

January 2017



EAGLE CREEK
WATERSHED GROUP

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BASIC ELIGIBILITY FOR THE FARM STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM;

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be a Saskatchewan resident or file income tax with farm income in Saskatchewan;
 - Have a **Saskatchewan Environmental Farm Plan**;
 - For certain BMPs applicants may be eligible by working through the Eagle Creek **Agri-Environmental Group Plan (AEGP)**. Please refer to the specific Beneficial Management Practice (BMP) for information on AEGP eligibility.
- Own or control a minimum of 320 acres of farmland in Saskatchewan.
- Earn a minimum of \$35,000 of farm income in Saskatchewan in the year of application.
- Projects must have been commenced after April 1, 2013 and be completed and claim submitted within 18 months of project approval or January 31, 2018, whichever is earlier. **Only work completed from April 1, 2013 to January 31, 2018 is eligible.** Work done prior to April 1, 2013, or after January 31, 2018, is not eligible.
- You are responsible for obtaining and complying with any regulatory requirements, including obtaining any required permits or approvals, and for incorporating any relevant mitigation measures for your project. Requirements must be met prior to receiving funding.

Program Funding Levels;

Each BMP has a funding limit; however, the total funding an applicant can receive is \$50,000 under Growing Forward 2 Farm Stewardship Program (FSP). You may apply more than once provided the applications are for separate eligible projects and expenditures, and do not exceed the BMP or overall funding caps. Separate applications must be made for each eligible project, even if the projects are for the same BMP.

**For the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure (FRWIP) Program
an Environmental Farm Plan is not needed.**

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE at eaglecreekwatershed.ca for further information on programs.
Phone us at 306-831-6009 if you have questions or need assistance in navigating around on our website.**



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Timelines to Complete On-Farm Projects and Access Funding Options for Forage and Livestock Producers

**By: Sarah Sommerfeld, PAg,
Regional Forage Specialist, Outlook (306-867-5559)**

For many producers across the province, the 2016 growing season posed many challenges. Planning for the 2017 growing season has begun. Plans may include development of a new water source, improving grazing management or seeding down forages on soils prone to erosion or salinity. For these types of on-farm projects, producers can access cost-shared funding through the Growing Forward 2 framework of agriculture programs. The Growing Forward 2 agriculture policy framework will be ending on March 31, 2018. With that date in mind, there are deadlines to be aware of with respect to the different funding programs available.

The Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program

(FRWIP) provides cost-shared funding to help develop secure water sources. These water sources can be dugouts, large or small diameter wells, community wells and shallow or deep buried pipelines. **The On-Farm component of FRWIP** provides cost-shared funding to develop sustainable, non-potable water supplies for agricultural use. For individual producers, the On-Farm component of FRWIP will cover 50 per cent of the eligible costs up to a maximum of \$60,000 for developing long term sustainable water sources. **FRWIP applications must be received by August 1, 2017. All claim forms for approved projects must be submitted by February 15, 2018.**

The Farm Stewardship Program (FSP) provides eligible producers with financial assistance to implement beneficial management practices (BMPs). Under the FSP, 23 BMPs exist under seven categories. When applying to the FSP, two types of program applications exist - pre-approval or rebate. Pre-approval applications require that projects must receive prior approval before any work is completed. Rebate applications do not require pre-approval, and the program application can be submitted once the project is complete. FSP pre-approval applications must be received by June 30, 2017. All claim forms for approved projects and all rebate applications must be received by January 31, 2018.

For producers wanting to improve the grazing management on native rangeland or riparian areas, two BMPs exist. The Native Rangeland Grazing Management BMP and Riparian Area Grazing Management and Fencing BMP are pre-approval applications. Producers must submit a pre-approval application prior to starting the project. The FSP will cover 50 per cent of the eligible costs up to a maximum of \$10,000 for implementing either of these BMPs. Producers looking to convert highly erodible and/or saline land from annual grain production to permanent cover can apply for the Protecting High Risk Erodible and Saline Soils BMP. This BMP works as a rebate application and does not require pre-approval prior to producers completing the project. However, it may require approval of the seed mixture. Cost-shared funding is available to cover 50 per cent of the eligible costs up to a maximum of \$10,000

Accessing funding under the Growing Forward 2 programs requires that all producers meet basic eligibility requirements. Each type of project also has specific guidelines relating to producer eligibility and eligible and ineligible project costs. For further information on Growing Forward 2 programs or for technical assistance regarding a specific on-farm project, contact your local Regional Forage Specialist, or the Eagle Creek technician, Glenn Barclay at 306-831-6009.

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Eagle Creek Watershed and AllOut Drilling will be hosting three meetings to review well drilling procedures, water quality testing and **grant money available** for new wells and decommissioning old wells;

Tues. Feb 28th - 1:00 pm Harris-Tessier New Horizons Hall

Wed. March 1st - 1:00 pm Plenty Community Hall - classroom

Thur. March 2nd - 9:30 am Landis Complex—upper room

There is no charge to attend these events

We can also answer any questions you have about grant money available for Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs).

Biobeds by Kandra Forbes, Eagle Creek Watershed Intern

Every producer has a way that they get rid of their extra pesticide and some may not like to admit what that method is. Researchers have seen this as a way that we might be compromising our water resources. That's where biobeds come in. They are affordable and effective. They have been used in Europe for the last decade and are hopefully coming soon to a yard near you.

The concept is simple. All that is needed is a mixture of topsoil, compost and straw. This creates an ideal habitat for microbes that break down the pesticides. Add in your chemical that is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus and you will have yourself some happy microbes.

Research conducted by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) demonstrates a biobed system has the potential to provide effective management of sprayer rinsate. AAFC has 2 years of data from pilot sites that show the biobeds are operating well and are removing more than 95% of the

pesticides from the rinsate. Our climate is different from Europe so research is being done here to find a way to keep the microbes happy through our long winters and occasional downpours. They are optimistic that within the next year they will have an operation/maintenance manual available that will explain how to construct a biobed for on-farm use.

For more information contact Larry Braul at larry.braul@agr.gc.ca.

