
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SUSTAINABILITY ASSURANCE INITIATIVES GRANT PROGRAM

PROGRAM SUMMARY

January 2019

This document is provided as a summary only. Full details can be found in the Agriculture and Food Sustainability Assurance Initiatives Grant Program's Terms and Conditions and the Funding List available online at CAP.Alberta.ca

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Agriculture and Food Sustainability Assurance Initiatives Program is a new program under the Public Trust Program theme funded through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) which is in effect from April 2018 until March 2023. This program provides support to develop and enhance sustainability certification or assurance systems to demonstrate to the public the quality, safety and sustainability of products produced by farmers and food companies.

PRIMARY FOCUS

The Agriculture and Food Sustainability Assurance Initiatives Program is intended to build public trust in agriculture by supporting the development and delivery of innovative, collaborative programs. Applicants are encouraged to design projects that:

- > Develop or enhance sustainability assurance systems
- > Increase knowledge, awareness, and participation by producers and food processors in industry sustainability assurance systems
- > Enhance producer and processor access to markets that require sustainably sourced product.

SECONDARY BENEFITS

Improve the public's understanding of agriculture and the food production system. **Please note:** Education activities directed solely at the general public (e.g. a non-agriculture audience) may qualify under the Public Trust: **Public Agriculture Literacy Program**. Please contact 310-farm (3276) or CAP.PublicTrust@gov.ab.ca if you need assistance determining under which program your project applies.

ANCILLARY FACTORS

- > **Project impacts/effects on target audience:**
 - > Projects that clearly define the target audience and how this project is relevant to that audience
 - > Projects that have a clear relevance to current or emerging agriculture issues and a direct connection between activities and measurable outcomes.
- > **Collaboration and Partnership:**
 - > Ideally, proposed projects will involve partnerships or collaboration with multiple organizations/groups.
- > **Longevity, Sustainability, and Maintenance:**
 - > Projects that have a plan in place for ongoing updates or maintenance of the deliverables to ensure continued relevance after the project term. This plan should constitute minimal expense and be funded from NGO sources.
- > **Reach/Scale of Effort:**
 - > Projects that have an impact regionally or provincially and demographically (i.e. commodity/commodities) and could be presented to a wider audience.

ACTIVITIES THAT MAY BE ELIGIBLE UNDER OTHER CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS:

- > Environmental benchmarking studies including life cycle analyses, environmental footprinting, and gap analyses strictly associated with the environmental outcomes and are NOT part of a larger assurance initiative - [Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Group Program](#)
- > Extension activities with the sole intent to promote to primary producers the adoption of environmental beneficial management practices (BMPs) associated with an assurance initiative - [Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Group Program](#)
- > Development of label and certification standards where the outcome of the project is geared toward accessing an international market or creating a new product – [Product Development Program](#)
- > Risk Management (eg. Animal Health, Food Safety, Plant Health, Farm Safety, Humane Slaughter, Irrigation Conveyance)

If you need assistance to determine which CAP Program your project should be associated with, please contact CAP.PublicTrust@gov.ab.ca

HOW WILL THE GRANT BE ADMINISTERED?

Typically there will be two application intake dates per year, as stated on the website. All applications are subject to merit-based evaluation. The funding year is from April 1 to March 31.

There is currently a three year grant funding maximum for approved applications

REPORT REQUIREMENTS

If your application is approved, you will be required to submit a final report. Successful applications for projects over 1 year will be required to submit a satisfactory interim report upon completion of the first year of the project prior to receiving the remainder of the grant. Additional interim reports may be required, as stated in the applicant's grant agreement.

In addition, please provide a citation for any sources for information used in development of materials related to the project.

SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

Applicants are encouraged to contact Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) who can be reached at 310-farm (3276) or CAP.PublicTrust@gov.ab.ca before submitting an application. AF can provide potential grant applicants with information about:

- > Background and details about program intent.
- > Information about current sustainability assurance initiatives and connect to other AF subject matter expertise, if required.
- > Consumer awareness and understanding of agriculture and the food production systems, perspectives and attitudes towards key areas of agriculture and the food production system.
- > Current sustainability initiatives including webinars.
- > Current industry perspectives towards public trust, sustainability, knowledge and awareness of current sustainability initiatives.

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