

Natural Systems



Pest Biosecurity Program



The [Pest Biosecurity Program](#) helps protect Saskatchewan's crops and agricultural landscapes from harmful pests, including invasive plants and nuisance animals. The program is delivered through a partnership between the federal and provincial governments through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM).

Available to rural municipalities and First Nations south of the Northern Administrative District, the program focuses on:

- Detecting pests early and responding quickly.
- Preventing pest spread through practical, preventative measures.
- Training and supporting field staff to identify and manage pest risks.

The program includes the [Plant Health Network](#), which has established trained Plant Health Technical Advisors in each of SARM's divisions to provide on-the-ground support, education and guidance. These advisors promote best practices and help monitor and assist in the control of emerging pest risks.

SARM also administers four 50:50 cost-shared rebate programs to support pest biosecurity goals:

- [Beaver Control Program \(BCP\)](#) – The program provides financial support to mitigate the effects of adult nuisance beavers, the actions of which may cause flooding of crops and pasture lands by damming waterways and blocking culverts. The program involves humane removal of adult nuisance beavers along with the use of easy man-made flow devices to mitigate resulting flooding problems.
- [Gopher Control Program \(GCP\)](#) – This program encourages balanced pest management practices to keep populations of ground squirrels and pocket gophers at manageable levels in areas where they may infest crops and pastures. The program provides a rebate for a variety of pest management strategies, including registered control products and non-chemical options, such as raptor platforms and nest boxes.
- [Invasive Plant Control Program \(IPCP\)](#) – This program provides financial support for the control of prohibited weeds and specific noxious weeds that are persistent and problematic for crops.
- [Rat Control Program \(RCP\)](#) – This program provides financial and staff support for controlling rat populations. Rat control is important to prevent the spread of disease and destruction of stored grain.

Why It Matters

Pests can reduce crop yields, damage farmland and increase costs. The Pest Biosecurity Program supports healthy crops, protects food supplies and helps ensure Saskatchewan's agricultural systems remain productive and sustainable over the long term. By focusing on early detection, prevention and local action, the program strengthens the province's ability to respond to pest threats before they become widespread.

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