

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

Sustainable Agriculture Manitoba: Water Management

Program Guide

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For any questions, contact the program administrator:

Sustainable CAP

agriculture@gov.mb.ca

1-800-811-4411

Section 1 - Program Description

Sustainable Agriculture Manitoba (SAM) provides funding to primary producers and land managers to implement cost-shared beneficial management practices (BMPs). The objective of SAM is to increase the environmental and economic sustainability of agriculture operations in Manitoba. Priority areas include climate change adaptation and mitigation, air quality, water quality and quantity, soil health, and biodiversity.

Section 2 - Program Eligibility

Eligible applicants include:

Primary Producers


- Must have a valid Statement of Completion for an [Environmental Farm Plan](#)
- Must manage agricultural land used to produce agricultural products.
- Must own land where the project will be executed or have permission from the landowner to execute the project.
- Must have a [Manitoba Premises Identification](#) number (livestock producers only)
- Can be located outside of Manitoba if the project activities have a positive outcome for Manitoba and if they have a valid EFP from their province of residence.
 - Priority will be given to eligible applicants who own/manage agriculture land in Manitoba.

For businesses operating under a registered business name, regardless of business structure, all program documentation must be in the registered business name and supported by a unique Business Number. This includes the project application forms as well as all project invoices. Businesses operating under an unregistered business name or trade name must use their official business name on all program documentation. For example, a sole proprietor operating under a trade name without a registered business name must complete all documentation in their personal name and provide their unique Social Insurance Number.

For individuals that participate in more than one farming business, each sole proprietorship, partnership, or corporation must each have a unique business number to qualify for separate funding. All invoices must be issued in the name of the applicant to ensure that funding caps are not multiplied. It is up to the applicant to show evidence of independent operations.

All eligible invoices and proof of payment forwarded for claims must reference the original business name or the applicant's personal name.

Government employees who are the majority shareholder (50 per cent or higher) in a business or operation are not eligible to participate or receive funding as the ultimate recipient. A farm business or operation, which includes a provincial government employee as a minority shareholder, will be eligible to receive funding for project implementation.



Additional factors may be considered in determining the eligibility of the applicant, including:

- The provision of false or misleading information by the applicant under other Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership programs
- Amounts due and owing by the applicant under other Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership and Manitoba programs.

Project Length

- All projects shall start **April 1, 2025**, or later.
- Project activities and all reports must be completed by **December 12, 2025**.

A final inspection or other proof of completion may be required to confirm that the project was implemented in accordance with the project proposal.

Successful applicants are responsible for:


- identifying, obtaining, and complying with any necessary licenses, permits and approvals (municipal, provincial, federal, etc.), before starting the project
- incorporating any relevant and required mitigation measures for the project.
- ensuring that insurance requirements have been met regarding project implementation.

Section 3 - Cost Share Funding

Eligible Expenses

Eligible expenses are directly related to the execution of an approved project and include:

- Incremental Personal Labour
 - Labour hours incurred by the applicant for eligible activities, capped at \$30/hour.
- Incremental Personal Equipment Use
 - Equipment owned by the applicant can be used for the successful completion of the approved project. Reimbursement will be determined using the appropriate rental rate guide ([Manitoba Agriculture Farm Machinery Cost of Production Custom and Rental Rate Guide](#) or [MHCA Equipment Rental Rate Guide](#))
 - Where rental rates are not identified in published guides (e.g., survey equipment, tree planter, etc.), applicants can specify the type of equipment and proposed hourly or daily rental rate in their Application Worksheet budget for review.
- Subcontracted Services
 - Third-party services related to custom labour and equipment use.
- Professional Fees
 - Third-party service provided by an organization, business or individual,

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- who holds a valid designation, examples may include consultant wages, engineering fees, etc.
- Capital Assets and Equipment
 - Purchase of specialized equipment attachments
 - Purchase of new technology, examples include sensors, monitors, alarms, water use meters, sub-surface drainage controllers, etc.
 - Equipment Rental
 - Equipment that is rented for the successful completion of the approved project.
 - Materials and Supplies
 - Construction and building materials necessary for the completion of the approved project, examples include lumber, plumbing components, etc.
 - Provincial Sales Tax (PST)

The applicant is solely responsible for all expenses of the project, including all ineligible expenses and any project deficits or cost over-runs.

Where a project is approved, no eligible expenses will be reimbursed unless a Contribution or Funding Agreement is signed.

If work is started on a project before formal written approval of program funding is received, the applicant does so at their own risk.

All expenses must be supported by an invoice and a valid proof of payment. All invoices must be dated on or after **April 1, 2025**.

Trade-in allowances allocated by an equipment dealership or other retail party used to reduce the purchase price of an eligible item will not be accepted as satisfactory proof of payment for claim purposes. Claim reimbursement will be calculated on actual cash disbursement.

Financing of eligible equipment through a dealership or financing company will not be accepted as proof of payment for claim purposes.

The same invoice cannot be claimed by more than one applicant or business number or for multiple projects.

Additional eligible cost information, by BMP, can be found below.

Ineligible Expenses

The following expenses are **ineligible** for funding:

- Any item purchased before **April 1, 2025**, with the exception of inventory items (materials and supplies such as fence posts or wire). Project inventory items cannot have been purchased before **April 1, 2023**.
- Any expense, including a tax, which is eligible for a rebate, credit, or refund such as Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- In-kind contributions.

- Any expense not required for the execution of the project.
- Normal operating expenses associated with conducting business operations.
- Extended warranties.
- Spare parts not used as part of the project.
- Expenses associated with lobbying.
- Financing charges, loan interest payments, bank fees and charges.
- Any compensation to any government employee for organizing or delivering parts of the project.
- Purchase of land, buildings, and facilities, associated taxes and fees (e.g., land transfer tax).
- Any additions to new or existing buildings and facilities, associated taxes and fees.
- Purchase of typical farm equipment (e.g., tractors, skid steers, combines, etc.) and related accessories and attachments.
- Normal, current, or ongoing maintenance expenses.
- Cost of establishing a commercial operation or new farmyards.
- Cost of office renovations.
- Cost of sponsorship of seminars, conferences, workshops, events, or initiatives.
- Multi-use items (e.g., items that are not directly related to the project activities, such as computers, printers, phones, cameras, pressure washers, general farm equipment, batteries, ATV, trucks, clothing and footwear, tools, fuel, etc.).
- Any project-related activity that generates revenue during the implementation of the project.
- Expenses incurred for other projects.
- Invoices not issued in the applicant's name and/or payment not made by the approved applicant.
- Any other expense deemed ineligible by the program administrator.

Funding from Government

The applicant must adhere to the stacking limit. The stacking limit refers to the maximum level of total Canadian government funding (federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal) a successful Applicant can receive towards total approved eligible expenses of a project. Additional government sources of funding must be disclosed.

The maximum level of total government funding must not exceed:

- 100 percent of total approved eligible expenses; or
- If the Applicant is a for-profit business or organization 75 per cent for capital items that are approved eligible expenses.

Section 4 - Funding Streams

Activities will focus on the implementation of on-farm beneficial management practices that increase the environmental and economic sustainability of agriculture operations in Manitoba. Priority areas include climate change adaptation and mitigation, air quality, water quality and quantity, soil health, and biodiversity.

Under the Water Management funding stream, the following BMPs are eligible:

Funding Stream	BMP Number	BMP Name
Water Management	4100	Increased Irrigation Efficiency
	4300	Sub-Surface Drainage Water Management
	4600	Water Use Efficiency
	4700	Water Supply

Additional funding information, for each BMP listed above, can be found below.

BMP 4100: Irrigation Efficiency

In a region of water deficit such as the Northern Great Plains of North America, using water efficiently in agriculture has always made sense. Maximizing water use efficiency has been made even more important with reduced reliability of water supplies due to climate change. The adoption of practices that reduce the amount of water applied to achieve the same level of production can improve the sustainability and profitability of irrigated crop production.

Similarly, reducing the amount of energy needed to operate an irrigation system mitigates the environmental impact of irrigated crop production while also lowering production costs over the long term.

Obtaining professional guidance in planning and conducting efficiency improvements can smooth the path to better environmental and economic performance in irrigated crop production.

Eligible Applicants

- Primary Producers

Cost Share Ratio and Funding Cap

BMP 4100 has a cost share ratio of 30 per cent government, 70 per cent applicant, and an overall funding cap of \$95,000 across all eligible practices. A single Application Worksheet can include multiple eligible practices within BMP 4100.

Code	Practice Description	Cap
4101	Improved water use efficiency in irrigated crop production by upgrading to high-efficiency irrigation systems or components thereof, including those associated with water distribution, water application, flow monitoring and control, filtration, speed adjustment, remote communication.	\$50,000
4102	Improved energy efficiency in irrigated crop production by converting from lower to higher-efficiency equipment, which could consist of engines, motors, and pumps.	\$30,000
4103	Professional consultative services for planning improved water use and energy consumption, including designs, recommendations, and decision-support tools. Eligible as a stand-alone practice if the project does not proceed for economic, technical, or environmental reasons.	\$15,000



Eligible Expenses

- Incremental Personal Labour
- Subcontracted Services
- Professional Fees
- Capital Assets and Equipment
- Materials and Supplies

Ineligible Expenses

- Incremental Personal Equipment Use
- Equipment Rental

Specific Ineligible Items

- Any components associated with new irrigation development (i.e., beginning the practice of irrigated crop production).
- Regular repair or maintenance to existing system components that does not result in any or acceptable efficiency improvements.
- Equipment changes that do not result in a conversion to a more efficient power system or energy source.

Notes

- Irrigation efficiency is the quantity of water used to produce a given unit of crop. An improvement in efficiency can be represented by a reduction in the volume of water needed to produce the same amount of crop, or an increase in the number of crop units produced per unit of water applied.
- Any changes supported by the Program must not compromise compliance with regulatory requirements, such as those stipulated in an Environment Act License.

Reference Materials

For more guidance in developing your application, visit:

- [Irrigation Scheduling Manual for Saskatchewan](#), Government of Canada
- [Irrigation Tips to Conserve Water on the Farm](#), British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture
- [Water Rights Licensing in Manitoba](#), Manitoba government

BMP 4300: Drainage Water Management

Excess water must be managed for agricultural production to be carried out reliably and for communities, industries, and infrastructure to be protected. There are, however, adverse impacts of drainage that must also be mitigated. Advanced levels of water management, going beyond the objective of simply removing excess water as quickly and as much as possible, will become increasingly important as extremes of moisture become more pronounced.

While conventional sub-surface drainage can improve soil quality and ameliorate some of the impacts of surface drainage, controlled/conservation sub-surface drainage offers additional benefits, both environmental and production in nature. Capturing drainage water and then utilizing that which would otherwise simply go downstream achieves the full potential of intensive water management. This ambitious type of project can be expected to benefit from the input of a qualified professional who can account for all technical factors and contribute to the design and operation of a comprehensive system.

Eligible Applicants

- Primary Producers

Cost Share Ratio and Funding Cap

BMP 4300 has a cost share ratio of 30 per cent government, 70 per cent applicant, and an overall funding cap of \$105,000 across all eligible practices. A single Application Worksheet can include multiple eligible practices within BMP 4300.

Code	Practice Description	Cap
4301	Use of technologies/techniques to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• control the release of sub surface drainage water via structure(s), via water management zones delineated in an advanced tile network design and field conditions, to retain water in the soil profile for a crop to take up via its roots.• generate data informing the manipulation of the water table to facilitate water uptake by a crop.	\$30,000
4302	Creation of a drainage water capture and storage system, linked to a sub-surface tile network, for the purposes of detention (temporary holding) or retention (prolonged holding).	\$30,000
4303	Utilization of drainage water by recycling to land or directing to production facility, be it livestock, greenhouse or otherwise. Convey drainage water via water conveyance infrastructure to production facilities for use in those facilities	\$30,000
4304	Professional advisory service that informs the planning of a sub-surface drainage project, including data collection, system design, monitoring, and management scheme. Eligible as a stand-alone project if the project does not proceed for economic, technical, or environmental reasons.	\$15,000



Eligible Expenses

- Incremental Personal Labour
- Subcontracted Services
- Professional Fees
- Capital Assets and Equipment
- Materials and Supplies

Ineligible Expenses

- Incremental Personal Equipment Use
- Equipment Rental

Specific Ineligible Items

- Drainage system components not associated with control or conservation, i.e., conventional drainage providing only a means of removing excess water.
- Infrastructure involved in the capture of only surface water.
- Irrigation equipment associated with conventional irrigation, i.e., relying on a conventional source of water, not drainage water.

Notes

- This BMP is intended to promote and, for successful applicants, enable:
 - the adoption of control elements of drainage water management infrastructure, i.e., components beyond those of conventional drainage, enabling the establishment of water management zones as part of a controlled (conservation) sub-surface drainage system
 - capture and storage of drainage water that would otherwise be discharged; retaining water for the full growing season, versus detaining for a portion, offers more potential for accruing full benefits of the practice.
 - utilization of drainage water via recycling to land or agricultural facilities.
- Only costs associated with sub-surface drainage water flows are eligible for funding.
- Relevant regulatory approvals must be obtained, such as an authorization for a water works or an Environment Act License for a water reservoir.

Reference Materials

For more guidance in developing your application, visit:

- [Beneficial Management Practices for Agricultural Tile Drainage in Manitoba](#), PAMI
- [TransformingDrainage.org](#)
- [Drainage & Water Control](#), Manitoba government
- [Do I Need a Licence?](#), Manitoba government

BMP 4600: Water Use Efficiency

Agricultural production facilities in which water is used or greywater is generated may suffer inefficiencies due to aging of equipment or obsolete design. Installing new systems with superior designs or replacing old components of water infrastructure can lead to long-term savings in water consumption. Reducing the volume of water used and reusing what would otherwise be drained away ensures the sustainability of water supplies in the face of increased variability and demand.

Eligible Applicants

- Primary Producers

Cost Share Ratio and Funding Cap

BMP 4600 has a cost share ratio of 50 per cent government, 50 per cent applicant, and an overall funding cap of \$55,000 across all eligible practices. A single Application Worksheet can include multiple eligible practices within BMP 4600.

Code	Practice Description	Cap
4601	Equipment and facility upgrade or modification to increase water use efficiency / reduce water waste for livestock facilities, greenhouses, milk houses, etc. including fixtures, plumbing, water use meters, monitoring equipment, waterers, etc.	\$15,000
4602	Technologies that improve water use efficiency via reuse and/or recycle (e.g., greenhouse nutrient recovery and storage system, reusing milkhouse wash and cooling water, etc.)	\$30,000
4603	Engineering, design, permitting. Eligible as a stand-alone project if the project does not proceed for economic, technical, or environmental reasons.	\$10,000

Eligible Expenses

- Incremental Personal Labour
- Subcontracted Services
- Professional Fees
- Capital Assets and Equipment
- Materials and Supplies

Ineligible Expenses

- Incremental Personal Equipment Use
- Equipment Rental



Specific Ineligible Items

- Upgrades to any buildings or facilities not directly associated with agricultural production.

Notes

- Practice Code 4602: any buildings constructed under this practice code must be reasonable and intended to accommodate wastewater treatment systems only.

Reference Materials

For more guidance in developing your application, visit:

- [Milkhouse Wastewater Management](#), University of Massachusetts Amherst
- [Water Efficiency on the Farm](#), Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

BMP 4700: Water Supply

Effective management of both surface and ground water sources used for livestock and crop production is essential for ensuring the health and longevity of both the livestock and the land. Accessing new supplies or expanding existing supplies can be critical in contending with more frequent and prolonged periods of dry conditions.

Eligible Applicants

- Primary Producers

Cost Share Ratio and Funding Cap

BMP 4700 has a cost share ratio of 50 per cent government, 50 per cent applicant, and an overall funding cap of \$15,000.

Code	Practice Description	Cap
4701	<p>Establish new or expand existing water supply for agricultural use by installing infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wells: drilling new or deepening existing, plus test hole drilling, screening, casing, well caps, etc.• Dugouts: constructing new or rehabilitating existing, test-hole drilling, exclusion fencing, etc.• Associated components and actions: purchase and installation of pipe, plumbing materials, trenching, earthworks, etc.	\$15,000

Eligible Expenses

- Incremental Personal Labour
- Incremental Personal Equipment Use
- Subcontracted Services
- Professional Fees
- Capital Assets and Equipment
- Equipment Rental
- Materials and Supplies

Specific Ineligible Items

- Any water supply infrastructure intended solely for residential use.
- Ditching and other drainage work, including filling in old dugouts.
- Portable gas/diesel powered water pumps, generators, water meters
- Materials and construction expenses for pump houses
- Aeration systems for dugouts
- Hauling or pumping of water
- All expenses associated with watering systems (i.e., delivery of water to livestock)
- Temporary set up of watering systems
- Portable livestock corral panels

Notes

- Watershed Districts may offer complimentary programs such as abandoned well sealing and alternative watering systems. Please contact your local [Watershed District](#) for more information.
- Wells must be drilled by a licensed well driller and must be located at least 100 metres away from confined livestock areas.
- This BMP category does not support the creation of a yard site.
- Exclusion fencing around dugout is encouraged.
- Actions must support the establishment of reliable water supplies with longevity, permanently addressing water supply needs.
- Applicants must meet all regulatory requirements. This may include:
 - A Water Rights License from province of Manitoba (required for all livestock operations extracting more than 25,000 litres (25 cubic metres or 5,499 Imperial gallons) per day). If developing a new water source for such an operation, a permit must be obtained prior to the commencement of development.
 - Approvals from the Municipality or Crown
 - Any other standards or approvals as required by law.

Reference Materials

For more guidance in developing your application, visit:

- [Licensing, Regulation and Policy](#), Manitoba government
- [Drainage & Water Control](#), Manitoba government
- [Manitoba Association of Watershed Districts](#)

Section 5 - Application Worksheet

Assessment

The primary objective of Sustainable Agriculture Manitoba is to make environmental improvements on agriculture operations in Manitoba.

To maximize positive environmental outcomes, project proposals are assessed using three criteria: the Environmental Benefit Assessment Index, Provincial Program Priorities, and project planning.

- 1) **Environmental Benefit Assessment Index (EBAI):** A system used to determine the level to which a project addresses environment risk. The index generates a rating of the environmental benefits that a specific activity would provide.


The EBAI takes into account the following categories:

- **Climate change:** mitigation of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and adaptive measures to climate change,
- **Water quality:** potential to improve water quality by reducing the nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), pesticides and pathogens that enter waterways,
- **Water quantity:** potential to address the storage, conservation, and efficient use of water,
- **Soil quality and fertility:** potential to improve soil quality, reduce erosion and maintain or increase crop productivity, and
- **Biodiversity and natural habitat:** potential to improve biodiversity and wildlife habitat through environmental farming practices.

Categories within the EBAI are weighted to stress the importance of specific environmental benefits as dictated by the goals of a given program. For example, if the main objective of a program is to improve water quality, the water quality category receives the highest weighting. The other co-benefits of the practice are considered, but with a lower weight or emphasis.

The EBAI summarizes the scores for each environmental outcome based on program priorities to give a final numerical value of environmental benefits offered by the project.

- 2) **Provincial Program Priorities:** Agriculture sustainability should promote a profitable and competitive agricultural sector, while reducing the impact of agricultural activities on the environment. Manitoba prioritizes the adoption of on-farm strategies that improve environmental stewardship and can reduce the risk of nutrient loss to water, mitigate and adapt to climate change, increase the level of carbon stored in the soil, assist in mitigating potential nuisance complaints and enhance public trust of farming operations.

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- 3) Project Planning: Projects must be adequately designed, and applications must clearly identify locations, steps, process, and intent, especially with respect to environmental benefit. Project applications are scored on their ability to clearly show that the project design will result in the intended outcome.

Once all three aspects have been considered in the final rating, the resulting value is compared to other projects and funding is allocated based on ranking of the project; higher ranked projects are prioritized for funding.

Additional Information

Please contact Manitoba Agriculture for further information by email at agriculture@gov.mb.ca or by phone at 1-800-811-4411.

Section 6 - How to Apply for Funding

Applicant Information Forms and Application Worksheets are available on the Manitoba Agriculture website. Go to <https://www.gov.mb.ca/scap/climatechange/sustainableagr/water-management.html>

Manitoba Agriculture will publish deadline dates through the newsletter, website, and social media channels.

Complete applications, including Applicant Information Forms, Application Worksheets, and supporting documents must be submitted to the program administrator no later than the deadline.

Applicant Information Forms, Application Worksheets and required documentation can be emailed to Manitoba Agriculture at agriculture@gov.mb.ca.

Applicants must acknowledge and agree to any terms and conditions contained in the Applicant Information Form and Worksheet, Program Guide and Program Terms and Conditions.

Applicants must comply with all provincial and federal government laws and regulations applicable to their project and to their business or organization's operations.

Only the applicant may sign the program application or other program documents. In the case of corporations, partnerships and other business organizations, a designated person with legal authorization must sign the application and other program documents. The program administrator may require proof of authorization.

Project activities must be completed, and all reports submitted on or before **December 12, 2025**, unless otherwise stated in the Contribution or Funding agreement.

Funding for projects will be subject to the appropriation of funds by the Government of Canada and the Manitoba government.

Definitions

Agricultural Land: private land, leased agriculture Crown land, First Nation land or Association of Manitoba Community Pastures land and is used for agricultural crop production or pasture and located in Manitoba.

Applicant: a person or entity who satisfies all the eligibility requirements set out in the terms and conditions and who submits an application under this program.

Beneficial Management Practice (BMP): a recognized agricultural management practice that mitigates or minimizes negative impacts and risk to the environment, by maintaining or improving soil, water and air quality and biodiversity; or improves adaptability and ensures the long-term health and sustainability of land-related resources used for agricultural production.

Contribution Agreement: the articles of agreement and annexes, as well as their amendments and the general terms and conditions applicable on the effective date of agreement.

Funding Agreement: an agreement issued to applicants indicating an application decision and the next steps required for project implementation.

Government Funding: any financial assistance in the form of provincial or federal grants, loans, or other assistance.

Incremental Personal Equipment Use: equipment use hours incurred by the applicant for approved activities. Reimbursement is capped by the rates outlined in the [Manitoba Agriculture Farm Machinery Cost of Production Custom and Rental Rate Guide](#) and [MHCA Equipment Rental Rate Guide](#).

Incremental Personal Labour: labour hours incurred by the applicant for approved activities, such as construction, installation, manual labour, etc. which is directly related to the execution of the project


In-kind Contributions: non-monetary goods and/or services that are not reimbursable by the program.

Person: includes an individual, partnership, association, or corporate body (entity).

Primary Producer: an individual grower, producer or rancher, partnership, corporation, co-operative, or any other association of people who is actively engaged in farming.

Program: refers to the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership program.

Program Administrator: Manitoba Agriculture, or where applicable, any authorized person engaged by the Manitoba government, to conduct administrative activities in connection with the program.



Provincial Government Employee: any full-time, regular, part-time or term individual employed by the provincial government, including any special operating agency or Crown corporation.

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership: a five-year agricultural policy framework by Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial governments to encourage market development, innovation and research, environmental sustainability, value added processing, improved public trust and risk management across Canada's agriculture, agri-food, and agri-product sectors.

Terms and Conditions: the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership program rules that applicants must follow as conditions for receiving funding; may be occasionally revised, altered or amended from time to time.