

Farm Stewardship Program

Native Rangeland Grazing Management BMP

Intent of BMP: With only 17 per cent of prairie grasslands remaining in Saskatchewan, this BMP seeks to improve the health and productivity of the existing native rangelands. This BMP supports the creation of a native rangeland grazing plan and provides funding to implement the grazing plan. Native rangelands are an important source of forage for livestock; however, livestock can have a negative effect on native rangelands if grazing is not managed carefully. To maintain these functions livestock grazing needs to be managed taking needs of the land, the forage and the livestock into consideration. Implementation of the BMP must improve or protect the native rangeland health. Benefits of proper native rangeland management include reduced erosion, improved forage productivity and management of invasive plant establishment and spread.

Funding Level: 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$10,000.

- Maximum eligible rebate for fencing costs including material, installation, and labour is set at \$2,400/mile (based on maximum costs for fencing of \$4,800/mile).

Application Type: **Pre-Approval.**

Please Note: Applicants **MUST** receive pre-approval prior to starting their project. Fences constructed before receiving pre-approval are not eligible.

A grazing plan and native rangeland health assessment is a requirement of this BMP and must be completed by a Ministry of Agriculture Regional Forage Specialist or qualified Agri-Environmental Group Plan Technician in support of your pre-approval application.

Pre-site and post site visits may be completed as part of the pre-approval and/or claim process.

Technical Resource: For more information on this BMP, please contact Program Design and Delivery Branch at 1-877-874-5365.

For information on improving and managing native rangeland health and other technical assistance contact a Ministry of Agriculture Regional Forage Specialist.

Eligibility:

- Must have an EFP or AEGP Certificate of Completion.
- **Basic Eligibility Criteria** plus:
- Own, lease or custom graze a minimum of 20 animal units.
- Own or lease a minimum of 80 contiguous acres of native rangeland.
- For the purpose of this BMP, native rangeland is defined as land that is dominantly composed (at least 60%) of native grass species that are native to the area and have not previously been broken or tilled. Invasive species may be present but the dominant vegetation is native grass.

Project Costs: Eligible Costs:

Costs of cross fencing rangeland to improve the management of native rangeland. Cost must be related to improvement in rangeland and should be proportional to potential range health improvement.

Eligible costs include:

- Fencing materials including posts, corner posts and braces, wire, and staples.
- Electric fencing equipment and materials including electric fencer, wire, clamps, insulators, and ground rods.
- Labour including applicant, employee and custom to a maximum of \$20/hour.
- Rented equipment or applicant's equipment charged at rates included in the [Saskatchewan Farm Machinery Custom and Rental Rate Guide](#).
- Access alleys will be considered on a case by case basis.

Ineligible Costs:

- Fencing not associated with improving native rangeland health.
- Boundary fences.
- Portable livestock corral panels.
- In kind transportation of materials.
- Costs related to removing or replacing old or existing fences.
- Used fencing materials.
- Automatic gate openers.
- Texas gates.
- Remote livestock watering systems.
- Fencing tools and wire stretchers.