

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

Resilient Agriculture Landscape Program: Watershed Resilience

Program Guide

Version 2.0



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Section 1 - Program Description

The objective of the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP): Watershed Resilience is to increase the environmental resilience of agricultural landscapes by accelerating the adoption of on-farm land use and beneficial management practices (BMPs). These include practices that enhance provision of multiple ecological goods and services (EGS), which are the environmental benefits that result from the physical, chemical and biological processes of a healthy ecosystem.

Section 2 - Program Eligibility

Funding is available for program activities directed towards watershed resiliency and supported by a Watershed District.

Additional factors may be considered in determining the eligibility of the applicant, including:

- the provision of false or misleading information by the applicant under other Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership programs
- amounts due and owing by the applicant under other Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership and Manitoba programs

Section 3 - Cost Share Funding

Watershed districts can be reimbursed for up to 100 per cent of total approved eligible expenses.

There is a \$100,000 maximum funding cap per application worksheet; applicants can submit more than one application worksheet per intake.

All projects must be on agricultural land, and participating farmers must have a valid Environmental Farm Plan Statement of Completion.

A separate application Worksheet is required for each beneficial management practice.

Projects will have eighteen months to be completed.

Eligible Expenses

Eligible expenses are expenses directly related to the execution of an approved project. The applicant is solely responsible for all expenses of the project, including all ineligible expenses, any project deficits or cost over-runs.

The following expenses are **eligible** for funding:

- Incremental Equipment Usage

- Incremental Labour
- Materials and Supplies
- Professional Fees
- Subcontracted Services
- Maintenance Payments
- Avoided Conversion Payments
- Provincial Sales Tax (PST)


Where a project is approved, no eligible expense will be reimbursed unless a funding agreement is signed.

Additional information regarding eligible expenses can be found in Appendix A

Ineligible Expenses

The following expenses are **ineligible** for funding:

- Any expense, including a tax, which is eligible for a rebate, credit or refund such as Goods and Services Tax (GST)
- In-kind expenses related to administrative time, use of inventory items purchased before April 1, 2023, etc.
- Any expenses incurred before or after the dates listed in the funding agreement
- Any expenses not required for the execution of the project
- Normal operating expenses associated with carrying out business operations
- Extended warranties
- Spare parts not used as part of the project
- Expenses associated with lobbying
- Financing charges, loan interest payments, bank fees and charges
- Any compensation to any government employee for organizing or delivering parts of the project
- Purchase of land, buildings and facilities, associated taxes and fees (e.g., land transfer tax)
- Any additions to new or existing buildings and facilities and associated taxes and fees
- Purchase of typical farm equipment (e.g., tractors, skid steers, combines, etc.) and related accessories and attachments
- Normal, current or ongoing maintenance expenses
- Cost of establishing a commercial operation
- Cost of office renovations
- Cost of sponsorship of seminars, conferences, workshops, events or initiatives
- Multi-use items (e.g., items that are not directly related to the project activities, such as computers, printers, phones, cameras, pressure washers, general farm equipment, batteries, ATV, trucks, clothing and footwear, tools, fuel, etc.)

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- Any project-related activity that generates revenue during the implementation of the project
 - Expenses incurred for other projects
 - Managerial and administrative expenses incurred by the Watershed District
 - Any other expense deemed ineligible by the program administrator

See Section 4 – Funding Streams for Beneficial Management Practice information related to specific eligible practices, eligible expenses, and ineligible expenses.

Funding from Government

The applicant must adhere to the stacking limit. The stacking limit refers to the maximum level of total Canadian government funding (federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal) a successful Applicant can receive towards total approved eligible expenses of a project.

The maximum level of total government funding must not exceed:

- 100 percent of total approved eligible expenses; or
- If the Applicant is a for-profit business or organization, 75 per cent for capital items that are approved eligible expenses

Section 4 - Funding Streams

Activities will focus on improving watershed resiliency, sustainability and productivity, as well as providing other important environmental services derived from well-managed stocks of natural capital on agricultural land.

There are six Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) which are eligible for financial assistance:

- Agroforestry
- Grasslands and Grazing Management
- Natural Upland Area Rejuvenation and Enhancement
- Riparian Area Enhancement
- Water Retention and Runoff Management
- Wetland Restoration and Enhancement

Agroforestry

Background

The purpose of the Agroforestry BMP is to promote the establishment of trees to provide:

- Enhanced carbon sequestration
- Reduced soil erosion
- Improved water conservation
- Energy conservation (e.g. heating costs for home, barn, shop, etc.)
- Improved wildlife habitat
- Increased crop yields
- Thermal protection for livestock
- Reduced surface runoff and enhanced water quality

Eligible Practices

- Establishment and maintenance of shelterbelts or tree buffers for farmyard, livestock facilities and fields
- Planting of trees/shrubs on marginal or high-risk cropland
- Silvopasture (integration of trees and grazing livestock on the same land)
- Avoided conversion and maintenance of natural features on critical and/or at-risk agricultural landscapes such as woodlots

Eligible Expenses

- Site preparation
- Planting and maintenance (up to three years)
- Weed control (e.g. mulches)
- Fencing materials and construction
- Tree and shrub seedlings or cuttings for appropriate species
- Rejuvenation (e.g. selective harvesting and planting)
- Per acre conservation (avoided conversion) or maintenance payment and land management agreement
- Incremental labour for Watershed District technicians
- Labour incurred by the land manager, capped at \$35 per hour
- Equipment rates will be determined using the appropriate rental rate guide:
 - Farm Machinery Custom and Rental Rate Guide
 - Manitoba Heavy Construction Association Equipment Rental Rate Guide



Ineligible Expenses

- Tree and plant species intended for harvesting for economic benefit (e.g. Christmas trees, commercial fruit orchards, ornamental trees, etc.)
- Purchase and relocation of established trees

Notes

- Species used should be adapted to Manitoba conditions, hardy and non-invasive. Diversity of species is encouraged.
- Native prairie and other ecologically sensitive lands are ineligible for Agroforestry project implementation.
- Tree species should remain on the landscape for their natural lifespan.
- Activities include replacement of old shelterbelts where the current shelterbelt is unhealthy.
- Fencing estimates can be supported by using the FencePlan cost calculator found on the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation website
 - Link: [MASC Online Calculators](#)
- One time maintenance payment is eligible to facilitate tree establishment for a 3-5 year term after planting. Proposed rates must be justified and supported by a signed land management agreement between the Watershed District and land manager. Maintenance payments must be part of larger project which seeks to provide additionality; projects seeking only maintenance payments will not be considered.
- One time per acre payment for avoided conversion of trees or grasslands are eligible for a 10-year term where risk of conversion is high (excluding provincial and federal Crown Land or areas where land is otherwise protected from conversion). Payments will not exceed local land rental rates and consider assessed land value, agricultural capability and local considerations. Proposed rates must be justified and supported by a signed land management agreement between the Watershed District and land manager. Avoided conversion payments must be part of a larger project which seeks to provide additionality; projects seeking only avoided conversion payments will not be considered.

Grasslands and Grazing Management

Background

The purpose of the Grasslands and Grazing Management BMP is for the implementation of practices that will result in increased environmental benefits, such as:

- Improved soil and water quality
- Increased productivity and economic gains
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduced streambank degradation
- Improved nutrient and water retention
- Improved biodiversity and wildlife habitat

Eligible Practices

- Rotational grazing infrastructure including permanent and temporary cross fencing, offsite watering for:
 - tame pasture
 - native grasslands
- Convert marginal and high-risk annual cropland to permanent grassland (includes establishment of native or tame forages)
- Increasing the use of alfalfa or other locally-adapted and persistent nitrogen fixing perennial legumes in tame pasture and hay
- Avoided conversion and maintenance of natural features on critical and/or at-risk grasslands

Eligible Expenses

- Perennial forage establishment for improved pasture quality (seed, weed control, inoculants and fertilizer if required to establish perennials, equipment use and labour)
- Permanent, temporary or alternative fencing to improve grazing strategies (fencing material and labour)
- Alternative watering systems (system components, labour, installation)
- Water source development to support grazing management (including wells, dugouts, pipelines and associated components)
- Perennial forage seed including the use of nitrogen fixing perennial legumes
- Brush encroachment mitigation and control of invasive alien species to improve pasture health, including mowing, prescribed burning or chemical treatment
- Per acre conservation payment and land management agreement
- Incremental labour for Watershed District technicians
- Labour incurred by the land manager, capped at \$35 per hour

- Equipment rates will be determined using the appropriate rental rate guide:
 - Farm Machinery Custom and Rental Rate Guide
 - Manitoba Heavy Construction Association Equipment Rental Rate Guide

Ineligible Expenses

- Seeding of cash crops
- Bulldozers
- Temporary set up of watering systems
- Conversion of existing native prairie
- Clearing of primary forest into new open pasture
- Portable livestock corral panels not directly associated with the livestock watering system operation and protection
- Portable gas/diesel powered water pumps, generators, water meters
- Materials and construction expenses for pump houses

Notes

- Native prairie is ineligible for pasture renovation (reseeding) projects
- Minimum 30% alfalfa or legume composition in renovated pastures
- The emphasis for native prairie is on the four rotational grazing principles: balance forage supply and livestock demand; distribute grazing pressure across the pasture; provide rest for pasture plants during the growing season to help plants recover; and avoid grazing during sensitive times.
- Fencing estimates can be supported by using the FencePlan cost calculator found on the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation website
 - Link: [MASC Online Calculators](#)
- Wells must be drilled by a licensed well driller, and must be located at least 100 metres away from confined livestock areas
- Above ground pipelines may be considered with justification (e.g. impermeable surface)
- One time per acre payment for avoided conversion of trees or grasslands are eligible for a 10-year term where risk of conversion is high (excluding provincial and federal Crown Land or areas where land is otherwise protected from conversion). Payments will not exceed local land rental rates and consider assessed land value, agricultural capability and local considerations. Proposed rates must be justified and supported by a signed land management agreement between the Watershed District and land manager. Avoided conversion payments must be part of larger project which seeks to provide additionality; projects seeking only avoided conversion payments will not be considered.

Natural Upland Area Rejuvenation and Enhancement

Background

The purpose of the Natural Upland Area Rejuvenation and Enhancement BMP is to enhance natural areas, excluding wetland and riparian areas, for:

- Improved ecological function
- Enhanced wildlife habitat, corridors and biodiversity
- Increased carbon sequestration and soil health
- Managed soil salinity
- Increased water storage and reduced flooding
- Reduced soil erosion

Eligible Practices

- Renovation and enhancement of natural upland areas
- Creation or widening of buffers (grasses, trees or shrubs) in agricultural fields adjacent to surface water sources, as well as other actions to protect existing riparian areas such as reshaping edges of fields
- Establishment of pollinator strips or other perennial cover for pollinator habitat or other biodiversity purposes in fields or field margins of existing cropland (area planted with high value pollinator plants)
- Strip planting of perennial cover to create managed grassed waterways or to manage salinity within a field
- Erosion control and remediation including constructed works to reduce the vulnerability of soil at certain landscape positions and movement of topsoil to remediate erosion
- Avoided conversion and maintenance of natural features on critical and/or at-risk agricultural landscapes such as grasslands and woodlots

Eligible Expenses

- Site preparation
- Engineering and consultative fees, including geotechnical and surveys
- Seedbed preparation, seed, seeding and weed control
- Fencing materials and construction
- Tree and shrub seedlings or cuttings for appropriate species
- Perennial forage seed
- Construction materials
- Earthwork and revegetation

- Brush encroachment mitigation and control of invasive alien species (mowing, prescribed burning or chemical treatment)
- Incremental labour for Watershed District technicians
- Labour incurred by the land manager, capped at \$35 per hour
- Equipment rates will be determined using the appropriate rental rate guide:
 - Farm Machinery Custom and Rental Rate Guide
 - Manitoba Heavy Construction Association Equipment Rental Rate Guide
- Per acre conservation and maintenance payment and land management agreement

Ineligible Expenses

- Tree and plant species intended for harvesting for economic benefit (e.g. Christmas trees, commercial fruit orchards, ornamental trees, etc.)
- Purchase and relocation of established trees

Notes

- Species used should be adapted to Manitoba conditions, hardy and non-invasive. Diversity of species is encouraged. Native species are strongly recommended.
- Tree/shrub species should remain on the landscape for their natural lifespan.
- Pollinator strips should be left season-long before harvest to maximize habitat potential.
- The use of certified seed (or an equivalent) is recommended to ensure high quality in terms of germination and purity.
- Existing native prairie and other ecologically sensitive lands are not eligible for alteration (e.g. planting of trees or non-native species).
- Fencing estimates can be supported by using the FencePlan cost calculator found on the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation website
 - Link: [MASC Online Calculators](#)
- One time maintenance payment is eligible for a 3-5 year term to facilitate tree establishment after planting. Proposed rates must be justified in the proposal and supported by a signed land management agreement between the Watershed District and land manager. Maintenance payments must be part of larger project which seeks to provide additionality; projects seeking only maintenance payments will not be considered.
- One time per acre payment for avoided conversion of trees or grasslands for a 10 year term are eligible where risk of conversion is high (excluding provincial and federal Crown Land or areas where land is otherwise protected from conversion). Payments will not exceed local land rental rates and consider assessed land value, agricultural capability and local considerations. Proposed rates must be justified and supported by a signed land management agreement between the Watershed District and land manager. Avoided conversion payments must be part of larger project which seeks to provide additionality; projects seeking only avoided conversion payments will not be considered.

Riparian Area Enhancement

Background

The purpose of the Riparian Area Enhancement BMP is to establish and maintain healthy riparian areas that provide:

- Wildlife habitat, continuity and increased biodiversity through the re-establishment or rehabilitation of riparian vegetation
- Improvements to surface water quality by capturing sediments, nutrients and pesticides
- Riverbank and shoreline stabilization and erosion control
- Water storage that contributes to reducing downstream flooding during high water events
- Greater landscape resilience to the impacts of climate change

Eligible Practices

- Alternative livestock watering systems (solar, wind, grid power, pipeline) including pumping, delivery, storage, power and access components, hardware, and supplies
- Establishment of riparian vegetation, including tame forage
- Riparian fencing
- Improved crossings (establishment of new or improvement to existing)
- Constructed works to stabilize erosion (contour terraces, gully stabilization, bank stabilization, drop inlet structures, enhanced infiltration systems, in-channel control, sediment traps, retention ponds and erosion control dams)

Eligible Expenses

- Engineering and consultative fees
- Geotechnical and survey fees
- Fencing materials and construction
- Watering systems equipment and installation
- Seed/plants and seeding/planting
- Earthwork and materials to reduce erosion
- Incremental labour for Watershed District technicians
- Labour incurred by the land manager, capped at \$35 per hour
- Equipment rates will be determined using the appropriate rental rate guide:
 - Farm Machinery Custom and Rental Rate Guide
 - Manitoba Heavy Construction Association Equipment Rental Rate Guide

Ineligible Expenses

- Perimeter fencing for upland grazing management
- Expenses related to removing or replacing existing fences
- Portable livestock corral panels not directly associated with the livestock watering system operation and protection

Notes

- **Only riparian pastures are eligible under this category.**
- Pipelines must provide a direct riparian benefit and cannot extend significantly beyond the riparian area. Pipe extending from wet well or water source to nearby trough are eligible.
- Crossing improvements are not intended to add access points to fields or pastures for convenience of farming operations and field access. Must display strong riparian benefits.
- Fencing estimates can be supported by using the FencePlan cost calculator found on the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation website
 - Link: [MASC Online Calculators](#)

Water Retention and Runoff Management

Background

The purpose of the Water Retention and Runoff Management BMP is to build structures that:

- Improve the management of surface water throughout a watershed to protect against flooding, drought and the impacts of climate change
- Improve surface water quality by capturing sediments, nutrients and pesticides
- Increase wildlife habitat, biodiversity and ecosystem resilience
- Develop a sustainable on-farm water supply

Eligible Practices

- Engineering and consultative fees
- Construction of water retention projects

Eligible Expenses

- Engineering and consultative fees
- Environmental assessment and water license fees
- Geotechnical surveys
- Earthwork and revegetation (seed, seeding, weed control)
- Construction materials
- Incremental labour for Watershed District technicians
- Labour incurred by the land manager, capped at \$35 per hour
- Equipment rates will be determined using the appropriate rental rate guide:
 - Farm Machinery Custom and Rental Rate Guide
 - Manitoba Heavy Construction Association Equipment Rental Rate Guide

Ineligible Expenses

- Water retention structures associated with tile drainage

Notes

- Preference will be given to projects that provide multiple environmental benefits.
- Applicants are required to obtain all necessary licenses, permits, and approvals prior to construction of any projects. Preference may be given to projects that have necessary approvals in place.

Wetland Restoration and Enhancement

Background

The purpose of the Wetland Restoration and Enhancement BMP is to restore and enhance wetlands to:

- Enhance water storage capacity of a watershed
- Reduce peak flows, which can moderate the timing and volume of runoff and reduce negative impacts downstream
- Improve water quality by capturing sediments, nutrients, contaminants and pesticides
- Protect aquifers and enhancement of recharge
- Improve wildlife habitat and biodiversity
- Increase carbon sequestration

Eligible Practices

- Engineering and consultative fees to restore a previously drained wetland or enhance an existing wetland
- Construction of water level controls for wetland restoration
- Revegetation of restored wetland area and adjacent uplands

Eligible Expenses

- Engineering and consultative fees
- Geotechnical and survey fees
- Earthwork and revegetation (seed, seeding, weed control)
- Construction materials
- Incremental labour for Watershed District technicians
- Labour incurred by the land manager, capped at \$35 per hour
- Equipment rates will be determined using the appropriate rental rate guide:
 - Farm Machinery Custom and Rental Rate Guide
 - Manitoba Heavy Construction Association Equipment Rental Rate Guide

Ineligible Expenses

- Wetlands being restored or created to offset drainage as prescribed by legislation
- Dugouts
- Constructed wetlands associated with tile drainage

Notes

- Wetlands being constructed to meet compensation requirements of regulatory approvals are not eligible for funding under this program.
- Applicants are required to obtain all necessary licenses, permits, and approvals prior to construction of any projects. Preference may be given to projects that have necessary approvals in place.

Section 5 - Application Worksheet Assessment

Application Worksheets will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Program Objectives and Priorities
 - potential to mitigate and adapt to climate change
 - potential to increase level of carbon stored in the soil and improve soil health
 - potential to improve biodiversity and wildlife habitat
 - potential to reduce impacts of flooding and drought
 - potential to reduce the risk of nutrient loss to water

- Proposal Integrity
 - the proposal intent is properly described and fully explains the environmental benefit
 - the project has adequate design, including well-defined locations and steps, and realistic completion timelines
 - the budget is detailed, realistic and specific

Section 6 - How to Apply for Funding

The Applicant Information Form and Application Worksheet are available on the Manitoba Agriculture website. Go to www.manitoba.ca/agriculture and click on Sustainable CAP.

Manitoba Agriculture will publish deadline dates through the newsletter, website and social media channels.


The Applicant Information Form and Application Worksheet must be submitted to the program administrator by the specified deadline.

The Applicant Information Form and Application Worksheet can be emailed to Manitoba Agriculture at agriculture@gov.mb.ca.

One Application Worksheet must be submitted for each BMP.

Applicant must acknowledge and agree to any terms and conditions contained in the Application Worksheet, Program Guide and Program Terms and Conditions.

Applicants must comply with all Manitoba and federal government laws and regulations applicable to their projects and to their business or organization's operations. Applicants must also accept and agree to all of the terms and conditions of the program.



A designated representative of the Watershed District with legal authorization must sign the Applicant Information Form, Application Worksheet and other program documents. The program administrator may require proof of authorization.

Project activities must be completed and all reports submitted on or before the date stated in the funding agreement.

Funding for projects will be subject to the appropriation of funds by the Government of Canada and the Manitoba government.

Section 7 - Reporting

Applicants will be required to provide an estimate of anticipated metrics associated with the BMP in their Application Worksheet. A final report will require applicants to report on an individual project level with all relevant metrics. Additional information will be provided in the Funding Agreement.

Definitions

Additionality: the incremental increase in ecological goods and services achieved as a result of project activities.

Agri-business: a person or entity involved in for-profit commercial activity in the agricultural sector, other than an agri-processor or a farmer

Agricultural Crown Land: as identified under The Manitoba Crown Lands Act, lands owned and managed by the Manitoba government

Agricultural land: private land, leased agricultural Crown land, First Nation land or Association of Manitoba Community Pastures land; used for agricultural crop production or pasture; located in Manitoba.

Agroforestry: agriculture incorporating the cultivation and conservation of trees

Applicant: a person or entity who satisfies all the eligibility requirements set out in the terms and conditions and who submits an Applicant Information Form and an Application Worksheet under this program

Association of Manitoba Community Pastures: an association operating community pastures throughout Manitoba and along the Saskatchewan border

Beneficial Management Practice (BMP): a recognized agricultural management practice that mitigates or minimizes negative impacts and risk to the environment, by maintaining or improving soil, water and air quality and biodiversity; or improves adaptability and ensures the long-term health and sustainability of land-related resources used for agricultural production

Collaborator: an individual whose role in the proposed activities is to provide a specific service (e.g., access to equipment or expertise, provision of specific reagents, training in a specialized technique, statistical analysis, access to a specific population)

Contribution Agreement: the articles of agreement and annexes, as well as their amendments and the general terms and conditions, applicable on the effective date of agreement

First Nation: an Indigenous community officially recognized as an administrative unit by the federal government

Government Funding: any financial assistance in the form of provincial or federal grants, loans or other assistance

In-kind Contributions: non-monetary goods and/or services that are not reimbursable by the program

Land Manager: individual or entity responsible for the management of agricultural land

Landowner: a person or entity who owns the land on which the project is occurring

Manitoba Government Employee: any full-time, regular, part-time or term individual employed by the provincial government, including any special operating agency or Crown corporation

Manitoba Senior Public Servant: the Clerk of the Executive Council; a deputy minister or equivalent, or an assistant deputy minister; a chairperson, president, vice-president, chief executive officer or deputy chief executive officer of a Crown agency; a person who is designated or who occupies a position that is designated under section 31.1 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Conflict of Interest Act; and includes a person who, on a temporary basis, occupies a position described here

Minister: the Minister of Agriculture for the Manitoba government, including any person authorized to act on the minister's behalf

Municipality: an incorporated municipality with a minimum population of 1,000 and a density of less than 400 people per square kilometre

Natural Capital: natural assets in their role of providing natural resource inputs and environmental services to people and the economy

Person: includes an individual, partnership, association or corporate body (entity)

Primary Producer: an individual grower, producer or rancher, partnership, corporation, co-operative or any other association of people who is actively engaged in farming


Program: refers to the Resilient Agricultural Landscapes Program: Watershed Resilience

Program Activity: a specific action under the Program, where applicants can apply for funding. Activities may have one or several focus areas

Program Administrator: Manitoba Agriculture, or where applicable, any person engaged by the Manitoba government, to carry out administrative activities related to the program

Project Proponent: can be any one, or more, of the individuals or groups described under program eligibility; where several of the eligible groups are involved in a single proposal, one individual shall be assigned as project contact for the group

Silvopasture: the deliberate integration of trees and grazing livestock on the same land; intensive management of both systems results in the production of both forage and forest products



Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership: a five-year agricultural policy framework by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments to encourage market development, innovation and research, environmental sustainability, value added processing, improved public trust and risk management across Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-product sectors


Terms and Conditions: the program rules that applicants accept and agree to follow, as part of the funding agreement; may be occasionally revised, altered or amended.

Watershed District: a partnership between the province and local municipalities to protect, restore and manage land and water resources on a watershed basis, under the authority of the Watershed Districts Act

Woodlots: treed land grown with, or without, human intervention

Appendix A - Eligible Expense Examples

Eligible Expense	Example
Incremental Equipment Usage	<p>Equipment owned by the Watershed District can be used as long as it is for the successful completion of the approved project.</p> <p>Where rental rates are not identified in published guides (e.g. survey equipment, tree planter, etc.), Watershed Districts can specify the type of equipment and proposed hourly or daily rental rate in their worksheet budget for review.</p>
Incremental Labour	<p>Watershed District technician wages, which are incremental to the project, are eligible, capped at \$35 per hour.</p>
Materials and Supplies	<p>These are materials and supplies essential to the establishment of the project or practice and can include: Alternative livestock watering systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing • Earthwork and weed control • Seeding and tree/shrub planting • Brush encroachment mitigation
Professional Fees	<p>Third party expenses such as engineering, consulting, geotechnical, and survey fees.</p>
Subcontracted Services	<p>Labour hours incurred by land managers are eligible but must be supported by a third party agreement between the land manager and the Watershed District. The labour rate will be capped at \$35 per hour.</p> <p>Equipment use hours incurred by land managers are eligible but must be supported by a third party agreement between the land manager and the Watershed District. Equipment rates will be determined using the appropriate rental rate guide (Farm Machinery Custom and Rental Rate Guide, MHCA Equipment Rental Rate Guide).</p>
Maintenance Payments	<p>Expenses related to the maintenance of newly established agroforestry projects. Payment levels are subject to the evaluation by a technical reviewer at the proposal stage and must be supported by a maintenance agreement between the Watershed District and individual land owner over a 3-5 year term.</p>



Avoided Conversion Payments	Payments for securing at-risk natural capital, such as vulnerable grasslands and/or wooded areas. Payment levels are subject to the evaluation by a technical reviewer at the proposal stage and must be supported by a landowner agreement between the Watershed District and individual landowner over a 10-year term.
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