



Amendments to *Water Act* and Alberta Wetlands Policy coming soon for farmers

The Government of Alberta has announced that they will remove *Water Act* approval requirements for routine agriculture activities in fall 2026.

The new exemptions will apply to specified agricultural activities on private cropland, including cultivating, direct seeding, spraying, surface water draining or ditching, and infilling involving ephemeral water bodies and temporary and seasonal wetlands.

Water managed under the exemptions must remain on site and must not adversely affect neighbouring properties or infrastructure.

Amendments to the *Water* (Ministerial) Regulation and Alberta Wetland Policy are expected to take effect this fall.

Read the Aug. 28 announcement at alberta.ca/news (scroll down until you hit the Aug. 28 announcement).



Email to Register!



Technology Tinder

CFGA Conference Workshop

For Producers & Extension Agents

[November 12, 2026 | 9 am - 4:30 pm]
[Best Western Calgary Plaza Hotel, Calgary, AB]

Technology Match-Up – session showcasing new grazing and forage technologies for extension professionals and early-adoption producers including

- Rangeview,
- John Deere Operations Center
- And more...
- Measur Drones
- Agrivanna pasture software

Speaker - Stacey Domolewski, BCRC - 'Tools & Calculators - Getting the most out of your technology investment'

Producer panel featuring candid responses on real-world experiences combining new technology including virtual fencing, drones and real-time mapping

RSVP: adrienne@canadianfga.ca **Fee: \$25**
Admittance free with full CFGA Conference ticket



Environmental Farm Plan workshop

Did you know that a current Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is required for some producer funding programs and sustainable sourcing platforms? Join the Sustainable Agriculture Program for a free in-person session and work on your farm's EFP with the support of trained technicians.

- ▶ **Date:** Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026
- ▶ **Time:** 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Location:** County of Wetaskiwin administrative office, 243019A Highway 13
- ▶ **Register:** Pre-registration is required, either online at county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca/EFP-Workshop or call Kim at **780-387-6182**

Space is limited; pre-register early!



Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)

A free, confidential way to understand environmental strengths, manage risks and support your farm's future.

The Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) has more than two decades of history, experience and commitment behind it as it helps support Alberta's agri-food industry. In 2025, Alberta farmers and ranchers completed a record number of EFPs, marking the fifth consecutive year of participation growth.

Why complete an EFP?

The EFP is a voluntary, free process that considers your farming operation as a whole. It helps you recognize areas of strength and identify potential environmental risks. Benefits include:

- ▶ **Risk assessment:** Identify and address potential environmental risks on your farm.
- ▶ **Confidentiality:** Information remains confidential between you and your EFP technician.
- ▶ **Free and voluntary participation:** Complete your EFP at no cost and on your own terms.
- ▶ **Ongoing support:** Your regional EFP technician is available before, during and after the process.
- ▶ **Connections to other programs:** A current EFP is an eligibility requirement for some grant and market-access programs.

You know your farm best.

An EFP is a self-assessment, so your firsthand knowledge is its most valuable input. Consultants can help with many specialized tasks, but completing the EFP yourself—with guidance from your free, trained EFP technician—helps ensure the plan reflects your operation, priorities and goals.

Local support is available

Producers in Wetaskiwin and Leduc counties can receive free support from the Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator, a trained EFP technician. For help completing your EFP, call **780-387-6182** or email kbarkwell@county10.ca.

Learn more at albertaefp.com.



Do you have an ALUS project idea?

For ten years, farmers and ranchers in the County of Wetaskiwin and Leduc County have been at the heart of ALUS, sharing local knowledge, developing practical solutions, and embracing new ideas.

Have a project idea? Contact the ALUS Wetaskiwin-Leduc Coordinator to help shape the next decade of practical solutions.

Kim Barkwell

- ▶ kim@leduc-county.com
- ▶ **780-387-6182**



Producer grant funding

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (S-CAP) offers cost-shared grant programs for farmers and ranchers. Subscribe to S-CAP updates to stay informed.

For a quick overview of available programs, eligibility requirements and intake status, visit alberta.ca/sustainable-cap-programs.

► **The On-Farm Efficiency Program (OFEP)** opened for year three intake on Sept. 23, 2026, and was fully allocated the morning of Sept. 24.

► There is one more year of S-CAP, so have your application ready for the next time it opens. OFEP includes four funding streams:

- Smart Farm Technology
- Energy Efficiency
- Farm Security
- Efficient Grain Handling

► Learn more at alberta.ca/on-farm-efficiency-program

► **The Water Program** supports the construction of new water sources, including wells and dugouts, as well as other water-related projects.

► Learn more at alberta.ca/water-program or call an Alberta Agriculture water specialist toll-free at **310-FARM (3276)**.

On Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)

Through all On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) delivery partners, producers can receive up to \$100,000 over the life of the program, which ends March 31, 2028.

1. Results Driven Agricultural Research (RDAR)

► The Results Driven Agricultural Research (RDAR) program offers an **85/15 cost share**, with OFCAF covering 85 per cent of eligible project establishment costs. Eligible projects include improved nitrogen management, cover cropping and expanded rotational grazing plus virtual fencing.

► Learn more at rdar.ca/funding-opportunities/ofcaf

2. Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association (CFGa)

► The Canadian Forage and Grasslands Association (CFGa) program offers a **70/30 cost share**, with OFCAF covering 70 per cent of eligible project establishment costs. Funding focuses on rotational grazing, including virtual fencing systems and pasture improvement.

► Learn more and start planning at www.canadianfga.ca/en/pasture-grazing/farm-climate-action-fund/

Don't forget! The County's Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator can assist local producers with applications. Reach out to Kim at kim@leduc-county.com or **780-387-6182** for help.



2026

AG FORUM

Thursday, November 26, 2026

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Lakedell Ag Society Hall, 461043 RGE RD 12

Join us for this free event (lunch included) open to all agriculture producers. Connect with fellow producers and hear from expert speakers sharing the latest trends and opportunities shaping the future of agriculture.

Scan the QR code, call the number below or e-mail info@jedialberta.com for more details & to register.

www.jedialberta.com

780-361-6232



Kim's Corner

Regenerative Agriculture — what's old is new again

There is no single, widely accepted definition of regenerative agriculture in Canada. A literature review by the CSA group identified agreement on five key principles of regenerative agriculture in Canada.

1. Minimize soil disturbance
2. Keep soil covered year-round
3. Keep live plants and living roots in the soil as long as possible
4. Enhance biodiversity above and below ground
5. Incorporate livestock

Improving soil health is a key goal of regenerative practices and can also help address climate challenges.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada reports that the share of farmland using minimal tillage rose from 10 per cent in 1991 to 60 per cent in 2011, with the largest change on the Prairies. Canadian agricultural soils shifted from a net source of 1.2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year in 1981 to a net sink of 4.2 million tonnes in 2019.

That progress is one reason public programs have focused on helping

producers manage the financial risk of changing practices. The federal On-Farm Climate Action Fund supports nitrogen management, cover cropping and rotational grazing—practices intended to store carbon, reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and strengthen soil and pasture resilience. The Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program is delivered by provinces and territories to support beneficial practices suited to local conditions. Funding cannot decide what belongs on a farm, but it can make trials more practical.

At the Central Alberta Forage and Livestock AGM this summer, every producer on a regenerative-agriculture panel emphasized that their approach was not new. They described returning to practices their grandfathers used - cover crops, green manure, perennials in rotation - and relying on fewer commercial inputs. Other producers have told me the same thing: they have been implementing regenerative practices on their farm for years.

The same producer panel encouraged people to give new to them practices time; don't give up after one season.

Producers can try practices that fit their farm and then judge them by results: better ground cover, improved water infiltration, more stable yields, efficient input use and a healthier bottom line. There is plenty of room to improve without dismissing the knowledge already on farms. If there were no room for improvement, I would be out of a job.

No-till garden update

Remember when I converted part of my garden to no-till methods? After my first season, I'm sold! Potatoes were the highlight: I placed seed potatoes directly on the soil and covered them with straw. It may sound unusual, but it worked—without hilling, digging or accidentally spearing any potatoes.



Stay connected

Leduc County

Sign up for Ag Matters, Leduc County's monthly agricultural e-newsletter. Subscribe at www.leduc-county.com/agriculture.

County of Wetaskiwin

Receive email/text message updates directly to your phone from the County of Wetaskiwin about agricultural services such as mowing, spraying, the ALUS program, weeds and pest control. To sign up, visit www.county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca/notify, enter your email address, scroll down to News Flashes and select the letter(email) or phone(text) icon next to Agricultural to subscribe. For assistance, contact **780-361-6220**.

Looking for more?

If you have any questions or wish to bring a matter to the attention of your Agricultural Service Board, please contact:

- ▶ County of Wetaskiwin No. 10 Agricultural Services: 780-361-6226 or visit www.county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca
- ▶ Leduc County Agricultural Services: 780-955-4593 or visit www.leduc-county.com

