



Manitoba
Association of
Watersheds

Manitoba Association of Watersheds

PRAIRIE WATERSHEDS CLIMATE PROGRAM

(On-Farm Climate Action Fund)

BMP: IMPROVING NITROGEN MANAGEMENT FACT SHEET: JUNE 10, 2022

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA'S AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS ON-FARM CLIMATE ACTION FUND (OFCAF): PRAIRIE WATERSHEDS CLIMATE PROGRAM (PWCP)

OFCAF is an initiative designed to help farmers address climate change. Funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. [Read the media release here.](#)

The Prairie Watersheds Climate Program: Manitoba and Saskatchewan

The Prairie Watersheds Climate Program (PWCP) seeks to increase producer uptake and increase acres around three key farming practices:

1. Rotational Grazing
2. Nitrogen Management
3. Cover Cropping

The Manitoba Association of Watersheds (MAW) is the lead organization managing the **Prairie Watersheds Climate Program** - an up-to \$40 million AAFC OFCAF project in Manitoba and Saskatchewan from February 7, 2022 – March 31, 2024.

- PWCP is delivered by Manitoba's Watershed Districts and the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds (SAW).
- The project is overseen by an advisory committee of stakeholders led by MAW.

The Prairie Watersheds Climate Program Approach

- PWCP takes a grassroots, regional approach to addressing issues related to climate change in agriculture and supporting farmers to implement the three BMPs to have a positive impact on Canadian agriculture.
- 85 per cent of funding goes towards adoption of BMPs and BMP education/awareness activities for farmers.
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Credits arising from the Project on lands enrolled and funded in the project over the project period of February 7, 2022, to March 31, 2024, cannot be used by the Ultimate Recipient for any existing or future federal, provincial, or voluntary offset credit programs.
- Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Credits only apply to the year (s) in which the Ultimate Recipient received funding.
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- All payments made to Ultimate Recipients for BMP adoption in the areas of nitrogen management, cover cropping, and rotational grazing are to be considered "farm support



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payments” as per subsection 234(2) of the *Income Tax Act* R.S.C 1985. As such all payments to farmers are to be considered income for the farm business and are subject to Income Tax.

- MAW will be preparing and submitting annually to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) AGR-1 forms for each PWCP payment to Ultimate Recipients.

Important Program Points to Note

- An activity can only be funded **once** on the same parcel of land through OFCAF funding.
- An Ultimate Recipient who participates in any of the BMP eligible activities in FY 2022-2023 can apply for the same eligible activities on the same land for FY 2023-2024.
- Landlords and tenants both cannot apply for funding on the same piece of land.

The Prairie Watersheds Climate Program Producers

- Producers are eligible for a maximum of \$75,000 of OFCAF funding, including all eligible activities across all BMPs for the project period to accelerate their adoption and implementation of on-farm beneficial management practices (BMPs) to reduce GHG emissions, support production efficiency, sustainability and resiliency on their farm operations.
- To assist producers with their adoption of all three BMPs, PWCP will offer producers resources to support BMP implementation and provide BMP design recommendations.

PWCP BMP: NITROGEN MANAGEMENT: INCREASING ADOPTION OF NITROGEN MANAGEMENT

How Does Improving Nitrogen Management Benefit Farmers and Climate Change?

Nitrogen management strategies ensure optimum productivity, reduce nitrogen losses, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance economic profitability and environmental quality. Farmers in Manitoba and Saskatchewan make key decisions on formulation, rate, timing, and placement of fertilizer nitrogen that are suitable for soils, climate change, and farming operations within which they operate.

How PCWP Can Help

Some activities included in the PWCP are: agronomic services to develop farm-specific nutrient management plans, equipment modifications for fertilizer application in fields, and soil sampling and analysis.

The PWCP is helping producers in Manitoba and Saskatchewan to deploy real, measurable, and practical climate solutions for agriculture in the Canadian Prairies through the management of Nitrogen fertilizer use. The use of slow-release fertilizer, nitrification and urease inhibitors have been effective in lowering the release of Greenhouse Gases into the atmosphere. Activities such as including legumes in crop rotations lessen the need for synthetic fertilizer further reducing Greenhouse Gas release. Activities, such as soil testing, soil mapping, splitting fertilizer applications and improving application equipment support the efficient use of nitrogen fertilizer. The Prairie Watersheds Climate Program through the On Farm Climate Action Fund of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada may fund producers in Manitoba and Saskatchewan to adopt or expand the use of Beneficial Management Practices that reduce the impact of Nitrogen fertilizer on Green House Gas emissions. These include:

Use of Slow-Release Fertilizer

- 85% of the increased cost of slow-release fertilizer compared to regular nitrogen fertilizer, up to a maximum of \$75,000

Use of Nitrification and Urease Inhibitors

- 85% of the cost of the inhibitors, up to a maximum of \$75,000

Agronomic Support for Nitrogen Management Plans

- 50% of total cost, up to a maximum of \$10,000

Soil Testing

- 85% of total cost, up to a maximum of \$2,500

Soil Mapping

- 50% of total cost, up to a maximum of \$10,000

Adding Legumes to crop rotation

- \$35/acre for establishment, when approved under a 1-year contract
- \$70/acre when approved under a two-year contract, with the payment split into a \$35/acre payment in year 1 and a \$35/acre payment in year 2, upon approval and verification

Upgrading seeder equipment to allow for banding, side dressing and injection of fertilizer

- \$200 per foot of seeding equipment, up to a maximum of \$75,000

Split Application of Fertilizer to improve Nitrogen use

- To be determined by PWCP Delivery Agent

Upgrading manure injection and incorporation equipment

- To be determined by PWCP Delivery Agent

Eligibility Requirements

- Funded projects must:
 - Be new practices for an operation, or
 - Be expanded from what has been practiced in prior years on new land or new acres than prior years,
 - Be recommended by an agronomist, agrologist, Certified Crop Advisor.
- All activities must have commenced on or after February 7, 2022, and be completed on or before March 31, 2024.
- All invoices must be dated after February 7, 2022, and before March 31, 2024 (including those dates)
- Invoices and Proof of Purchase must accompany program rebate applications.
- Producers must contribute at least 15% of the total project cost as an in-kind contribution to the project.
- Before and after pictures of projects implemented are required for verification and payment.

Ineligible Activities: Nitrogen Management

- Continuing implementation of an existing practice at the same degree as prior years.
- Costs related to the management of nutrients other than Nitrogen are ineligible.
- An activity can only be funded once on the same parcel of land through OFCAF funding.
- Landlords and tenants cannot apply for funding on the same piece of land.
- Biological and microbial fertilizer options are ineligible.
- For manure injection and incorporation, activities mandated by an Intensive Livestock Operation permit or activities required by a regulatory body for compliance purposes are ineligible.

For more information, visit: <https://manitobawatersheds.org/prairie-watershed-climate-program>

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