



CFGA OFCAF Frequently Asked Questions

General

Q: Where do I direct questions about program guidelines and eligibility?

A: If you do not find your question answered in this FAQ, you can email questions about program guidelines, eligibility and application process to travis@canadianfga.ca, programs@canadianfga.ca or see the CFGA [website](#).

Q: Where can I contact a mentor to help with grazing plan development, learn about workshops and other inquiries?

A: Depending on your province, select the appropriate provincial partner:

BC – Serena Black – bfcf@bcforagecouncil.com

AB – Sonja Shank – sonja@areca.ab.ca

SK – Adrienne Hanson – adrienne@canadianfga.ca

QC – Marie-Pier Beaulieu – mairepier@canadianfga.ca

For Program eligibility and BixImpact website questions – Travis Quirk at travis@canadianfga.ca

Q: Where can I find the grazing plan template?

A: You can download the [grazing plan template](#) here along with other resources that will help you.

Q: Where can I find the application form?

A: You can download the [application](#) form here, and you'll find the steps for the process there too.

Program parameters and requirements

Q: Is there a maximum funding limit per project/farm?

A: OFCAF has a funding maximum of \$75,000 per farm, across all three different BMPs (cover crop, nitrogen management and rotational grazing) throughout the program's lifespan. On a per project basis, we suggest an average of about \$20,000. However, for larger projects, we can extend that to higher amounts, if it's reasonable for that farm operation.

Q: What is the annual minimum gross farm income to be eligible?

A: The minimum gross farm income is \$10,000 to participate in this program. Exceptions may be allowed for new farmers in the future, stay tuned.

Q: What is the cost-share reimbursement for each component of the project?

A: Grazing plan development is up to 85 per cent covered (producer pays 15 per cent); all other eligible expenses are 70 per cent covered (producer pays 30 per cent). Grazing plan development cost share can be 70 per cent as well if your mentor is not part of the provincial partner mentor network.

Q: Is it mandatory to have a P.Ag or CCA mentor sign off on a grazing plan as part of the application?

A: P.Ag or CCA sign off isn't a requirement for our program. Our review process handles that part of the grazing plan / application review.

Q: Does a producer have to work with a mentor to develop a grazing plan?

A: No. If the producer is able to do it on their own, that is fine.

Q: Can I apply to this program for materials I already purchased?

A: Anything purchased and implemented after April 2022 could be eligible for this funding, assuming it meets the requirements of this program. Applications must be submitted by Feb 15, 2023.

Q: What happens when the funds for this program are all spent/allocated to projects? Will new funding become available for future projects?

A: Funds are allocated to projects on a first-come basis. If all funds are allocated for the years 2022-2023, we will announce the program is fully subscribed. For 2024, it has been announced that the program will be extended, but exact fund allocation is yet to be decided by the federal government.

Q: Can you clarify funding from other sources? Can CFGA OFCAF funding be stacked with OFCAF funding from another organization for the same BMP/project?

A: Funds can be stacked to 100 per cent from other non-government sources and only to 85 per cent for government sources. OFCAF funds from other delivery organizations cannot be stacked and must be different locations or different BMPs.

Q: Can you apply for the maximum \$75,000 for a project even if your income is limited?

A: Assuming the producer meets the minimum farm income of \$10,000, we recommend breaking the application up into steps. Start with developing a grazing plan, then use it to apply for the materials, equipment and installation. It is more likely to succeed if broken into smaller sections. Producers requesting greater than \$20,000 may be eligible for greater amounts of funding based on what is reasonable for their farm size/operation.

Q: Who would get the (potential) carbon credits from these programs?

A: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) tabulates the carbon credits. CFGA will do reporting for the acres within the project areas that are funded. This means producers are unable to access regulated carbon markets for the project area until after March 2024 when the project ends. Then the carbon credits are available to the producer to apply to markets wherever they would like. However, producers are able to access voluntary carbon markets pending those markets eligibility requirements.

Application Process

Q: What are the deadline dates to have applications in? What is the timeline for application approvals?

A: Applications for 2022 projects were due on Feb 15, 2023. For 2023 projects, we have no deadlines at this time. We're running an open intake, allocating funds on a first-come basis. We encourage you to submit as soon as possible so you can develop a grazing plan, buy materials in the winter and be ready to install in the spring. The technical review committee reviews applications on a weekly basis.

Q: What is the process for reimbursement of eligible expenses?

A: When an application is submitted, it is reviewed and, if given approval, a contribution agreement and claim form will be sent to the applicant. Once all purchases are made, materials installed and project complete, invoices and proof of payment should be submitted in the BixImpact system for reimbursement. The project can be broken into multiple applications if preferred so reimbursement is quicker.

Q: Can I submit multiple applications or only one?

A: You can apply multiple times for each portion of the project or all at once. You could start by applying only for developing a grazing plan with a mentor. Next, you could use the grazing plan to apply again for funding for purchasing the materials/equipment (at 70 per cent cost-share). Then you could apply again for funding to implement and install the project (at 70 per cent cost-share). Alternatively, you can do it all in one application for a grazing plan, fencing, watering system and pasture improvement.

Q: If a producer's expenses are submitted and approved before the end of February 2023, do they get reimbursed then or do they have to wait until fence is in the ground?

A: As soon as materials are purchased and the claim submitted, they can be reimbursed. Then, once the fence is installed, those costs can be claimed and reimbursed. This way the producer doesn't have to carry all the costs until the project is completed, but reimbursement is quicker. Projects need to be completed and claims submitted by Nov. 30, 2023, for final payment. Projects not fully completed by that date may be asked to return any funding received.

Q: When does the program end? When do projects have to be completed by to be reimbursed?

A: Projects need to be completed by the end of the 2023 growing season. The program ends March 2024, so everything must be reimbursed by then.

Eligibility

Q: Are crown land lease projects able to apply? How about community pastures or provincial grazing groups? How about rented land?

A: Yes, all can be eligible with an approved grazing plan. Applicants should inform land owners about projects and crown lease land may require approval from the crown lands manager.

Q: Is this program available to First Nation governments and individuals?

A: Absolutely. All the same steps apply.

Q: Would hiring a consultant in the regenerative agriculture space who is not a P.Ag or CCA be an eligible expense?

A: We recommend for mentors like this to go through our mentor training which we host on a regular basis. Mentors who become part of the provincial partner mentor network are eligible for the 85 per cent cost share for the services they provide to producers in developing rotational grazing plans. Contact Carlene Schneider at communications@canadianfga.ca to access the mentor training resources.

Q: Are portable corrals that could be used to permit calving/winter feeding in different locations, as well as supporting cattle movement between non-contiguous parcels of land, eligible?

A: Portable panels, windbreaks, metal gates, texas gates and livestock handling facilities are not eligible.

Q: Are hydrants an eligible expense? We need to connect to city water to irrigate some of our fields and must have them installed by the local water board and they cost a few hundred dollars.

A: Funding is available for livestock watering systems and not for irrigation. Hydrants are eligible if they are part of the remote watering system.

Q: Is page-wire fence eligible?

A: Yes, with an approved grazing plan.

Q: Is there any funding available for guardian dogs?

A: Not under our program, but some provinces might have some.

Q: Is perimeter fencing eligible?

A: If you can justify that it is part of the rotational grazing plan, yes.

Q: For pasture rejuvenation, what type of expenses are covered?

A: Seed costs and custom-seeding work using a seed drill are eligible. Not included expenses are chemicals (herbicides), fertilizer and tillage.

Q: Is there any coverage for wells to be drilled in order to implement rotational grazing? Is there funding for dugouts?

A: No. Our program makes use of existing water sources. There is no funding for dugouts, but you can fund remote systems off of dugouts. Some provinces do have funding for developing new water sources.

Q: Can the cost of clearing areas with an excavator be covered?

A: This is not eligible, but establishing forage and seeding costs are eligible as part of an overall rotational grazing program.

Q: Are you funding both tame forage and native/perennial prairie under the program?

A: Both are eligible.

Q: Is the capital cost of buying a seeder an eligible expense?

A: No, but the use of a seeder at a per acre or hourly rate and your time is eligible.

Q: Are edible trees, as part of a windbreak, an eligible expense?

A: Yes, if the producer explains how they are part of the grazing plan.

Q: Would extending the grazing season with swath grazing be suitable for requesting the cost of the electric fencing or a water project or does the land have to be converted into permanent cover?

A: You would need to show how extending the grazing season would fit into your grazing plan and benefit carbon sequestration. If the equipment is used for both summer and winter, it is eligible. Other programs exist that are mostly focused on cover crops if that is your main focus.

Q: Is replacing broken cross fencing an eligible cost?

A: Taking down the old fence is not an eligible cost, but if the new cross fence will improve the grazing system as indicated in your grazing plan, the new cross fence is eligible.

Q: Are solar well pumps drawing out of an existing water well covered?

A: Yes. Remote solar systems are eligible assuming its use is incorporated into the grazing plan.

Q: Are the cell design structures flexible with challenging land with many hills, trees and water features?

A: Absolutely. Terrain is an obstacle that producers work with. Just provide explanation in your grazing plan about the limitations you're working with.

Learning Opportunities

Q: How do you sign up to participate in a grazing group?

A: Contact the provincial partner for your area. See the contact list at top of this page or go to the Connect with Us section [here](#).

Q: Can I still access CFGA's conference materials?

A: Yes, although the conference has passed, you can still gain access to the conference presentations. Producers registered in the Advanced Grazing Systems Program can request access by emailing info@canadianfga.ca.

Q: Is there any information available about groups discussing how to monetize the carbon credits?

A: We have built the [Canada Grasslands Protocol](#) which is the first monetization vehicle for carbon under grasslands in Canada. It's an avoided-conversion protocol. We have a pilot project

on the go, so we are seeking landowners to take part in that. If you're interested, reach out to Cedric MacLeod at executivedirector@canadianfga.ca

Q: Are there resources or groups you'd recommend for solar suppliers?

A: Contact your provincial partner for solutions near you.

Q: How do I establish the grazing allowable AUM on an annual crop being grazed

A: This depends on your own estimates of what dry matter yield would be. For more details, reach out to a mentor in your region. See the contact list at top of this page or go to the Connect with Us section [here](#).