Farmland Health Incentive Program 2017
The Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI) builds on the substantial work Ontario’s farmers are already doing to support the health of the Great Lakes. The key components of GLASI are improving soil health, water quality and pollinator health. By supporting Best Management Practices (BMPs) recommended through the Farmland Health Check-Up, farmers can take action on their identified Farmland Health Challenges and make a difference on the landscape.

Funding for GLASI is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) through Growing Forward 2 (GF2), a comprehensive federal-provincial-territorial initiative. GLASI is delivered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA).

The Farmland Health Check-Up

The Farmland Health Check-Up offers producers a unique opportunity to work with a Certified Crop Advisor, free of charge, to develop Best Management Practices tailored to the specific needs of their operation.

The Farmland Health Check-Up is focused on soil and pollinator health. Using the Farmland Health Check-Up workbook, a farmer and a participating Certified Crop Advisor work together to select fields from the farm operation for an in-depth review that includes soil type, nutrient levels, risk of soil erosion, land management practices and more. The Check-Up identifies Farmland Health Challenges and suggests BMPs that aim to improve overall farm health.

Have you completed an Environmental Farm Plan?

Having a peer-reviewed 3rd edition or verified complete 4th edition Environmental Farm Plan prepared in the last five years is required to apply to FHIP. If you haven’t completed one, sign up for a workshop online on the OSCIA website or contact OSCIA directly for more information at 519-826-4214.

The Farmland Health Incentive Program

The Farmland Health Incentive Program (FHIP) offers financial support to implement select BMPs. This innovative stewardship program supports actions with the greatest potential to impact the landscape, offering funding to address key issues to improve soil health and reduce edge of field phosphorus loss. Projects located in the western and central basins of Lake Erie, the areas currently facing the most stress from water quality impairments, will be prioritized for funding in the 2017 FHIP. The combined impact of projects completed will help to improve the health of our Great Lakes, and in particular support Ontario’s commitments to achieve reductions in phosphorus loss in these high priority areas.
Have you completed a Farmland Health Check-Up?

For more information and a list of eligible Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs), visit the GLASI page of the OSCIA website (www.ontariosoilcrop.org). Don’t see your regular CCA listed? They might not yet be participating in the delivery of the Check-Up. To be able to complete Farmland Health Check-Ups eligible professionals must attend a brief orientation session offered by OSCIA. Professional Agrologists interested in participating in the delivery of Check-Ups must contact OSCIA to confirm their qualifications to participate in a Check-Up orientation session. Email GLASI@ontariosoilcrop.org for additional details.

Am I eligible for FHIP?

To be eligible, applicants and the farm property where the proposed project will be completed must:

1. Be located in the GLASI Eligible Area: Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair watersheds and/or the Lake Huron southeast shores watershed, with projects located in the western and central basins of Lake Erie having first priority to receive funding, based on application submission order within the submission period (see map and rules for 2017 FHIP on page 8).
2. Have completed a Farmland Health Check-Up, working with a participating Certified Crop Advisor
3. Have a peer-reviewed 3rd edition Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) or a verified complete 4th edition EFP and Action Plan from within the last 5 years
4. Have a valid Farm Business Registration Number or be able to provide an appropriate religious, cultural or gross farm income exemption
5. Have a Premises Identification Number (PID)*

*Information about obtaining a PID is available at www.ontarioppr.com, or by calling 1-855-697-7743.
*Note that requests for PID Certificates are usually fulfilled within 48 hours of premises verification but may take longer in some cases.
STEP 1
Satisfy the eligibility criteria listed on page 2, including having an Environmental Farm Plan and a completed Farmland Health Check-Up.

STEP 2
Review this FHIP brochure to determine eligible BMPs and levels of funding. Consult your Farmland Health Check-Up BMP Tables to identify recommended projects to address your specific Farmland Health Challenges. Information identified in the BMP Tables will indicate the levels of cost-share for which proposed projects may be eligible.

STEP 3
Apply for cost-share funding by submitting a completed Enrolment Form, Application Form, applicable Bonus Forms, and required supporting documentation to OSCIA. See “Submitting Applications” on page 7.

STEP 4
The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association will assess submitted applications and provide confirmation of the level of funding that has been allocated.

STEP 5
Upon receiving project approval, complete the project and submit your Claim Form, including all supporting paperwork, no later than December 1, 2017.
Cost-Share Funding Levels

Applicants may submit a maximum of TWO applications to 2017 FHIP, and each application must be for a different BMP category. There is a specific Application Form for each BMP category. Applicants interested in applying for multiple BMP projects must submit multiple Application Forms (up to a maximum of two).

Eligible farm businesses may access one of the following three funding levels for each application, past participants can not access the High Priority Farmland Health Improvement Level if it has been previously awarded. The maximum Farmland Health Incentive Program contribution per farm business is $50,000 from April 1, 2015 to program end, March 31, 2018.

HIGH PRIORITY Farmland Health Improvement
50% cost-share, up to a cap of $20,000 per project
- Implement an eligible, CCA recommended BMP (as identified through the BMP Tables) on a field assessed as part of the Farmland Health Check-Up that is addressing a critical need of the farm property. This level is reserved only for those projects that are addressing the lowest ratings for the fields identified through the Check-Up process. For FHIP 2017, applicants can only access the High Priority funding level one time (including projects supported in 2015 and 2016).

RECOMMENDED Farmland Health Improvement
40% cost-share, up to a cap of $10,000 per project
- Implement an eligible, CCA recommended BMP (as identified through the BMP Tables) on a field assessed as part of the Farmland Health Check-Up

GENERAL Farmland Health Improvement
35% cost-share, up to a cap of $5,000 per project
- Implement an eligible BMP on any farm property operated by a farm business with a completed Farmland Health Check-Up

Your funding level is determined based on your Farmland Health Challenge ratings. Refer to your completed BMP Tables identified through the Farmland Health Check-Up process. The merit of each application is determined based on the information provided in the Farmland Health Check-Up, and funding levels will be assigned by OSCIA accordingly.

Applicants must submit a completed Enrolment Form, Application Form, and Bonus Forms (as applicable) associated with each BMP of interest.

Projects being implemented on multiple fields are assessed on a field-by-field basis. Each field may receive a different level of cost-share based on the risks and priorities identified in your Farmland Health Check-Up.

POLLINATOR BONUS + 5% cost-share increase
For adapting BMPs in a way that enhances and supports critical on-farm pollinator habitat.

SYSTEMS BONUS + 5% cost-share increase
For implementing BMPs that will work together as a system to improve the health of your farm.

LEADING EDGE BONUS + 5% cost-share increase
For implementing techniques that are not yet proven in the GLASI Eligible Area, but that demonstrate significant advancements in reducing phosphorus levels.
Bonus Levels

FHIP offers bonuses that could increase the total cost-share percentage your project could receive. For example, if your project fits into the “Recommended” funding level, your funding could be increased from 40% cost-share to 45% cost-share by applying for one of the bonuses. One of these bonuses may already fit the project you’re hoping to implement, or maybe your project could be enhanced to qualify for one or more of these bonuses. Bonuses can be stacked. However, you will only qualify if you submit the appropriate Bonus Form(s).

**POLLINATOR BONUS + 5%**

Supporting pollinator habitat needs is a key component of FHIP. Projects that adapt BMPs to enhance pollinator habitat may be eligible to receive additional funding. Modifications to BMPs may include planting flowering species that bloom in sequence throughout the growing season to provide pollen and nectar or taking actions to provide nesting sites for pollinators.

The Pollinator Bonus can apply to select BMPs only. Applicants must complete a Pollinator Bonus Form to be considered. Eligible BMPs include:

- Cover crops
- Field windbreaks/windstrips
- Buffer strips
- Fragile land retirement
- Erosion control structures (e.g. terraces, contour cropping, grassed waterways and ditch bank/shoreline stabilization vegetation plantings)

**+ Eligible**

- Food sources:
  - Native flowering plants, non-native non-invasive flowering plants (must be permitted to flower)
- Nesting sites:
  - Accomodating nesting sites (e.g. snag trees)

**– Ineligible**

- Planting invasive species
- Dust deflectors and other equipment costs
- Maintenance costs
SYSTEMS BONUS + 5%

A systems approach to BMP implementation considers the synergies that can develop when two or more complementary practices are put into place. The combined impact of these complementary practices is often greater than the sum of their individual impact.

The Systems Bonus supports producers implementing complementary BMPs in a systems approach on a field assessed as part of the Farmland Health Check-Up.

The Systems Bonus can apply to all eligible BMPs. Proposed BMP projects must correspond to the farm operation’s Farmland Health Check-Up BMP Tables.

Applicants must complete a Systems Bonus Form to be considered.

+ Eligible
  - All Farmland Health Incentive Program supported BMPs may be eligible

- Ineligible
  - Applicants who have accessed the Systems Bonus as part of the 2015 or 2016 Farmland Health Incentive Program are not eligible for this bonus level in 2017.

LEADING EDGE BONUS + 5%

This bonus supports the implementation of practices that are likely to advance soil health and/or water quality, but that are unproven or not yet being used in the GLASI Eligible Area. An explanation detailing why the project will be beneficial to southwestern Ontario agriculture and how it is likely to help reduce phosphorus levels in the Great Lakes is required.

Ideas that have been implemented outside the GLASI Eligible Area, successfully or otherwise, are eligible for consideration but must be able to fit within the eligible BMP categories. New, creative perspectives on current practices may also be eligible.

Applications will be evaluated on an individual basis with input from technical specialists and funded if they seem likely to advance the overall goals of GLASI, including improvements to soil health and/or water quality.

The Leading Edge Bonus can apply to all BMPs. Applicants must complete a Leading Edge Bonus Form to be considered.

+ Eligible
  - To be determined based on application

- Ineligible
  - Practices that are standard or that have already been widely implemented in the GLASI Eligible Area
  - Research work
  - Practices involving BMPs that are not eligible under FHIP
  - Specific practices that are already supported by FHIP (as described in each BMP category in this Brochure)
Submitting Applications

Applications for 2017 projects will be accepted during the fall, beginning November 22, 2016. Applications for projects located in the western and central basins of Lake Erie will have first priority to receive funding if submitted during the three week submission period (November 22, 2016 to December 13, 2016). After this time, all applications will be reviewed in the order they are received until funding has been fully allocated.

If submitting an application electronically, applicants must use the online OSCIA Central system. Email submissions will not be accepted. This system will be open to accept applications beginning on November 22, 2016. OSCIA Central is a user-friendly system that allows for the capability to upload the files for your application submission and gives you instant confirmation of submission. Applications submitted by email will not be accepted.

Applications may also be submitted by:

Fax: (519) 826-4603
Post: Environment Programs
Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
1 Stone Road West, Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2

Please ensure all required documentation is included with your application.

How applications will be assessed:

1. Applications for projects located in the western and central basins of Lake Erie will have first priority to receive funding if submitted between November 22, 2016 and December 13, 2016. These applications will be reviewed in the order they were submitted with funding levels determined based on the ratings and priorities identified through the completed Farmland Health Check-Up.
2. Applications for projects located within the GLASI eligible area, but outside of the western and central basins of Lake Erie, will be reviewed next. These applications will be reviewed in the order they were submitted until funding has been fully allocated, with funding levels determined based on the ratings and priorities identified through the completed Farmland Health Check-Up.
3. Incomplete applications will not be considered for cost-share funding.

Cost-share funding will be allocated to approved projects, up to the total funding available for FHIP. There is no guarantee that applications received during the submission period will receive cost-share support. Applicants will be notified of the status of their application within 45 normal business days from the submission of their application.

Farmland Health Incentive Program Forms

Enrolment Form

The Enrolment Form collects information about the farm business involved in the proposed project. If you have already enrolled on paper with OSCIA through another GLASI program, there is no need to resubmit this form. TIP: If you are unsure whether or not you have already enrolled, include a completed Enrolment Form with your application to ensure that your information is up to date.

Application Form

Choose the FHIP Application Form for the BMP category you wish to implement and indicate how you will complete the project. Estimated costs of the required materials, services, and in-kind contributions for the project are required (as applicable). You will be notified by email or post of your approval status, cost-share percentages and allocations. At that time, you can safely initiate projects as approved, knowing they will receive financial support if all terms and conditions are followed. Projects must be approved by OSCIA before being initiated. Applicants interested in applying for two BMP projects must submit two Application Forms.

Claim Form

The FHIP Claim Form and In-Kind Claim Declaration Form will be provided to approved applicants by OSCIA upon approval. Upon completion of your approved project, you must submit a FHIP Claim Form in order to receive the allocated cost-share. Invoices, proof of payment and the In-Kind Claim Declaration Form must accompany the Claim Form for each individual project. See page 19 for complete details on in-kind contributions. Examples of acceptable claim documentation can be found on the OSCIA website.

All required forms are available to download on the OSCIA website on the FHIP page. If you do not have access to the internet, call the OSCIA Guelph Office directly at 226-706-8665 and request a paper copy of the desired form(s) be mailed to you.
Eligible Invoice Dates:

Eligible project invoices must have originated after both the date of completion of your Farmland Health Check-Up and after the date your project is approved by OSCIA. To be eligible, cost-share funding will only apply to invoices dated after an approval letter with a funding allocation has been issued by OSCIA.

What rules should I be aware of? New for 2017 FHIP:

- Only two applications may be submitted, and each application must be for a different BMP category. In the event that more than one application for the same BMP is submitted, one application will be randomly selected for processing and the other(s) will be discarded. The applicant will not be notified about which applications were reviewed, nor will they be able to appeal any decisions around which applications were reviewed. It is the responsibility of the applicant to carefully select two BMPs to apply to, and to ensure that only two applications are submitted.
- Cost-share funding is based on eligible costs. In order to be eligible, costs must be incurred and paid by the applicant AFTER the project has been approved (i.e. the date OSCIA communicates its approval in writing of the project funding allocation to the applicant).
- Applications will only be accepted during the submission period beginning November 22, 2016. OSCIA reserves the right to add future submission periods should FHIP 2017 funding not be fully allocated during the designated period in fall 2016.
- The maximum FHIP cost-share contribution per farm business for all projects is $50,000 for the duration of the program (2015 - 2018). The maximum cost-share funding level a single project may receive is 65% cost-share funding (e.g. a “High Priority” project combined with all 3 bonus levels of 5% each for Systems Bonus, Pollinator Bonus and Leading Edge Bonus resulting in the maximum 65% cost-share), up to the project cap of $20,000.
- When determining the total estimated cost of the project, obtain quotes and be accurate regarding figures for all applicable materials, services, equipment and in-kind contributions. Please be very clear in your cost descriptions. Gross over-estimates lead to program dollars being unnecessarily allocated and can limit opportunities for other applicants.
- OSCIA issues payments after projects have been completed and the required documentation is received and processed – this means projects must be paid for in full and appropriately documented by the applicant prior to cost-share being issued.
- All applicable authorizations, permits and approvals are the responsibility of the applicant.
- See page 19 for FHIP Limits of Funding.

Project Completion and Claim Submission Deadline:

December 1, 2017
Find your fit with FHIP

Which BMPs address the Farmland Health Challenges identified through your Farmland Health Check-Up?

**Water Erosion**
- BMP-1 Cover Crops
- BMP-2 Adding Organic Amendments
- BMP-4 Buffer Strips
- BMP-5 Field Windbreaks or Windstrips
- BMP-6 Equipment Customization
- BMP-7 Erosion Control Structures
- BMP-8 Fragile Land Retirement

**Wind Erosion**
- BMP-1 Cover Crops
- BMP-2 Adding Organic Amendments
- BMP-5 Field Windbreaks or Windstrips
- BMP-6 Equipment Customization
- BMP-8 Fragile Land Retirement

**Tillage Erosion**
- BMP-1 Cover Crops
- BMP-2 Adding Organic Amendments
- BMP-6 Equipment Customization
- BMP-8 Fragile Land Retirement
BMP-1 Cover Crops

Bonus Opportunities +

Funding to support an increased use of cover crops to provide undisturbed cover over winter months and/or early spring months. Funding is available based on invoiced seed costs, for a maximum of 200 acres per farm business over the lifespan of the GLASI program (2015-2018).

We encourage the submission of a photo (georeferenced and dated after planting) to confirm crop seeding and establishment with the submission of your project claim.

Funding is only available for practices that are new to your farm business. To be eligible, the practice can not have been used more than once in the last five years, as identified on your Farmland Health Check-Up, or in records of previous projects supported by OSCIA-delivered programs such as GF2, FHIP 2015 and FHIP 2016.

+ Eligible

- Cover crops seeded post harvest or interseeded into a standing crop
- Single or multiple species cover crop mixes
- Cover crops seeded across an entire field to provide undisturbed cover over winter months
- Cover crops seeded in priority erosion prone areas (e.g. knolls on sandy soils) to provide undisturbed cover over winter months
- Planting costs incurred by the producer (in-kind) or custom applied (dedicated pass only)
- Cover crops that are harvested or grazed, provided a minimum of 6 inches (15 cm) of cover crop growth is left intact over winter

- Ineligible

- Repeat claims by the same farm business on the same field location
- Costs associated with mechanical or chemical termination of the cover crop
- Equipment modification costs
- Fertilizer and crop protection costs
- Crops that will be harvested or grazed leaving less than 6 inches (15 cm) of cover crop growth over winter or fall terminated
- Red clover, alfalfa seed, wheat seed or seed for other commodity crops
- Any costs for fields that have used cover crops more than once in the last five years
- Seed mixes containing invasive plant species
- Seed produced by the farm business applying for funding (bin run seed)
BMP-2 Adding Organic Amendments
Bonus Opportunities + 📊📈

Funding to support adding solid organic soil amendments, including livestock manures, approved biosolids and non-agricultural source materials applied under permit (as required), to the target fields. Solid materials are those with at least 18% dry matter content that can be spread using conventional manure spreading equipment.

Funding is only available for practices that are new to your farm business, and is only eligible on fields where the average soil phosphorus level is no more than 20 ppm as shown on your Farmland Health Check-Up OR documented on a soil test that must be submitted as part of your application.

Funding is available for a maximum of 200 acres per farm business over the lifespan of the GLASI program (2015-2018), and is based on invoiced costs. Eligible costs of obtaining and spreading the organic amendment will be limited to a maximum amount of $180 per acre, cost share calculations will be applied after total costs have been aligned with this maximum.

To be eligible, the practice can not have been used more than once in the last five years, as identified on your Farmland Health Check-Up, and in records of previous projects supported by OSCIA-delivered programs such as GF2, FHIP 2015 and FHIP 2016.

+ Eligible

- Applications on fields with a demonstrated soil test of no more than 20 ppm of phosphorus as per either the Farmland Health Check-Up or as per the soil test included with the application
- Solid materials that contain at least 18% dry matter including manure, biosolids, compost, and other materials likely to increase soil organic matter levels imported onto the farm that will be applied using conventional solid manure spreading equipment
- Spreading activities that will occur in July, August or September
- All invoiced costs including purchase of the material, transportation and custom application costs (where applicable)
- Applications by the producer are eligible for in-kind payment, based on the in-kind contribution policy shown on page 19

- Ineligible

- All applications involving liquid manure, biosolids, compost or other organic amendments with less than 18% dry matter. This includes any material that has a planned application method that includes transfer via pipes or hoses
- Repeat claims by the same farm business on the same field location
- Amendments generated on a farm owned/rented by the same party that owns/rents the field where they will be applied
- Any costs for fields that have used organic amendments more than once in the last five years
- Costs for fields without a demonstrated soil test value of 20 ppm or less of phosphorus. Compensation for products obtained free of charge (i.e. cost-share is dependent on the amount shown on the invoice)
- Amendments not of primarily plant or animal origins, such as gypsum, aglime, biochar or liquid carbon
- Applications planned outside the ideal timeframe for reduced phosphorus loss (i.e. any month that is not July, August or September)
- Materials with a fertilizer or Canadian Food Inspection Agency designation
Funding to support the development of a Crop Nutrient Plan that spans one full crop rotation cycle with a minimum five year plan required*. This plan should consider crop rotation, cover crops, organic amendments, tillage practices, yield, soil test results, etc., to make a detailed but conservative fertilizer-use plan. An appropriate, qualified professional, such as a Certified Crop Advisor, must complete this plan.

A copy of the plan must be submitted to OSCIA with your claim.

+ Eligible
- Written crop nutrient plan covering one full crop rotation cycle (five year plan required*) that must include:
  - Soil sampling and analysis (including frequency of sampling, sampling plan, and soil test results that include organic matter, soil phosphorus, pH, etc.)
  - Maps of fields, locations of any sensitive features requiring special management or setbacks
  - Plan must outline, at a minimum, the following details on a per field basis:
    - Crop rotation
    - Tillage practices for each crop
    - Nutrients applied from all sources (timing, placement, rates)
    - Crop removal and the nutrient balance for each crop, including credits from legumes and/or manure
    - Fertilizer recommendations for each crop
    - Management practices to reduce risk of nutrient loss
- May also include the following other eligible activities to support the development of the crop nutrient plan:
  - Manure sampling and analysis
  - Data collection materials such as soil probes
  - Plant tissue sampling and analysis
  - Contingency planning
  - Soil conservation practices and planning for implementation within the crop rotation
  - Annual subscriptions to data management systems (limit of one subscription per eligible farm business)
  - Consulting fees for plan development services provided by appropriate, qualified professional (e.g. Certified Crop Advisor)
  - Plans developed using NMAN or other planning and decision support tools

- Ineligible
- Yield monitors and other GPS enabled data collection tools
- Technology where phosphorus use efficiency is not the primary objective, including Greenseekers and Soilscan units
- Manure storage plans (i.e. the MSTOR portion of any plan)
- Computer hardware and software
- Costs associated with the renewal of an existing plan, or repeat services on the same crop areas
- Crop scouting and pest monitoring
- Professional services not directly related to the Crop Nutrient Plan
- In-kind time invested by the producer for preparing the plan
- All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)
- License activation fees

* Note: The plan must represent one full crop rotation cycle for the farm operation or a minimum five-year period. If the farm’s crop rotation cycle is three crops or less than three crops, the plan must cover a minimum of three years of cropping information, with the option to include two years of historical cropping data to provide a five-year plan. Plans are living documents and should be reviewed and updated on an annual basis or as required when new soil sample information is collected.
BMP-4 Buffer Strips
Bonus Opportunities + 💚 🌿 🌾

Funding to support the establishment of permanently vegetated buffer strips within riparian zones alongside streams, drains, rivers, ponds, wetlands and lakes. Buffer strips shall be a minimum of three metres in width from top of bank.

Cost-share applies to a total cost of up to $20/tree, inclusive of all costs and in-kind contributions associated with planting and establishment.

+ Eligible
- Payments for land taken out of production
- Ongoing maintenance costs (including maintenance and renovation of existing tree plantings)
- Trees, shrubs, or other plantings for landscaping or around buildings
- Planting invasive plant species
- Establishment of trees, shrubs, or other plantings that are intended for harvest for economic benefit within 15 years, such as fruit orchards, Christmas trees, ornamental nursery stock, etc.
- Tree spaded stock or the transplant of large caliper trees
- Costs for stock and planting in excess of $20/tree inclusive
- Livestock fencing and stream crossing structures
- Red clover, alfalfa seed, wheat seed or seed for other commodity crops

- Ineligible
- Seeding field margins within or adjacent to riparian areas that were cropped within the past two years to permanent vegetative cover
- Purchase and planting of permanent native or non-invasive introduced species of trees or shrubs, grasses, legumes or wildflowers to stabilize riparian zones
- Tree species and planting techniques that adhere to practices that would typically be advocated by a professional forester
- Site preparation and planting time
- Tree guards
- Mulch
- Weed control systems
BMP-5 Field Windbreaks or Windstrips

Bonus Opportunities +

Funding to support planting of permanent tree windbreaks or seasonal vegetated windstrips to control wind erosion and provide pollinator habitat. For a field to be eligible for windstrips, the practice must not have been used on the target field in the last five years, as identified on your Farmland Health Check-Up.

Cost-share applies to a total cost of up to $20/tree, inclusive of all costs and in-kind contributions associated with planting and establishment.

+ Eligible

Windbreaks
- Planting of native or non-invasive introduced species of trees and shrubs (seeds, seedlings, or plugs)
- Tree species and planting techniques that adhere to practices that would typically be advocated by a professional forester
- Site preparation
- Weed control system
- Mulch

Windstrips
- Seed costs for seasonal vegetative windstrips
- Site preparation

- Ineligible

- Trees, shrubs or other plantings for landscaping or around buildings
- Establishment of trees, shrubs, or other plantings that are intended for harvest for economic benefit within 15 years, such as fruit orchards, Christmas trees, ornamental nursery stock, etc.
- Ongoing maintenance costs (including maintenance and renovation of existing tree plantings)
- Planting invasive tree, shrub or plant species
- Payments for land taken out of production
- Tree spaded stock or the transplant of large caliper trees
- Costs for stock and planting in excess of $20/tree inclusive
- Costs of grass seed or seed for other commodity crops intended for harvest
- Site preparation costs that exceed 10-times the cost of planting the field windbreak
- Block plantings
BMP-6 Equipment Customization

Bonus Opportunities +

Funding to support adjusting new or existing equipment to reduce phosphorus loss and/or to increase soil health. Cost-share funding will apply to the cost difference between the current or conventional equipment and the modified or updated equipment, OR it will apply to specialized components, as applicable.

A detailed quote providing the estimated value of the current or conventional equipment and the new equipment must be submitted with your application form. This must be a written estimate from an equipment dealer of similar or baseline equipment. Choosing not to include documentation for the value of your current equipment will result in a flat rate discount of 50%, with no opportunity for appeal.

Funding is only available if the practice is new to your farm business. To be eligible, the practice can not have been used more than once in the last five years, as identified on your Farmland Health Check-Up, and in records of previous projects supported by OSCIA delivered programs such as GF2, FHIP 2015 and FHIP 2016.

If a producer has already received funding through GLASI for BMP 6 in either 2015 FHIP and/or 2016 FHIP they are not eligible to receive funding again through BMP 6 for the 2017 program. For tillage, if any conservation tillage practice is currently implemented, funding is not available for a new tillage practice. An application is limited to only one of the eligible categories below.

+ Eligible

- Tillage
  - Strip-till units or components
  - No-till units or components
- Fertility (specifically addressing phosphorus only)
  - Equipment or components to enable banding or variable/controlled rate applications
  - Fertilizer carts if used in conjunction with existing strip-till units
- Planting
  - No-till units or components
  - Equipment for the purpose of planting and managing cover crops
- Equipment or components to manage crop residues
  - Row cleaners
  - Roller crimpers
  - Trash whippers
- On-the-go tire pressure adjustment systems

- Ineligible

  - Receiving funding for strip-till or no-till if the Farmland Health Check-Up shows that either of these practices are already being used by the farm business
  - BMPs that specifically target nitrogen, potassium or other nutrients that are not phosphorus (including Y-drop technology)
  - All GPS systems, related components and licensing fees (including display systems, autosteer components and modems)
  - Yield monitors
  - Annual services fees of any type
  - Upgrades to tractors, combines or spray equipment
  - Tires or tracks
  - Self-propelled equipment
  - Maintenance costs
  - Warranties for equipment or components used to modify equipment
  - Any tillage equipment that is not strip-till or no-till (including vertical tillage)
  - Any equipment or equipment customizations that do not support an increase in soil health or a decrease in the risk of phosphorus loss from the farm system
Funding to support building or upgrading in-field erosion control structures. These structures include: Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCoB), terraces, grassed waterways, and contour strips of perennial vegetation.

All structural erosion control projects must be designed by a certified erosion control contractor or other professional following the specifications included in the OMAFRA Publication 832: Agricultural Erosion Control Structures – A Design and Construction Manual. A list of Certified Erosion Control Contractors is available on the OMAFRA website.

Projects involving municipal drains require approval in writing from the local Drainage Superintendent (letters should be submitted with the FHIP Application). For all erosion control projects, copies of required permits must be submitted to OSCIA with the project claim.

+ Eligible
- Systematic tile drainage systems that are not an integral part of the erosion control structure
- Constructing new drainage channels or repair of existing
- Installation of drop inlets for drainage of ponded surface water (not associated with erosion control structure)
- Tile inlet upgrades for the purpose of increasing capacity for rapid flow
- Leveling of land/fields
- Applying cost-share to projects initiated through the Drainage Act
- Ongoing maintenance costs
- Constructed works in-channel to provide fish habitat (e.g. pools and riffles, natural channel design)
- Construction and land improvement activities not associated with soil erosion control
- Repair and maintenance of existing erosion control work
- Payments for land taken out of production

- Ineligible
- Infrastructure and development costs
- Labour costs
- Consulting and engineering fees
- Upgrade or modification of existing tile inlets or outlets
- Grassed waterways
- WASCoBs
- Contour terraces
- Tile inlet upgrades for the purpose of reducing erosion or slowing infiltration
- Improvements to support stream bank or ditch bank stabilization, and grade control structures (e.g. rock chute spillways, surface inlet structures)
Funding to support costs of taking fragile lands out of agricultural production and seeding to permanent vegetative cover.

What is Fragile Land? Fragile land has limited potential for profitable agricultural production. It is often prone to water, tillage or wind erosion. Years of producing row crops on these lands often result in severely eroded landscapes.

Funding is also available to support activities that are designed to manage and treat runoff leaving agricultural land and reaching watercourses. All activities completed under this BMP must be supported by a certified soil erosion control contractor, your local conservation authority, Ducks Unlimited Canada, an OMAFRA representative, a licensed drainage contractor or licensed engineer to confirm the design is appropriate and supports reducing the loss of soluble reactive phosphorus.

Applicants must demonstrate a long-term commitment (at least 15 years) to retiring land in order to access support under this BMP. Cost-share applies to a total cost of up to $20/tree, inclusive of all costs and in-kind contributions associated with planting and establishment.

**+ Eligible**
- Seeding fragile lands sites that were annually-cropped within the past two years to permanent vegetative cover, including severely eroded knolls and compacted headlands
- Establishment of native trees or shrubs, native grasses or native wildflowers to stabilize sites and enhance pollinator habitat
- Tree species and planting techniques that adhere to practices that would typically be advocated by a professional forester
- Purchase and planting of permanent native or non-invasive introduced species of trees or shrubs, grasses, legumes or wildflowers to stabilize fragile lands and ideally provide flowering species that bloom in sequence throughout the growing season to provide pollen and nectar for pollinator species
- Site preparation
- Weed control system
- Mulch
- Activities that are designed to manage and treat runoff leaving agricultural land and reaching watercourses
- Activities that support the management of runoff water; for example:
  - Constructed wetlands that collect and treat tile drain water or surface waters from agricultural land before entering a watercourse or drain
  - Enhancing standing inlets to slow movement of water from field and increase infiltration time
  - Installing biofilters
  - Installing vegetated grass strips on the contour to reduce velocity of water flow and increase infiltration

**– Ineligible**
- Payments for land taken out of annual crop production
- Planting/establishment/maintenance costs of marketable products (e.g., hay, forages, nuts, fruit, bio-products)
- Red clover, alfalfa seed, wheat seed or seed for other commodity crops
- Work to drainage systems that includes:
  - Tile drainage components that are not an integral part of a phosphorus reduction activity
  - Applying cost-share to draining works already funded under the Drainage Act
  - Ongoing maintenance costs
- Constructed works in-channel to provide fish habitat
In-Kind Contribution Policy

+ Eligible
- Ineligible

• Applicant, applicant’s business partner(s) or applicant’s family members
  • Applicant’s employee
  • Rates that exceed $20 per hour for in-kind labour
  • Rates that exceed $50 per hour for a tractor and equipment

Limits of Funding

1. An applicant may submit a maximum of two applications, and each application must be for a different BMP. If more than two applications are submitted, two will be randomly selected for processing and all others will be declined without notifying the applicant and with no opportunity to appeal. See page 8 for more details.

2. FHIP cost-share is available to new projects initiated on or after the date that the applicant receives written approval from OSCIA that the project has received a funding allocation.

3. To receive cost-share, all projects must be complete and operational with the Claim Form received in the OSCIA Guelph office by December 1, 2017. OSCIA reserves the right to perform a project inspection at a mutually agreeable time, prior to the claim being processed.

4. FHIP cost-share may be utilized by eligible applicants for approved Best Management Practices that will be used on farm properties in the Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair and/or Lake Huron southeast shores watersheds. Evidence of the area in which the project is completed may be requested.

5. Participation in Growing Forward 2 or other OSCIA delivered cost-share programs over previous years (with the exception of FHIP 2015 or 2016) by the business does not affect the allowable contribution available for FHIP in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

6. OSCIA cannot issue cost-share funding for incomplete projects.

7. Stacking of FHIP contributions towards the same project by two or more applicants is not permissible.

8. Only invoices from vendors or service providers directly involved with the item or service purchased by the approved party will be accepted with the project claim.

9. All invoices that support materials or services provided to a project must originate with companies or individuals not in any way associated through ownership with the business making the project claim. All eligible invoices must match the business name identified on the 2017 Claim Form.

10. OSCIA reserves the right to require additional documentation and ultimately accept or reject submitted project invoices and proof of payment for cost-share consideration.

11. A single project may receive cost-share from one BMP category only. A single project may receive one or more of the bonus levels, with a maximum allowable cost-share of 65%.

12. A single project may receive a maximum of $20,000, including eligible bonuses, which is the project cap at the “High Priority” funding level.

13. A single eligible farm business may not receive more than $50,000 over the lifespan of the Farmland Health Incentive Program (April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2018).

14. The business shall ensure that the total cost-share assistance from all sources, including other government or non-government programs, for eligible expenses shall not exceed 100 percent. The business is required to identify (at the time the claim is submitted) all other sources of funding for eligible project expenses.

15. Across all BMP categories, HST is not an eligible expense.

16. Hand or power tools or attachments are not eligible for cost-share. Maintenance or extended warranties are not eligible.

17. OSCIA will not accept additional FHIP Applications after the submission period closes. The funds will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, with applications assessed as described on page 7.

18. All applicable information on the FHIP Application Form must be complete before it is submitted to OSCIA Guelph. Only project applications deemed to be complete by the OSCIA Guelph office will be considered for cost-share.

19. The information presented is the best available at the time of printing. Check with OSCIA for applicable updates. Material is subject to change without notice as the cost-share program evolves.

20. If a proposed project receives a FHIP allocation, the same project is not eligible for other funding programs delivered by OSCIA.

21. Hourly wages and benefits of seasonal and full-time employees of the business are not eligible for cost-share.

22. Financing charges and loan interest payments are not eligible for cost-share.

23. If the application is declined funding, the applicant has 30 days from the date on their decline letter to appeal the decision by submitting a formal letter of appeal as directed in their letter.

24. If a farm business has already received funding through GLASI for BMP 6 in either 2015 FHIP and/or 2016 FHIP they are not eligible to receive funding again through BMP 6 for the 2017 program.

25. The maximum number of acres a farm business can receive FHIP cost-share for under BMP 1 and BMP 2 is 200 acres (per BMP) over the life of FHIP (2015-2018).