

FACT SHEET

Environmental Farm Plan and Beneficial Management Practices Programs

Program Description:

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) has committed \$13.39 million over five years (to March 31, 2023) to support the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) and Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) program. The EFP and BMP programs focus on regenerative agriculture principles of decreasing the agriculture sector's impact on B.C.'s soil, water, air and biodiversity resources, while improving the sectors' resilience by mitigating risks to the environment and compliance risks with respect to environmental legislation.

Key Facts: EFP/BMP Program:

- The EFP and BMP programs are separate programs, but they are related and integrated under one agreement with ARDCorp.
- The EFP program provides planning services to producers. ARDCorp subcontracts and oversees the work of 28 'planning advisors' that Ministry staff train to provide these services to producers. Producers access these services voluntarily, at no cost and they end up with confidential plans (EFPs) that provide access to the BMP cost-sharing. The Ministry pays for the planning advisors' services.
- The BMP program provides cost-sharing to eligible producers for additional services, equipment, and on-farm infrastructure that address priorities identified in the EFP. One eligibility requirement for a producer to access BMP funding is having a valid EFP that identifies the need for the BMP funding.

Objectives:

- Assist producers with on-farm risk assessments (Environmental Farm Plans (EFPs)); and
- Assist in the adoption of better practices for the farm & environment (Beneficial Management Practice projects (BMP projects)).

Delivered by the B.C. Agricultural Research & Development Corporation (ARDCorp).

Funding Allocation of \$13.4 M (2018/19 to 2022/23):

- \$2.40 M in 2018/19
- \$2.34 M in 2019/20
- \$4.11 M in 2020/21
 - \$2.25 M from the *Canadian Agricultural Partnership* (CAP)
 - \$0.26 M Base (Province of B.C.)
 - \$1.60 M StrongerBC Economic Recovery (Province of B.C.)
- \$2,250,000 in 2021/22
- \$2,250,000 in 2022/23

Progress to date:

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
# of Environmental Farm Plans Completed	353	348	491
# of On-Farm BMP Projects Completed	273	323	422
Total Value of BMP Projects	\$3.55 M	\$3.27 M	\$7.99 M
Value of BMP Cost-Share Funding	\$1.48 M	\$1.36 M	\$2.94 M
(% of total Value of BMP projects)	(42%)	(42%)	(37%)

Overall, funding has increased within the last three years for projects that improve irrigation efficiency (Table 1) or reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (Table 2).

Table 1. Irrigation efficiency improvement projects.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Number of projects completed	7	18	36
Cost-share funding to producers	\$0.15 M	\$0.23 M	\$0.65 M
Total project costs (including producer costs)	\$0.44 M	\$0.74 M	\$2.35 M

Table 2. Greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction projects.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Number of projects completed	40	35	83
Cost-share funding to producers	\$0.29 M	\$0.22 M	\$0.73 M
Total project costs (including producer costs)	\$1.32 M	\$0.78 M	\$2.38 M

StrongerBC Economic Recovery Funding in 2020/21:

As part of StrongerBC, \$1.6 M of Economic Recovery funding was used to top up the BMP program to help build adaptive capacity and encourage the adoption of effective farm practices to help mitigate impacts related to climate change. The breakdown of the \$1.6 M was as follows:

• 178 Beneficial Management Practice projects	\$1.43 M
• 105 Soil Nutrient Assessment projects ^a	\$0.04 M
• Administration fees to delivery agent	\$0.13 M
Total	\$1.60 M

a. Soil Nutrient Assessments reimbursed 105 farmers for soil tests for up to 13 fields per farm, primarily used by dairy farms

The benefits of the Economic Recovery funding were distributed widely across all regions of B.C. Most of the funds were spent on 21 projects that directly reduced carbon dioxide

(CO₂) emissions. Grain growers were the second largest recipient of funds (\$) after the beef cow-calf (ranching) sector (Fig. 1).

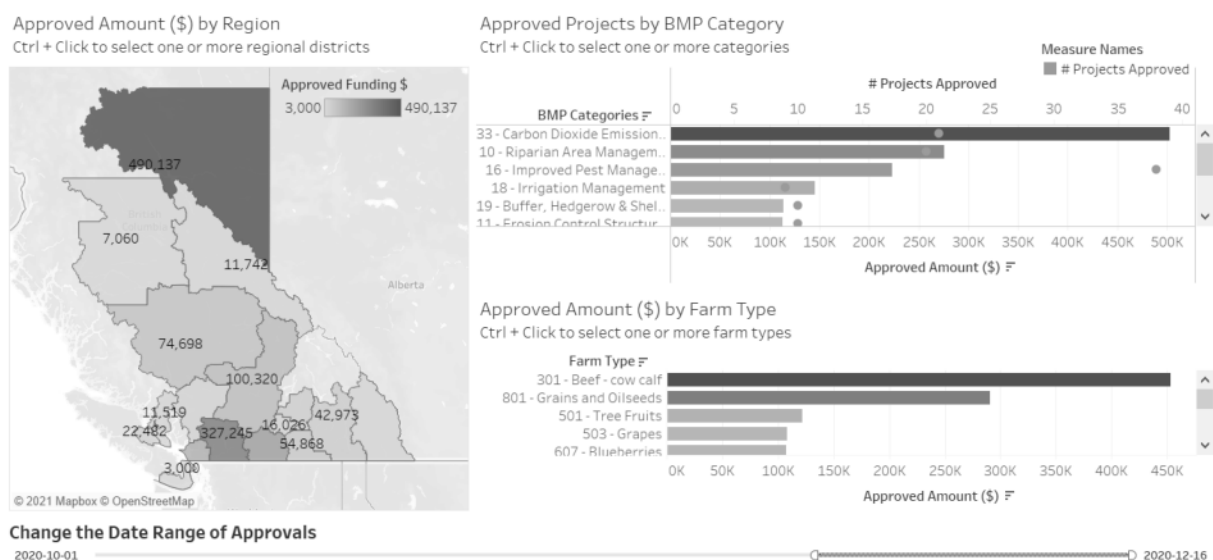


Figure 1. Distribution of Economic Recovery funding among approved BMP projects.

General Fast Facts:

- Through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), support for the EFP and BMP programs continues. Under CAP, AGRI provides 40 per cent of these dollars with the federal government providing 60 per cent.
- EFP program is a free, confidential, on-farm assessment of environmental risks.
- Producers may be eligible for financial cost-share incentives from the Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) Program, to address and mitigate the environmental and climatic risks identified in their EFP.
- Cost-share incentives are available for a broad range of planning and innovative infrastructure BMP categories (e.g. irrigation efficiency, manure management, climate change mitigation and adaptation).
- Each BMP has various cost share levels and percentages, with an overall per farm cap of \$70,000 of BMP funding.

FACT SHEET
Climate Adaptation in Agriculture

Key Facts: Climate Change Adaptation Program

- AFF has allocated \$6.5M for climate change adaptation from 2018 to 2023, funded through the five-year federal-provincial-territorial Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP).
- The program is delivered through two agreements. One agreement is with ARDCorp and another is with IAF. The idea of the two agreements was to realize the potential benefits of ARDCorp's linkages with industry through while leveraging the contract administration advantages of IAF.
- Under both agreements, the Climate and Agriculture Initiative (CAI) is a subcontractor that delivers the program.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Admin Fees and Expenses	\$73,229	\$66,291	\$53,943	\$47,676
Program (Non-Admin) Fees & Expenses	\$732,292	\$640,970	\$489,806	\$476,762
Total Fees and Expenses	\$805,521	\$707,261	\$543,748	\$524,438

Key Fact: Climate Programming

- Climate change creates serious implications for B.C. farmers.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) is working with the agriculture industry, local governments, and other partners to help farmers and ranchers across the province prepare and adapt to changing climate and weather-related production risks and impacts.
- Eight regional agricultural adaptation strategies have been completed in key agricultural regions of the province since 2013; the final strategy under CAP was completed in 2020/21 for Vancouver Island.
- These strategies address climate related risks such as wildfire, drought, flooding, pests, and diseases.
- Since 2013, 71 climate change regional adaptation projects have been funded, and 20 were in progress in 2020/21.
- AFF is also funding 12 collaborative applied research projects to pilot and demonstrate innovative adaptation practices on B.C. farms and ranches.

Background:

- Adapting to climate change is a priority for the agriculture sector, and B.C. farmers face unique challenges due to diverse geographies and commodities. For B.C. producers, climate change implications include: increased management complexity, business costs, and uncertainty due to impacts from climate related risks such as wildfire, drought, flooding, pests, and diseases.
- Climate change also creates opportunities for the sector in terms of an increase in growing days and opportunities for new crops.

- Successful adaptation is required for industry to manage risks and realize opportunities.
- AFF supports adaptation by providing funding to and working in partnership with industry, primarily through the Climate & Agriculture Initiative BC (CAI).
- Existing programming focuses on working with industry, local governments, and other partners to create regional adaptation strategies that identify and address climate change priorities. Strategies have been completed for eight regions: Bulkley-Nechako & Fraser Fort George, Cariboo, Delta, Fraser Valley, Kootenay & Boundary, Okanagan, the Peace, and Vancouver Island.
- Existing programming also supports applied research on innovative adaptation practices on B.C. farms and ranches, with 12 projects currently underway across the province. Many of these projects are focused on regenerative agricultural practices and technologies.
- Building on the success of wildfire planning templates developed in the Cariboo and Okanagan regions, the Ministry's Climate Change Adaptation Program has funded 18 regional "BC Farm & Ranch Wildfire Preparedness Workshops" reaching 438 workshop participants since 2018.
- Climate adaptation programming is funded with approximately \$6.5M (2018-2023) provided through the federal-provincial-territorial Canadian Agricultural Partnership.
- The Ministry is providing the BC Agricultural Climate Adaptation Research Network (ACARN) with \$22,000 each fiscal year, from 2019/20 to 2021/22, to support delivery of provincial and regional workshops. ACARN is a collaboration among agricultural researchers, industry specialists, policy-makers, students and producers.
- Based on the B.C. climate risk assessment, AFF is working with other Ministries on the development of a B.C. climate change preparedness and adaptation strategy. Public release of the draft strategy is planned for spring 2021.

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