

Category G – Environmental Farm Stewardship Program

Canada and Nova Scotia recognize that agriculture relies on healthy soil, water, and biodiversity profiles for its long term sustainable productivity. They also value the important role the industry plays in sustaining and replenishing our natural environment. In support of this important role, a number of beneficial management practices (BMPs) have been identified for support in accordance with four major themes: water, soil, product and waste management, and energy conservation. Both levels of government lend support to encouraging these practices as identified in the following tables.

This program is comprised of a comprehensive set of incentives (Beneficial Management Practices) to assist farmers to mitigate on-farm environmental risk. The program provides incentives to address risks identified in their individual Environmental Farm Plans and advance environmental farm stewardship in Nova Scotia.

NOTE: The program is not intended to fund capital purchases. The intent is to provide support, where applicable, primarily through equipment modification, although a producer may alternatively claim the value of eligible components when purchasing an entire equipment unit. A separate invoice identifying the specific costs of the eligible components is required. All funding is on a cost-shared basis.

For livestock producers, assistance to improve environmental practices is based on existing animal units at the time of application.

FEDERAL FUNDING CAPS

The Growing Forward (2009-2013) federal funding available in Category G for all BMP projects has an overall maximum of \$50,000 per applicant over the life of the Agreement. As part of this cap, projects in BMP 31 and BMP 32 together cannot exceed \$15,000 per applicant over the life of the Agreement. Other caps that apply to specific projects or BMP categories are listed under each BMP.

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT (CEAA) CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES

- In order for a producer to be eligible for federal funding, the producer must comply with all conditions outlined in the CEAA Construction Guidelines that are specific for each Beneficial Management Practice. These guidelines will be attached to the approved *Letter of Agreement* from the PBRM Office.

CLAIMING REQUIREMENTS

- A site visit is required for all physical projects prior to release of payment.
- The applicant must incorporate all mitigation measures outlined in the CEAA Construction Guidelines as per the *Letter of Agreement* and provide copies of any necessary permits/approvals received.