, Ranchers and the General Public**

On August 11th – 17th OFCAF will host a series of webinars designed to give a program overview to farmers, ranchers and the general public. This webinar series will provide broad information about the climate change program and support the application process.

[View webinar schedule and register here.](#)

**‘OFCAF Overviews’ Webinar Session Times**

OFCAF - Overview Webinar for P.Ag / CCA	Tuesday, August 2nd, 2022 at 12pm MST
OFCAF - Program Overview	Thursday August 11, 2022 ay 11am MST
OFCAF - Program Overview	Friday August 12, 2022 at 8 am MST
OFCAF - Program Overview	Monday August 15, 2022 at 8am MST
OFCAF - Program Overview	Tuesday August 16, 2022 at 12pm MST
OFCAF - Program Overview	Wednesday August 17, 2022 at 8am MST

More information on applying to this program be available on the [OFCAF website](#) and in the [OFCAF Newsletter](#). OFCAF application intake begins August 4, 2022 and continues through March 2024.

**About RDAR**

RDAR’s mandate is to target strategic investments in producer-led, results-driven agriculture research to power the competitiveness, profitability, productivity and sustainability of Agriculture in Alberta. As a not-for-profit corporation, RDAR’s funding comes from the Government of Alberta, the Government of Canada, and Alberta’s Government through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program. [rdar.ca](http://rdar.ca)

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