

# SARFIP Species At Risk Farm Incentive Program

An Environmental Cost-Share Funding Opportunity for Farmers

2012-2013



Robert McGaw

Incentives are available to apply practices that contribute to healthy and diverse wildlife habitat; and farmers know that if the practice is good for wildlife, it is generally good for soil and water conservation too.

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## The Species At Risk Farm Incentive Program

(SARFIP) offers substantial cost-share funding towards the establishment of BMPs on the list of eligible projects. The range of possible activities applies to croplands, grasslands, riparian areas, wetlands, or even woodlands.

There is growing attention to wildlife species at risk (SAR) in Ontario. The number of species currently in decline totals 190, and the figure is increasing due to a variety of threats including habitat loss, pollution, competition from invasive species, land use, roadway mortalities, climate change, over-harvesting, and natural perils. The wide variety of habitats that exist on privately owned agricultural land are essential for the continued survival of these plant and wildlife species designated as SAR.

SARFIP is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) through the Species At Risk Stewardship Fund, and the Government of Canada through the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk.

SARFIP is available to farm businesses across the province, and is linked to the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) supported by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) through Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. Agricultural support for the program is led by the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition. Local program delivery for EFP and SARFIP is carried out by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA).

Please review and understand the information presented in this brochure before submitting an application. Project Proposal Application forms for SARFIP may be obtained from the local OSCIA Program Representative, Conservation Authority, or Member Service Representative for the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Questions can be directed to the local OSCIA Program Representative (see [www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org)), or the Guelph OSCIA office at [oscia@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:oscia@ontariosoilcrop.org) or 519-826-4214 or 1-800-265-9751.

## Are You Eligible to Participate in SARFIP?

To be eligible for SARFIP for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, a farm business must satisfy all of these criteria:

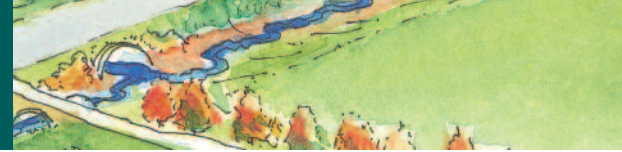
1. Be a legal farm entity with a unique and valid Farm Business Registration Number (FBRN) or equivalent (see the box below);
2. Complete a Third Edition Environmental Farm Plan and have it deemed appropriate through peer review;
3. Have a completed Growing Forward Program Enrollment form filed with OSCIA;
4. Have selected a BMP from the SARFIP eligible list that relates directly to an action identified in the farm's EFP Action Plan, and effectively moves a "1" or "2" rating to a "3" or "4" (best) rating;
5. Producers with livestock or poultry as a primary commodity must have a Premises Identification Number for the parcel of land where the SARFIP project is proposed, before submitting a Project Proposal Application (PPA). Farm businesses can obtain the Premises Identification Number from the Provincial Premises Registry operated by Angus GeoSolutions Inc, by registering online at [www.ontariopr.ca](http://www.ontariopr.ca) or by phoning 1-855-697-7743. A copy of the certificate that verifies the registration must be submitted with the PPA.

### Any one of the following four options will be acceptable for enrollment and application for SARFIP.

- a. Provide a valid FBRN.
- b. Provide copy of a letter from the Farm Tax Property Program stating acceptance in the program.
- c. Beginning farmers and those with actively farmed land can provide copies of both:  
The Property Assessment Notice from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) confirming the property is classified as "Farm Taxable: Full" (eligible for the Farm Property Class tax rate), or copy of the municipal tax bill declaring the property as "Farm Taxable".  
AND  
Proof of Individual Membership by the applicant in one of the three General Farm Organizations (i.e. the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, National Farmers Union - Ontario).
- d. If a farm business chooses not to have a FBRN for cultural or religious reasons, they must furnish the following:  
Religious Reasons - a copy of the Religious Exemption Letter provided by the OMAFRA Appeal Tribunal;  
Cultural Reasons - First Nations producers may furnish a letter from the Indian Agriculture Program of Ontario (IAPO) verifying the farm business operates in the First Nations community.

#### Note:

An applicant cannot exercise two or more of the above options in efforts to obtain multiple access to the program.



## Application Process

### 1. Forward an application

Complete a SARFIP Project Proposal Application (PPA) form for the 2012 cropping year and submit it to the local OSCIA Program Representative. **A single farm business may submit up to two project applications.** Participants must pay strict attention to the eligible invoice dates, and the project claim submission deadline date as detailed in Table 1. Allocated funds for approved project proposals will not be rolled forward into the next program year; they will be forfeited. Only BMPs identified in this brochure will be considered for cost share.

**Table 1** - Critical Dates for SARFIP Projects in 2012 Cropping Year

Eligible Invoice Date	Claim Submission Deadline
April 1, 2012	December 15, 2012

Some BMP categories require a specific information package that includes a unique Project Justification and Assurances Form (PJAF) to be completed to comply with requirements of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (among other conditions). Each project category description provides information on which PJAF applies to which BMP categories or practice codes, and whether a letter of support or other additional documentation is required with the PPA. The individual PJAF are available at the OSCIA web site ([www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org)) or from the local OSCIA Program Representative. The PJAF may also include a detailed sketch plan which must be completed. If the PJAF includes a Project Design Information Sheet (e.g. BMP category 11) it must be completed by a qualified individual according to OMAFRA Publication 832- Agricultural Erosion Control Structures: A Design and Construction Manual.

Each proposed project from a different practice code must be submitted on a separate SARFIP PPA. Please do not combine several proposed projects in the same application. Each PPA is preprinted with a unique number for tracking purposes. When determining the total estimated cost of the project, include accurate figures for all applicable materials, services, equipment and in-kind contributions. Please be very clear in your description. Gross over-estimates lead to program dollars being unnecessarily allocated and prevent funding being allocated to other projects. The OSCIA Program Representative will review the application for completeness and eligibility, and then forward it to the OSCIA Guelph office if they are satisfied with the content.

The local OSCIA Program Representative's signature verifies the application has been reviewed and is considered complete, and the farm business has satisfied all eligibility requirements.

### 2. Obtain conditional approval

Depending on the project, OSCIA Guelph upon review of the completed PPA may grant "final approval to proceed" or "conditional approval." Notification of conditional approval of funding will be provided in writing by OSCIA Guelph and may include a request for further information about the project through a specific Project Justification and Assurances Form, or other required documentation (e.g. support letter from OMAFRA, Professional Engineer or Conservation Authority, etc.).

The applicant is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits relating to the proposed project and for providing assurances as required by OSCIA. If the applicant goes ahead with the project before receiving

final approval to proceed from OSCIA, they do so at the risk of forfeiting the cost share if all terms and conditions are not satisfied. OSCIA will not accept additional Project Proposal Applications once the total funding available for the particular program year has been reached. Cost-share funding will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

### 3. Receive final approval to proceed with the proposed project

Once the applicant has provided all the requested assurances to OSCIA, an eligibility screening is conducted by OSCIA Guelph. If successful, the applicant will be granted in writing from OSCIA Guelph, final approval to proceed and a cost-share allocation will be made based on the eligible components of the project cost estimate provided by the applicant in the PPA. The approval letter from OSCIA Guelph will include a "Determination of Available Cost Share" chart for SARFIP that will identify the status of the application and the allocated cost-share amount for the 2012 cropping year. A pre-printed claim form for the approved allocation will be sent to the local OSCIA Program Representative.

### 4. Arrange final inspection and submit the claim form for payment

The applicant has until the project claim submission deadline (See Table 1) to complete the project, notify the OSCIA Program Representative and have the final inspection conducted, and sign the claim form provided by the OSCIA Representative. Participants must plan the timing of projects very carefully to ensure the specified deadline date to make a cost-share claim can be met. When the final project inspection is carried out, the OSCIA Program Representative will:

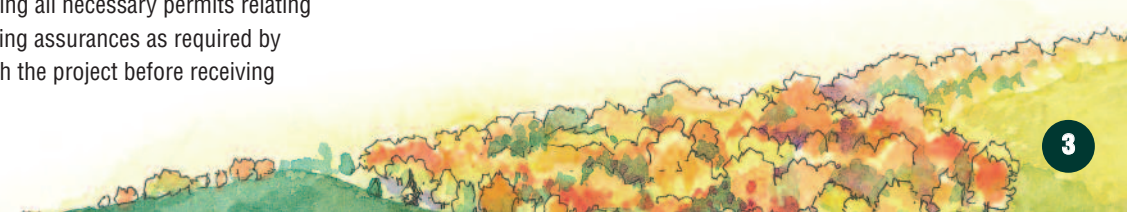
- Verify the project is complete and operational;
- Collect copies of all eligible invoices (including an "In-Kind Claim Declaration" if applicable - see In-Kind Contribution Policy);
- Verify and collect copies of proof of payment for each invoice; and
- If satisfied, sign off on the claim form recommending the project for cost-share payment.

Proof of payment in full must be provided by one of the following methods:

1. A copy of both sides of the cancelled cheque (the "mini- cheque" record of payment verification provided by many banking institutions is ideal).
2. Credit card receipts are acceptable proof of payment, as are printed statements originating from banking institutions.
3. A full signature of the vendor alongside his/her printed name on the invoice, and a notation which states "paid in full."

The completed claim form and copies of all invoices and proof of payment will be submitted by the Program Representative to OSCIA Guelph for review and processing. OSCIA Guelph will issue the cost-share cheques for all eligible SARFIP projects.

The monies received from environmental cost-share programs are considered taxable income and an AGR-1 will be issued for all projects by OSCIA Guelph and the amounts reported to the Canada Revenue Agency.





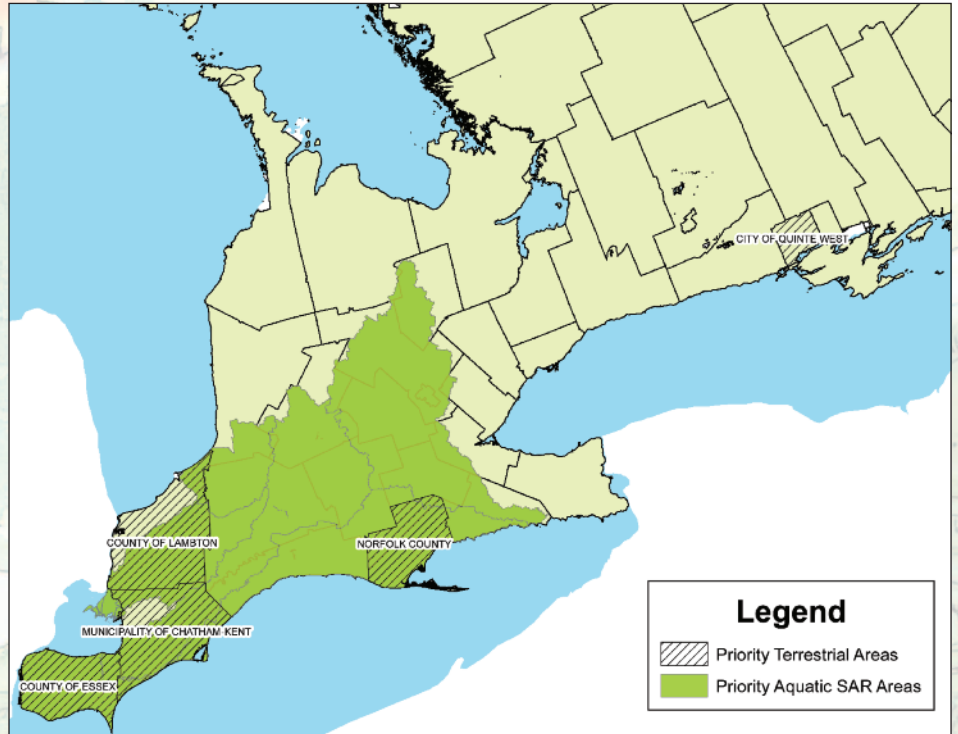
# Provincial and Federal Funding

**Provincial SARFIP** funding supports activities on farms that contribute to all terrestrial and aquatic species at risk that may be present in agricultural areas (e.g. bird, reptile, amphibian, mammal and plant). Planned activities must not adversely affect any species at risk on the landscape.

**Federal SARFIP** funding supports activities that contribute to aquatic (fish and mussels) and terrestrial species at risk primarily within specific priority areas.

Federal funding will apply to all eligible projects completed in Ontario's terrestrial priority areas for SARFIP 2012-2013 that consist of the counties of Essex, Chatham-Kent, Lambton, Norfolk, and the City of Quinte West (i.e. south portion of Hastings County).

Maps identifying the distribution of fish and mussel species at risk have been developed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for Conservation Authorities and are available on the Conservation Ontario web site at [www.conservation-ontario.on.ca/projects/DFO.html](http://www.conservation-ontario.on.ca/projects/DFO.html). Federal funding will apply to all eligible projects completed in these priority aquatic areas, and also include the five priority watersheds of: Sydenham River, Grand River, Thames River, Ausable River, and Essex-Erie Region.



**Figure 1: Priority Areas for Federal SARFIP Funding**

Figure 1 presents the area represented by the five priority aquatic watersheds and the five priority terrestrial areas. Eligible projects located in one or both of these areas, will receive Federal funding support through SARFIP. In addition, an eligible project implemented anywhere in Ontario where SAR is confirmed on the property by the farm business, will be eligible for funding.

## Accommodating Grassland Species

Grassland birds such as Bobolink and Meadowlark depend on hayfields, pastures, meadows and native prairie to successfully feed, roost and raise their young. Though still common in parts of the province, experts advise that populations of Bobolinks have declined over recent decades, with a 50 per-cent drop in the last ten years alone.

Concerns over continuing declines prompted the provincial government to designate the Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark as species at risk, triggering protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ESA prohibits killing or harming an endangered or threatened species, or damaging or destroying its habitat. A temporary exemption to this regulation came into force in June 2011 and allows agricultural activities to continue during a three year transition period while short and longer-term approaches to Bobolink protection are developed with input from farmers. We are now into the second year of the exemption and a considerable amount of work is underway. A similar regulation was put into place for the Meadowlark in January 2012, also allowing a three-year exemption for agriculture.

Farmers have clearly been doing many things that meet the habitat needs of these grassland birds, but perhaps there is more that could be done. Many biologists suggest that delayed haying is one of the most beneficial practices; however, wide-scale delayed hay harvest until mid-July in most production areas of the Province is not a reasonable solution from the farming perspective. There are critical factors of nutritional quality, yield and palatability of forage crops that cannot be ignored.

Here are a few practices worth considering to contribute to the success rate for nesting grassland birds. Each practice identified may be eligible for support through SARFIP.

1. Keep lightly used and unused pastures clipped annually to prevent invasion by shrubs and trees. Clip after August 1, and not before (practice code 1606).
2. Consider the establishment of native grasses in parts of fields where due to steep slopes, tight field corners or past erosion, farming is not profitable in most years. Native grasses are more difficult to establish, but require less fertilizer and herbicides, and are more drought-tolerant. Once they take root, native warm-season species such as Big Bluestem, Indiangrass, and Switchgrass can provide superior cover and food source for grassland birds and other wildlife species. Grasslands of any size provide wildlife habitat. The larger and more contiguous they are, the better the quality of the habitat (practice code 1004).
3. Divide unimproved pastures strategically into paddocks and practice rotational grazing to maximize benefits from the pasture resource, and in sections of the field where Bobolinks have been known to nest in previous years, time activities to increase nesting success by limiting grazing in the most important nesting areas during mid-May to mid-July (practice code 1005).
4. Utilize the services of a qualified consultant to conduct an assessment and develop a plan that provides recommendations for implementing biodiversity enhancement planning BMPs to benefit grassland birds (practice code 2405).





## Supply and Service for Tree Projects

### Option #1 **NEW FOR 2012**

#### Tree Service Agreement

A special arrangement has been struck between OSCIA and Conservation Ontario that will allow a claim for an approved project to be processed in 2012 and the associated trees and shrubs be planted by the local Conservation Authority (CA) during more favourable conditions.

#### Requirements:

- A detailed planting plan and cost estimate must be assembled on the Tree Planting Plan form by the farm business in conjunction with the representative from the local Conservation Authority, and submitted to OSCIA with the SARFIP application.
- The plan must include details on the numbers of tree/shrub species to be planted, and a site map clearly showing the location and planting arrangement.
- The cost for providing the stock, planting operations, and maintenance (up to twenty-four months after planting) is set by the local CA, with an absolute maximum of \$20 per tree, inclusive of all project costs.
- The minimum number of trees or shrubs shall be 50 for a windbreak, shelterbelt or riparian buffer project, and 500 for a block planting.
- The tree supply and planting plan for Option #1 can only be arranged between a farm business and a CA, and cannot be applied directly to other service providers. The CA may elect to hire a chosen service provider to supply and/or plant the tree stock.
- Tree spaded stock or the transplant of large caliper trees are not eligible.

If the project is approved a three-party Tree Service Agreement will be prepared naming OSCIA, the CA and the farm business. All other associated project costs outside of the Tree Service Agreement must be completed before the 2012 claim submission deadline (e.g. site preparation). With the activation of the Tree Service Agreement, the farm business pays the CA 100 per cent of the value of the Tree Service Agreement. The CA issues a dated and signed receipt to the farm business, that is included with the project claim to OSCIA.

Once the project claim is processed by OSCIA Guelph, the farm business will be reimbursed 50 per cent of the total value of the Tree Service Agreement.

#### Notes on tree projects:

1. If a CA offers a tree planting program with full cost recovery on the planting service, and the trees are to be planted before December 15, 2012, then Option #3 applies.
2. For projects under the CA Tree Service Contract, specified survival rates after two years of planting date is the responsibility of the participating CA.

### Option #2

#### Farm business acquires trees through CA, private nursery or other source, and plants the stock themselves

The farm business can purchase trees and shrubs through the CA, private nursery or other source, perform all site preparation, planting and maintenance themselves.

#### Requirements:

- A detailed planting plan and cost estimate must be assembled on the Tree Planting Plan form by the farm business or a professional forester, and submitted to OSCIA with the SARFIP application.
- The plan must include details on the numbers of tree/shrub species to be planted, and a site map clearly showing the location and planting arrangement.
- There is no minimum number of trees or shrubs. The cost for providing the site preparation, stock and planting operations is determined by the farm business, with an absolute maximum of \$20 per tree, inclusive of all project costs.
- Tree spaded stock or the transplant of large caliper trees are not eligible.
- Longer term maintenance schedules are not eligible.

Upon project approval by OSCIA Guelph, the farm business performs the associated work. All aspects of the plan, including the planting of all trees and shrubs, must be complete before December 15, 2012 to be eligible to make a claim through SARFIP.

### Option #3

#### Farm business secures the services of a private nursery or conservation authority to supply and plant the trees

Option #3 differs from #2 in that the planting services are secured through a third party; otherwise, the requirements are the same as #2.

Upon project approval by OSCIA Guelph, the farm business engages the service provider to perform the associated work. All aspects of the plan, including the planting of all trees and shrubs, must be complete before December 15, 2012 to be eligible to make a claim through SARFIP.





# Eligible Project Categories

## Category 10\* - Upland and Riparian Area Habitat Management

50% to \$20,000

Riparian area management practices must follow all applicable legislation and receive all necessary permits (e.g. Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, Drainage Act, Fisheries Act, etc.). Contact the local Conservation Authority, MNR, or Department of Fisheries and Oceans office to discuss your plans prior to implementation.

Along every municipal drain is an unregistered working space that the municipality has the right to use to maintain or repair the drain. Before doing any projects near this area discuss your plans with the local Drainage Superintendent (contact through your municipal office) to ensure that your plans are appropriate and will not cause any obstruction to maintenance equipment or threaten the integrity of the drain.

### 1001 Remote Watering Systems for Livestock

Remote watering systems to replace direct access to watercourses, ponds and wetlands by livestock or encourage rotational grazing

- ✓ Alternate or remote watering systems to manage livestock
- ✓ Gravity fed
- ✓ Solar, wind, motorized power pumps
- ✓ Waterlines
- ✓ Storage
- ✓ Reservoir aeration systems on existing reservoirs

*Project Justification and Assurances Form (PJAF) required: E*  
*Support letter is not required.*

### 1002 Riparian Buffer Strips

Buffer establishment (up to 60 metres in width in riparian areas): permanent native or non-invasive introduced species of grass, legumes, herbaceous plants, trees and shrubs. Make sure the area where planting is to take place, and the chosen vegetation species, will not prove harmful to species at risk in the area.

- ✓ Purchase and planting of forages, shrubs, trees. Tree and shrub planting and establishment costs cannot be more than \$20 per tree inclusive of all costs including in-kind labour. Only native trees or shrubs are eligible, unless otherwise recommended in writing by a professional forester. Three options are available for farm businesses to have trees planted through SARFIP. Please see Supply and Service for Tree Projects on page 5.
- ✓ Weed control systems and mulch for buffer plantings
- ✓ Tile effluent treatment systems:
  - Constructed wetlands designed by a professional engineer
  - Vegetative filter strip systems
  - Dispersion sandwich, biofilters

*PJAF required: E*  
*Support letter is not required.*

### 1003 Fencing to Protect Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Fencing designed to prevent access to environmentally sensitive areas within the farm property. Sensitive areas may be a woodland, wetland or an area used by species at risk. Typically permanent installations. A farm would be expected to have adequate farm perimeter fencing already in place.

- ✓ Fencing parallel to water's edge, woodland boundary or other environmentally sensitive area to exclude livestock. Eligible permanent fencing costs shall not exceed \$11.50 per metre regardless of fence design, inclusive of all costs including in-kind labour and equipment contributions.

*PJAF required: E*  
*Support letter is not required.*

### 1004 Native Grass Habitat Restoration

**ENHANCED TO 80% FUNDING**

Native grass habitat restoration or establishment in riparian or upland areas (includes native prairie and savannah)

- ✓ Mixed planting of native grass species for wildlife habitat
- ✓ Grazing and haying for farm use permitted after mid-July, but no off farm sales
- ✓ Total area seeded to native grasses not to exceed 16 hectares per farm business

*PJAF required: E*

*Documentation is required that links the proposed project to a federal species recovery plan or provincial species Government Response Statement or recovery strategy. It can be a support letter from a recognized group, or a copy of recommended practices from a recovery document for the species that applies to the area where the farm is located.*

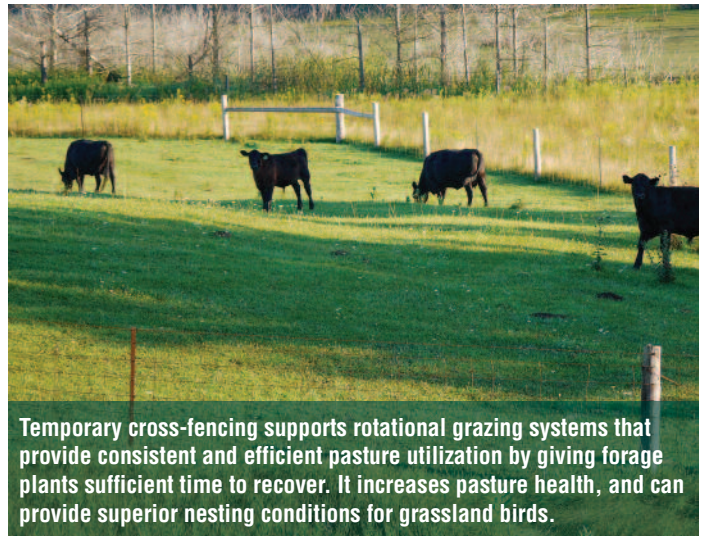
### 1005 Cross-Fencing for Rotational Grazing

Cross fencing for rotational grazing is typically temporary and positioned in surrounding uplands to relieve grazing pressure

- ✓ Cross fencing to implement rotational systems. Eligible cross fencing costs shall not exceed \$2.45 per metre regardless of fence design, inclusive of all cost including in-kind labour and equipment contributions.

*PJAF required: E*

*Support letter not required.*



Temporary cross-fencing supports rotational grazing systems that provide consistent and efficient pasture utilization by giving forage plants sufficient time to recover. It increases pasture health, and can provide superior nesting conditions for grassland birds.

### 1006 Improved Stream Crossings

Improved stream crossings for livestock or equipment

- ✓ Improved structures to enhance riparian condition
- ✓ Bed-level, mid-level, full-flow culvert and bridge crossings eligible. All bridge crossing designs must be stamped approved by a Professional Engineer. Copies of required permits must be submitted to OSCIA with the project claim
- ✓ Removal of harmful crossings/structures (e.g. weirs or dams). Copies of required permits must be submitted to OSCIA with the project claim

*PJAF required: F*

*A support letter is required from the Conservation Authority or Department of Fisheries and Oceans.*

**Actions must be compliant with all necessary legislation including the federal Species at Risk Act, provincial Endangered Species Act and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act. Authorizations may be required, please contact your local Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources office for more information.**

More information on recovery documents can be found at [www.ontario.ca/speciesatrisk](http://www.ontario.ca/speciesatrisk) or [www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca)

# Eligible Project Categories



## 1007 Management to Enhance Wildlife Survival

- ✓ Nesting and other habitat enhancement structures and features (e.g. bird boxes, raptor perches)
- ✓ In-stream structures to enhance survival of fish or mussels. Copies of required permits must be submitted to OSCIA with the project claim

*PJAF required: E*

*Support letter is not required.*

## 1008 Wetland Restoration

### ENHANCED TO 80% FUNDING

- ✓ Restoration of wetlands as close as possible to the original size, depth and ecological function. All Project Proposal Applications (PPA) must include an assessment from a Conservation Authority Specialist or recognized conservation group (e.g. Ducks Unlimited Canada). To be considered eligible, indicators must be present and evidence provided with the PPA to:
  - Verify original existence
  - Verify that previous alteration resulted in negative impact
  - Verify ecological function can be restored
- ✓ Funding provided for: earthwork, ditch plugs, equipment rental, consultant fees, and vegetative establishment

*PJAF required: E*

*A support letter is required from the Conservation Authority or Ducks Unlimited Canada.*

## 1009 Actions for Species at Risk

### ENHANCED TO 80% FUNDING

Plant species establishment

- ✓ Planting appropriate grass, shrub or tree species for improved cover for selected species at risk (e.g. thorny shrubs for Loggerhead Shrike)
- ✓ Re-establishment of a specific plant species at risk (e.g. American Chestnut, Kentucky Coffee tree). Must be of native origin
- ✓ Planting and establishment costs cannot be more than \$20 per tree inclusive of all costs including in-kind labour and equipment contributions

Infrastructure development and relocation

- ✓ Creation of specific structures for species at risk based on species occurrence and with advice/guidance from an expert (e.g. snake hibernacula, Barn Owl nest boxes).

*PJAF required: E*

*Documentation is required that links the proposed project to a federal species recovery plan or provincial species Government Response Statement or Recovery Strategy.*



This Essex County farmer created an artificial nest for the Eastern Fox Snake. Experts recommend a 1.2 m. diameter circle of 5 x 10 cm. page wire to sit on the ground, filled with a mixture of wood chips and straw. The decomposing material provides the dampness that snake eggs need to keep moist.

## Category 11 - Erosion Control Structures (Riparian)

### 50% to \$20,000

Riparian area management practices must follow all applicable legislation (e.g. Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, Drainage Act, Fisheries Act, etc.). Contact your local Conservation Authority or the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for details. Projects in this category provide opportunities for erosion control in areas of riparian zones with: concentrated water flow, and soils with moderate to steep slopes susceptible to severe water erosion.

All projects must be properly designed according to the specifications included in the OMAFRA publication 832 entitled "Agricultural Erosion Control Structures – A Design and Construction Manual." A link to the list of certified Land Improvement Contractors of Ontario (LICO) is available on the OSCIA web site.

Engineering, contracting services and associated material costs, earthwork, silt fences, seed and seedbed preparation are eligible.

Any projects involving municipal drains require approval in writing from the local Drainage Superintendent. Copies of required permits must be submitted to OSCIA with the project claim

### 1101 Erosion Control Structures (Riparian)

Most projects require the submission of detailed design sheets and sketches as part of the Project Justification and Assurance Forms. Eligible constructed works in riparian areas:

- ✓ Ditch bank stabilization (PJAF-I)
- ✓ Shoreline stabilization - bank shaping, revetment, gabions, riprap, crib walls, re-vegetation, erosion control blankets, bioengineering (PJAF-J)
- ✓ Grade control structures
  - Rock chute spillways (PJAF-L)
  - Drop pipe inlet structures (PJAF-M)
- ✓ In-channel control structures to reduce velocity and erosive force of water and provide fish habitat (e.g. pools and riffles, natural channel design) (PJAF-I)
- ✓ Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCoBs) designed to reduce storm runoff flow rates, trap sediments, and fully discharge all water in a short period of time (PJAF-P)
- ✓ Grassed waterways (PJAF-R)
- ✓ Contour terraces (PJAF-Q)
- ✓ Gully stabilization (PJAF-M)
- ✓ Tile outlet structures to upgrade existing eroded ones. All structures must include rigid outlet pipe, rodent gate, proper rock protection with filter cloth underneath (PJAF-E)
- ✓ Sediment trap (PJAF-E)
- ✓ Weirs (PJAF-E)

*PJAF required: As noted above.*

*A support letter is required from the Conservation Authority or Department of Fisheries and Oceans.*

**For details on ineligible BMPs and costs, see page 10.**

# Eligible Project Categories

## Category 16 - Improved Pest Management (IPM)

**50% to \$5,000**

Program funding will provide incentives for adopting a number of IPM practices that control invasive plant species. Funding will only be provided for biological control agents that are approved by appropriate regulatory authorities and are compatible with existing OMAFRA biological control programs.

### 1606 Invasive Plant Species Control

*Integrated approaches (biological and mechanical) for control of invasive plant species (e.g. purple loose strife, buckthorn, etc.) in natural areas that would benefit species at risk and/or their habitat, and to control invading trees and shrubs in pastures. Mechanical mulching of woody plants in pastures must occur after August 1 to remove risk to ground nesting grassland birds.*

- ✓ Biological control:
  - Introduce government-approved biological control agents such as insects, fungi, and bacteria
  - Rental of services from individuals using specialized selective grazing management techniques to control invasive plants
- ✓ Mechanical control:
  - Through removal or disturbance (e.g. mowing)
  - Purchase of mulching mowers to control invasive shrubs and trees from overtaking pastures that are abandoned or used to lightly graze livestock

*PJAF required: B*

*A support letter is not required.*

## Category 19 - Shelterbelt and Tree Establishment

**50% to \$10,000**

Producers planting trees are encouraged to secure tree advisory services from qualified individuals, such as Conservation Authorities or other professionals who will undertake the work in compliance with the Professional Foresters Act of Ontario and according to guidelines endorsed by a member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association (OPFA).

Claimed site preparation costs for the project cannot be greater than the cost of the planting materials and planting costs combined. Only native trees or shrubs are eligible, unless otherwise recommended in writing by a professional forester.

Three options are available for farm businesses to have trees planted through SARFIP. Please see the section titled Supply and Service for Tree Projects on page 5.

### 1901 - Establishment of shelterbelts or windbreaks

Establishment of shelterbelts or windbreaks for farmyard, field, livestock facilities, snowtrap, wildlife habitat enhancement

- ✓ Plant seeds, seedlings or plugs
- ✓ Increase buffer width around existing habitats including field margins, riparian areas, ponds, wetlands
- ✓ Connecting native habitat parcels (limited to woodland established up to 60 metres in width)
- ✓ Site preparation (e.g. pit and mound)
- ✓ Eligible planting and establishment costs cannot be more than \$20 per tree inclusive of all costs including in-kind
- ✓ Weed control systems
- ✓ Temporary fencing to prevent livestock damage
- ✓ Tree guards

*PJAF required: E*

*A support letter is not required.*

### 1902 - Reforestation (block planting)

- ✓ Block plantings require a plan from a qualified professional
- ✓ Planting of native trees and shrubs

*PJAF required: E*

*A support letter is not required.*

## Category 24 - Fees for Qualified Consultants

**Up to \$3,000 in cost-share**

Fees for qualified consultants to conduct an assessment and produce a written report and plan that provides recommendations.

Qualified consultants for 2403 and 2404 may include a private consultant with equivalent of Certified Crop Advisor accreditation.

### 50% FUNDING FOR THE FOLLOWING TWO PRACTICE CODES

#### 2403 - Grazing Management Planning

Consultative services to develop range and grazing management plans

- ✓ Planning and decision support tools (e.g. computer software, aerial photos)
- ✓ Maps and land resource information costs
- ✓ Data collection, materials and sampling and analysis costs by consultant
- ✓ Consultant fees to develop grazing management plan
- ✓ Report preparation by consultant
- ✓ Plan review with producer

*PJAF not required*

*A support letter is not required.*

#### 2404 - Soil Erosion Control Planning

Fees for qualified consultants to conduct an assessment and produce a written report and plan that evaluates the potential impact of various BMPs on reducing soil erosion including constraints and opportunities (e.g. estimation of quantified reductions in soil erosion losses resulting from implementation of individual and combinations of BMPs). All projects must be properly designed according to the specifications included in the OMAFRA publication 832 entitled "Agricultural Erosion Control Structures – A Design and Construction Manual.

Consultative services to develop soil erosion control plans

- ✓ Planning and decision support tools (e.g. computer software, aerial photos)
- ✓ Maps and land resource information costs
- ✓ Data collection and materials sampling costs by consultant for site characterization and hydrological assessment
- ✓ Design work (e.g. sizing and prescription of safety features)
- ✓ Consultant fees to develop a soil erosion control plan
- ✓ Report preparation by consultant
- ✓ Plan review with producer

*PJAF not required*

*A support letter is not required.*





# Eligible Project Categories



Qualified consultants for 2405 and 2408 may include restoration ecologists, or qualified personnel from land trust organizations or environmental non-government organization.

## ENHANCED TO 80% FUNDING FOR THE FOLLOWING TWO PRACTICE CODES

### 2405 - Biodiversity Enhancement Planning

Fees for qualified consultants (e.g. professional ecologist, biologist, or forester) to conduct an assessment and produce a written report and plan that provides recommendations for implementing biodiversity enhancement planning BMPs.

*Consultative services to plan habitat enhancement, wetland restoration, stewardship for species at risk and/or wildlife damage prevention within agricultural land base*

- ✓ Planning and decision support tools (e.g. computer software, aerial photos)
  - ✓ Maps and land resource information costs
  - ✓ Data collection, materials and sampling and analysis costs by consultant
  - ✓ Consultant fees to develop a biodiversity enhancement plan, includes tree marking if part of plan
  - ✓ Design work for biodiversity enhancement in riparian, upland and wetland areas or other habitat
  - ✓ Wetland restoration planning must:
    - Determine presence of an altered wetland
    - Provide technical assessment that wetland is in need of restoration
    - Assist in design of restoration project
  - ✓ Report preparation by consultant
  - ✓ Plan review with producer
- PJAF not required*  
*A support letter is not required.*

### 2408 - Riparian Health Assessment

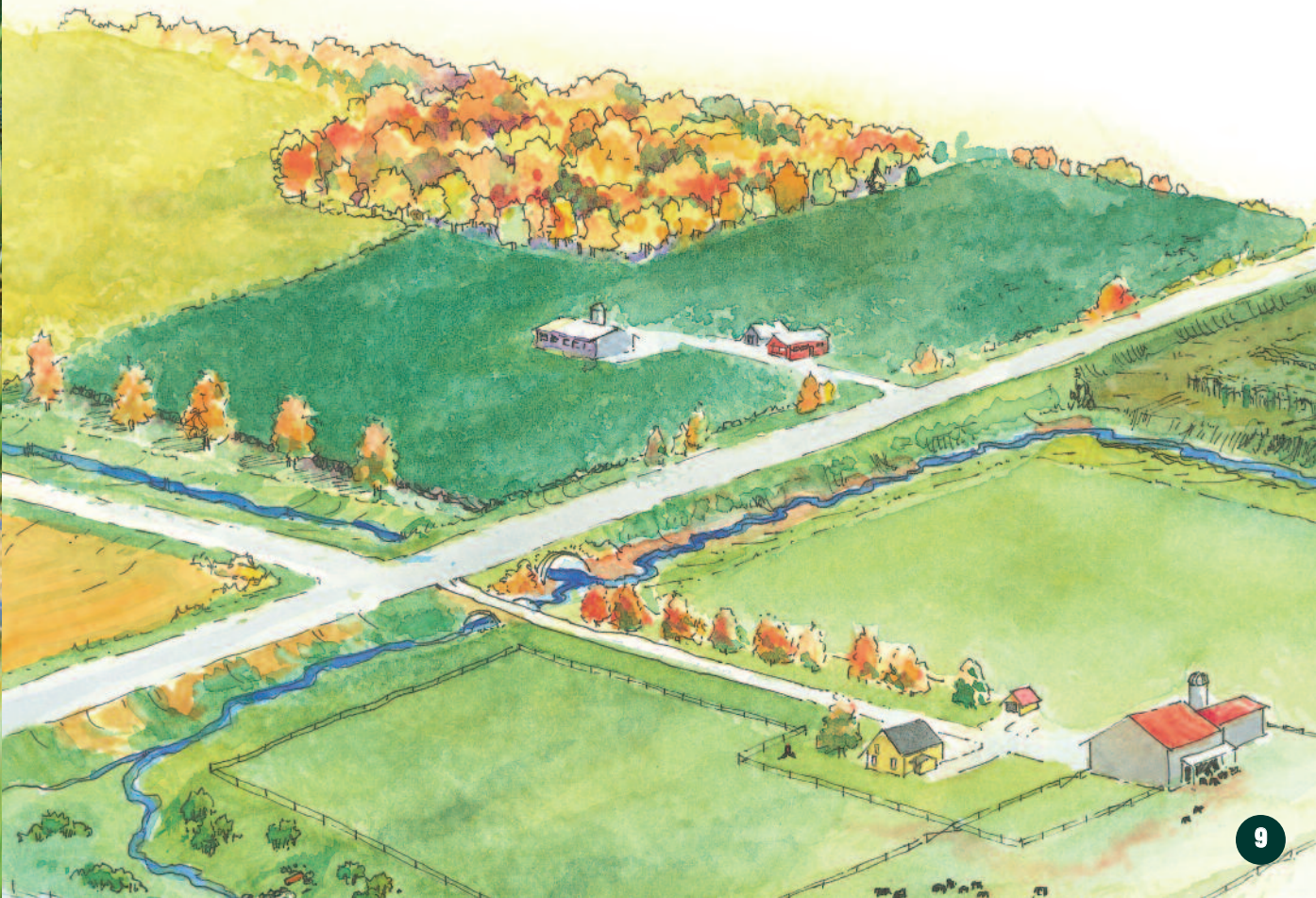
Fees for qualified consultants (e.g. professional ecologist or biologist) to conduct an assessment and produce a written report and plan that provide recommendations for implementing riparian area management BMPs

*Consultative services to plan habitat enhancement, wetland restoration, stewardship for species at risk and/or wildlife damage prevention within agricultural land base*

*Consultative services for assessing riparian health*

- ✓ Planning and decision support tools (e.g. computer software, aerial photos)
  - ✓ Maps and land resource information costs
  - ✓ Data collection, materials and sampling and analysis costs by consultant
  - ✓ Design work by consultant for riparian and wetland areas and buffer strip projects
  - ✓ Report preparation by consultant
  - ✓ Plan review with producer
- PJAF not required*  
*A support letter is not required.*

If you do not claim the SARFIP funds allocated for your project by the December 15, 2012 deadline, you will lose them.

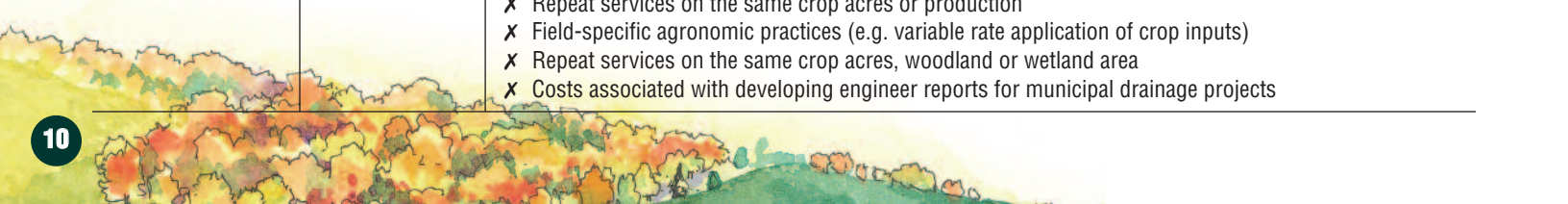




# Ineligible Costs

Table 3 - Ineligible BMPs and Costs

Feature	BMP Categories that apply	Ineligible Costs
<b>Tree and Shrub Plantings</b>	<b>10 and 19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>X Ongoing maintenance costs</li> <li>X Costs associated with acquiring and planting invasive plant species</li> <li>X Opportunity costs associated with payments for land taken out of production</li> <li>X Trees planted primarily for landscaping around homes</li> <li>X Tree and shrub planting and establishment costs of more than \$20 per tree, inclusive of all costs, including site preparation and in-kind contributions</li> <li>X Establishment of trees, shrubs and native vegetation that is intended for harvesting for economic benefit within 15 years such as fruit orchards, Christmas trees, ornamental nursery stock, native grasses for biomass, etc.</li> <li>X Shelterbelt maintenance and renovation costs incurred after establishment, unless as per Option #1- Conservation Authority Tree Service Contract               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase and relocation of established trees</li> <li>• Landscaping type plantings</li> <li>• Non-native trees and shrubs, unless recommended in writing by a professional forester</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Fencing</b>	<b>10 and 19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>X Repair and maintenance of existing fencing</li> <li>X Perimeter fencing around the farm</li> <li>X Permanent fencing installations costing more than \$11.50 per metre, inclusive of all costs including fence chargers (as applicable) and in-kind contributions</li> <li>X Cross-fencing installations costing more than \$2.45 per metre, inclusive of all costs including power sources (as applicable) and in-kind contributions</li> </ul>
<b>Grass establishment and vegetation control</b>	<b>10 and 19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>X Pasture seeding and establishment costs</li> <li>X Pasture renovation</li> <li>X Forage management</li> <li>X Establishment native grasses and vegetation that is intended for harvesting for economic benefit within 15 years such as for biomass, etc</li> <li>X Funding for native grassland establishment greater than 16 hectares</li> <li>X Establishing forages as part of the operation's normal crop rotation</li> <li>X Purchase of cultivation equipment</li> <li>X Major clearing of fence rows or field landscapes</li> <li>X Herbicides</li> <li>X Mowers used primarily for general vegetation control around farmsteads</li> </ul>
<b>Stream Crossings</b>	<b>10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>X Stream crossing projects that are associated with a new or expanded pasture, where no crossing has existed previously</li> </ul>
<b>Erosion control structures</b>	<b>11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>X Systematic tile and other subsurface drainage systems that are not an integral part of an erosion control structure</li> <li>X Converting open channels to closed drainage systems</li> <li>X Construction of new drainage channels or repair of existing drainage systems (e.g. drainage ditch clean-outs, french drains )</li> <li>X Costs of tile and installation that exceeds 30 metres for riparian drop inlet structure projects</li> <li>X Installation of drop inlets for drainage of ponded surface water (i.e. not associated with an erosion control structure)</li> <li>X Header tile systems</li> <li>X Tile outlet structures associated with new tile drainage installations</li> <li>X Retrieving topsoil from areas of deposition and transporting it upslope to eroded hillsides</li> <li>X Construction and land improvement activities not associated with soil erosion control</li> <li>X Applying the cost share to property assessments charged through the Drainage Act</li> <li>X Repair and maintenance of existing erosion control works</li> </ul>
<b>Planning</b>	<b>24</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>X Time, effort, and travel by the producer</li> <li>X Professional services not directly related to the specific management plan exercise</li> <li>X Routine sampling and analysis to determine annual requirements for crop and animal nutrients or pest control</li> <li>X Repeat services on the same crop acres or production</li> <li>X Field-specific agronomic practices (e.g. variable rate application of crop inputs)</li> <li>X Repeat services on the same crop acres, woodland or wetland area</li> <li>X Costs associated with developing engineer reports for municipal drainage projects</li> </ul>





## In-Kind Contribution Policy

The applicant's in-kind labour and equipment costs as supported by an In-Kind Claim Declaration form and reported on the project claim form for eligible categories, may be considered eligible for cost share (within the limits set by the program). Reasonable hours of labour invested by the applicant, his/her dependents and business partner(s) may be claimed. Costs associated with completing the EFP, project planning, supervision, or administration, are not eligible for funding.



Eligible equipment costs are associated with equipment owned by the applicant and considered essential to implement the approved project.

Materials in a farm's inventory, or products produced on the farm and contributed to the project by the applicant, will not be considered as eligible in-kind contributions.

The maximum allowable labour rate is \$20 per hour. OSCIA will make a final determination on what a reasonable rate is for the number of hours claimed, 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 for each hour of operation. This rate cannot be increased for heavy excavation equipment. Applicable in-kind operator charges may be claimed along with the in-kind equipment rate, at up to the accepted maximum hourly rate.

If a farm business plans to claim for in-kind contributions, accurate estimates must be reflected in the total project cost submitted with the SARFIP Project Proposal Application (PPA). If actual final project costs exceed the original estimate, there is absolutely no obligation by OSCIA to extend cost share to the additional costs.

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, and the hourly rate(s) charged. The In-Kind Claim Declaration may be obtained from an OSCIA Program Representative. Eligible in-kind contributions will be considered equivalent to cash payments for purchased goods and services. As such, the cost share for the specific project category (i.e. 50 per cent) will also be applied to the eligible in-kind contributions for the project when calculating the final cost-share contribution for the completed project.

### i In-Kind Contributions up to and including \$1,500

Total in-kind contribution funding requests that are less than or equal to \$1,500 will be processed by OSCIA provided that the charges appear reasonable and are documented on the In-Kind Claim Declaration. The applicant's signature on the claim form declares that the information contained in the claim, is true and accurate. In-kind contributions contributed to the project after submission of the project claim (i.e. as associated with a Tree Service Contract) are not eligible for cost share.

### ii. In-Kind Contributions exceeding \$1,500

In the event that the total in-kind labour and equipment contributions combined for a project exceed \$1,500, the maximum amount of in-kind contributions eligible for claim will be limited to the typical cost of the activity or service as if it had been provided through the private sector (at program-accepted rates). The applicant will be required to submit to OSCIA at the time of final project inspection, two signed, detailed quotes from reputable third-party contractors for equivalent work. It is imperative that the component of the project the applicant completed with their own labour and equipment is itemized in the quotations.

Total estimated hours and hourly rates must be detailed by the contractors in the quotes. The average of the two quoted costs will generally be used to determine the maximum amount of the applicant's eligible in-kind contribution for the particular work done on the project; however, if a contractor's quoted rate for labour or equipment exceeds the accepted program maximum, the program rates (i.e. up to \$20 per hour for labour and up to \$50 per hour for eligible equipment) will be applied to the quoted hours to determine the cost for equivalent work.

## SARFIP Limits of Funding

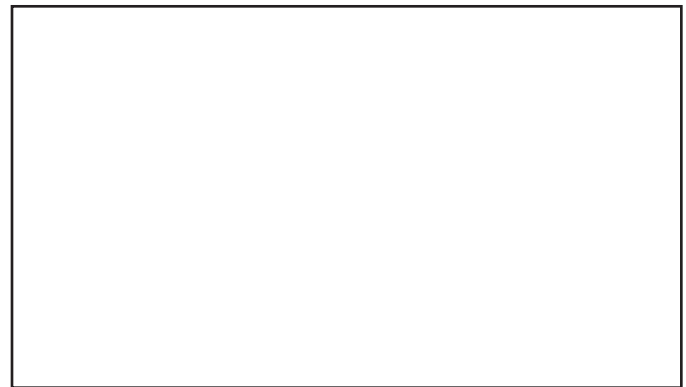
1. SARFIP cost share is available to new projects initiated on or after April 1, 2012. No cost share will be offered for project invoices issued before this date. All projects to receive cost share must be completed and operational, a final inspection completed by the local OSCIA program Representative, and the claim form received in the OSCIA Guelph office by December 15, 2012.
2. The SARFIP cost share may be utilized by eligible producers for approved BMP projects on farm properties owned, rented, leased or otherwise under their control.
3. Cost-share opportunities offered through SARFIP are designed to encourage the adoption of new BMPs to reduce environmental risks identified in the EFP action plan prepared by the farm business, and to enhance habitat for wildlife species at risk.
4. Starting April 1, 2012, the maximum allowable contribution per legal farm entity by the Provincial Species At Risk Stewardship Fund through SARFIP is \$20,000. Also starting April 1, 2012 and for projects in designated priority areas for aquatic and terrestrial species supported by the Federal Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, the maximum allowable contribution per legal farm entity through SARFIP is \$20,000.
5. Project invoices with dates that precede attendance by the farm business at an EFP Workshop (Day One) will not be eligible for cost share; and all invoices for the approved project must comply with the eligible invoice dates presented in Table 1. OSCIA cannot issue cost-share payments for incomplete projects.
6. Stacking of SARFIP contributions towards the same project by two or more farm businesses is not permissible.
7. Producers 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.
8. Only invoices from vendors or service providers directly engaged in the business reflected in the item or service purchased in accordance with the approved Project Proposal Application, 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 farm business making the project claim. And all eligible invoices must match the farm business name identified on the Program Enrollment 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 separate EFP must be developed and deemed appropriate for each legal farm entity to be eligible for cost share. The legal farm entity must be actively engaged in the sector for which the BMP category applies.
12. A single project may receive cost share from one BMP category only, and from either provincial or federal SARFIP funding sources as applicable (i.e. not both). Multiple categories cannot be accessed for the project in efforts to maximize SARFIP contributions.
13. The farm business shall ensure that the maximum level of total cost-share assistance from all sources, including other government or non-government programs, for eligible expenses shall not exceed 100 per cent. The farm business is required to reveal at the time the claim is submitted, all other sources of funding for eligible project expenses.
14. Across all BMP categories, HST is not an eligible expense.
15. Hand and power tools and attachments, are not eligible for cost share. Maintenance and extended warranties are not eligible.
16. Specific information packages have been prepared for most BMP categories. The applicable Project Justification and Assurances Form,

project design information sheet, and all other supporting documentation required for the BMP category or practice code, must be completed in entirety, signed and submitted to OSCIA before approval to proceed with the proposed project will be granted.

17. OSCIA will not accept additional PPA once the total SARFIP funding available for the program year has been committed. The funds will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Proposed projects must align with actions identified in the individual's Third Edition EFP that has been deemed appropriate through peer review.
18. All applicable information on the GF Program Enrollment form and the SARFIP PPA must be complete before it is submitted to OSCIA Guelph. If the OSCIA Guelph office considers a Program Enrollment or PPA to be incomplete, the form will promptly be returned in its entirety to the local OSCIA Program Representative, who will be asked to contact the farm business to retrieve the missing information. Only proposed projects detailed on PPA deemed to be complete by the OSCIA Guelph office will be considered for cost-share.
19. If the applicant goes ahead with the project prior to receiving final approval to proceed from OSCIA Guelph office, they do so at the risk of forfeiting the cost share if all terms and conditions are not satisfied.
20. Information presented is best available at time of printing. Check with a local OSCIA Program Representative for applicable updates. Material is subject to change without notice as the cost share program evolves.
21. If a proposed project receives a SARFIP allocation, the same project is not eligible for other funding programs delivered by OSCIA. Other cost-share programs may be available from local Stewardship Councils, Conservation Authorities, Ducks Unlimited Canada and other organizations. Farm businesses are encouraged to seek out these opportunities.



For further information or technical assistance, please contact your local Stewardship Council by visiting [www.ontariostewardship.org](http://www.ontariostewardship.org) or your local Conservation Authority by visiting [www.conservation-ontario.on.ca](http://www.conservation-ontario.on.ca)



Contact:  
**Ontario Soil and Crop  
Improvement Association**  
1 Stone Road West,  
Guelph, Ontario N1G 4Y2  
1-800-265-9751

[www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org)

More information on species at risk and the Endangered Species Act 2007 can be found at the MNR web site: [www.ontario.ca/speciesatrisk](http://www.ontario.ca/speciesatrisk)  
More information on the Federal Species At Risk Act can be found at [www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca)  
Aussi disponible en français.