Species At Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:

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Species At Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands

Grassroots Innovation
Since 2007

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Environnement et Changement climatique Canada
Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL) is an Environment and Climate Change Canada initiative focused on working with farmers to support the recovery of species at risk on agricultural landscapes. SARPAL funds on-the-ground conservation actions that support various species at risk (SAR), but specifically targets the following SAR: Loggerhead Shrike, Henslow’s Sparrow, Barn Swallow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Grasshopper Sparrow, American Badger, Little Brown Bat, Eastern Foxsnake, Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee, Rusty-patched Bumble Bee, and Monarch.

Ontario has 12 million acres of farmland, often integrated with valuable plant, fish and wildlife habitat. Farmers, predominantly those with livestock, manage significant amounts of Ontario’s grassland habitats. Voluntary stewardship actions by farmers are critical to the conservation of species at risk in Ontario, especially for species that rely on grassland habitat. SARPAL provides funding to support the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that play a key role in protecting, maintaining and enhancing healthy SAR habitat while sustaining production and profitability on the farm.

For more information about the SAR that might be on your farm, download our Farm Field Guides (Grasslands and Wetlands available) at www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/sarpal/additional-resources/ or call 519-826-4214 to request paper copies.

While American badger habitat is common on farmland, it doesn’t include crop fields. Badger habitat can be found in field and forest edges, old fencerows, hedgerows, windbreaks, buffer strips and abandoned fields. American badgers are well equipped for digging burrows with long (3.8 cm) claws on their powerful front legs and a streamlined head. American badgers are nocturnal and spend their nights traveling between burrows and hunting for rabbits, groundhogs, small rodents, frogs, toads and bird eggs. When threatened American badgers hiss and growl and can release a smelly musk.

The chance of seeing a burrow of an American badger is much greater than seeing this nocturnal animal. Their burrows can be up to three metres underground and ten metres long. Any burrow 25 cm or wider is worth reporting to the badger hotline: 1-877-715-9299.
Program At A Glance

2019 Important Dates
Intake 1: September 5, 2019 to December 15, 2019 or until fully allocated
Eligible invoice dates: June 18, 2019 to February 1, 2020

2020 Important Dates
Intake 2: March 1, 2020* to December 15, 2020 or until fully allocated
Eligible invoice dates: April 1, 2020 to December 15, 2020

*Projects are pre-approved, but activities must take place on or after April 1, 2020

Supported Best Management Practices

- Tree and Shrub Planting
- Establishment of In-field Perennial Grass Strip(s)
- Wetland Restoration
- Grassland Restoration
- Cross Fencing for Rotational Grazing
- Fencing to Exclude Livestock from Woodland Areas
- Forage Harvest Management (Delayed Haying) - Only offered in 2020

Conservation Agreements:

Conservation Agreements, signed between participating producers and Environment and Climate Change Canada, are a requirement of SARPAL.

Get in touch with us:

Email: SARPAL@ontariosoilcrop.org
Phone: 519-826-3035
Website: www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/sarpal/

Conservation Agreements

An objective of the SARPAL program is to continue to assess the effectiveness of Conservation Agreements as a method of supporting species at risk recovery through habitat protection on private agricultural lands. Approved SARPAL applicants are required to sign a Conservation Agreement with Environment and Climate Change Canada before funding is released. In the agreement, participants commit to maintain and monitor the funded BMPs for the duration of the agreement (or for the approved number of years for delayed haying projects).
Am I Eligible?

To be eligible for the Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands Program, you must meet the following criteria:

☐ Be actively farming or own actively farmed land in Ontario
   as demonstrated by:
   A valid Farm Business Registration Number (FBRN)
   OR
   Owning property of 25 acres or more assessed as ‘Farm’
   (indicated on a 2018 or 2019 Municipal Property Assessment Notice or Municipal Tax Bill)
   OR
   A Religious Exemption Letter provided by the OMAFRA Appeal Tribunal
   OR
   A Cultural Exemption Letter – First Nations producers can provide a letter from the Indian Agricultural
   Program of Ontario (IAPO) verifying the farm business operates in a First Nations community

☐ Have a completed Environmental Farm Plan
   (4th Edition) and Action Plan verified complete by OSCIA.
   Need to update your EFP? Sign up for an in-person workshop at www.ontarioprograms.net or complete an electronic
   EFP at www.electronicefp.com. For more information on updating your EFP, call (519) 826-4214.

☐ Have a valid Premises Identification Number (PID)
   for the farm property where the proposed project will be completed. For more information call 1-888-247-4999
   or visit www.ontariopid.com.

How Much Funding Could I Receive?

65% of Eligible Project Implementation Costs

SARPAL cost-share is up to 65% for farmers wishing to implement an eligible BMP activity on their farm property. You
must enrol with OSCIA and submit a complete SARPAL Application Form and sketch, accompanied by any other required
documentation for the BMP activity you are applying for.

Farm businesses can access up to $20,000 in cumulative SARPAL cost-share per program year (2019-2020 and
2020-2021). Past participation does not count towards this limit.

Bobolinks breed and nest in grassland habitats, including: pastures, hayfields, abandoned/retired fields and meadows. Bobolinks
build their nests on the ground. In the spring, males can be seen performing aerial display flights to attract mates. They repeatedly
flutter up, singing their characteristic bubbling song, before descending. Bobolinks fly like a helicopter, moving in space slowly
with rapidly-beating wings. Males can also be seen perched on shrubs and fence posts. While in Ontario during their breeding
season, bobolinks feed on insects and seeds.
Steps To Participate

**Step 1** Complete your Enrolment Form and SARPAL Application Form.

Check if your BMP requires additional information such as a letter of support before submitting it to OSCIA via:

**Email:** sarpal@ontariosoilcrop.org

**Mail:** Attn: Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands Program
Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
1 Stone Rd W
Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2

Please complete a separate application form for each BMP project you wish to apply for. Enrolment and application forms can be accessed at www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/sarpal or by calling 519-826-3035.

**Step 2** Receive notification of your application outcome from OSCIA.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email. Approvals will be granted by BMP project.

**Step 3** Receive and sign a Conservation Agreement with Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Conservation Agreements will be distributed by OSCIA to producers with approved projects. Return the signed Conservation Agreement to OSCIA at your earliest convenience or with the claim.

**Step 4** Complete approved project(s) and obtain proof of payment for all project costs.

**Step 5** Submit your claim to OSCIA, including invoices, proof of payment, and Conservation Agreement.

Claim forms will be provided to approved applicants by OSCIA. Upon completion of your approved project, you must submit the Claim Form accompanied by invoices and proof of payment for all project costs, and an In-Kind Claim Declaration Form for any in-kind contributions (see page 11 for details on in-kind contributions). An Electronic Funds Transfer Authorization Form with a void cheque or direct deposit print-out from your financial institution must also be submitted to receive payment.

**Step 6** Receive project funding from OSCIA and maintain project(s) for the duration of the Agreement.

Barn swallows forage in grassland habitats including hay fields, meadows and pastures. Barn swallows are aerial insectivores, meaning they feed on insects while in flight. By eating flies and other insects, barn swallows contribute to effective insect pest management on farms. Look for barn swallows flying gracefully in a darting, acrobatic motion.

When not flying, barn swallows are commonly observed perched on wires, tree branches and fence posts.
Supported Best Management Practices

BMP 1 — Tree and Shrub Planting

Funding is to support the planting of native trees and shrubs that will provide corridors for species such as the Eastern Foxsnake and American Badger and an early source of nectar and pollen for the Gypsy Cuckoo and Rusty-patched Bumble Bees. Applicants planting trees are encouraged to secure tree advisory services from a qualified forestry professional, such as a Conservation Authority or registered professional forester, who will undertake the work in compliance with the Professional Foresters Act of Ontario and according to the guidelines endorsed by the Ontario Professional Foresters Association (OPFA). It is important that the area where planting is to take place and the chosen tree species will not prove harmful to SAR. Only native trees or shrubs are eligible. Cost-share applies to the total eligible project costs up to $50 per tree, including trees, planting costs and in-kind contributions.

Types of supported tree planting projects are:

- **Reforestation (Block Tree Planting)**
  Block plantings require a plan from a qualified forestry professional, such as a Conservation Authority, registered professional forester, etc.

- **Tree Windbreaks**
  Trees planted along a pasture, in a field, or edge of field.

- **Buffer Strips**
  Permanently vegetated buffer establishment (a minimum of five metres in width) along a natural habitat area (e.g. stream, wetland, pond, forest, or grassland).

**Eligible Activities**

- ✔ Site preparation (limited to up to 50% of total project costs)
- ✔ Planting of native trees and shrubs (seeds, seedlings, potted stock or plugs)
- ✔ Weed and rodent control systems (mulch, mowing, tree guards, etc.)
- ✔ Planting of SAR trees and shrubs
- ✔ Establishment support as recommended and provided by a Professional Forester, or other qualified party
- ✔ Woodlot management practices that support SAR (e.g. releasing eastern flowering dogwood or American chestnut from canopy suppression)
- ✔ Tree Service Agreement for spring 2020 planting during the 2019 intake and Tree Service Agreement for spring 2021 planting during the 2020 intake (See page 6 for more details)
- ✔ Permanent fencing to exclude livestock from the newly planted natural areas. Please note that cost-share applies to total eligible project costs of up to $11.50/metre of fencing installed, inclusive of all costs and in-kind contributions associated with fencing

**Ineligible Activities**

- ✖ Ongoing maintenance costs (including maintenance and renovation of existing tree plantings)
- ✖ Planting invasive or non-native trees (e.g. European Larch and Norway Spruce); a list of native species can be found at www.ontariotrees.com
- ✖ Opportunity costs associated with payments for land taken out of production
- ✖ 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.
- ✖ Tree spaded stock or the transplant of large caliper trees
- ✖ Vines, ornamentals and other species unlikely to offer value to SAR habitat
- ✖ In-kind contributions incurred in spring of 2020 or 2021 associated with a Tree Service Agreement
BMP 2 — Establishment of In-Field Perennial Grass Strips

Funding is to support the planting and maintenance of perennial grass strips in field, including but not limited to contour buffer strips (minimum 3 metres wide from top of bank), grassed waterways, herbaceous wind barriers, headland retirement, and field edge plantings. Grass strips are encouraged to support other environmental objectives, including pollinator habitat or erosion control, so long as they do not reduce habitat suitability for the American Badger, grassland birds, Rusty-patched and Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bees and Monarch.

Mowing, if desired, must occur after July 15 for the duration of the agreement to protect nesting birds.

Eligible Activities

- Site preparation and planting of native grasses or legumes (less than 40% legumes) and wildflowers
- Habitat enhancement for SAR including brush or rock piles, pollinator plantings, deadwood, and snags

Ineligible Activities

- Ongoing maintenance costs (including maintenance and renovation of existing plantings)
- Planting invasive or non-native plants; a list of native species can be found at ontariowildflowers.com
- Opportunity costs associated with payments for land taken out of production
  - Plantings for landscaping or around buildings
  - Establishment of plantings that are intended for harvest for economic benefit within 15 years, such as biofuels
  - Vines, ornamentals and other species unlikely to offer value to SAR habitat

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- Planting invasive or non-native plants; a list of native species can be found at ontariowildflowers.com
- Opportunity costs associated with payments for land taken out of production
  - Plantings for landscaping or around buildings
  - Establishment of plantings that are intended for harvest for economic benefit within 15 years, such as biofuels
  - Vines, ornamentals and other species unlikely to offer value to SAR habitat

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- Opportunity costs associated with payments for land taken out of production
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  - Establishment of plantings that are intended for harvest for economic benefit within 15 years, such as biofuels
  - Vines, ornamentals and other species unlikely to offer value to SAR habitat

Won’t be able to complete your planting project in 2019?

Consider Spring 2020 Planting!

- Planting must be done directly through a Conservation Authority or eligible Planting Delivery Agent and prepayment for all services and fees must be completed with proof of payment submitted to OSCIA by February 1, 2020
- A minimum of 50 trees for a windbreak and 500 trees for a block planting must be planted
- Applicant must enter into a Tree Service Agreement (provided by OSCIA to the applicant upon conditional approval of proposed project). The agreement must be signed by the applicant and the Planting Delivery Agent (e.g. the Conservation Authority) before being submitted to OSCIA
- A planting plan prepared by the Planting Delivery Agent that includes a site map and details on species and planting method must be submitted with the application
- All planting must proceed as identified in the planting plan
- Spring 2021 Tree Service Agreements will be eligible only during the 2020 SARPAL intake
BMP 3 — Wetland Restoration

Wetlands have many benefits for farmers and wildlife, including flood mitigation, improved water quality, and habitat enhancement for SAR such as the Henlow’s Sparrow, Barn Swallow, and Little Brown Bat. Funding is to support restoration of wetlands, returning them to their original size, depth and ecological function. To be eligible, all applications must include a letter of support from a Conservation Authority, technical specialist, or recognized conservation group (e.g. Ducks Unlimited Canada). The letter should reference:

- The original existence of a wetland (if possible)
- That previous alteration resulted in negative impact
- That ecological function can be restored

Funds will also support:

- Habitat enhancement for SAR including brush or rock piles, pollinator plantings, deadwood, and snags
- Permanent fencing to exclude livestock from the restored wetland. Please note that cost-share applies to total eligible project costs of up to $11.50/metre of fencing installed, inclusive of all costs and in-kind contributions associated with fencing

Eligible Activities

- ✓ Earthwork, equipment rentals
- ✓ Ditch plugs
- ✓ Consultant fees
- ✓ Plant establishment

Ineligible Activities

- × Work associated with irrigation ponds or landscaping
- × Opportunity costs associated with payments for land taken out of production
- × Planting invasive or non-native plants; a list of native species can be found at www.ontariowildflowers.com
- × Vines, ornamentals and other species unlikely to offer value to SAR habitat
- × Costs for permits
- × Fencing not directly associated with livestock exclusion from the restored wetland area

Eastern meadowlarks breed and nest in grassland habitats, including: hayfields, meadows, grassy fencerows, and prairies. During breeding season, they can be heard singing their sweet song late into the day. Look for these birds on fence posts and hydro lines attracting mates with their bright yellow breast. Eastern meadowlarks walk through grasses, probing for insects in the ground with their long, sharp bills. When flying, they alternate between several rapid wing beats and short glides flying low over ground.
**BMP 4 — Grassland Restoration**

Agricultural grasslands include hayfields and pasture composed of tame or native species that provide critical breeding habitat for Henslow’s Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark and Loggerhead Shrike. This BMP provides an opportunity to restore agricultural land to permanent grassland. Grazing and haying for on-farm use is permitted after July 15, but not for off-farm sales. Priority will be given to projects that are restoring native grasslands.

Funds will also support:

- Control of encroaching invasive trees and shrubs (i.e. buckthorn and Scots pine) in pastures through mowing or other mechanical means within reason (Activities must take place after July 15 to protect nesting grassland birds).
- Applicants must demonstrate encroachment pressures through photographs and/or aerial photography. Funding will be determined at OSCIA’s discretion.
- Habitat enhancement for SAR including brush or rock piles, pollinator plantings, deadwood, and snags

**Eligible Activities**

- Mixed planting of native grassland species (e.g. little bluestem, Indian grass, brown-eyed Susan) or non-native grassland species (e.g. timothy, orchard grass, clover - Less than 40% legumes)
- Site preparation
- Rental of specialized planting equipment
- Rental of appropriate equipment for mechanical removal of trees and shrubs
- Custom services for removal of encroaching trees and shrubs

**Ineligible Activities**

- Establishment of grasses and vegetation for harvest (e.g. biomass) or grazed before July 15
- Establishment of monocultures or biomass crops
- Purchase of cultivation equipment
- Maintenance and renovation of existing plantings
- Planting invasive species
- Opportunity costs associated with payments for land taken out of production
- Purchase of equipment of any kind, including tractors or self propelled equipment, mowers, and brush hogs
- Major clearing of grasslands, wetlands or forested land
- Activities primarily for landscaping or other purposes not directly related to mowing of trees and shrubs to improve grassland habitat
- Repeat claims under this BMP on the same pasture area
- Pasture clipping or other standard practices

**TIP:** Use a free online mapping application, such as Google Maps or OMAFRA’s AgMaps to find aerial imagery and/or make a map of your property.
BMP 5 — Cross-Fencing for Rotational Grazing

This BMP provides an opportunity to protect nesting grassland birds by incorporating rotational grazing with the intent of leaving some areas ungrazed until after July 15. The goal is to maximize existing forage resources through effective management and maintain ungrazed grassland bird refuge areas until mid-July.

Funding is to support new fencing and watering system infrastructure to strengthen rotational grazing systems and allow portions of pasture to remain unharvested (grazed or hayed) until after July 15. Rotational grazing systems must be implemented on at least 10 acres of pasture and must include at least four (4) sections (fields or paddocks) for rotation to qualify for this BMP.

Applicants will be required to submit a diagram of their proposed grazing and/or watering system with their application.

Fencing Systems

Only temporary interior fencing is eligible for cost-share; it is expected that perimeter fencing is already established. Cost-share applies to total eligible project costs up to $2.45/metre of eligible fence installed or $5/metre if the purchase of a solar charger is necessary to run the additional fencing.

Eligible Activities

✓ Fencing materials, including wire, posts, insulators, fasteners, rolling fence systems and gates
✓ Consultant fees to develop a Grazing Management Plan
✓ Purchase and installation of solar powered systems to support electric fencing

Ineligible Activities

✗ Costs for income loss due to delayed grazing
✗ Repair and maintenance of existing fencing
✗ Perimeter fencing (this includes any sections of fencing along a property line)
✗ Professional services not directly related to the Grazing Management Plan
✗ Time, effort, and travel by applicant for planning activities
✗ Any plan, assessment, report, etc. not prepared by a qualified third-party consultant/professional

Livestock Watering Systems

Eligible Activities

✓ Gravity fed systems
✓ Solar, wind, or motorized powered pumps
✓ Waterlines
✓ Storage tanks
✓ Water aeration systems on existing ponds/reservoir

Ineligible Activities

✗ Watering systems not associated with rotational grazing system or system installed at the barn
✗ Shelters for watering systems
✗ Repair and maintenance of existing systems
✗ New water supply (e.g. drilling a new water well)
✗ Any plan, assessment, report, etc. not prepared by a qualified third-party consultant/professional
Funding is to support permanent fencing to exclude livestock from forest/woodland areas to protect critical forage and habitat areas for Monarch, Eastern Foxsnake, Gypsy Cuckoo and Rusty-patched Bumble Bees. Fences must be at least three metres from any environmentally sensitive feature; this buffer zone must be permanently covered with vegetation (grasses or wildflowers). Fencing along a farm property boundary is not eligible for cost-share; a farm is expected to have adequate perimeter fencing already in place. Please note that cost-share applies to total eligible project costs of up to $11.50/metre of fencing installed, inclusive of all costs and in-kind contributions.

**BMP 5 — Cross-Fencing for Rotational Grazing**
- Temporary, movable fencing
- Total project costs eligible for cost-share;
  - Conventional fencer: $2.45/m
  - Solar powered fencer: $5/m

**BMP 6 — Fencing to Exclude Livestock from Woodland Areas**
- Permanent fence (i.e. no movable, temporary installations)
- Up to $11.50/m in total project costs eligible for cost-share

**BMP 7 — Forage Harvest Management (delayed haying)**

*Only available in 2020*

Grassland birds are particularly vulnerable while they nest between early May through to mid-July. Many managed Ontario grasslands (hay fields) are harvested at least once in that time frame, which is devastating to young grassland birds. Delaying the first cut of hay until July 15 or later allows grassland birds time to fledge the nest, greatly increasing survival rates.

Funding for this BMP is determined based on size of the delayed haying field, and the demonstrated added benefits to grassland birds. No invoices are required. Eligible projects must be at least 10ac in size.

Delayed haying projects are supported based on the results from the “Rating for Grassland Birds” self assessment in the application form, adapted from the booklet “Farming with Grassland Birds”. If you would like to delay haying on more than 3 fields, please complete a separate application and self assessment.

Please note that total project funding will be capped at $40/acre/year and priority will be given to projects that demonstrate added benefits to grassland birds. Fields that are less than 10ac in size, or that rate as having “low” field feature values for grassland birds are not eligible for funding as part of this BMP.
In-Kind Contribution Policy

The applicant’s in-kind labour and equipment use for the project, up to a maximum payment of $2,000 as supported by an In-Kind Claim Declaration Form and reported on the Project Claim Form, may be considered eligible for cost-share.

Reasonable hours of labour invested by the applicant, his/her dependents, and business partner(s) may be claimed. Costs associated with completing the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP), education, project planning, supervision, or administration are not eligible for funding as in-kind costs. Eligible in-kind contributions are invested in the project in the form of unpaid labour and/or use of farm business equipment and may be claimed as follows:

- The maximum allowable labour rate is $20 per hour. OSCIA will make a final determination on what a reasonable number of hours claimed is based on the BMP being implemented and the nature of the work performed.
- The maximum allowable in-kind equipment rate for a tractor and implement is $50 per hour of operation. Applicable in-kind operator charges may be claimed along with the in-kind equipment rate, at up to the accepted maximum hourly labour rate.

If a business plans to claim in-kind contributions, accurate estimates must be reflected in the total project cost submitted with the SARPAL Application.

When making a project claim for in-kind contributions, the figure added to the Claim Form must be supported by an In-Kind Claim Declaration Form which details specific hours worked, dates the work was performed, by whom, and the hourly rate(s) charged. The In-Kind Claim Declaration Form will be provided to applicants upon final project approval.

Eligible In-Kind Contribution

✔ Applicant, applicant’s business partner(s) or applicant’s dependent and family members

Ineligible

❌ Farm employees
❌ Rates that exceed $20 per hour for in-kind labour
❌ Rates that exceed $50 per hour for a tractor and equipment
❌ On-farm materials used for the project (e.g. fence, electric wire purchased outside of program year, etc.)
❌ Applicant/business partner completing EFP, designing project, filling out applications, supervising project implementation (i.e. any administrative tasks)

Monarch caterpillars can be found in meadows and other open areas containing milkweed plants, the only plant they feed on. Monarch butterflies can be found from June to October in southern Ontario. Look for monarchs in open, weedy areas, meadows and along roadsides with wildflowers that could provide nectar to feed on. Monarchs are an important pollinator species.
Limits of Funding

1. If the applicant goes ahead with the project before receiving final approval from OSCIA, they do so at the risk of forfeiting the cost-share if all terms and conditions are not satisfied.
2. OSCIA issues payments after projects have been completed and the required documentation (including a signed Conservation Agreement) is received. This means projects must be paid for in full by the applicant prior to cost-share being issued.
3. 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.
4. The maximum cost-share contribution per farm business is $20,000 in the 2019-2020 SARPAL program year and in the 2020-2021 SARPAL program year.
5. SARPAL cost-share is available to new projects initiated on or after June 18, 2019 to February 1, 2019 and from April 1, 2020 to December 15, 2020. No cost-share will be offered for project invoices issued before this date. To receive cost-share, all projects must be complete and operational and the complete SARPAL Claim Form received in the OSCIA Guelph office by February 1, 2020 for the 2019 intake and by December 15, 2020 for the 2020 intake. OSCIA reserves the right to perform a project inspection at a mutually agreeable time.
6. SARPAL cost-share may be utilized by eligible applicants for approved Best Management Practices on farm properties owned, rented, leased, or otherwise under their control.
7. Stacking of SARPAL contributions towards the same project by two or more farm businesses is not permissible.
8. Applicants are entirely responsible for securing all necessary approvals and permits for the proposed project before starting construction and complying with all applicable municipal bylaws and provincial or federal regulations. OSCIA will require copies of permits obtained for some projects before issuing program funding.
9. Only invoices from vendors or service providers directly engaged in the business reflected in the item or service purchased in accordance with the approved SARPAL Application will be accepted with the project claim.
10. All invoices that support materials or services provided to a project must be completed at arm’s length and originate with companies or individuals not in any way associated through ownership with the farm business making the project claim. Refer to Section 251 of The Income Tax Act for the detailed statutory provision for determining Arms Length relationships.
11. All eligible invoices must match the farm business name identified on the Enrolment Form.
12. Materials or products produced on-farm (e.g. fence posts) or purchased outside the eligible invoice dates cannot be cost-shared.
13. OSCIA reserves the right to require additional documentation and ultimately accept or reject submitted project invoices and proof of payment for cost-share consideration.
14. A single project may receive cost-share from one BMP category only. Multiple categories cannot be accessed for a single activity in efforts to maximize SARPAL contributions (i.e., cost-share will only be applied once to a project cost item).
15. The farm 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 of project costs. The farm business is required to confirm at the time the claim is submitted all other sources of funding for eligible project expenses.
16. Across all BMP categories, HST (Harmonized Sales Tax) is not eligible for cost-share.
17. Across all BMP categories, maintenance, extended warranties, hand and power tools and attachments are not eligible for cost-share.
18. OSCIA will not accept additional SARPAL Applications after the Application Submission Deadline.
19. All applicable information on the SARPAL Application Form must be complete before it is submitted to OSCIA. If the OSCIA Guelph office considers a SARPAL Application Form to be incomplete, it will be returned to the applicant to obtain the missing information. Only proposed projects detailed on SARPAL Applications deemed to be complete by the OSCIA Guelph office will be considered for cost-share.
20. In order to be eligible for a SARPAL allocation, the same project cannot be funded by any other funding programs delivered by OSCIA (e.g. the Partnership, LEADS) or by the Federal government. Other cost-share programs may be available from local Conservation Authorities, Ducks Unlimited Canada and other stewardship organizations. Farm businesses are encouraged to seek out these opportunities.
21. OSCIA will not accept additional SARPAL applications once the total SARPAL funding available for the program year has been committed. The funds will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.
22. SARPAL cost-share allocation is based on the eligible project costs outlined on the approved SARPAL Application Form. Accurate estimates must be reflected in the total project costs submitted on the SARPAL Application Form. If final project costs exceed the original estimates, there is absolutely no obligation by OSCIA to extend cost-share beyond the original allocation.
23. Information presented is the best available at the time of printing. Check with OSCIA for applicable updates. Material is subject to change without notice.

The views expressed herein are solely those of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association.
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Intake 2: March 1, 2020* to December 15, 2020 or until fully allocated
Eligible invoice dates: April 1, 2020 to December 15, 2020

*Projects are pre-approved, but activities must take place
on or after April 1, 2020

Supported Best Management Practices

- Tree and Shrub Planting
- Establishment of In-field Perennial Grass Strip(s)
- Wetland Restoration
- Grassland Restoration
- Cross Fencing for Rotational Grazing
- Fencing to Exclude Livestock from Woodland Areas
- Forage Harvest Management (Delayed Haying) – Only offered in 2020

Conservation Agreements:
Conservation Agreements, signed between participating producers and Environment and Climate Change Canada, are a requirement of SARPAL.

Get in touch with us:
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