

Forage Facts



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OFCAF Funding Re-Opening February 13th!

By Katie McLachlan

Producers, start your laptops!!

You may have heard about the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) this past fall. There is up to \$75,000 available to producers through the OFCAF program. There are a number of ways to access this funding, so let's break it all down!

OFCAF Program Overview

OFCAF provides financial support to producers to accelerate their adoption and implementation of on-farm Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) to lower Greenhouse Gas emissions, support production efficiency, sustainability and resiliency on their farm operations. To assist producers with their adoption of new BMPs, the program will offer producers resources to support BMP implementation and provide BMP design recommendations. Three main streams are the focus of the program: Nitrogen Management, Cover Cropping, and Rotational Grazing.

In Alberta, OFCAF is being delivered through 3 different delivery

partners. Delivery partners are the organizations responsible for administering grant funds. Each delivery partner program is slightly different in what activities they are funding and the amounts that producers can access through them. Producers can apply to one, two, or all of the different delivery partner's programs, so long as they do not exceed the program cap amount of \$75,000.

So now, let's get to the nitty gritty of what is being funded, and how you can access those funds!

RDAR's Program

Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) is administering one of the programs in Alberta. Funding is intended to increase new adoption of BMPs; farmers cannot receive funding for a BMP where it is already in use and project costs funded from sources are not eligible for reimbursement. BMP implementation must be new to farm or field.

Eligibility: Must be an active producer in Alberta with a minimum of \$25,000 gross farm income.

Cost Share: 85% reimbursement of eligible expenses to a maximum of \$75,000. Producer must pay for all expenses up-front.



On-Farm Climate Action Fund

Eligible Expenses - Rotational Grazing: Permanent cross fencing, temporary fencing materials, electric fencing materials, shallow buried water distribution systems, custom installation and equipment rentals, forage testing, and watering systems powered by renewable energy that improve a rotational grazing system.

Eligible Expenses - Cover Cropping: Full season cover crops in rotation (non-marketable crops that will be terminated so annual cropping can resume), seed cost of cover crops under seeded or seeded after a main crop that will achieve 6" of growth before winter, custom planting costs.

Eligible Expenses - Nitrogen Management: Soil sampling for field mapping, price difference between standard N and N with a nitrification inhibitor or ESN, transportation and spreading costs of manure, compost or digestate amendments, and seed and planting costs to add perennial legumes to an annual rotation.

For a full listing of eligible and ineligible costs, visit rdar.ca/ofcaf

Application Process Overview: Applications must be submitted online via ARGO (Agriculture Research Grant Organizer), RDAR's Grant Management system. An BMP Action Plan must be recommended by a PAg or CCA and be submitted with the online application. Applicants will receive approval for their proposed project with a pre-approved budget. Once the project is completed, applicants are required to submit invoices for all eligible BMPs. RDAR will review the invoice and ensure they match the approved project. Funds will be delivered to each applicant.

Important Dates: Program opens February 13th. Program closes November 30th. Final Reports due January 31, 2024.

CFGA's Program

The Canadian Forage & Grassland Association's program is focused on rotational grazing. This

program is centred on increasing the total acres under a rotational grazing system.

Eligibility: Must be an active producer with \$10,000 gross farm income in Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan or Quebec.

Cost Share: 70% reimbursement to a maximum of \$20,000.

Eligible Expenses: Costs incurred in the development of a rotational grazing plan, materials for permanent cross fencing, electric fencing supplies, summer and winter watering systems that are a part of an advanced rotational grazing plan (including wet wells, trenching, and pipeline costs) and seed and seeding costs to seed pastures.

Application Process: The application can be downloaded off CFGA's website at canadianfga.ca/projects-projects/farm-climate-action-fund. Once complete, producers need to login to CFGA's online system and complete a brief online portion where the application form will be submitted.

Important Dates: Applications are accepted continuously until the program is fully subscribed to each province.

Canola 4R Advantage Program

The Canola 4R Advantage program offers incentives to help growers initiate or advance 4R Nutrient Stewardship on canola acres.

Cost Share: To to 85% reimbursement on eligible projects to a maximum of \$12,000.

Eligible Expenses: Soil testing, enhanced efficiency fertilizer, preferred application and field zone mapping.

Application Process: Producers need to complete a 4R Nutrient Stewardship Plan, and have that plan signed off on by a CCA or P.Ag. More details are available at canolacouncil.org/4r-advantage

Important Dates: Applications are accepted through this program until February 17th.

**Get Your Applications
Ready!**



On-Farm Climate Action Fund One-On-One Assistance



There is Currently Funding Available to Your Farm or Ranch to Implement New Practices around Nitrogen Management, Cover Cropping & Rotational Grazing!

Peace Country Beef & Forage Association has a staff member who is available to assist you with your OFCAF Applications.

Due to funding constraints, there will be a charge for in-person, one-on-one service as follows:

**PCBFA Members: \$50/hour + Mileage
Non-PCBFA Members: \$75/hour + Mileage**

All producers are welcome to book appointments at the Fairview Research Farm Office and will only be charged the hourly rate.

Please note: This service only includes application assistance. Producers will still need to consult a P.Ag or CCA for Action Plan sign-off.

To book an appointment or for more information on the program, please call or text Katie McLachlan at 780-772-0277.



Upcoming Events

Event	Date & Time	Location
Drought Recovery Series - Grazing Planning with Jim Gerrish	Friday, February 3rd	Online Webinar
Below Ground - Soil Health & Wealth	Wednesday, February 8th	Rycroft
Cocktail & OFCAF Workshop	Thursday, February 9th	Sexsmith
Cocktail & OFCAF Workshop	Friday, February 10th	Falher
Drought Recovery Series - Nutrient Management with Akim Omokanye	Friday, February 10th	Online Webinar
Peace Beef Cattle Day	Wednesday, February 15th	Grimshaw
Drought Recovery Series - Hay Production & Feed Planning with Barry Yaremcio	Friday, February 17th	Online Webinar
2023 Annual General Meeting	Saturday, February 25th	Rycroft Ag Center
Forest Grazing School	Wednesday, March 15th	Eureka River

For More Information or to Register:
peacecountrybeef.ca | 780-523-4033 | info@pcbfa.ca



Interested in Becoming a PCBFA Director?

PCBFA is a producer-led charity dedicated to moving forward the agriculture industry in the Peace – by enhancing its environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

Our board of directors represent the voices of the producers from across the Peace Region and work together to develop long-term strategy, direction, and goals for the association.

Director Responsibilities

- Directors are expected to attend as many board meetings as possible. We meet monthly, with a target of 8 meetings per year occurring over Zoom and 4 meetings per year in person.
- Directors are expected to attend the Annual General Meeting.
- Directors are encouraged to host a PCBFA project or event on their farm.
- Directors are expected to represent PCBFA, and advocate for PCBFA when needed.

Director Perks

- Expense reimbursements for meeting costs (mileage, meals).
- Expense reimbursement for agriculture-related training and conferences.
- Ability to influence the direction of PCBFA – have a voice!

We would like to express our appreciation for your interest in serving as a director of our association. There are many exciting challenges ahead, and we are grateful that you are willing to accept the responsibility of being a member of the board.

We serve an important mission, and we believe that you will find serving on the board a rich and rewarding experience. Thank you for your interest in joining us!

If you are interested – please come to our AGM on February 25th in Rycroft, and have someone ready to nominate you. If you are unable to attend, please send a letter expressing your willingness to let your name stand for nomination, either with someone attending the meeting, or email executivedirector@pcbfa.ca.

By: Johanna Murray

Whether your operation works on perennial forage alone or if you rely heavily on your annual crops for feed - knowing your goals is a key part of planning for success.

While farming and ranching certainly aren't the sort of business where you can plan things down to the minute, going in with no plan or only the assumption that you'll do what you always do can cause just as many problems.

A failure to plan is a plan to fail, as they say.

With tight feed supplies on many farms and stressed perennials from hot, dry summers, grazing and forage planning may make all the difference for how many cows you can keep around this fall.

The first step, though is to take stock. How many animals you want to graze, how long you need to stay on pasture, and how much winter feed you'll need next year is a good place to start. Other factors to keep in mind are your pasture inventory, the shape it's in, and whether you'll have feed left over in June.

Once you know what you have, you can address the challenges you're dealing with more effectively, and it can help you set expectations. If rain is slow coming, or pastures don't recover quickly, do you have a sacrifice pasture, or will part of your herd be headed to town? Selling off cows isn't a fun prospect, but if you have grass and no cows, you have more options than when you have cows and no grass!

Rejuvenating the pastures that have struggled over the last few years is another challenge. Establishing new perennial stands can be high risk, and even simply spreading urea fertilizer can be a costly undertaking. There are many other ways to rejuvenate pasture that PCBFA has tested over

the years, from spreading manure, to bale grazing on pasture that might not give the same quick boost as more intensive methods but often work better in the second and third years. Extra organic matter and manure can help balance your soils' carbon/nitrogen ratio, insulate plant roots, and hold on to whatever moisture you get.

Though it may feel like jumping the gun to start thinking about next year's feed already, getting a plan in place early, with some ideas of what to do if the weather doesn't cooperate, might be helpful to avoid last-minute decisions. Building up feed stocks and upgrades to your fence to help keep the wildlife away, are easier to deal with before the ground freezes after all.

If you're looking for biomass, nutrition, or a bit of insurance in case things turn hot and dry in July and August again, annual forages can be a great supplement for late-season or winter grazing, to help pastures recover. Or, if pastures do well, for extra silage or greenfeed. While it can be tough to beat a classic like an oat/pea mix, alternative forages may be worth considering if you're going to use some annuals this year. While forage brassicas and warm-season cereals are not without their challenges, their high energy and protein levels are certainly attractive. Not to mention the heat and drought tolerance of certain warm-season grasses like Sorghum and Millet.

If your planning process involves spreadsheets, there are some great resources for calculating the cost of Bale Grazing, Greenfeed and silage, and Hay value on the Saskatchewan government website <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/categories/1477>.

For more info on managing pasture, grazing planning, nutrient management, and winter feed planning, tune in to our Drought Management webinar series too! The webinars will be recorded and shared with all registrants via email.

And if you're interested in learning more about alternative forages, we have two cocktail design workshops on February 9th and 10th!

PCBFA
PEACE COUNTRY BEEF & FORAGE ASSOCIATION
APPLIED RESEARCH

DROUGHT RECOVERY SERIES

Every Friday from
February 3 to February 17
at 7pm on Zoom

Hear from the experts on how to make the best of the 2023 season!

<p>February 3 Jim Gerrish Grazing Planning and Pasture Management for Dry Conditions</p>	<p>February 10th Dr Akim Omokanye Optimizing Nutrient Management for forages and field crops</p>	<p>February 17th Barry Yaremco Aiming for Success in Cattle Nutrition, Fertility, and Hay Production</p>
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Recordings will be made available to registrants. To register & for more info:
peacecountrybeef.ca | 780-523-4033 | info@pcbfa.ca

Cover Crop Design & Funding Workshop

Join us for a morning of Cover Crop Design, and an Afternoon exploring funding opportunities for your farm available through the On Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)

Join us for One of Our Upcoming Workshops:

Date: Thursday, February, 9th
Location: Sexsmith Community Center

Date: Friday, February 10th
Location: Falher Hotel Dining Room

Cost: \$30/Person
Coffee Starts at 9:45am
Presentations start at 10:15am



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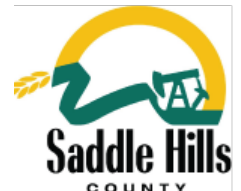
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[Peace Country Beef & Forage Association](https://www.youtube.com/PeaceCountryBeef&ForageAssociation)

Attention East Peace Members!

We have partnered with Big Lakes County & the MD of Greenview to ship feed samples this fall!

New East Peace Drop & Shipping Sites:

MD of Greenview Ag Services
- Valleyview

Big Lakes County Office
- High Prairie

Big Lakes County Office - Kinuso

2022-23 Board of Directors

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