# NITROGEN MANAGEMENT – AMENDMENTS

The RDAR On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) program supports the adoption of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) to replace a portion of the synthetic nitrogen (N) needed for crop production, including some of the costs associated with the transportation and application of manure, compost or digestate. Examples of amendments include manure[1], compost, and digestate from biogas digestion. They provide soil health benefits of increased soil organic matter and improved nutrient cycling. The Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA) provides the land application guidelines[2] for manure, compost or digestate. These include minimum application setback distances from neighbours, common bodies of water and wells, as well as soil testing and record-keeping requirements. Applications of non-agricultural waste must follow the regulations of Alberta Environment and Protected Areas.

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

**The BMPs supported by OFCAF must be new to your farm or field**. If the same BMP category was previously funded by OFCAF on the same Legal Land Description (LLD), it is ineligible. Applicants may request funding to support eligible practices listed in the OFCAF Program Guide. Please outline how you will apply these practices on your farm using the BMP Action Plan on page 3 of this form, including labelled maps that show LLDs and field boundaries on an aerial photo or imagery. Any method of outlining and labelling can be used, as long as the fields are visible beneath. The Guide to Locating and Labeling 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.

**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, as per the applicant's project acceptance agreement
- Projects must be completed between 1 April 2027 and the applicant's project completion date, which must be no later than 1 December 2027.

In addition:

- Photographs with date stamps and GPS coordinates are required to document conditions before and after completing your project

[1] Section 4.1 Anaerobic Digestion. Pp. 29-32. Beneficial Management Practices: Environmental Manual for Livestock Producers in Alberta.

[2] Manure management guidelines and legislation. Manure management guidelines and legislation | Alberta.ca


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## ELIGIBLE BENEFICIAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Transportation to and application of amendments on project fields that have **not** had manure, compost, or digestate applied in the previous ten (10) years
- Surface-applied amendments must be incorporated within 48 hours
- Injection is required for liquid manure or digestate products on perennial forage (hay or pasture) to avoid the potential for higher ammonia-N losses and release of soil carbon

**Eligible costs include:**

- Third-party custom or equipment rental costs associated with transportation and application (surface-applied or injection) of amendment up to $75/ac and $20,000 per year and a total maximum of $20,000 from 2022 to 2028
- Manure sampling and analysis by an accredited lab[3]. Please describe using the "Other" box in the BMP Action Plan on page 3
- Soil analysis: Apply using the Nitrogen Management - Soil Testing and Mapping template available on the OFCAF website
- Total eligible costs of at least $10,000 per application

**Ineligible costs include:**

- Amendments and incorporation
- Transportation to stockpile manure on an annually cropped field
- Surface-applied solid manure or compost on pasture or on perennial cropland
- Amendments (manure and compost) applied on native grassland
- In-kind costs and leasing or rent-to-own arrangements, as listed in the OFCAF Program Guide
- Breaking perennial forages to apply manure[4]
- Applicants that have previously been paid a total of $20,000 for this OFCAF Amendment BMP are not eligible for additional funding

**Decision support tools:**

- Manure Transportation Calculator
- Manure Management Planner
- ManureTracker app, available for Android devices, iPads or iPhones
- Other manure management tools

[3] Down to Earth Labs Inc., Lethbridge, Alberta; A & L Canada Laboratories, London, Ontario; AGAT Laboratories, Calgary, Alberta; AgVise Laboratories, Manitoba; Element, Edmonton, Alberta; Farmers Edge Laboratories Inc., Winnipeg, Manitoba; Western Ag, Saskatchewan; Midwest Laboratories Inc., Omaha, Nebraska; AgSource, Lincoln, NB, and Ward Laboratories Inc., Kearney, NB

[4] Manure Application. Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. Manure application | Alberta.ca (alberta.ca/manure-application.aspx)


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## NITROGEN MANAGEMENT AMENDMENTS - BMP ACTION PLAN

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

| **Applicant Name:** | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Nitrogen Source – check or fill (Y/N) as appropriate:** | **Solid Manure** | | **Liquid Manure** | **Digestate** | **Compost** | |
| **Has manure, compost or digestate been applied to any of the fields below in the past 10 years?** | **Yes** ☐ | **No** ☐ | **Will the amendment be applied to native grassland?** | | **Yes** ☐ | **No** ☐ |
| **Other (describe):** | | | | | | |

**AMENDMENT TRANSPORTATION AND APPLICATION ***
**(up to $75/ac and $20,000 per year to a maximum of $20,000 from 2022 to 2028)**

| Field | Field Area | Field in Annual or Perennial Crop? | Amendment | Application Method | Planned Application Date | Cost per Field** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (LLD**) | (ac) | (A or P) | (type) | (injected or surface applied & incorporated) | (mo/yr) | ($) |
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| Total | | **A) Total Cost of Transportation and Application** | | | | $ |

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

* In-kind labour and leasing or rent-to-own arrangements are not eligible costs. **Invoices must include LLDs of approved project fields with proof of payment. ***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 for 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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