



Growing Forward 2 - Now Accepting Applications!

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FORWARD

Growing Forward is a joint federal-provincial policy framework rolling out across the nation to support innovation, competitiveness and profitability in agriculture. In Alberta, the programming is tailored to support the needs of the industry, with the Province contributing 40% of the \$406 million that will be invested in Alberta's agricultural producers and industry groups over the next 5 years. Growing Forward 2 came available on April 2nd of 2013 and is a continuation of the previous Growing Forward program with many opportunities for livestock producers and producer groups to improve their businesses and their bottom lines.

On-Farm Stewardship Program

Of all the programs relevant to livestock producers, the On-Farm Stewardship Program is perhaps the broadest, which seeks to improve farm impact on water quality in five categories. These categories are Grazing Management, Manure and Livestock Facilities Management, Improved Pest Management, Fuel and Used Oil Storage and Innovative Stewardship Solutions. Applicants must have completed an Environmental Farm Plan to be eligible. Depending on the activity, 30%, 50% or 70% of costs can be covered, to a maximum of \$50,000 per applicant.

The *Grazing Management* category will assist producers with 70% of the costs of fencing riparian areas and riparian area management practices including purchasing and establishing trees, grass and legumes and carrying out weed control strategies. This category can cover 50% of the cost to purchase year-round or summer watering systems so that livestock water off-site and will assist with the purchase of surface, shallow or deeply trenched pipelines. This category will assist with the purchase of portable shelters and windbreaks to reduce manure build-up and distribute manure more evenly in field. It will also cover 70% of the costs related to wetland restoration, including earthworks, engineering consultant fees, re-vegetation and equipment use and labour.

The *Manure and Livestock Facilities Management* category will assist with 50% of the costs of earthworks, materials, supplies, labour and equipment required to develop improved manure storage facilities. It will provide assistance with the installation and upgrades to runoff control systems outside of livestock pens. Eligible projects may include retention and settling ponds, constructed wetlands, culverts and drainage tiles, windbreaks, snow fences and even eaves troughs as well as engineering fees. Finally, this program will cover 50% of the costs related to relocating a livestock facility and dismantling an existing one if it poses a risk to the watersheds.

The *Improved Pest Management* category will contribute 50% of the costs related to sprayer equipment modifications to reduce drift to non-target zones and crop and pest monitoring equipment, such as weather stations, that will assist producers with timely and targeted control. The *Fuel and Used-Oil Storage* category will contribute 30% of the cost of a double walled fuel tank and a double walled used oil storage tank. The applicant must provide proof that at least one old fuel tank has been decommissioned. Finally, the *Innovative Stewardship Solutions* category provides agricultural producers an opportunity to design and submit a unique project they believe will improve water quality on their operation. Each project will be assessed on an individual basis by a technical review panel.

On-Farm Water Management Program

A program that closely complements the On-Farm Stewardship Program is the On-Farm Water Management Program. Producers who complete a Long Term Water Management Plan are then eligible for one third of costs related to their on-farm water supply and management, to a maximum of \$5,000 for standard incentive projects and 50% of an unspecified maximum for special incentive projects. Standard incentive projects include the construction of wells, dugouts, spring developments, dams and water pipelines in addition to off-site watering systems. There are size requirements for new or expanded water sources. Special incentive projects include well decommissioning, well pit conversions, purchasing water meters and water well depth measurement equipment and connecting to multi-user water supply pipelines.

Agri-Processing Automation and Efficiency Program – Livestock

This program assists livestock producers and meat processors to purchase new processing equipment and develop of improved processes and best practices in their businesses. Capital expenses can be covered up to 20% and include engineering designs and purchasing and installing new equipment. Non-capital expenses can be covered up to 50% and include consulting and engineering fees, consultant and coaching fees and training for employees such that new equipment can be used. The entire program can provide up to \$50,000 to the applicant and will also cover feasibility studies and travel for business research.

EVENTS

May

Water Works #2

May 31-June 1

High Prairie

Join Craig Sponholtz for a second round of workshops. This time he will be giving producers the opportunity to learn the techniques he discussed in his first visit through a hands-on workshop.

Call Karlah to register and for more details:
780-523-4033

June

Compost Workshop

July

Land EKG Workshop

July 11-12

Mayerthorpe

Join Charley Orchard for a 2 day workshop to learn monitoring basics, soil surveying, forage production methods etc.

Field Day

July 31

Whitelaw & Brownvale

Join us to see how foliar fertilizer can be used for pasture rejuvenation and grasshopper control. Also see how 3-4 triticale varieties perform in the Peace.

August

Water Works #3

Aug 9-10

Fairview

Join Jesse Lemieux for a session on keyline design and how it can be used as part of whole farm water design.

Beef School

Aug 24

Grimshaw

Agri-Processing Product and Market Development Program – Livestock

This program exists to develop new and innovative means to getting Alberta-made products into new markets. The program can assist livestock producers or groups of livestock producers to a maximum of \$500,000 or 50% of the costs of product and market development. Labeling and packaging (design and production), market research, coaching and consultant fees and the development of business plans are all covered. The program will be more favorable to wholesaling ventures, but local marketing groups will be considered also.

Business Opportunity Fund

This program provides information and knowledge to producers and producer groups to support business decisions. New producers and producer groups can be covered up to 75% and individual producers can be covered up to 50%. The program can provide up to \$30,000 to a number of activities including feasibility studies, business plans, market research, value chain development, pricing models, marketing plans, mentoring and succession plans.

Business Management Skills Development Program

This program will cover 75% of approved business skills development training courses, to a maximum of \$10,000 per individual. The program is available to individuals, groups and new entrants and will cover the costs of any training that seeks to develop management capacity, business management skills or industry networks, including Ranching for Profit and Holistic Management courses. However, the program will not assist with travel and transportation costs.

Food Safety Systems Program – Producer

This program will cover 70% of costs to a maximum of \$5,000 for materials and programs that improve on-farm food safety practices in accordance with commodity-specific national on-farm food safety programs (www.beefsafety.ab.ca) and good food production practices. Items such as cattle squeezes, scales, milk guards and computer software used for record keeping would all be considered.

Irrigation Efficiency Program

This program exists to assist producers to invest in new or upgraded low-pressure centre pivot irrigation equipment and variable rate controllers and software. The program will cover up to 40% of costs to a maximum of \$5,000. Applicants must have a Long-Term Irrigation Management Plan.

On-Farm Energy Management Program

This program assists agricultural producers with investments that improve energy efficiency on the farm. The program will cover 50% of costs to a maximum of \$50,000 per farm. The program references a list of eligible items that contribute to installations and retrofits of high-efficiency equipment. Each successful applicant will be provided with a submeter so they can monitor real-time power usage online. Farm residences are ineligible and applicants must have a minimum of \$10,000 in farm income receipts to apply.

These are the programs currently available, but many more will be opening soon! The **Agricultural Watershed Enhancement Program** will be accessed through municipalities and counties to assist farmers to adopt best management practices and develop run-on and run-off controls for spring run-off and high rainfall events. The **Biosecurity Delivery Agent (Producer) Program** will help producers assess, determine and reduce biosecurity risks and provide training on risk management. The **Food Safety Systems (Processor) Program** will help processors who are registered by federal or provincial inspection and currently wholesaling food, drink or pet food to adopt food safety systems. The **Livestock Welfare (Processor or Producer) Program** will assist processors or producers adopt practices that enhance humane animal care. Finally, the **Traceability Technology Adoption Program** will assist with 70% of the cost to adopt technologies for traceability.

For inquiries and assistance with Growing Forward, please contact our offices! We can provide you with assistance in finding a program that matches your needs, designing your project and even completing the application forms. Also, visit the website for Growing Forward 2 to find out more about a program that sounds like it might be of use to you: <http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/>



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