

Farm Stewardship Program

Water Flow and Erosion Control BMP

Intent of BMP: Existing agriculture drainage works which have not been constructed properly and managed effectively may cause significant negative impacts on downstream water quality and quantity. This BMP provides assistance to producers to improve private drainage works by implementing approved drainage stewardship practices including installation of water control and erosion control structures, reshaping of drainage ditches and seeding perennial forage in waterways. The outcome of this BMP will be improved storage of water on the landscape, reduced velocity of water moving across the landscape and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation.

Funding Level: 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$20,000.

Application Type: **Pre-Approval.** Applicants must submit a pre-approval application prior to commencing their project.
Applications must have a site diagram showing the location of the current drainage works and include details of the proposed drainage stewardship practices.
Pre-site inspections and post site inspections may be completed as part of the pre-approval and/or claim process.

Technical Resource: For more information on the BMP contact the Program Design and Delivery Branch at 1-877-874-5365. For technical assistance with your project contact a [Water Security Agency Regional Office](#).

Eligibility:

- Must have an EFP or AEGP Certificate of Completion.
- **Basic Eligibility Criteria** plus:
- **Eligible projects are for existing drainage works that were constructed prior to April 1, 2013.**
- Drainage works must be private works and must be licensed through the Water Security Agency prior to receiving funding under the Farm Stewardship Program.
- Claims for construction related projects MUST include a copy of the project's Approval to Operate and Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit (if applicable) from Water Security Agency in order to receive funding.
- You are responsible for obtaining and complying with any permits or approvals required and for incorporating any relevant mitigation measures for your project.
- If your project contains a natural waterway please refer to the Natural Waterway Erosion Control BMP.
- If your project does not include any constructed works and is solely for seeding buffer strips of perennial forage please refer to Seeding High Risk Erodible Soils BMP.

Project Costs: Eligible Costs:

- Engineering/consulting costs associated with assessment, supervision, design of water control and erosion control structures, and proper restoration measures.
- Engineering/consulting costs can stand alone as a project and be funded even if the project does not proceed.
- Materials and installation for water and erosion control structures (such as: rip-rap, gabion baskets, culverts, gates, erosion mats, silt fencing and concrete).
- Costs related to reshaping side slopes.
- Reshaping of constructed channels to reduce erosion (re-sloping) will only be funded in cases where the current state of the channel represents an extreme environmental risk. A field assessment by WSA will be conducted to determine eligibility.
- Costs related to re-vegetation of waterways including seed, seedbed preparation, herbicide application and the seeding, when done in conjunction with water and erosion control structures and/or side sloping.
 - Maximum eligible rebate for approved perennial forage seed is \$20.00 per acre (based on maximum costs for seed of \$40 per acre).
 - 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).
 - Seed species must be approved and seeded as directed by WSA.
- Transportation of rocks, soil or other materials to the project site by a third party.
- Labour including applicant, employee and custom. Applicant and employee labour at 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](#).

Ineligible Costs:

- Costs for projects started prior to April 1, 2015.
- Costs associated with new drainage works or those constructed after April 1, 2013.
- Projects subject to current orders or letters of non-compliance under the Water Security Act or Environmental Management and Protection Act (EMPA).
- Costs associated with projects not in compliance with legislation (e.g. Fisheries Act, EMPA, WSA Act, etc.).
- Fees including legal, registration and licensing fees.
- Purchase of land/property or payment of easements.
- Drainage of potholes, sloughs or wetlands.
- Filling in potholes, sloughs and wetlands.
- In-kind materials such as rocks, gravel or clay.
- In-kind transportation of materials.
- Transportation of soil or other materials away from the project.
- Leveling fields.
- Ditch plugs.
- Seeding waterways without reshaping or installing a water and erosion control structure.
- Construction or maintenance of dams.

Project Costs
continued:

- Upgrades to works owned by Conservation and Development Area Authorities, Watershed Associations and Rural and Urban Municipalities.
- Multi-producer projects.
- Projects that involve channel clearing only.