ROTATIONAL GRAZING - GENERAL

Please note: ***If your project involves virtual fencing, please use the Rotational Grazing - Virtual Fencing template.***

The RDAR On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) program supports the adoption and on-farm implementation of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) that strengthen rotational grazing strategies for cattle by improving forage quality, increasing soil health, and enhancing resilience to changing climates.

Applicants may receive a maximum of $100,000 in OFCAF funding from all delivery partners across all BMP categories between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2028. The minimum eligible project cost is $10,000 per application. Approved eligible expenditures are reimbursed at up to 85%, subject to applicable cost limits and the applicant's remaining OFCAF maximum.

For the 2027-2028 OFCAF program activities must:

- Have project start dates on or after 1 April 2027
- Be completed no later than 1 December 2027
- Have total eligible application costs of at least $10,000
- Meet all eligibility requirements listed in the current OFCAF Program Guide and below

Rotational grazing BMPs rely on the four grazing management principles listed below. Although these can differ between fields or farms based on terrain, composition, and water supplies, they must all be considered for effective implementation.

1. Balance forage supply with livestock demand
2. Growing season rest
3. Avoid vulnerable periods
4. Plan animal distribution

Water supply and distribution are critical factors in any rotational grazing system since water is essential for life, growth, and reproduction. The quantity of water animals consume is affected by growth, pregnancy, lactation, activity, diet composition, and performance. Research indicates that when provided with high-quality water, livestock will drink more, eat more, and ultimately gain weight faster. Planning for reliable water supplies, such as water wells, dugouts, springs, and OFCAF-funded distribution systems (shallow water pipelines, remote watering systems, etc.), is as important as planning the fence locations for an efficient grazing system.

One of the main objectives of improved rotational grazing is to extend the grazing season into fall and, in some cases, winter. A properly managed grazing system can benefit poorer soils by providing nutrients and organic matter, thereby improving soil structure and health. Feed sampling, including forage testing, ensures a balanced diet and promotes good herd health, ensuring that the animal's nutritional needs are met throughout the year based on the animal's production cycle (growth, pregnancy, lactation).

Your grazing management strategy will need to describe all of the components above. How are you addressing the four principles? How will you change your fencing to improve your grazing practice? What are your existing water sources, and how will you distribute the water to ensure that you have a reliable supply for your grazing? How may you improve your pasture composition to meet your livestock needs? What changes will you make to your movement of animals to increase the efficacy of your grazing system?

Planned activities must go beyond routine practices for your farm or fields. Applicants may request funding to support eligible practices listed in the OFCAF Program Guide. Please outline how you will apply these practices using the BMP Action Plan on pages 5-6 of this form, including labelled maps showing legal land descriptions (LLDs), field boundaries, water sources, and existing fence lines on an aerial photo or imagery. The Guide to Locating and Labelling BMP Action Plans provides further details. Your completed BMP Action Plan must be recommended by a qualified third-party adviser who is a Professional Agrologist (PAg) or Certified Crop Advisor (CCA); please reference the Guide to Accessing Agricultural Recommendations in Alberta. Your BMP Action Plan must be approved **in writing** by RDAR to be eligible for OFCAF funding.

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Important Notes:

- Invoices and proof of payment must be on or after 1 April 2027
- You must receive RDAR's written approval of your application, **confirm participation and accept implementation responsibilities before funding is considered active**
- A project start date and a project completion date must be submitted within 14 days of written approval from RDAR. Funds may be reallocated to other applicants if the project is not accepted through the Pending Project Acceptance process in Agriculture Research Grant Organizer (ARGO).
- All paid invoices with photos, LLDs of pre-approved project fields and proof of payment must be submitted within 45 days of the project completion date, and no later than 15 January 2028

In addition:

- Purchased items and custom work must be delivered on-farm between 1 April 2027 and the applicant's project completion date, which must be no later than 1 December 2027
- Photographs with date stamps and GPS coordinates are required to document conditions before and after completing your project

GUIDELINES AND ELIGIBLE COSTS

Please refer to the OFCAF Program Guide for a complete listing of eligible BMP costs and rates for Rotational Grazing projects. Please note that if the BMP is for Virtual Fencing, see the Rotational Grazing Template – Virtual Fencing.

1. **Internal permanent or temporary cross fencing** - Costs include supplies for barbed wire, electric fencing setups and custom installation or equipment rentals. See the Fencing Supply List below for additional rate information. Fencing specific to other livestock is also eligible such as page wire (example for bison, elk, sheep).

2. **Water distribution systems –** Water distribution must be part of a rotational grazing improvement strategy. Eligible costs include remote watering systems, shallow-water pipeline materials (maximum 2-inch diameter and less than 15 inches (38 cm) deep), custom installation, and equipment rental.

   Note: ineligible costs include the development of water sources such as new water wells[1], dugouts or spring developments, and deep, buried water lines.

3. **Improved pasture composition with perennial legumes** - Costs include seed, custom planting and equipment rentals. The seed mix must include more than 50% perennial legumes and must be seeded by September 15 to allow for sufficient growth before winter. Seeding should be done by direct seeding, if possible, with no pasture breaking prior to seeding to minimize GHG emissions. Seeding into native grassland is ineligible.

4. **New to Field** – The BMP must be new to the quarter section. Previously paid OFCAF projects on fields within the same quarter section are not considered new to the field.

5. **Other –** Other costs include BMP action plan recommendations, technical assessments or engineered designs. Please describe using the "Other" box in the BMP Action Plan. The cost of a BMP Action Plan recommendation is up to 10% of the total cost of all eligible BMPs, to a maximum of $2,000 per applicant from 2022 to 2028.

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[1] Although not eligible for OFCAF funding, other government programs are available for water source development, such as the Government of Alberta's Water Program.

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FENCING SUPPLIES – LIST OF ELIGIBLE COSTS

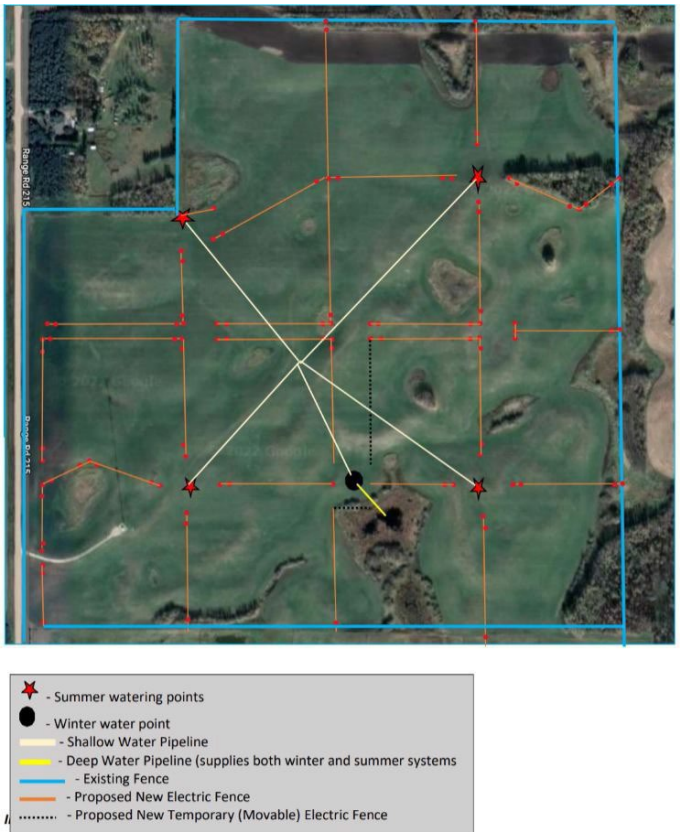
The cost of fencing is based on the materials listed below. Total cost for an installed fence is based on 50% for materials and 50% custom application. If installed by the applicant, only the cost of materials is eligible. In-kind labour is not an eligible expense. Equipment rentals are only eligible for the project location and duration of the project. Lease or rent-to-own arrangements are not eligible.

Item	4 Strand Permanent Barbed Wire	2 Strand Permanent Electric Wire
Posts	Line posts with 16.5 foot (5.0 m) spacing 320 posts per mile (199 posts per km) 20 brace posts, 9 corner and gate posts per mile (13 braces, 6 corner and gate posts per km)	Line posts with 48 foot (14.0 m) spacing 110 posts per mile (66 posts per km) 20 brace posts, 9 corner and gate posts per mile (13 braces, 6 corner and gate posts per km)
Wire	Barbed wire, 12.5 gauge, 2 strand (1320 foot roll) 12 rolls for one mile of three-wire fence 16 rolls for one mile of four-wire fence	High tensile wire, 12.5 gauge, single strand (3750 foot roll) Energizer and associated hook-up supplies 4.5 rolls for one mile of three-wire fence 6 rolls for one mile of four-wire fence
Fasteners	Staples - 6.7 pounds (3 kg) of staples per wire for one mile of fence 20 pounds (9 kg) of staples for one mile of three-wire fence 27 pounds (12 kg) of staples for one mile of four-wire fence	Nails - 3 pounds (1.4 kg) of 2.5 inch nails per wire for one mile of fence 9 pounds (4 kg) of nails for one mile of three-wire fence 12 pounds (5.4 kg) of staples for one mile of four-wire fence
Materials & Installation	Up to $13/m or $6.50/m if installed by applicant	Up to $7/m or $3.50/m if installed by applicant

MAPPING REQUIREMENTS

The BMP Action Plan must include maps of existing conditions and the planned project on aerial photos or images, as shown in the example to the right. Include:

- Legal land descriptions (LLDs)
- Field boundaries
- Existing perimeter and cross fences
- Proposed new fences
    - For temporary fencing show movement of planned fencing
    - Include type and length, e.g. electric or barbed
- Existing water sources
- Existing and proposed water distribution, e.g.
    - Pipelines
    - Waterers



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INELIGIBLE COSTS

NOTE: Items pre-approved in a BMP category cannot be reallocated within that category. For example, individually pre-approved fencing and watering costs cannot be transferred between fields.

- Total eligible costs less than $10,000 per application are ineligible

Fencing

- No perimeter fences or exterior fences to the grazing field
- No brush clearing
- No repair or maintenance of existing fences
- Fencing materials that are currently in farm inventory
- Upgrades of gates beyond electric wire or barbed wire (e.g. steel, Texas)

Water Distribution

- Watering systems, either winter or summer, that do not improve grazing management
- Trailers
- Surface or deep-buried water lines (>15 inches, 38 cm)
- Water systems not purchased from a recognized dealer
- Solely limiting livestock access to existing water sources. This would not be considered improving grazing if done in isolation.

Improved Pasture

- Tillage of seedbed before seeding
- Seeding only grass into pasture
- Seeding into native grassland
- 100% red clover (must be part of a perennial legume mix with a maximum of 50% clover)

SELECTED RESOURCES

Grazing management plans:

- Canadian Forage and Grassland Association, Advanced Grazing Systems Modules
- Beef Cattle Research Council's Grazing Management
- University of Nebraska Microsoft Excel spreadsheet record keeping tool

Water requirements for pastured livestock

Water Systems:

- Environmental Manual for Cow/Calf Producers in Alberta, chapter 5
- Pumps, pipes, lift - Remote Pasture Water Systems for Livestock
- Pasture pipelines for watering range livestock

Alberta's Water Act:

- Approval is not needed to install a portable pump in a water course. For other locations, visit an overview of Water Act Approvals
- Alternate watering systems using surface water for grazing livestock and some types of dugouts are exempt from Water Act: licenses and Water Act: dugouts

High Legume Pasture Project

Forage sampling - Iowa Beef Center video

Wintering Site Assessment and Design tool - A guide to selecting and managing a wintering site in Western Canada Agdex #420/580-3

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ROTATIONAL GRAZING - BMP ACTION PLAN

Please note: All costs must exclude GST. *Use extra forms to add information and identify individual fields as needed.*

Applicant Name:				
Project Livestock	**Type(s):**		**# of Head:**	
			# of Grazing Herds:	
If not owned land, do you have permission from the landowner to install permanent structures (e.g. fencing, pipes)?			**Yes** ☐	**No** ☐
New BMP Objective – check which ones apply	**Fencing**	**Water Distribution**	**Improve Pasture with Legumes**	**Other**
Is BMP new to the field?	**Yes** ☐ **No** ☐	**Is BMP new to the farm?**	**Yes** ☐	**No** ☐

FENCING – Choose activity and provide planned date (mo/yr):

Installation*	**Custom Fencing (Y/N):**	**Applicant Constructed Fencing ** (Y/N):**

Field	Area	Materials and/or Installation *	Cost/Unit	Quantity or Length	Cost
(LLD)	(ac)	(barbed, electric, installation or other)	($/specify)	(specify)	($/field)
Total		**A) Total Fencing Costs**			**$**

WATER DISTRIBUTION – Choose activity and provide planned date (mo/yr):

Remote waterers (Y/N):	**Shallow pipelines (Y/N):**	**Other (describe):**

Field	Area	Materials and/or Installation **	Cost/Unit	Quantity or Length	Cost
(LLD)	(ac)	(describe)	($/specify)	(specify)	($/field)
Total		**B) Total Watering Costs**			**$**

SEE PAGE 2 FOR IMPROVED PASTURE COMPOSITION

* Eligible materials and installation costs are listed on page 3 of this document.

** In-kind labour and lease or rent-to- own arrangements are not eligible costs.

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IMPROVED PASTURE COMPOSITION – SEED COSTS:

Field	Seeded Area	Seed Mix include % of legumes	Rate	Seed Cost*	Seed Cost per Field
(LLD)	(ac)	(type)	(lb/ac)	($/ac)	($)
Total		C) Total Seed Costs			$

IMPROVED PASTURE COMPOSITION – SEEDING COSTS (only answer if custom seeding):

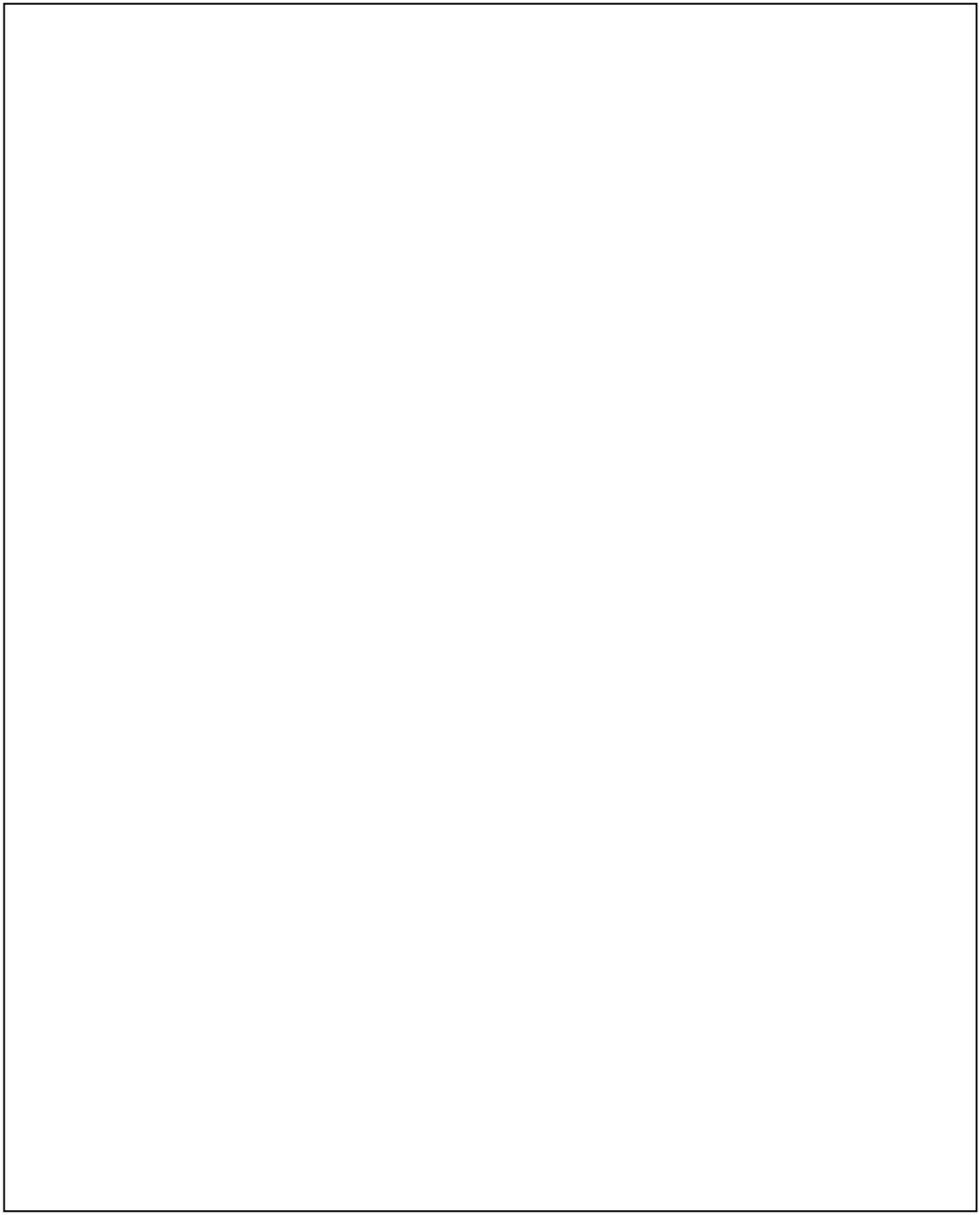
Field	Seeded Area	Method of seeding	Custom Seeding ** up to $30/ac	Equipment Rental Cost **
(LLD)	(ac)	(type)	($)	($)
		D) Total Seeding Costs		$

Is this Plan recommended by a Professional Agrologist (PAg) or Certified Crop Advisory (CCA)?	Yes ☐	No ☐	Have you included a detailed, labelled map of your project?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Name:	PAg and/or CCA number:		Phone number: Email:	Date:	
(E) Cost of Other and/or PAg/CCA***				$	
Total Cost of Project (A+B+C+D+E)				$	

*Up to maximum of $85/ac. **Custom rates for broadcasting: up to $12/ac and direct seeding: up to $30/ac. In-kind labour and lease or rent-to-own arrangements are not eligible costs. ***May include the cost of BMP Action Plan recommendation of up to 10% of the total cost of all eligible BMPs, to a maximum of $2,000 per applicant (total from 2022 to 2028).

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Map on an aerial photo or image showing the project fields, legal land locations, and field boundaries. Any method of outlining and labelling fields may be used as long as the fields are visible beneath. Further details are available in A Guide to Locating and Labelling BMP Action Plans.



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