

Agricultural Climate Solutions Program

On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)

FAQ

Subject to change

Last updated April 2023



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Agri-Food Canada

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Agroalimentaire Canada

YOU HAVE QUESTIONS. WE HAVE ANSWERS.

The On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) provides financial support to producers to accelerate their adoption and implementation of on-farm Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) to lower Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, support production efficiency, sustainability and resiliency on their farm operations. This program is delivered by Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) with funding from the Agricultural Climate Solutions initiative managed by Natural Resources Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

This document provides answers to some of the most common questions we receive regarding the OFCAF Program. Be sure to subscribe to our monthly OFCAF newsletter to receive program updates.

The FAQ is split into the following categories:

- [Eligibility](#)
- [Applying for funding](#)
- [Receiving funding](#)
- [General program information](#)

ELIGIBILITY

HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF I AM ELIGIBLE FOR OFCAF FUNDING?

To receive funding, applicants must meet these conditions:

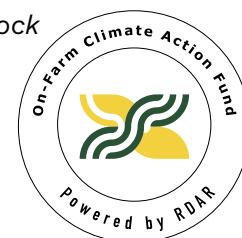
- Be an active producer (includes a proprietorship, corporation, or registered partnership) that can demonstrate a minimum of \$25,000 of gross farm income in Alberta.
- Work with a Professional Agrologist (PAg) or Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) (See: [Guide to Accessing Agricultural Recommendations in Alberta](#) (rdar.ca/ofcaf/access-recs)) to develop a BMP Action Plan that is based on agronomic advice and identifies the cost difference from usual practices.
- The BMP Action Plan must include labelled maps of project field boundaries on air photos or images. Any method may be used, or see: [Guide to Locating and Labelling BMP Action Plans](#) (rdar.ca/action-plan-guide).
- Complete an online application using RDAR's Agriculture Research Grant Organizer (ARGO) that describes current practices and planned improvements ([rdar.smartsimple.ca](#)).
- Read the [RDAR-OFCAF Sub-Contribution Agreement](#). You must agree to what is in the RDAR-OFCAF Sub-Contribution Agreement in order to apply for funding.
- Document pre- and post-project conditions with date-stamped GPS-located photographs (typically automatic on digital photos in a jpg format).
- Provide permission for post-project inspections.
- Be headquartered in Alberta and apply funds only to lands in Alberta.
- Have a minimum eligible project cost of \$2,500.
- Pay 100% of the costs upfront (no in-kind). All payments will be considered taxable income.
- Pre-approval is required to be eligible for program funding.

Landlords whose only interest is in the land and not raising crops or livestock are ineligible.



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WHERE CAN I FIND A LIST OF THE OFCAF PROGRAM'S ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE EXPENSES?

Each Beneficial Management Practice (BMP) area has its own summary of eligible and ineligible activities. Please visit [our OFCAF page](#) for the full list of activities.

Program applicants are encouraged to [subscribe to the OFCAF newsletter](#) to receive program updates and links to program details.

APPLYING FOR FUNDING

WHAT STEPS DO I NEED TO COMPLETE BEFORE I CAN SUBMIT MY OFCAF APPLICATION?

To be eligible to receive OFCAF funding you will need to ensure these steps are completed before you start your application.

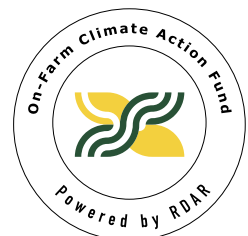
1. Download and review the [OFCAF Program Guide](#).
2. Download and read the [RDAR-OFCAF Sub-Contribution Agreement](#).
3. Contact and work with a qualified third party, Professional Agrologist (PAg) or Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) to develop a plan that describes the planned new BMP activities and the cost difference from usual practices. To be eligible for 2023 OFCAF funding, you must complete and gain approval by a qualified third party (PAg / CCA) on your BMP Action Plan before you submit your application.
4. Provide aerial photos of your land to show BMP Areas using the [Guide to Locating and Labeling BMP Action Plans](#).
5. Provide OFCAF with permission for post-project inspections.

Once these steps are complete, you are ready to submit your online application via RDAR's Agriculture Research Grant Organizer, ARGO ([rdar.smartsimple.ca](#)). In submitting the online application, you must electronically consent to the [OFCAF Program Guide](#) and the [RDAR-OFCAF Sub-Contribution Agreement](#).

HOW DO I PROVIDE AN AERIAL PHOTO OF MY LAND?

Aerial photos can come from sources such as [GeoDiscover Alberta](#) or [Google Earth](#).

Please include existing fences and proposed fences on the air photo in different colours or provide some other easy way to distinguish between the two. Also, identify current water sources and proposed water distribution. Use the [Guide to Locating and Labeling BMP Action Plans](#) when labeling your Action Plan.



DO I NEED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO APPLY FOR THE OFCAF PROGRAM? ARE TEMPLATES AVAILABLE?

Yes. You are required to submit an application to apply to the OFCAF program. Before you submit your application, you will need to:

- Work with a qualified third party (PAG /CCA) to develop a plan that describes the planned new activities and the cost difference from usual practices
- Complete an application that includes a recommended plan
- Agree to the [OFCAF Program Guide](#) and the [RDAR-OFCAF Sub-Contribution Agreement](#)
- Provide aerial images of your project / property area
- Provide permission for post-project inspections

For 2023, please do not start your projects until you have received approval to ensure you will receive funding.

WHERE CAN I FIND AN OFCAF APPLICATION FORM?

An application form, as well as templates, can be found on our website at rdar.ca/ofcaf in Step 5 under the “Before you Apply (Templates)” tab. When applying for funding you must agree to the [OFCAF Program Guide](#) and the [RDAR-OFCAF Sub-Contribution Agreement](#)

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY APPLICATION HAS BEEN REVIEWED/APPROVED?

RDAR is committed to transparency in our process. Once your application has been started in ARGO, you will receive notifications from ARGO as your application moves through our review and approval stages. Check your email regularly as automated emails will be sent from ofcaf.bmp@rdar.ca.

WHAT STEPS DO I NEED TO FOLLOW TO APPLY FOR EACH OF THE BMP STREAMS OF THE OFCAF PROGRAM?

Review [OFCAF program eligibility criteria](#).

Evaluate your farms’ opportunity and readiness to adopt one or more of the BMPs. A requirement of the program will be that a PAG or a CCA will have to recommend your plan. If you need assistance connecting with a PAG or CCA, you can use the [Guide to Accessing Agricultural Recommendations in Alberta](#).

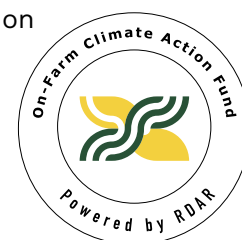
Take pictures of any land location where you may be implementing rotational grazing to demonstrate that it did not exist before applying to the program.

Once the application process opens on February 13, 2023, submit an application for the BMP stream that’s right for you.



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RECEIVING FUNDING

WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO RECEIVE OFCAF FUNDING?

An Action Plan template must be recommended by a PAG or CCA and submitted along with your online application.

Applications must be submitted online to RDAR's online grant management system, ARGO (rdar.smartsimple.ca).

Applicants will receive approval for their proposed project with a pre-approved budget.

Once your project is complete, you are required to submit photos, invoices, proof of payment (receipt, cancelled cheque, etc.), and all other business details into ARGO (rdar.smartsimple.ca) to complete the e-transfer.

Payment depends on your compliance with the [OFCAF Program Guide](#) and the [RDAR-OFCAF Sub-Contribution Agreement](#). Please ensure that your submission meets the requirements of these two documents.

RDAR will review the invoices and ensure the invoices match the approved project. The review process may take some time. To ensure you receive payment quickly, please be sure to include all relevant information — the more the better.

Funds will be delivered by e-transfer to each applicant.

IS THERE A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF FUNDING THAT IS AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT BMPS ON MY FARM?

Yes. Applicants are eligible to receive funding for multiple projects to a maximum grant payment of \$75,000 over OFCAF's duration through March 31, 2024. This maximum includes cumulative activity across all BMP streams and activities.

Applicants must pay for 100% of the upfront costs with no payment for in-kind. Applicants are required to submit invoices and proof of payment for all eligible BMPs. Minimum project costs are \$2,500, and maximum of \$75,000. All OFCAF payments will be considered as taxable income and for 2023, you must get program approval before starting projects.

WHAT IS THE COST-SHARE RATIO FOR THE FUNDING FOR THE OFCAF PROGRAM?

Applicants are eligible for a maximum 85% reimbursement of eligible cash expenditures across the three activity categories. This means your outlay is 15% of the cost of adopting a BMP.



CAN MULTIPLE PAYMENTS BE MADE FOR ONE OFCAF APPLICATION?

No. The program will make **one** payment per each OFCAF application. One final payment will be made after the [Completion Report](#) is submitted in ARGO, and all proof of payments have been reviewed against what was deemed eligible in the approved project.

All OFCAF payments will be sent via e-transfer.

HOW LONG IS THE PAYMENT PROCESS FOR 2023 PROJECTS?

Claim processing and auditing for 2023 applications are currently underway as we remain committed to ensuring OFCAF benefits reach Alberta producers on their farms and ranches.

Applicants can check the status of their applications and claims by logging into ARGO (rdar-smartsimple.ca) with their username and password. Please submit your [Completion Report](#) as soon as possible after your project is complete. Waiting until the deadline to submit your [Completion Report](#) will delay payment processing.



GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

I'M CURIOUS ABOUT THE TIMEFRAMES AROUND ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROGRAM AND AVAILABILITY

RDAR will start accepting 2023 applications for the OFCAF program on February 13, 2023. If you're eligible to participate, you may apply for the program. OFCAF will operate until March 31, 2024.

Topic	Activity	Year 2
Applications	Open	February 13, 2023
Applications	Close	November 30, 2023
Paid invoices	Submitted	January 31, 2024
Payments	Sent by	March 31, 2024

WHERE CAN I GO TO FIND OUR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE OFCAF PROGRAM?

Visit our website at rdar.ca/ofcaf for the most up-to-date information, and be sure to [subscribe to the OFCAF newsletter](#) to receive program updates.

IS THERE ANY COST SHARING / FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO COVER THE COST OF A PAG / CCA?

Yes. If you require assistance to pay agronomist fees, OFCAF applicants can apply for cost-shared funding to support agronomic and advisory services. The cost of the BMP Action Plan recommendation may not exceed 10% of the total cost of all eligible BMP(s), to a maximum of \$2,000 per applicant for 2022 and 2023 combined.

Before you submit an application to the OFCAF program, you will need to ensure that your desired BMPs are recommended by a Professional Agrologist (PAg) or Certified Crop Advisor (CCA). Connect with one using our [Guide to Accessing Agricultural Recommendations in Alberta](#).



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Producers interested in the program are encouraged to [subscribe to the OFCAF newsletter](https://bit.ly/3PDLITd) (<https://bit.ly/3PDLITd>) for updates.

