

# Beneficial Management Practices Program 2026/27

## Appendix: Water Infrastructure

Applicants are responsible for reviewing and understanding the Beneficial Management Practices Program (BMP) criteria before submitting their application. For complete program details, visit [www.iafbc.ca/bmp/](http://www.iafbc.ca/bmp/).

This appendix to the BMP 2026/27 program guide outlines the activities for the Water Infrastructure category of the program.

Activity Type	Cost-Share Ratio	Maximum Funding	Project Length
Water Infrastructure Activities	50%	Up to \$70,000	140 days from Project Approval or by January 31, 2027, whichever comes first.

## Water Infrastructure Prioritization & Requirements

All applications are reviewed and adjudicated on a first-come, first-served basis, within the prioritization outlined below.

### Water Storage

For 2026/27 water storage activities are prioritized for funding within the Water Infrastructure category. IAF will review and adjudicate eligible applications for codes **0903, 0904, and 0905** (water storage activities) prior to reviewing and adjudicating the remaining Water Infrastructure activities. If you plan to apply to more than one Water Infrastructure activity and they are not all equally prioritized, please submit two applications. Example: Application 1 – code 0903 and 0905; Application 2 – code 1804. This two-application process is required because an application must be approved in its whole, not just portions. If you do not complete separate applications IAF will remove the non-prioritized activities in order to proceed to approval, and you will have to reapply for other activities – losing your placement in the first-come, first-served queue.

Pending available funding, IAF will adjudicate the remaining non-water storage Water Infrastructure category activities. If funding has been fully committed, a waitlist will be established, should funding become available later in the fiscal year.



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## Water Licence

For 2026/27, if an activity requires a water licence<sup>1</sup>, **producers with approved water licences will be prioritized** ahead of those with pending licences. For activities with a water licence requirement, proof of water licence (or licence application) is required at time of application; producers that have not applied for a water licence at the time of BMP application are ineligible and will be declined.

Producers are encouraged to submit applications for Water Infrastructure activities requiring a water licence even if the appropriate water licence has not yet been issued (i.e. you have applied for a licence, but it has not yet been approved). These include licences for Existing Use Groundwater (EUGW), new groundwater and new surface water, and amendments of current water licences. Pending available funds, applications will be held for consideration until either a water licence is issued or September 1, 2026, whichever comes first.

## Water Infrastructure Activities: Practice Code Details

For some activities, a plan, technical assessment or engineered design is required. You can independently attain the required plan/assessment/design or check for funding opportunities via BMP: Planning, Technical Assessments and Engineered Designs (P&D) category. The prerequisite must be completed prior to applying for the activity below. To learn more about the requirements for professionals to complete a plan/assessment/design and/or to find a qualified professional, visit [www.iafbc.ca/bmp/qualified-professionals/](http://www.iafbc.ca/bmp/qualified-professionals/).

Practice code	Activity	Description and details
0901	Well protection	<p>Existing wells that were deemed at risk of contamination during the farm's initial Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) assessment. Work must be completed in accordance with the <i>Water Sustainability Act</i> and Groundwater Protection Regulation. Work must be completed by appropriately qualified and registered persons (see <a href="#">sections 14-17 of the Groundwater Protection Regulation</a>)</p> <p><b>Required documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Photo evidence of before and after conditions must be provided with application and project reporting</li><li>• Proof of water licence for the proposed use (e.g., irrigation) of the water source (i.e., aquifer) must be provided</li><li>• Project budget, project quotes, and map (showing well location on property)</li></ul> <p><b>Eligible costs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Earthwork at well-head or runoff diversion</li><li>• Installation of pit-less adaptor</li></ul>

<sup>1</sup> These include licences for Existing Use Groundwater (EUGW), new groundwater and new surface water, and amendments of current water licences.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrading or maintenance of well head or well casing, fittings, seals, waterproof caps and connections to prevent seepage</li> <li>Installation of backflow prevention devices</li> <li>Flow control for artesian wells and backflow prevention</li> <li>Casing extensions to elevate wellhead</li> <li>Raising of electrical components above 1:200-year flood levels</li> </ul> <p><b>Ineligible costs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New well construction</li> </ul>
0903	Dams and reservoirs – new and existing	<p>New construction, rehabilitation or upgrade of existing agricultural (regulated and unregulated<sup>2</sup>) dams and reservoirs<sup>3</sup> for farm water use.</p> <p><b>Requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photo evidence of before and after conditions must be provided with application and project reporting</li> <li>Water/Riparian engineered or technical design/assessment meeting the standard set by <a href="#">Engineering or technical design or assessment – water/riparian</a> (BMP:P&amp;D activity code 1102)</li> <li>Proof of water licence for the proposed storage and use (e.g., irrigation) of the water source (i.e., aquifer, stream) must be provided and verified by the qualified professional completing the technical design</li> <li>Authorization of the proposed work from the <a href="#">Dam Safety Program staff</a></li> <li><a href="#">B.C. Dam Safety Regulation</a> must be followed (may be exempt for minor/unregulated<sup>1</sup> dams)</li> <li>If applicable, approval to make changes in and about a stream</li> <li>If applicable, easement</li> </ul> <p><b>Eligible costs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction, materials, machinery/equipment (gates, valves, etc.) and other costs associated with the construction</li> <li>Pumping systems and watering troughs to keep livestock out of the existing reservoir are recommended and are eligible costs, provided the reservoir is deemed to provide a secure source in periods of extended drought. Fencing, if installed along with a pumping system, is recommended and an eligible cost to keep cattle out of the reservoir. These systems will protect the water quality (stream health) and livestock and sustain the supply.</li> <li>Other professional services associated with the project supervision</li> </ul> <p><b>Ineligible costs:</b></p>

<sup>2</sup> Dams exempt from the B.C. Dam Safety Regulation are generally defined as less than 7.5 metres high and capable of storing 10,000 cubic metres or less of water. Please refer to the [Dam Safety Technical Resources](#) or contact the [Dam Safety Program staff](#) for technical advice on dams and reservoirs.

<sup>3</sup> Reservoirs in this category refer to those filled using a water source other than harvested rainwater (i.e., stream, groundwater, overland flow).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water used for non-agricultural purposes</li> <li>• Used materials</li> <li>• Water distribution system</li> <li>• Assessments and technical plans (these can be funded via the <a href="#">Planning, Technical Assessments, and Engineered Designs category</a>)</li> </ul>
0904	Dugouts – new and existing	<p>Improvement, expansion or new construction of dugouts and storage facilities for irrigation water and livestock watering, including rangeland.</p> <p><b>Requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photo evidence of before and after conditions must be provided with application and project reporting</li> <li>• Water Management Plan meeting the standard set by <a href="#">Water Management Plan</a> (BMP:P&amp;D activity code 2902)</li> <li>• Water/Riparian engineered or technical design/assessment meeting the standard set by <a href="#">Engineering or Technical Design or Assessment – Water/Riparian</a> (BMP: P&amp;D activity code 1102) <b>OR</b> a completed <a href="#">Dugout Planning Checklist</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ If the dugout is regulated under the Dam Safety Regulation you <b>must</b> submit an Engineering or Technical Design or Assessment – Water/Riparian (BMP: P&amp;D activity code 1102)</li> <li>◦ If the dugout is <b>not</b> regulated under the Dam Safety Regulation you are able to choose to submit either an <a href="#">Engineering or Technical Design or Assessment – Water/Riparian</a> (BMP: P&amp;D activity code 1102) <b>OR</b> a completed <a href="#">Dugout Planning Checklist</a> (including all required attachments identified therein) to fulfill the prerequisite</li> <li>◦ <b>Note:</b> A technical design may still be required by the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) to support a water licence application for dugout water storage purposes. The <a href="#">Dugout Planning Checklist</a> does not replace any technical designs required by WLRS</li> <li>◦ For further information on determining which document to include please refer to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Dugout Planning Checklist</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Dugout Calculator</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">BC Agriculture Water Calculator</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Guidance on Farm Water Storage</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">British Columbia Farm Water Dugouts</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Authorization Requirement for Storage and Use of Water in Dugouts</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ Proof of water licence for the proposed storage and/or use (e.g., irrigation) of the water source (i.e., aquifer, stream) must be provided prior to construction and water use, as applicable. A record of confirmation from FCBC or WLRS that a licence is not required for the dugout must be provided, if that is the case</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>To determine if a licence is required for a dugout, please refer to the <a href="#">Authorization Requirements for Storage and Use of Water in Dugouts</a>.</p>

		<p><b>Eligible costs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction, materials, liner, pump, intake, machinery/equipment (e.g., gates, valves, etc.) and associated fittings and controls</li> <li>• Power supply to the farm property line as required</li> <li>• Solar or wind power supply for remote livestock watering or irrigation systems</li> <li>• Planting of trees and snow fencing to facilitate snow collection and melt</li> <li>• Dugout aeration systems (wind or electric compressors)</li> <li>• Pumping systems and watering troughs to keep livestock out of the existing dugout are recommended and are eligible costs, provided the dugout is deemed to provide a secure source in periods of extended drought. Fencing if installed along with a pumping system is recommended and eligible cost to keep cattle out of the dugout. These systems will protect the water quality (stream health) and livestock and sustain the supply</li> <li>• Other professional services associated with the project supervision</li> </ul> <p><b>Ineligible costs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water used for non-agricultural purposes</li> <li>• Water distribution system</li> <li>• Used materials</li> <li>• Dugouts with design specifications that are legally considered as dams according to the <a href="#">B.C. Dam Safety Regulation</a> (DSR)</li> </ul> <p><b>Resources:</b> <a href="#">Dugout Planning Checklist</a>, <a href="#">Dugout Calculator</a>, <a href="#">BC Agriculture Water Calculator</a>, <a href="#">Guidance on Farm Water Storage</a>, <a href="#">British Columbia Farm Water Dugouts</a>, <a href="#">Authorization Requirement for Storage and Use of Water In Dugouts</a>, and <a href="#">Dam Safety Program Staff</a></p>
0905	Rainwater harvesting systems – new and existing	<p>Capture system for the collection of rainwater or snowmelt water for farm water use. Can fund the installation of a new system or the rehabilitation /upgrade of an existing system.</p> <p><b>Requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photo evidence of before and after conditions must be provided with application and project reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ If the system includes the use of licensable water (e.g., surface water or groundwater), proof of a water licence as approved by the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) for the proposed storage and/or use (e.g., irrigation) of the water source (i.e., aquifer, stream)</li> <li>◦ A water licence is not required for storage and use of harvested water alone</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Eligible costs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Machinery cost</li> <li>• Above-ground and below-ground storage structures (excluding dugouts, ponds, and reservoirs funded under other categories)</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction materials, including foundation pad, tanks, pump, collection pipes, filters, liners, valves, and plumbing to the point of final distribution</li> </ul> <p><b>Ineligible costs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water used for domestic commercial or industrial use</li> <li>Used equipment</li> <li>Any portion of the system used to collect wastewater or reclaimed water from the water treatment system</li> <li>Water distribution system</li> </ul>
1802	Improved irrigation system management and irrigation scheduling	<p>Can fund the installation of a new system or an improvement to an existing system.</p> <p><b>Required documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Irrigation System Assessment or Design</a> (BMP: P&amp;D activity code 2901) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Except for weather stations not combined with an automation of an irrigation system</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Eligible costs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Controllers, electric valves and low voltage wiring to valves when identified as part of an improved irrigation system management project</li> <li>• Irrigation scheduling equipment such as soil moisture sensors and moisture meters when combined with an automation of an irrigation system</li> <li>• Purchase costs of equipment and labour to install systems or improvement to systems</li> <li>• Weather station with a data transmission unit using cellular, internet or satellite. Station must be connected to a website or web network as approved by BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The stations must be located in an area of the farm that is not directly impacted by farm operations (e.g., stations cannot be located where irrigation water may interfere with the rain sensor)</li> </ul> <p><b>Ineligible costs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used materials or equipment</li> <li>• Repair and maintenance costs</li> </ul>
1804	Irrigation systems – new or existing	<p>Installation of new irrigation system or upgrade/replacement of an existing system with a minimum of 15% improvement in water use efficiency as recommended by an irrigation system assessment and/or design.</p> <p><b>Required documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photo evidence of before and after conditions must be provided with application and project reporting</li> <li>• <a href="#">Irrigation System Assessment or Design</a> (BMP: P&amp;D activity code 2901)</li> <li>• Proof of water licence for the proposed use as verified by qualified professionals completing the Irrigation System Assessments and/or Design</li> <li>• If applicable, change approval to make changes in and about a stream</li> </ul>

- Irrigation System Assessment and Irrigation System Design are required for producers who wish to replace or upgrade their existing systems
  - Irrigation System Design is only required for producers who wish to install a new irrigation system for a crop that has not been irrigated previously but is intended to be (Irrigation System Assessment is not required in this case)
  - Both Irrigation System Assessment and Design must be completed by a Certified Irrigation Designer (CID) through the [Irrigation Industry Association of BC \(IIABC\)](#). The BMP program does not recognize CIDs from other provinces or countries (e.g., CIDs from the Irrigation Association in the United States)

**Eligible costs for new systems:**

- An Irrigation System Design requires selecting equipment with performance, including best water use efficiency possible that matches the crop, soil and weather conditions and terms and conditions of current water licence (for example, wheel-line or center pivot irrigation systems for forage crops, drip for horticultural crops)
- The new irrigation system must be identified in the irrigation system design and must indicate how and what level of irrigation water use efficiency will be achieved for the entire irrigation system
- The Irrigation System Design must also include recommendations on system operations, management, and maintenance, and if additional water supply or licences/amendments are required to meet crop needs

**Eligible costs for existing systems:**

- An Irrigation System Assessment must evaluate system performance to ensure that the system is operated to match the crop, soil and weather conditions, the system is operated within the terms and conditions of current water licences, and the design aligns with industry standards established by the IIABC
- The Irrigation System Assessment must indicate how, and to what level, the irrigation water use efficiency will be increased by the project (minimum 15% improvement) and if additional water supply or licences/amendments are required to meet crop needs. More specifically, by the time the project report is submitted, the following data is required:
  1. Pre-project (baseline) and post-project energy source
  2. Pre-project (baseline) and post-project annual energy consumption (in kWh)
  3. Estimated annual reduction of fossil fuel consumption (in kWh, if applicable)
- Eligible items for system upgrades (if identified in plan) include, but are not limited to, replacement of nozzles, gaskets, sprinklers, suction screen, intake pipes, and mainlines

**Ineligible costs:**

- Used irrigation systems
- Electrical systems
- Fencing
- Sprinkler irrigation systems for horticultural crops

1806	Improvement of water supply systems to farm(s)	<p>This project code can be used for a new piped system, replacing a ditched system with a piped system, or improving an existing piped system.</p> <p><b>Required documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Water Management Plan</a> (BMP: P&amp;D activity code 2902)</li> <li>• Proof of water licence for the proposed use as verified by qualified professionals completing the Water Management Plan</li> <li>• If applicable, change approval to make changes in and about a stream</li> </ul>
1808	Water meters, backflow prevention devices, or other flow-measuring devices	<p>Purchase and installation of new or replacement meters, backflow prevention devices, or other flow measuring devices. Please refer to the <a href="#">BC Water and Waste Association</a> for details on cross-connection control.</p> <p><b>Eligible costs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Materials costs</li> <li>• Labour costs for installation</li> <li>• Valves</li> <li>• Piping through hookup</li> </ul> <p><b>Ineligible costs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used equipment</li> </ul>
3201	Improved drainage	<p>Projects must reduce nitrous oxide emissions from agricultural operations by prevention or suppression</p> <p><b>Required documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Water Management Plan</a> (BMP: P&amp;D activity code 2902)</li> </ul> <p><b>Eligible costs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of new sub-surface drainage tile systems</li> <li>• Additions to existing sub-surface drainage tile systems</li> <li>• Cleaning or repair of existing subsurface drainage systems and associated on-farm surface drainage channels</li> </ul>