



BC Climate Agri-Solutions

Program Guide – June 2022



The BC Climate Agri-Solutions Fund (BCCAF) provides funding to help farmers tackle climate change by adopting beneficial managing practices (BMPs) in three specific areas: Nitrogen Management, Cover Cropping and Rotational Grazing. BCCAF is funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF).

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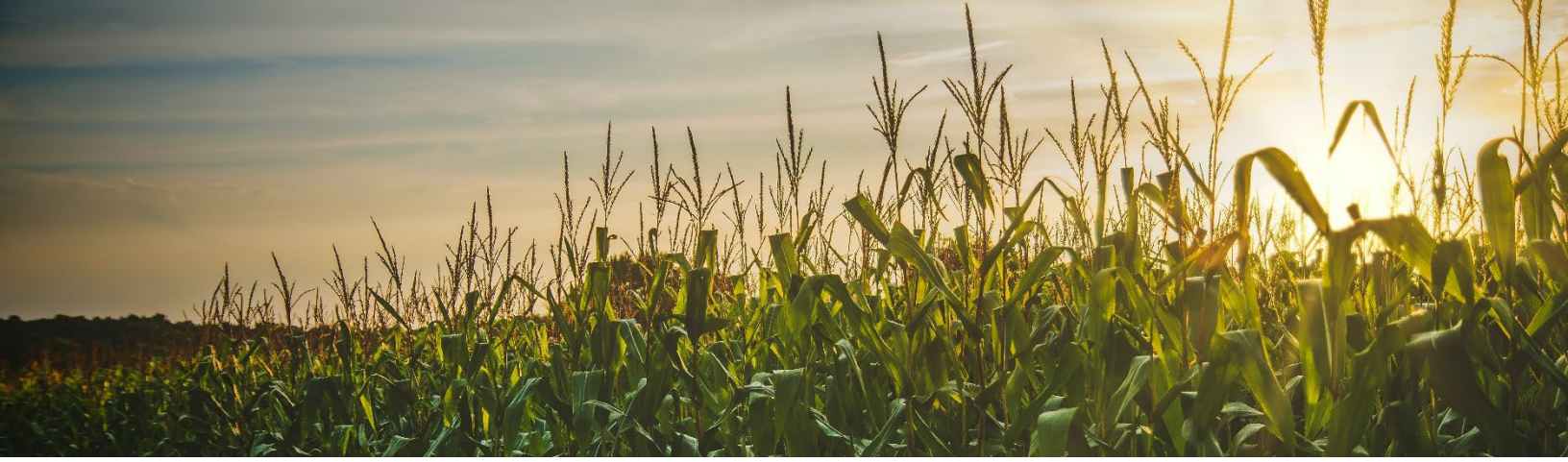
Funded by:



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
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If there is a discrepancy between this guide and the program information available at www.bccaf.ca, www.bccaf.ca takes precedence.



PROGRAM DETAILS

BCCAF provides cost-shared funding to eligible producers and supports the training of certified crop advisors and agrologists as well as information sharing throughout the agricultural community. The objective of BCCAF is to support farmers in adopting beneficial management practices (BMPs) that store carbon and reduce greenhouse gases, specifically in the areas of: 1. Nitrogen Management 2. Cover Cropping 3. Rotational Grazing. These practices also provide other environmental benefits such as improved biodiversity and soil health. Other activities to support the adoption of beneficial management practices, such as outreach, education and training are also supported.

There will be two online application intakes in the first year of the program: June 16, 2022 to July 14, 2022 and September 2022 (specific dates to be announced in August). Approved projects will have four months from their project start date to complete their activities and submit a final report with cost documentation (receipts/invoices). Recipients will then receive partial reimbursement for accepted expenses. No extensions will be considered; if projects cannot be completed within the timeframe applicants are encouraged to apply in the next intake window.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS & ACTIVITIES

Eligible Applicants

All farms in BC able to implement a prescribed BMP and that have the ability to cover 30% of their project costs are eligible to apply for BCCAF funding. Applicants must be appropriately registered, licensed and/ or certified to conduct business in British Columbia and have farm status.

Each BMP must be reviewed and approved by a Professional Agrologist prior to application or as part of the project approval process. If you have consulted with a Professional Agrologist on your application before it is submitted, you will be required to indicate that in the application form and provide their name. If you have not, your application will undergo additional technical review after submission.

Note: Funding is intended to increase new adoption of BMPs; farmers cannot receive funding for a BMP if it is already in use.





Maximum Funding for Eligible Expenses

Eligible farm businesses can apply for a maximum cost-shared funding in each category as follows:

Nitrogen Management: \$30,000

Cover Cropping: \$30,000

Rotational Grazing: \$20,000

The **cost share ratio is 70/30 for all BMP categories**, meaning that 70% of the eligible costs for approved projects can be covered by BCCAF funding, up to the maximum funding amount for that category. The remaining 30% must be provided by the applicant.

The **total program funding maximum of \$75,000**.

Eligible Activities & Expenses

The following project activities and expenses are eligible for their respective BMP category under BCCAF.

Nitrogen Management

- Regular fertilizer and inhibitor price difference
- Plan, assessment, design work and consultancy fees and cost of other agronomic support/technical training
- Soil testing and soil mapping costs
- Offsetting higher cost of synthetic fertilizer substitutes (manure, compost, digestates), where applicable and higher prices of fertilizer in the spring if applicable
- Seed and planting costs to increase legumes in rotation
- Cost of fertilizer application equipment and equipment upgrades to allow for banding, side dressing and injection
- If transitioning to manure, costs associated with spreading, using hoses or equipment for

Cover Cropping

- Costs related to agronomic services
- Seed costs with regionally- and commodity-appropriate seed.
- Cost of planting

Rotational Grazing

- Rotational grazing infrastructure (e.g. cross fencing, wildlife friendly fencing, temporary fencing, and waterers, including remote watering systems when powered by renewable energy)
- Improved pasture composition (seeding costs for alfalfa, sainfoin, etc.)
- Grazing management plans, technical assessments or engineered designs





Ineligible Activities & Expenses

The following activities and costs are ineligible under BCCAF.

Nitrogen Management

- Costs related to the management of nutrients other than nitrogen are not eligible
- In the case of transitioning to manure application, only costs associated with broadcasting of manure are eligible (only activities, and related costs, that incorporate manure in the soil are eligible)

Cover Cropping

- Costs for cover crops where growing and leaving cover crops undisturbed over-winter is not new and has been a routine practice used by the farmer
- Costs related to mechanical or chemical termination of the cover crop
- Fertilizer and crop protection costs
- Costs related to rejuvenation of existing forages, pastures or hay land
- With the exception of cover crops that are under-seeded with the main crop at seeding (i.e. inter-cropping), full-season cover crops are ineligible

Rotational Grazing

- Perimeter fences if construction is not aligned with grazing plan
- Removing or replacing old or existing fences
- Non-renewable power sources such as generators
- Used fencing materials
- Texas gates
- Portable livestock corral panels
- On-going maintenance

Please note: GST is not eligible for reimbursement.



APPLICATIONS

Applications will be accepted through IAF's Client Portal from June 16, 2022 to July 14, 2022.

Additional intakes are planned for:

- September 2022
- June 2023
- September 2023

The deadlines for applications for the June 2022 intake are as follows:

- Application Window:
June 16 – July 14, 2022
- Application Deadline:
July 14, 2022, at 16:30 PST
- Project Start Date: Upon approval
(no later than August 15, 2022)

Projects may begin activities/expense upon notification of approval. Applications will be reviewed and processed as they are submitted. All applications received by July 14, 2022 will receive a decision no later than August 15, 2022.

Application Process

Applicants will apply through IAF's new online application portal. After registering their organization, applicants will answer questions about their organization, project activities and expenses. IAF may contact applicants for additional information or to adjust applications as required.

During the application window, IAF staff are available to answer any questions regarding eligible activities and costs.

Applicants can contact bccaf@iafbc.ca with any questions about the program.

Applicants are encouraged to include only activities that they are confident will be completed on time and within budget limits.

Application Evaluation Process

All applications received by the deadline will be reviewed and evaluated based on applicant and activity eligibility and feasibility. If an application has not been reviewed by a Professional Agrologist prior to submission, then the application will undergo an additional technical review. If funding requested exceeds funding available, applications will be processed in order of receipt.





NOTIFICATIONS & OBLIGATIONS

Funding Notifications and Contracts

If an application is approved, IAF will inform the applicant of the details of the decision and any associated terms and conditions via email. The applicant will then receive an approval letter which outlines the obligations of each party to receive program funding. If an application is not approved, the applicant will be informed via email. Funding decisions will be communicated as they are made and by no later than August 15th, 2022.

Funding Acknowledgements

Communications and marketing activities, including public announcements and social media posts regarding project funding must be pre-approved by the IAF communications team. Contact communications@iafbc.ca for more information.

Reporting Requirements

Successful applicants must complete a final report prior to receiving funds from the program. This report must be filled out and submitted to IAF along with all invoices for the project to be considered for funding reimbursement. It is important that the final report is submitted on time and with all required information. Expenses will be reimbursed based on the submitted receipts, the approved project budget and the corresponding cost-share ratio.

Tax Considerations

IAF has been advised by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada that funding from the BC Climate Agri-Solutions Fund will be considered taxable income. We are working with the funder to gather additional information and implications.

As additional information is available, the IAF Team will update the website. Please visit www.bccaf.ca for the most up to date information.

Changes to Contracted Projects

If you are not able to complete your project within the allotted timeframe, you may re-apply in the next funding window. We are not able to grant extensions to approved projects in this program.

The BC Climate Agri-Solutions Fund is funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) and is delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.

