



BMP FACT SHEET

Cover Cropping

RDAR's dedicated OFCAF team works with producers to increase the adoption of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) across farms in Alberta.

About Cover Crops

Cover crops provide additional soil cover with living roots in winter. To be eligible, a cover crop must be seeded into annual cropland.

Cover cropping offers some of the following benefits:

- Enhanced soil fertility (reducing reliance on fertilizers)
- Improved soil structure
- Reduced erosion risk
- Assists in the control of disease, pests, and weeds
- Enhanced presence of pollinators and other beneficial insects
- Carbon sequestration
- Longer grazing season

RDAR's OFCAF program supports Alberta farmers with cover cropping adoption by up to 85% of eligible costs.

RDAR supports producers with resources and guidance to apply for OFCAF funding.



Things to Consider

- There are two options available for funding: 1) full season cover crops, or 2) fall seeded cover crops.
- Cover crops can be utilized to reduce soil erosion in specialty crops and can also fit into a grazing system.
- Getting the correct seeding depth for multi-species cover crops can be challenging because of the varying seed sizes.
- Cover crops have been seeded in every region of Alberta through the OFCAF program; customize the crop selection to fit your farm.



Which Cover Crop Is Right for My Operation?

Cover crops can be seeded with an annual crop, inter-seeded into an annual crop, or seeded following the harvest of an annual crop. Further information on eligibility is available in a Cover Crop Template.

All OFCAF applications must be recommended by a Professional Agrologist (PAg.) or Certified Crop Advisor (CCA), who can provide insight into the regionally and commodity-appropriate seeds that will work best for your operation.



Key Eligibility Requirements for OFCAF Support

- **Regional and Commodity Appropriateness:** The cover crop species chosen should be suitable for your specific region and the main cash-crops you grow.
- **Professional Recommendation:** A PAg or CCA *must* recommend the seeding and planting strategy.
- **Winter Survival:** Cover crops must have living roots going into winter, with a minimum height of 6 inches (15 cm).
- **New to the Field or the Farm:** Cover crops must be new to the field to be eligible.

Resources & Support

Information on RDAR's OFCAF program can be found here:

<https://rdar.ca/funding-opportunities/ofcaf>



A comprehensive set of RDAR OFCAF application resources are also available:

<https://rdar.ca/funding-opportunities/resources>



Direct support is also available by email: ofcaf.bmp@rdar.ca

Or, by telephone: 1-877-503-5955