

# Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program

The Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) is a new program being offered under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP). The RALP objective is to accelerate the adoption of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) that maximize provision of Ecological Goods & Services (EG&S), particularly increased carbon sequestration and enhanced climate resilience.

## Eligible Applicants

- Primary producer responsible for day-to-day management and input costs of an agricultural operation (crop, bee, or livestock) and produce at least \$25,000 worth of farm commodities annually.
- Groups such as Grazing Reserve Associations and Community Pastures.
- Approved Indigenous applicants (First Nation, Métis Nation, Inuit).

**and**

- Has a current Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) certificate or letter or will receive one before the end of the project term. The name on the EFP does not need to match the name on the grant application but must be for the same farm.

## Funding

Funding is offered on a per-acre payment basis for a term of three years. Per-acre fee calculated as:

**Implementation Costs + Opportunity Cost (if applicable) + Impact Adjustment**

Approved projects will be funded to:

- minimum grant of **\$2,000**
- maximum grant of **\$150,000** for Primary Producers
- maximum grant of **\$300,000** for Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit, Metis) and groups such as Grazing Reserve Associations and/or Community Pastures

**Note:** the program is retroactive to April 3, 2023.

## Funding List

- Funding list may change.
- Check website for most up-to-date list.
- Subscribe to the program for automatic updates: [www.alberta.ca/sustainable-cap.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/sustainable-cap.aspx).

## Additional Information

- Applications are reviewed as they are received and evaluated according to the eligibility criteria and funding availability.
- Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant.
- Email questions to [RALP@gov.ab.ca](mailto:RALP@gov.ab.ca) or call 310-FARM (3276).



## Eligibility and Applications

1. **Does an Applicant require an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) before they can apply to RALP?**
  - A. The Applicant does not need to have a completed EFP prior to applying to RALP, but they must receive their EFP certificate or completion letter before the end of their 3-year project term. To get started on an EFP, visit [www.albertaefp.com](http://www.albertaefp.com)
2. **Will Grazing Reserves/Community Pastures need an EFP to be eligible for RALP?**
  - A. Yes, the EFP process is flexible enough to be applied in these situations. For help on this type of EFP please contact the Agricultural Research Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) at [inquiries@albertaEFP.com](mailto:inquiries@albertaEFP.com) or (587) 200-2552.
3. **Can RALP projects be done on rented land?**
  - A. Yes, leased land is eligible for RALP projects provided the Applicant has landowner permission to complete the project and to implement the BMP over the 3-year term.
4. **If I received funding from other government programs, am I eligible to apply for funding under RALP on the same project?**
  - A. You cannot combine funding from other government programs on the same project items applied for under RALP. For example, if you received funding from the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) for your project, you cannot apply to RALP for funding for the same project items. If you are pending a decision on an application to another government program for your project, it is recommended to wait until you are aware of that before you apply to RALP as you will not be eligible if you receive other funding. The only exception to this is for the Wetland category, as wetland projects must have been conducted under the Wetland Replacement Program to be eligible.
5. **Can I apply for multiple Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) in the same application?**
  - A. Yes, you can apply for multiple BMPs within a single application. It is strongly advised to apply once for all activities you are interested in applying for. The application review process may be delayed if you submit multiple applications before receiving an official grant decision for all the activities you wish to apply for.

## Funding

6. **How do I know how much funding I can receive if I apply to the RALP program for my project?**
  - A. Funding is dependent on the BMPs and activities implemented, use the application form available on the RALP website to enter your expected activities and expenses and the form will calculate the total funding you may be eligible for.
7. **Does RALP pay for in-kind costs?**
  - A. RALP pays for some in-kind costs but not all. All in-kind costs that are eligible are included in the cost maximums for those applicable activities, for example seeding operations have a cost maximum of \$30/ac and that amount covers equipment and labor.
8. **I would like to implement an item that is not listed in the Implementation Costs of the RALP Funding List. How do I find out if it will be reimbursed?**
  - A. Only items listed in the Implementation Costs for the BMP are covered. If you are unsure about a particular expense, or there is an item not listed that you would like to see included in the future, please email [ralp@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ralp@gov.ab.ca).



9. **Do I need to keep quotes and receipts for my expenses for all three years of my project term?**

- A. Make sure to consider all expenses that will be incurred for the full three-year term when completing your application and list the total expenses for all three years in your application. Keep copies of all invoices and receipts incurred during the three-year project term as they may be required to submit with your Interim Report and Final Report.

10. **How is my funding amount determined?**

- A. For each BMP project, the cost determination below will be used to calculate the payment per acre for the three-year term:

**Implementation Costs + Opportunity Cost (if applicable) + Impact Adjustment**

**Implementation Costs:** Funding will be offered to cover 100% of these costs (eligible expenses only, note some expenses have cost maximums).

**Opportunity Costs:** specific to BMPs – see the funding list for applicable opportunity costs.

**Impact Adjustment:** a per acre payment adjusted up based on carbon sequestration capacity, number of livestock, number of acres, improvement of water quality and biodiversity (if applicable) and degree of practice change over the 3-year land use agreement. The impact adjustment maybe be up to 15% but could be less. An Applicant must select in their application form if they want the Impact Adjustment to be included in their funding amount.

11. **How will my funding amount be paid?**

- A. The funding amount determined for your three-year project will be paid in two payments. 50% will be paid after application approval and 50% will be paid at the end of the three-year term. Note that if the project has not been maintained for the full three years the final 50% will not be paid.

**BMPs**

12. **Fencing – does construction type affect eligibility?**

- A. Fencing that is implemented under RALP must be constructed at least 3m away from a natural water body and reasonably align with best practice guidelines which can be found at <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/best-practice-guidelines-for-selecting-standard-fencing-options>. The cost maximums still apply depending on type – barbed/page wire is covered at \$10/m and electric fencing is covered at \$5/m.

13. **What components of an off-site watering system would be covered by RALP? Would surface or buried pipelines be eligible?**

- A. RALP funding will cover all components of an off-site watering system **IF** they are protecting an **existing** water source (either natural or man-made). This includes waterers and surface or buried pipeline, but reimbursement will be provided for materials only, installation costs will not be covered. Applicants are responsible for ensuring all rules and regulations related to watering systems and water sources are followed in their project.

New water source developments such as dugouts or wells, and the watering systems and pipelines intended to be connected to them will not be covered, as they should be applied for through the Water Program at <https://www.alberta.ca/water-program.aspx>. Watering systems off a water source that has not been constructed at the time of the RALP application submission are also ineligible.

**14. Does the intercropping have to occur on the same piece of land for the entire 3-year land agreement?**

A. For intercropping, an Applicant can either plant on the same land location for each of the three years or can plant on a different piece of land each year. Make sure to include details on the planting locations for all three years in your application.

**15. Bio-control –Does this cover livestock only, or also things like insects or pathogens?**

A. This is targeted to livestock grazing, so animals only.

**16. Are Professional Agrologists (P. Ag) or Certified Crop Advisors (CCA) the only accredited technicians eligible for claiming technical support for a RALP project, or can other certified professionals or experienced operators be used as well?**

A. At this time, only P. Ag and CCA technical support will be eligible for reimbursement.

**17. How do I claim for Materials on Hand if I don't have receipts?**

A. For Materials on Hand, we will reimburse for fencing materials and seed on hand. Fencing has a cost maximum for each type of fencing materials, and you would calculate your expense using the applicable cost maximum and length of fencing that you will be implementing from your materials. For seed, the market price for the seed type you are claiming can be used for the estimated expense.