

Farm Stewardship Program

Protecting High Risk Erodible and Saline Soils BMP

Intent of BMP: To assist producers in implementing practices that minimize erosion and soil salinity on agricultural land by converting highly erodible and saline land from annual grain production to permanent cover including riparian buffer strips around water bodies.

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

Application Type: **Rebate.** (may require pre-approval of seed mixture).

Technical Resource: For technical assistance (including Forage Field Sheet where required) contact a Ministry of Agriculture Regional Forage Specialist.

Eligibility: Applicant Eligibility

- Must have an EFP or AEGP Certificate of Completion.
- **Basic Eligibility Criteria** plus:
- Own or control land in annual crop production which is at risk of erosion or salinity including: coarse or moderately coarse textured soils, land with steep slopes, runoff spill ways, sloughs, lowland with accumulated salts.
- Projects **MUST** be completed on land that has been used for annual crop production for a minimum of last two crop years to be eligible.

Seed / Project Eligibility

- Claims involving seeding forages **MUST** be submitted within 18 months of seed purchase/invoice date to be eligible for a rebate.
- Claims must include a copy of the seed tag showing seed is Common #1 or Certified #1. Only Common #1 and Certified #1 seed with no **prohibited or noxious weeds designated under *The Weed Control Act (Saskatchewan)*** will be eligible for funding.
- Request a certificate of analysis from the seed grower, to compare to the weed list found in the “**Minister’s Order Designating Prohibited Noxious and Nuisance Weeds**” to determine if the seed lot is free of Prohibited and Noxious Weeds.
- In the event that a seed tag is not available or this information was not provided on the invoice, the applicant can request the seed be eligible for funding by providing a current certificate of analysis which must include germination and purity.
- Seed mixes containing invasive grasses (refer to list under Project Standards and Requirements) must be pre-approved by a Ministry of Agriculture Forage Specialist on a Field Sheet and submitted with your application.
- Applicants are required to submit a site diagram with their application. Site diagrams should include land location, natural features, (e.g. natural water bodies, riparian areas, water ways, etc.) area seeded to perennial forages and any other relevant features.
- See other specific seed requirements below.

Project Costs:**Eligible Costs:**

- Consulting services to develop soil erosion or salinity control plans.
- Seeding and establishment of perennial forages.
 - Maximum eligible rebate for establishment costs is set at \$15.00 per acre (based on a flat rate establishment cost of \$30.00 per acre).
 - Maximum eligible rebate for seed is \$20.00 per acre (based on maximum costs for seed of \$40/acre).
 - Highly Erodible Soils
Seed costs associated with seeding perennial forages that contain at least one creeping rooted grass.
 - Saline Soils
Seed costs associated with seeding salt tolerant perennial forage species and at least one creeping rooted grass into saline soils.
Seed costs associated with seeding a mix of tap rooted alfalfa and at least one creeping rooted grass into water recharge areas and around saline sloughs.
 - Riparian Buffer
Seed costs associated with seeding perennial forages that contain at least one creeping rooted grass within a 30 metre strip around a water body.

Ineligible Costs:

- Costs for planting cover or companion crops.
- Projects related to erodible soils on irrigated land (projects targeting saline areas will be considered on a case by case basis).
- Seeding a grass seed mix including more than 20 per cent biennial species (such as yellow clover).
- Seeding mixes with NO creeping rooted grasses.
- Rejuvenation of existing forages, pastures or hay land.
- Fertilizer.
- Applicant or employee labour not part of in-kind equipment rates.

Project Standards and Requirements:

Projects that include the following invasive species require recommendation from a Ministry of Agriculture Forage Specialist:

- Crested wheatgrass
- Reed canary grass
- Canada bluegrass
- Kentucky bluegrass,
- Smooth brome grass,
- Green wheatgrass

If using one of the above species a Forage Field Sheet completed by a Ministry Forage Specialist will be required in support of your application.

The seed mix MUST be comprised of one or more creeping rooted grasses. Please contact your Regional Forage Specialist for more information on approved creeping rooted grass species.

Seed mixes MUST NOT include more than 20 per cent biennial forages, such as yellow clover.