

Farm Stewardship Program

Variable Rate Irrigation Technology BMP

Intent of BMP: To gain water use efficiencies through the adoption of Variable Rate Irrigation.

Funding Level: 30 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum rebate of \$15,000.

Application Type: **Pre-Approval.** Applicants must submit a pre-approval application prior to commencing their project.
After receiving your application a pre-site inspection will be arranged with a Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation Specialist. Inspections may also be required once the project is complete.

Technical Resource: For technical assistance with your project contact the Crop and Irrigation Branch at 306-867-5500.

Eligibility:

- Must have an EFP.
- **Basic Eligibility Criteria** plus:
- Irrigate a minimum of 10 acres.*
- Have a Water Rights file number with the Water Security Agency or a Water Service Agreement with an Irrigation District.*

Vegetable, greenhouse and fruit operation applications will be reviewed on a case by case basis in regards to eligible costs and the eligibility requirements indicated with an asterisk () above.*

Project Costs: Eligible Costs

- Purchase and installation of new Variable Rate Irrigation equipment on new or existing irrigation systems.
- Conversion of single speed electric irrigation pump motors to variable frequency drive (VFD) motors, including related control systems.
- Sprinkler control valves complete with electrical and related components to control the individual sprinklers or groups of sprinklers.
- Speed control system to vary the speed of the lateral allowing different water depths to be applied.
- Electronic control panel including wiring and equipment to signal the control valves along the lateral length to apply the desired amount of water.
- Lateral positioning system to locate the exact position of the lateral in the field so that the water can be applied in the appropriate places.
- Remote communications technologies (e.g. telemetry that communicates with the center pivot panel) if part of a variable rate irrigation system.
- Soil and plant moisture monitoring equipment (e.g. soil and leaf moisture sensors) in conjunction with variable rate irrigation.

Project Costs
continued:

Ineligible Costs

- Applicant or employee labour.
- Combustion engines to replace existing combustion engines to drive pumps.
- Electric motors to replace existing electric motors to drive pumps.
- Items considered to be regular repair or maintenance.
- Modification of irrigation works not owned by the applicant (e.g. irrigation district works, city effluent works).
- Used and leased items or equipment. To be eligible, new items or equipment **MUST** be purchased from a recognized dealer.