

Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP), Farm Energy Agri-Processing (FEAP) and Farm Solar Photovoltaics (OFSVP) Update

Submitted by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Introduction

For farmers and ranchers the Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change program of CAP supports the purchase of things like sectional controls for sprayers and seeders, agricultural plastic bag rollers, as well as a number of activities targeting livestock producers:

https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/program/STEW_PROD. For this program a valid (under 10 year) Environmental Farm Plan is needed to apply. Other programs under CAP for producers include Farm Water Supply as well as Irrigation Efficiency. In addition to CAP, for those that plan to build or retrofit a shop or barn or have done so lately, the Farm Energy and Agri-Processing program (FEAP) rewards things like lights, furnaces, and insulation:

<https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/all/pgmsrv462> and the On-Farm Solar Photovoltaic (OFSVP) program helps with the cost of solar installs:

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

Other CAP programs, targeted more at groups and organizations, include: Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change – Group, Agriculture and Food Sustainability Assurance Initiatives, Public Agriculture Literacy, Youth Agriculture Education, Emerging Opportunities in Food and Agri-Processing, Products to Markets, Value-Added Processing, and a few that have recently opened:

- Risk Mitigation – launched October 23, 2018
- Surveillance – launched November 14, 2018
- Accelerating the Advancement of Agricultural Innovations – launched November 20, 2018
- Adapting Innovative Solutions in Agriculture – launched November 20, 2018
- Emergency Preparedness – launched December 3, 2018

The remaining program to launch (as of Dec 13th, 2018) is Emerging Opportunities in Food and Agri-Processing.

For more information and ongoing updates about the different CAP programs please go to:

<https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/Programs> and subscribe to get the latest news, however a few detailed updates may be of interest:

Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change (ESCC) Producer Program

The CAP Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change (ESCC) Producer Program launched April 1st 2018 and has so far received 290 applications, 159 have been approved and an additional 26 have been completed. From the 26 completed projects 28 BMPs have been implemented on farm with an expected 208 BMPs to be implemented once the 159 approved projects have been completed.

With our new flexible cost share percentage being assigned to each application based upon risk, 91 projects have been funded at 70% cost share, 56 have been funded at 50% and 38 funded at 30%. Program staff feel that the ability to have a cost share that reflects the environmental risk present on the operation has been effective in allocating dollars towards higher risk areas and towards more effective solutions to environmental projects.

For the CAP Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change (ESCC) Group Program we have received 22 applications and have approved 17. These approvals account for over \$3,200,000 over the next 5 years. The group program applications are reviewed at set times during the year with the next intake deadline being January 31, 2019. For more information on what is needed for an application and eligibility criteria please visit the CAP ESCC Group [website](#).

Despite the early success demonstrated by both the producer and group programs, program staff are still working hard to increase awareness of these funding opportunities to both producers and agricultural organizations. We are looking to our extension partners to help us inform all potential program applicants of the funding opportunities that exist under the CAP ESCC programs. We hope that by leveraging our partner's communication channels (newspaper articles, newsletters, social media, etc.) we can better support our shared clients and increase overall application to the program over the coming months and years. The majority of program information can be found on the program websites ([ESCC Producer](#) and [ESCC Group](#)), however if you would like to develop a more directed or detailed message please do not hesitate to contact the program directly at CAP.ESandCCProgram@gov.ab.ca and we will be sure to respond to your request as soon as we can.

Public Trust Theme

The response to all three Public Trust Programs has been very encouraging, however program staff are still working hard to increase awareness to all eligible applicant organizations. It is for this reason that we are looking to our extension partners to help us inform all potential program applicants of the funding opportunities that exist under the CAP Public Trust programs.

To date we have approved funding for 18 projects, totaling almost \$1.7M over 3 years. Project types such as those listed below demonstrate the agriculture industry's willingness and passion to connect with the public and answer any questions or concerns about how their food is produced:

- Connecting with consumers to determine the root cause of confusion and misconceptions surrounding specific labelling and production practices;
- Engaging communications specialists to provide specialized media training to groups of producers;
- Designing awareness campaigns surrounding existing Alberta sustainability and assurance platforms;
- Adaptation of existing sustainability platforms to target new markets, address existing and upcoming regulatory issues, and increase the social license of particular commodities;
- Encouraging students and teachers to develop critical thinking when learning about hot-button agriculture topics.

Each applicant who was approved had clearly defined public trust issues to be addressed by their project. As this is a merit-based program, general agriculture awareness projects did not score well and were not selected for funding.

The majority of program information can be found on our program websites (Public Agriculture Literacy, Agriculture and Food Sustainability Assurance Initiatives, and Youth Agriculture Program) however if you would like to develop a more directed or detailed message please do not hesitate to contact the



program directly at CAP.PublicTrust@gov.ab.ca and we will be sure to respond to your request as soon as we can. Coordinator contact information for each program is also found on the program websites.

https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/program/PUBLIC_LITERACY

https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/program/PUBLIC_ASSURANCE

https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/program/YOUTH_EDUCATION