

Farm Stewardship Program

Variable Rate Fertilizer Equipment BMP

Intent of BMP: To assist producers in purchasing equipment to target fertilizer application rates to maximize plant utilization and reduce risk of nutrient loss to the environment.

Funding Level: 30 per cent to a maximum of \$5,000.

Application Type: **Rebate.** A copy of the original purchase invoice or contract along with an itemized list of the variable rate components and associated costs must be provided with the rebate application.

Technical Resource: For technical assistance contact a Ministry of Agriculture Regional Crop Specialist.

Eligibility:

- Must have an EFP.
- **Basic Eligibility Criteria.**

Project Costs: Eligible Costs:

- New equipment capable of variable rate fertilizer application. Eligible components on the following will qualify for funding:
- Liquid – all model years
- Anhydrous – all model years
- Granular – only new granular air carts from 2014 model year or older are eligible. Variable rate monitors and/or unlock codes may be eligible on 2015 and newer granular air carts.
- Retro-fitting, modifications or upgrades to existing equipment for variable rate applications may be eligible if there is an enhanced environmental benefit.
- When purchasing a new piece of machinery, only the eligible component(s) will qualify for funding.
- Eligible variable rate components include: GPS linked in-cab variable rate monitors and unlock codes, electronic controllers and associated flow control devices. See table below for details.
- Monitors must be associated with eligible equipment. Documentation of existing variable rate equipment may be requested.

Ineligible Costs:

- Variable rate upgrades to 2015 or newer granular air carts.
- Consulting services.
- GPS guidance units.
- Real Time Kinematic (RTK) satellite navigation.
- Precision farming for overlap reduction: auto-boom shut off controllers, and sectional controllers for pesticide or fertilizer applications. The exception to this is sectional controls on high pressure anhydrous fertilizer systems.

Project Costs continued:

- Hand-held GPS units.
- Variable rate technology and equipment to enable fertilizer application via sprayers or broadcast spreaders.
- Auto boom shut-off and height controllers for sprayers.
- Radar ground speed measuring devices or flow blockage monitors that are not integrated within variable-rate controllers.
- Custom, applicant or employee labour.
- Items considered regular repair or maintenance.
- Used and leased items or equipment. To be eligible, new items or equipment MUST be purchased from a recognized dealer.
- Drones.

Variable Rate Equipment Funding Summary:

Variable Rate (VR) Component	Maximum Approved Cost	Maximum Rebate
VR Unlock Code	\$1,000	\$300
Monitor for use with VR	\$3,000	\$900
VR Upgrade/Retrofit to existing Equipment	Based on paid invoices to maximum eligible costs of \$16,667.	\$5,000
New VR Granular Air Cart (2014 and older)	Maximum eligible cost for upgrades to 2014 and older air carts for granular fertilizer variable rate application, <i>including monitor and unlock codes</i> is \$13,000.	\$3,900
New VR Anhydrous or Liquid Equipment	Based on paid invoices to maximum eligible costs of \$16,667.	\$5,000