



## Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

**Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (S-CAP)** supports farmers and ranchers with cost-shared grant programs, and there have been some changes since the spring.

▶ **On-Farm Efficiency Program** - launched Aug. 14 and combines the previous Farm Technology and Efficient Grain Handling Program with some other opportunities. Eligible activities are retroactive to Apr. 1, 2023.

▶ **Important to note:** drones with spray capability are ineligible under the program, even if they can be used for other eligible purposes on the funding list.

▶ **Water** - project cost share increase from 25 per cent to 50 per cent for standard projects and per producer funding for standard projects increased to \$20,000 over the life of the program.

▶ **The Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP)** was fully subscribed as of May 17. There was significant interest in this program; however, the next application intake begins Feb. 1, 2025. Read more about this program in the Unlocking the potential of farmland with the Resilient Agricultural Landscape program article.

- ▶ Prepare your project plan so you are ready for the next application intake.
- ▶ RALP supports projects through four different categories: pasture management, cropland conversion, tree establishment and wetlands.

All program details and contact information can be found at [alberta.ca/sustainable-cap](http://alberta.ca/sustainable-cap) and most require a current Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). An EFP is considered current if approved in the last 10 years.

**Did you know?** The sustainable agriculture coordinator is the EFP technician for both Leduc County and Wetaskiwin County.

## On Farm Climate Action Fund - extended to 2028!

### Results Driven Agricultural Research (RDAR)

- ▶ Intake reopened on Sept. 6 to a limited number of applications until 2024 funding was fully committed.
- ▶ The program focuses on nitrogen management, cover cropping and rotational grazing.
- ▶ Learn more at [rdar.ca/funding-opportunities/ofcaf](http://rdar.ca/funding-opportunities/ofcaf)

### Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association (CFGAs)

- ▶ Applications closed for 2024 projects.
- ▶ Applications to work with a grazing mentor to develop a rotational grazing plan are still being accepted.
- ▶ Learn more at [canadianfga.ca/en/projects/ofcaf-funding](http://canadianfga.ca/en/projects/ofcaf-funding)

### Canada Organic Trade Association and EcoCert

- ▶ Learn more at [canada-organic.ca/en/what-we-do/market-access/farm-climate-action-fund](http://canada-organic.ca/en/what-we-do/market-access/farm-climate-action-fund)

The sustainable agriculture coordinator can assist local producers with applications.

Reach out to Kim at [kim@leduc-county.com](mailto:kim@leduc-county.com) or 780-387-6182 for help.

albertaeFP.com

### PLANNING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION, ONE EFP AT A TIME

The Alberta Environmental Farm Program covers an entire farm using a self-assessment tool to help producers identify their on-farm environmental risks. At the completion of the program, the farmer has an itemized list of adjustments that can be made in their operation. The EFP is a useful tool for analyzing a farming operation and guiding changes as time and resources allow.

# Unlocking the potential of farmland with the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program

Farmers and ranchers have seized a unique opportunity to undertake beneficial management practices and sustainability in Alberta. The Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) received over 400 project submissions in 2024; a successful year for the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, which is a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

Did you miss the 2024 application window? Find out what you need to be successful in 2025.

## What is RALP?

RALP is designed to bolster the environmental resilience of agricultural landscapes through the accelerated adoption of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs), which are aimed at maximizing the provision of Ecological Goods & Services (EG&S), with a spotlight on increased carbon sequestration and enhanced climate

resilience. The program acknowledges that while many BMPs offer immense ecological value, their adoption can be hindered by high upfront costs or limited immediate financial return for producers. To bridge this gap, RALP offers financial support for approved projects, covering up to 100% of eligible expenses.

## Eligible projects and funding opportunities

The program casts a wide net in terms of eligibility, covering a range of BMP projects including:

- ▶ **Pasture management:** Enhancing the management of riparian areas to protect water quality and support aquatic life or implementing rotational grazing practices to sequester carbon and improve nutrient distribution.
- ▶ **Intercropping and cover crop cocktails:** Integrating soil-building pulses and legumes into rotation to

reduce nitrogen use and bolster soil health.

- ▶ **Shelterbelts and eco-buffers:** Establishing natural barriers to protect soil from erosion and improve biodiversity.

For a list of eligible activities and the funding available for each, please refer to the guide on the Alberta government's website at [alberta.ca/resilient-agricultural-landscape-program](https://alberta.ca/resilient-agricultural-landscape-program).

## Why Choose RALP?

Choosing to participate in RALP is not just an investment in your land, it's a commitment to the future of agriculture in Alberta.

By adopting BMPs with the support of RALP, you're taking a proactive step in creating a resilient, productive and sustainable agricultural landscape.

## Ground water wells

Ground water and water wells are regulated and protected in Alberta under the *Water Act*. Farmers can apply for funding support for new wells under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership's Water program.

Before applying, pre-planning is important:

- ▶ Alberta Agriculture has a fact sheet on livestock water requirements at [open.alberta.ca/dataset/3124615](https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/3124615)
- ▶ Consult with your regional Alberta Environment and Parks Regulatory Assurance office:
  - ▶ Many agricultural wells for livestock use only require a licence.
  - ▶ An Alberta Environment and Parks approval officer can help you understand if your situation requires a licence.
  - ▶ Regional Regulatory Assurance offices:
    - ▶ Leduc County residents call [780-427-7167](tel:780-427-7167).
    - ▶ County of Wetaskiwin residents call [403-340-7052](tel:403-340-7052).
  - ▶ Applications are made through Alberta Environment and Protected Areas Digital Regulatory Assurance System (DRAS).
  - ▶ Visit [alberta.ca/digital-regulatory-assurance-system](https://alberta.ca/digital-regulatory-assurance-system) to learn more.
- ▶ Consult with an Alberta Agriculture water specialist and review the eligibility requirements.
  - ▶ Call [310-3276](tel:310-3276) to talk with a water specialist.
  - ▶ Review the water program website [alberta.ca/water-program](https://alberta.ca/water-program)
  - ▶ If not for household use, program specialists will assume the well needs to be licenced.
  - ▶ Talk with your well driller to ensure construction meets eligibility requirements.



## Project monitoring and program integrity

The ALUS program is built on a network of dedicated farmers and ranchers and strong collaborations and partnerships. ALUS Wetaskiwin-Leduc's program began in 2016, and many community projects involve off-source watering systems and fencing to manage livestock access to water bodies.

ALUS provides annual payments to farmers for the ongoing stewardship of projects, and at the local level, aims to visit all project sites yearly. These activities strengthen the integrity of the ALUS program and satisfy funders.

As the local program grows, administrative requirements grow with it. To monitor all projects, ALUS Wetaskiwin-Leduc hired a seasonal staff member this year who also has their advanced drone pilot certificate, which made for some great aerial pictures!

Learn more about ALUS Wetaskiwin-Leduc by contacting the sustainable agriculture coordinator at [780-387-6182](tel:780-387-6182) or email [kbarkwell@county10.ca](mailto:kbarkwell@county10.ca) today!



Muskegg Creek



Battle River



Orange Hawkweed

## County of Wetaskiwin and Clearwater County weed workshops

The County of Wetaskiwin stretches far west and much of those agricultural lands are in forage, and there are limited retail herbicide suppliers in the area. Clearwater County has even fewer options, therefore, has become a retail herbicide supplier to its residents.

A collaboration between both counties began in 2023, and as a result, County of Wetaskiwin residents can purchase range and pasture herbicide products at a discounted rate from Clearwater County.

A pre-requisite to purchase product is attending a weed workshop where participants learn about common noxious and prohibited noxious weeds in the region, control options and different range and pasture herbicides available.

Weed workshop attendees are eligible for a 10 per cent discount at purchase. In addition, Corteva offers an 8 per cent rebate when equal to or greater than \$1,400 of their products are bought in a season. Clearwater County records and submits eligible purchaser information directly to Corteva, and rebates are sent directly to the purchaser. If a producer qualifies for both incentives, this equates to 18 per cent savings!

Keep watch in early spring 2025 for an anticipated workshop in May.



## Kim's corner

I used to take soil for granted; however, my perspective has changed in recent years and here's why.

Soil is not only used for food production. Healthy soils sequester carbon and store water, making it more resistant to drought and erosion. Healthy soil provides natural benefits that support us all. Soil importance was highlighted in a Senate committee report released in June titled: *Critical Ground: why soil is essential to Canada's economic, environmental, human, and social health.*

Senator Paula Simons represents Alberta and is the deputy chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. Senator Simons wrote an opinion piece about the report outlining facts about how important soil is. Did you know only five to seven percent of Canada's land mass is suitable for agricultural cultivation, with one-third located in Alberta?

The committee toured farms and ranches throughout the country, visited universities and learned that prairie farmers and ranchers have been leaders in adopting innovative techniques. Soil is affected by more than farming. We are paving over our topsoil and degrading it in other ways.

The Senator hopes the report will be a call to action for all Canadians to learn more and take action.



**JEDI**  
**2024**  
**AG FORUM**  
Thursday, November 21, 2024  
Winfield & District Ag Society Agriplex Hall, Winfield, Alberta

FREE event (including lunch) for local farmers & agricultural producers. Featuring expert speakers presenting on a variety of emerging ag topics. Scan the QR Code or call for more information and to register.

[www.jedialberta.com](http://www.jedialberta.com) 780-361-6232

The poster features a central image of a combine harvester in a field, surrounded by four circular inset images: a field of crops, a close-up of soil, a cow, and a person working in a field. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

## Stay connected

### Leduc County

Sign up for Ag Matters, Leduc County's monthly agricultural e-newsletter that offers tips, articles and other important information at [www.leduc-county.com/agriculture](http://www.leduc-county.com/agriculture).

### County of Wetaskiwin

Receive email and text message updates from the County of Wetaskiwin about agricultural services including mowing, spraying, the ALUS program, weeds, pest control and more.

Sign-up at [www.county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca/notify](http://www.county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca/notify) and enter your email address. Scroll down to News Flashes and select the letter (email) or phone (text) icon next to Agricultural.

## DIG INTO HORTICULTURE a roadmap series program



## Essentials for prairie orchards

### Prairie fruit comparisons

Whether you're seasoned or just starting out, this event will cover the ins and outs of operating a successful, hardy orchard business. Horticulturalist Rob Spencer will compare different prairie fruit and berry bushes, yields, establishment and maturity, equipment needs, harvest and more.

- ▶ **Date:** Oct. 15, 2024
- ▶ **Time:** 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Location:** Free online webinar
- ▶ **Registration:** [leduc-county.com/dig-into-horticulture](http://leduc-county.com/dig-into-horticulture)  
Deadline to register: Oct. 9, 2024

### Fruit grower perspectives

Peace Cherry Ranch and Broken Tine Orchard will cover various aspects of day-to-day commercial orchard operations such as production techniques, market and customer types, helpful tools, equipment, labour and more.

- ▶ **Date:** Nov. 12, 2024
- ▶ **Time:** 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Location:** Free online webinar
- ▶ **Registration:** [leduc-county.com/dig-into-horticulture](http://leduc-county.com/dig-into-horticulture)  
Deadline to register: Nov. 5, 2024



## Contact us

Find many answers to your questions and more information at the County websites.

- ▶ County of Wetaskiwin No. 10: [www.county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca](http://www.county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca)
- ▶ Leduc County: [www.leduc-county.com](http://www.leduc-county.com)

Should you have any questions or wish to bring any matter to the attention of your Agricultural Service Board, please contact your county's Agricultural Services Department.

- ▶ County of Wetaskiwin No. 10 Agricultural Services: **780-361-6226**
- ▶ Leduc County Agricultural Services: **780-955-4593**

