

Farm Energy Agri-Processing (FEAP), On-Farm Solar Photovoltaics (OFSVP), and Canadian Environmental Partnership (CAP) Environmental Programing

Submitted by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Farm Energy Agri-Processing (FEAP) Program

www.agriculture.alberta.ca/feap

FEAP is a combination of two discontinued GF2 programs:

On-Farm Energy Management Program

· Accelerating Agricultural Innovation Program (Stream C)

By combining these two programs, a single program can be offered across the whole agricultural value-chain, for energy efficiency and energy management projects.

Program Description:

The Farm Energy and Agri-Processing Program shares costs with the agriculture and agri-processing sector on energy efficiency investments. The Program is designed to encourage energy management which will result in cost savings, energy conservation, and ultimately, reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

The Program offers financial support, subject to financial constraint, to Applicants who incorporate high efficiency equipment that is identified in the applicable Funding List in their construction and/or retrofitting projects.

Key Messages:

- This program is RETROACTIVE to April 2016.
- Applicants with eligible receipts dated April 2016 and later can apply.
- Retroactive projects are subject to current eligibility criteria.
- 50% cost share on most items. See Funding List for full details.
- \$250,000 maximum grant per Applicant per year
- Funding Timeline is from now to Feb 2020
- An EFP is NOT a prerequisite for this funding
- Applications will be processed in a first complete, first served basis. Incomplete applications will not secure a spot in line.
- Once applications have been approved, producers can watch for emails from the grant management system: "Grant_Management_System@agric.gov.ab.ca" They will get notifications from this email address as their application moves through the steps.

For More Information:

Visit www.agriculture.alberta.ca/feap for:

- Application forms
- Producer Funding List
- Processor Funding List
- Program Terms and Conditions

On-Farm Solar Photovoltaic (OFSVP) Program

<http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/all/pgmsrv464>

This program is being discontinued under GF2. It will now be a provincial program, located on Ropin' The Web. This move is happening because the March 31 deadline of GF2 is causing concern among solar installers. Since they cannot be sure that they can complete projects before that date, they are unable to apply. This move should alleviate that concern.

For more information:

Contact the Energy Outreach Officers:

- Vern Steinborn with SouthGrow in Lethbridge can be contacted at 403-894-0050.
- Lyle Lawrence with Lakeland College in Vermilion can be contacted at 780-581-8403
- Kale Scarff with Gateway Research Organization in Westlock can be contacted at 780-307-7849.

Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Environmental Programming:

Things are still being adjusted as there is feedback from stakeholders, but these are some guidelines for now.

1. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change - Producer

Two Outcomes:

- Support producers in reducing the risk agricultural activities pose to water quality.
- Support producers in advancing sustainable production while mitigating carbon emissions that impact air and soil quality, and adapting to climate change.

Producer applications will be processed through first come-first serve merit or by panel review, consisting of Subject Matter Experts. First come-first serve merit will cover applications that do not require a site inspection, the risk can be clearly identified on the application and verified by aerial photos and by the applicant responses. Applications will be scored to determine the government/applicant cost share percentage. The scoring criteria will consist of questions to determine the level of risk present, the degree to which that risk will be mitigated, and the project's technical ability to address that risk.

All other applications that require a site inspection will be processed through panel review. The program will have scheduled dates throughout the year; this will ensure applicants are aware of the deadlines for application submission and know when a decision for their project will be made. The panel will review each application and determine the cost share percentage. The cost shares being proposed range from 30%, 50% and 70%, maximum funding is \$100,000. There will be a funding list, the types of projects will be similar to GF2 Confined Feeding Operation and On-Farm Stewardship Programs. The funding list will act as guide; if the program receives an application that addresses a water quality or GHG risk but may not fall under the prescribed funding list activities, it will still be reviewed by the program. Once the list has been finalized, it will be sent out for distribution.

A valid EFP is a prerequisite to the program. EFP has implemented a 10-year renewal starting 2018, an EFP completed before 2008 will not be considered valid. We need to start communicating this message now to producers in preparations for the launch of the program in the spring.

2. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change – Groups and Agricultural Organizations

Three Outcomes:

- The program supports extension to improve producer understanding that implementing priority environmental practices can increase market access.
- Support producer groups and agricultural organization's applied research and extension on adapting to climate change, and reducing greenhouse gases.
- Support the industry to identify risks and opportunities associated with GHG emissions, and develop strategies for quantifying and mitigating emissions.

This program will also be a merit based process with two intake cycles per year. Eligible applicants include: Applied Research Associations, Forage Associations, Agricultural Commodity Groups, Rural Municipalities, Agricultural Watershed Groups. There is no prescribed cost share, maximum funding is still being determined.

This program seeks to address climate change in agriculture by:

- Helping industry position itself for success in a low-carbon economy.
- Helping industry improve its 'carbon literacy' and understand its risks and opportunities regarding GHG emissions.
- Helping industry organize itself in light of its GHG risks and opportunities.
- Data collection.
- Data analysis.
- Strategy development.
- Minimizing resource waste, optimizing resource utilization.
- This program is NOT seeking to share capital costs on technologies that will reduce a producer's GHG emissions (that's what On-Farm Energy Management is for).

Example (but not limited to) projects that could qualify for funding are:

- A commodity group organizing a series of energy audits for its members, with the aim of identifying opportunities and benchmarking performance.
- A commodity group undertaking a Life Cycle Assessment of its product, with the aim of identifying opportunities to reduce GHG emissions.
- A group investigating barriers to no-till adoption among its members.
- A group looking to promote the 4R system of managing nutrients.
- A group investigating economic consequences of pursuing lower-carbon options by its members.
- A group doing extension activities regarding industry's GHG risks and opportunities.

Question

Under Section 2, groups and association would internal AF (research) applicants be accepted, and would universities (i.e. U of Lethbridge, U of Alberta) be able to apply for these funds?

Answer

No to internal applicants. Yes to universities and colleges, however the program will not cover research. The aim of the program is producer extension related to our outcomes which could include applied research and data development

3. On-Farm Water Management

Objectives:

- Support producers to improve their water supply security and more effectively and efficiently manage their on-farm water resources.
- Support producers to protect their water resources through beneficial management practices.
- Provide technical assistance to producers to complete an assessment for the management of their water resources (e.g., Long-Term Water Management Plan).

Activities:

- Construction of new water sources such as wells, dugouts, spring developments, dams, and pipelines, and connections to multi-user water supply pipelines.

- Protection of new and existing manmade water sources using beneficial management practices (e.g., off-site watering for dugouts and vermin-proof caps for wells).
- Management of water supply risks through well decommissioning, well pit conversions, water meters, and water well depth measurement equipment.

Recipients:

- Producers, corporations and not-for-profit organizations with an active agricultural business in Alberta.

Noteworthy:

- First-come-first-served.
- Off-site watering will be an eligible activity for new man-made water sources and existing dugouts and spring developments.
- New wells will be required to have vermin-proof caps, higher stickup (18"), 2hr pump/2hr recover test and drawdown measurements, and well ID tag attached to new well. A new well will not be eligible if it has a pumphouse put on it.
- Tie-ins will be moved from special incentive to standard incentive (1/3 up to \$5000).
- Well decommissioning will still be a special incentive. Each decommissioned well will require a decommissioning report to be submitted by a driller. Cost sharing will change: 50% for one well, 60% for two wells, 75% for three or more wells if all submitted on same application. Maximum of \$2000 per project.
- We are looking into supporting wetland assessments as part of the planning process of a proper dugout.

4. Irrigation Efficiency

Outcome:

- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and increased water savings in irrigated agriculture by assisting producers with the purchase of more efficient irrigation equipment and systems.

Proposed Eligible Equipment Upgrades:

- New low pressure centre pivot to replace a gravity, side-wheel or high pressure centre pivot.
- Retrofit of a high pressure centre pivot to a low pressure centre pivot, including booster pumps, nozzle packages and pump modifications.
- High efficiency sprinkler nozzles and related equipment to upgrade an existing low pressure centre pivot.
- Variable-rate irrigation equipment (controllers and software).
- Control panel upgrades, including base stations for telemetry.
- Surface or subsurface drip irrigation systems.

Eligible Applicants:

- Operate as a producer in Alberta.
- Own an irrigated agricultural operation in Alberta.
- Have a Long-Term Irrigation Management Plan.
- Have not been previously approved for payment from the Program on a given parcel.

Proposed Grant Payments:

- 40% of the costs for eligible equipment upgrades on a given parcel up to a maximum of \$5,000; or

- \$15,000 for an upgrade on a given parcel from a gravity, side-wheel or high pressure centre pivot irrigation system to a new low pressure centre pivot or subsurface drip irrigation system (minimum 20 acres).

CAP Consultation Survey

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has developed a short online survey for input on the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP). The CAP program is set to begin in April 2018 after Growing Forward 2 (GF2) expires in March 2018. The survey can be completed by anyone, so this along to your contacts and producers.

This survey offers agriculture stakeholders the opportunity to make suggestions on the proposed CAP program concepts. Input provided will equip Alberta Agriculture and Forestry to provide programming that meets the needs and priorities of Alberta's industry.

The five priority areas identified by Alberta are:

- Science and Research
- Risk Management
- Environmental Sustainability
- Products, Market Growth and Diversification
- Public Trust

[Survey Link](#) open until March 18, 2018. If the links does not work please connect through:

http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/NextPolicy/index.htm?contentId=CDF_NEXT_POLICY&useSecondary=true