



Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES PROGRAM (RALP) Sulphate Water Treatment BMP

The Sulphate Water Treatment Beneficial Management Practice (BMP) assists producers dealing with elevated sulphate levels in their wells and dugouts. Treating water unfit for livestock consumption reduces the need for producers to construct new water sources, minimizing the impact of water development on the landscape. Improved animal health due to improved water quality is correlated to improved fertility and weight gain which results in fewer inputs and greenhouse gas emissions associated with livestock production.

FUNDING LEVEL

50 per cent of eligible costs related to the water treatment technology and 75 per cent of eligible costs related to a wastewater evaporation or holding pond, if required, to a combined maximum of \$20,000.

- Disposal of wastewater in an evaporation or holding pond is required if wastewater will be generated as part of the project.

APPLICATION TYPE

Applicants must work through their local Ministry of Agriculture office to have their projects pre-approved.

Please call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 to connect with a specialist in your area.

- Application deadline for pre-approval is September 30, 2027, for project to be completed by February 1, 2028.
- Claims must be received by February 1, 2028.
- Pre or post-project implementation site inspections or water tests may be conducted.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

Some projects may be located on parcels of land deemed environmentally sensitive. Through the pre-approval application process, a Ministry of Agriculture specialist will conduct the environmental screening on private land. On Crown land, a land management specialist will conduct the environmental screening and a Crown Land Management Branch Application to Construct Improvements may be required. Projects located in environmentally sensitive areas may have special requirements.

AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT

As a condition to access program funding, applicants are required to review the [Agri-Environmental Risk Assessment](#) before beginning their project.

ELIGIBILITY

- Saskatchewan agricultural producers (individual, partnership or corporation) who can demonstrate a minimum of \$50,000 in gross farm income in Saskatchewan in the year of application or the year prior to the application. Individual applicants are at least 18 years of age. Our programs allow flexibility for new entrants to become eligible if they expect to meet gross farm income eligibility within the five-year term of Sustainable CAP. New entrants who do not meet the annual gross farm income threshold are encouraged to submit a claim and will be required to provide proof of meeting the annual gross farm income threshold before February 29, 2028; or
- Crown Land Pasture Associations in Saskatchewan; or
- First Nation Bands in the Province of Saskatchewan.
- Must have a [Saskatchewan Premises Identification \(PID\) number](#).
- Must own, lease or custom graze a minimum of 20 animal units.

First Nation producers may have distinct characteristics reflecting regulatory, operational, cultural and other factors. Our programs are designed to allow for flexibility to reduce barriers and ensure accessibility. If you are interested in applying for programs and have questions about the application process or eligibility criteria for First Nation producers, please contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 and ask to be connected with the appropriate extension specialist.

PROJECT COSTS

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES OR ITEMS

The following activities/items are funded at a 50 per cent cost-share as part of the water treatment systems:

- Reverse osmosis systems. Applicants may purchase an all-in-one system or purchase components separately from different vendors;
- Other eligible water treatment technologies can include, but are not limited to:
 - Nano-filtration;
 - Capacitive deionization; and
 - Ion exchange.
- Only water quality systems required to bring water quality up to an acceptable livestock water drinking standard will be funded. This BMP will not provide funding to bring water quality up to human drinking water standards.
- Installation costs, including third party freight/mileage.
- Water storage tanks (minimum 1000 US gallons).
- Use of applicant's equipment at [Saskatchewan Farm Machinery Custom and Rental Rate Guide](#) rates.

The following activities/items are funded at a 75 per cent cost-share as part of the holding pond:

- Wastewater evaporation and/or holding ponds including an impermeable liner or barrier.
- Engineering and consulting costs for evaporation/holding pond design.
- Soil testing.
- Permanent fencing to exclude livestock from a holding/evaporation pond to a maximum rebate of \$1,125 per eligible project.
- Use of applicant's equipment for holding pond construction at [Saskatchewan Farm Machinery Custom and Rental Rate Guide](#) rates.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Discharge from any water treatment system must not enter any nearby waterbodies or watercourses not controlled by the operator.
- There must be adequate separation between where the wastewater is discharged and other water sources (well, dugout, etc.).
- If the Ministry determines that an engineering plan is required for construction of an evaporation/holding pond on a site, the project will not be funded until the engineering work is complete.

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES OR ITEMS

- Invoices dated before April 1, 2023.
- Maintenance of water treatment systems.
- Costs associated with expanding production capacity.
- Use of leased equipment.
- Development of a new water source (refer to Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program for funding options).
- In-kind materials such as rocks, sand, gravel or clay.
- In-kind labour or employee labour.
- In-kind payment (i.e. trading) for third-party services.
- In-kind freight/mileage.