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## **EAGLE CREEK WATERSHED NEWS**

### **The Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program and the Farm Stewardship Program – Who Is Eligible?**

**Applicants who own or control a minimum of 320 acres and earn a minimum of \$35,000 of gross farm income in Saskatchewan in the year of application. Applications under the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program must have an agricultural use (crop spraying, livestock watering or greenhouse production) for the water. Water resources developed solely for household use or for washing machinery DO NOT qualify.**

### **Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure**

**On-Farm;** 50 % of eligible costs to a maximum rebate of \$60,000 over the life of the program. Eligible projects include: Large or small diameter wells; Shallow and deep buried pipelines; Connections to rural water utilities; Dugouts and dugout expansions of at least one-third size increase; Relocation of existing livestock water systems for environmental purposes and Protecting existing well heads.

**Agri-business Development;** 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum rebate of \$150,000 over the life of the program. If a non-district irrigator has not used their entire \$150,000 cap for their irrigation expansion project they can apply for other eligible projects under this category to a maximum rebate of \$60,000 subject to their overall cap of \$150,000.

**Community Well:** Two-thirds of eligible costs to a maximum grant of \$150,000 over the life of the program.

**Irrigation District In-fill;** 90 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum grant of \$7 million per irrigation district over the life of the program.

**Well Decommissioning;** 90 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum grant of \$10,000 per project. Funding received for well decommissioning does not count against an applicant's overall program cap.

## Eagle Creek Board of Directors

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## Farm Stewardship (FSP)

### Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs):

The Farm Stewardship Program (FSP) provides eligible Saskatchewan producers with financial assistance to implement beneficial management practices (BMPs) to help maintain or improve the quality of soil, water, air, or biodiversity resources.

A BMP is defined as any agricultural management practice which: a) Ensures the long-term health and sustainability of land-related resources used for agricultural production; b) Positively impacts the long-term economic and environmental viability of agricultural production; and c) Minimizes negative impacts and risk to the environment.

The program was enhanced in the spring of 2014 to include 18 BMPs under six categories:

### Livestock Site Management Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)

The objective of livestock site management BMPs is to reduce the risk of ground and surface water contamination from livestock waste.

BMPs, application types, and funding under this category:

#### Relocation of Livestock Confinement Facilities - Pre-Approval

Funding Level - 60 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$50,000. Projects require a site inspection before application submission.

#### Fencing to Protect Surface Water - Rebate

Funding Level - 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$10,000.

#### Farmyard Runoff Control - Pre-Approval

Funding Level - 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$10,000.

Projects require a site inspection before application submission.

#### Riparian Area Grazing Management and Fencing - Pre-Approval

Funding Level - 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$5,000.

Projects require a Grazing Plan and Riparian Health Assessment submitted with the application prior to project commencement.

### Land Management Beneficial Management Practices

The objective of land management BMPs is to protect riparian ecosystems, high risk erodible and saline soils, water quality and promote native plant establishment.

BMPs, application types, and funding under this category:

#### Natural Waterway Erosion Controls - Pre-Approval

Funding Level - 75 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$50,000.

#### Creek and Stream Crossings - Pre-Approval

Funding Level - 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$20,000.

#### Protecting High Risk Erodible and Saline Soils - Rebate

Funding Level - 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$5,000.

#### Shelterbelt Establishment - Rebate

Funding Level - Flat rate of \$600 per mile to a maximum of \$5,000.

#### Native Plant Establishment - Pre-Approval

Funding Level - 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$10,000.

Projects must be pre-approved by a Regional Forage Specialist prior to project commencement. A signed Forage BMP Field Sheet from a Regional Forage Specialist must be included with the application.

#### Used Oil, Filter and Fluid Storage - Rebate

Funding Level - 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$3,000.

## Manure Management Beneficial Management Practices

The objective of manure management BMPs is to reduce environmental risks (e.g. ground/surface water contamination, nutrient loss and odour) associated with manure storage and application.

BMPs, application types, and funding under this category:

### Manure Storage Enhancements - Pre-Approval

Funding Level - 30 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$50,000.

Projects require a site inspection before application submission.

### Manure Application Equipment and Technologies - Rebate

Funding Level - 30 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$30,000.

## Pest Management Beneficial Management Practices

The objective of the pest management BMPs is to the use of integrated management practices for control of plant, insect, non-vertebrate and vertebrate pests.

BMPs, application types, and funding under this category:

### Integrated Pest Management Information Collection and Monitoring - Rebate

Funding Level - 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$5,000.

## Irrigation Management Beneficial Management Practices

The objective of the irrigation management BMPs is to promote irrigation practices that improve water and energy use efficiency and protect land and source water resources.

BMPs, application types, and funding under this category:

### Irrigation Management Planning - Rebate

Funding Level - 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$2,000.

### Irrigation Equipment Modification - Pre-Approval

Funding Level - 30 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$10,000.

### Variable Rate Irrigation Technology - Pre-Approval

Funding Level - 30 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$15,000.

## Precision Farming Beneficial Management Practices

The objective of the precision farming BMPs is to minimize nutrient and water loss to the environment.

BMPs, application types, and funding under this category:

### Variable Rate Fertilizer Equipment - Rebate

Funding Level - 30 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$5,000.

### Variable Rate Mapping - Rebate

Funding Level - 30 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$2000

**All work must occur between April 1, 2013 and January 31, 2018.**

**For more information you can call The Financial Programs Branch at 1-877-874-5365 OR**

**Glenn Barclay at 306-831-6009**

**Interested in advertising in the Eagle Creek Newsletter? Phone Glenn at 306-831-6009**

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*Farm and Ranch Real Estate Specialists*

## Watershed Technician

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EAGLE CREEK  
WATERSHED GROUP

## Invasive Weed Program

This program is intended to assist RM's, private land owners and other stakeholders with costs incurred to undertake and coordinate the control of Prohibited Weeds under *The Weed Control Act* and specific Noxious Weeds identified as persistent and problematic invasive plants, such as leafy spurge, yellow toadflax, Russian knapweed and common Tansy.

Leafy Spurge:



Toadflax:



Common Tansy:



Russian Knapweed:



For further information please contact John Hauer, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture at 306-463-5507.

## Survey of the Eagle Creek - What Did I Find? Glenn Barclay PAg

I conducted a survey of the Eagle Creek in August and September of this year. How this survey was conducted was by using RM road systems. I took pictures and wrote down observations at sites where I had access to the creek. A canoe could have been used but the time to accomplish the survey would have been prohibitive.

The main goals of the survey were to see how much erosion was taking place along the creek, note cattle or human impact, observe wildlife/aquatic habitat and determine what weeds were present.

Some observations I made;

- 1) The Streambank health is very good. There is little erosion. If there are human or cattle impacts along the creek, rushes will move in quickly to stabilize the bank.
- 2) There is very little annual cropping taking place close to the creek. For most of the creek there is a wide, grass buffer strip to "catch" any potential agricultural pollutants.
- 3) Wildlife, aquatic life and waterfowl are using and thriving in and around the creek. Deer, ducks, geese, pelicans, swans and herons were seen. Fish are also present. Jackfish are found from the mouth of the creek, where it enters into the North Saskatchewan River and much further up the creek. Fish are present at the Regional Park close to Arelee, at the border of RM 316 & RM 346 and beyond.
- 4) I was pleasantly surprised by the low level of weeds along the creek – sow thistles are the most common weed. No weeds such as leafy spurge were noted. This is a real plus for the creek's riparian area since some river systems such as the Battle river have major infestation problems with leafy spurge.
- 5) There are many gravel pits near the creek. No real bad weeds were observed at these pits. However, gravel pits can be a source of invasive weeds because the trucks can be coming from a distance with the possibility of carrying weed seeds in the mud on their frames.
- 6) Cows are accessing the creek for water but the flow rate provided good water quality for the animals.

Many times I was surprised by the vigorous flow rate late in the season. The Eagle Creek does have some very minor "health" challenges but I was very encouraged by what I saw. If people want to use the creek in appropriate ways we can preserve this riparian area for the generations to come.