



Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP or S-CAP), supports farmers and ranchers with the following cost-shared grant programs:

- ▶ Farm Technology Program
- ▶ Efficient Grain Handling Program
- ▶ Water Program
- ▶ On-Farm Value-Added Program
- ▶ Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program

All program details and contact information can be found on the S-CAP website. Most of the above programs also require a current Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). An EFP is considered current if it was approved within the last ten years.

Funding Highlights

- ▶ The Efficient Grain Handling Program (EGHP) funds grain handling equipment that shows a significant energy efficiency improvement over standard practice. Funding of up to \$100,000/applicant is available for approved projects. Program funding is retroactive to April 1, 2023.
- ▶ The Farm Technology Program supports the adoption of innovative technology that minimizes agricultural waste, optimizes farm efficiency, or improves the security of farming operations. Funding of up to \$48,000/applicant is available for items that fall under the Farm Technology Stream, and up to \$2,000/applicant for items in the Farm Security Stream. Program funding is retroactive to April 1, 2023.
- ▶ The Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) is a new program that provides funding up to \$150,000 for Primary Producers, and up to \$300,000 for Indigenous applicants or groups such as Grazing Reserve Associations and/or Community Pastures for select BMP projects. Funding is offered on a per-acre payment basis for a term of three years.

To review funding lists and see what might fit for your operational plans visit www.alberta.ca/sustainable-cap.aspx.

On Farm Climate Action Fund

- ▶ Canada Organic Trade Association and EcoCert Canada. To learn more visit www.canada-organic.ca/en/what-we-do/market-access/farm-climate-action-fund
- ▶ Canola Council of Canada – Year two applications opened June 26 and will cover expenses paid by the grower between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024, related to:
 - ▶ Soil testing
 - ▶ Field zone mapping
 - ▶ Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizer (EFF)
 - ▶ Development of 4R plans

The preferred application BMP is paused until 2024 when seasonal price differentials for nitrogen fertilizer can be determined.

To learn more visit www.canolacouncil.org/4r-advantage

Alberta EFP

3 EASY STEPS

WWW.ALBERTAEPF.COM



1. The first step of registration begins through the Alberta EFP website www.albertaefp.com or by calling 1-587-200-2552 to receive over the phone assistance.

2. Once registered, click on the confirmation email you received to fully activate your account. A technician will be assigned to you over the following two weeks. If you feel comfortable you can begin your online workbook right away.

3. If you have any questions, you can contact your technician or attend a local/online workshop to receive additional support.



ALUS Wetaskiwin-Leduc



ALUS - originally an acronym for Alternative Land Use Services - is a community-developed and farmer-delivered program offered in Wetaskiwin and Leduc counties through the sustainable agriculture program partnership. Recruitment of new projects and participants is ongoing and subject to yearly budget allocation.

A Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) reviews projects and makes funding decisions. Winter is the perfect time to contact the program coordinator and discuss how the ALUS program may fit your farm plans.

Learn more at ALUS.ca.

Water is an essential nutrient, and when clean freshly supplied water is provided to animals it delivers benefits to their health. Common ALUS projects include watering systems that keep livestock out of surface water bodies. There are different types of watering systems used which depend on a variety of factors.

This summer two ALUS Wetaskiwin-Leduc participant farmers shared their knowledge and experience during a tour in the Sunnybrook area. We visited four locations which highlighted different watering systems. Thank you to everyone who participated in the tour!

For more information on ALUS or to discuss your plans, contact Kim by email at kbarkwell@county10.ca or call **780-387-6182**.



Sunnybrook area tour bus.



Frost-free nose pump. A year-round watering option that is frost-free without supplemental heat.



Drilled well and drain back winter watering system within a pasture.



Drilled well and solar pump in yard.



Surface water source and solar watering system, featuring a unique trough design.



Bats in Alberta

Bats have an important role in our ecosystem as they are the primary consumers of nocturnal insects, including farm and forest pests and mosquitoes.

This summer, the little brown myotis – also known as the little brown bat – along with the northern myotis (bat), both became listed as endangered. This was carried out because a fungal disease called ‘White-Nose Syndrome’ was detected in 2022 in Alberta. Over 90% of bats infected by this fungus could die, so it is important to protect bats and their habitat to ensure populations can recover

from the disease. It is illegal to harm or kill any species of bat in Alberta. Learn more alberta.ca/white-nose-syndrome.

Despite their appearance, the more you know about bats the more you can appreciate them! The little brown myotis bat is the most common species found in Alberta and weighs only 8 or 9 grams. According to the Canadian Wildlife Federation website, a lactating little brown myotis can eat its weight in insects in one night. Generally, most little brown myotis consume about 1000 insects per night, or half their body weight!

The bat does not migrate, but rather hibernates during the winter. To prepare for hibernation, bats will eat greater quantities of food and increase their weight by over 30%. The northern myotis is similar in appearance to the little brown myotis and are residents of the boreal forest, foothills and mountains.

To learn more about bats and find strategies to deal with bats roosting in buildings or in living spaces visit albertabats.ca or alberta.ca/bats

Alberta AgriSystems Living Lab

“Where Research Meets Reality”

What is a living lab?

A living lab brings together farmers, scientists and other sector partners to co-develop and test beneficial practices on farms. Living labs are part of the federal Agricultural Climate Solutions Initiative and there are nine labs situated across the county. Each living lab will implement projects to sequester carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide other environmental co-benefits. Learn more: agriculture.canada.ca/en/environment/climate-change/agricultural-climate-solutions/agricultural-climate-solutions-living-labs

The Alberta AgriSystems Living Lab (AALL) matches research partners with producers interested in participating and adopting new beneficial management practices. The program hopes to learn if practices are profitable, productive and beneficial for the environment as well as how to validate wins. The program will also look at the incentives and barriers to adoption and develop solutions to those barriers.

The AALL focuses on measuring the impacts of beneficial management practices in:

- ▶ Optimizing carbon storage in production systems – this activity recognizes that carbon storage on a landscape is not identical and seeks to identify where the most gains can be achieved.
- ▶ Land use changes – such as wetland restoration, marginal land conversion to forage, riparian area buffer zones, intercropping with trees, shelter belt management, silvopasture, pasture rejuvenation, etc.
- ▶ Nutrient/fertilizer management.
- ▶ Cropping rotations and systems.
- ▶ Livestock feeding and grazing management.

Leduc County and Wetaskiwin County Producer program adoption

In August some producers shared their projects with us through field tours. The first tour was to Leduc County crop producers that are testing different nitrogen inhibitors on their canola fields. Two of the researchers involved were Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada and Corteva. Both farm locations were interested in learning how nitrogen inhibitors can benefit their operations.

The next tour included the Breton Plots. The Plots have been collecting data since the late 1920’s and University of Alberta researcher Edward Bork described how their plot data was compared to CQESTR – a carbon dynamics model for use with agricultural soils. We also learned about another group of data that Breton Plots have analyzed over 40 years. This data showed perennial forage systems and a complex eight-year forage-crop rotation system have greater potential to store soil carbon compared to continuous grain. This trend reflects the *On Farm Climate Action Fund* and *Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program* which supports projects that add perennial forages into annual crop rotations. The tour also stopped at two additional farms who have implemented increased rotational grazing practices on their farm. They were great tours of AALL in our counties!

To learn more or provide program ideas visit agrisystemsll.ca



Producer participant and AALL executive director.

Kim's corner

You might remember that in 2022 my 3400 sq foot garden plot was turned into a pollinator delight and was a feast for the eyes; I wanted to take a break from gardening and improve soil health at the same time. It was good to take a break from vegetable gardening; however, the family missed those fresh vegetables, so seeds were bought, and a new garden planted in 2023.



2022 garden



2023 cover crop

This year's project did not start well. The soil was very dry at planting and there was a great deal of residue left from the year before. Plenty of volunteer plants came up too. Generally, I do not water the garden plot, so it took a long time for those poor seeds to germinate, and the peas never did. It also took a long time for my latest 'new to me' practice to germinate; that was the subterranean clover seeded between the rows and on the edges. Fallow land depletes soil carbon and leaves topsoil vulnerable to erosion. Subterranean clover makes for a good cover crop because it is annual, low to the ground and fixes nitrogen.

After the initial planting, there were times I was tempted to fire up the rototiller and get that black soil back between the rows. After all, isn't that what a 'good' garden is supposed to look like? Fortunately, I resisted! Things improved once the rain came, and the volunteer plants were removed from the vegetable rows. It was a below average harvest this year, but at least we had some vegetables to enjoy. The subterranean clover – and volunteer plants from last year – are mowed frequently to reduce the number of volunteers who may arrive next year, and the clover sure does make for a nice carpet to walk on and allows for quick garden access after rainfall. I'm definitely sold on the subterranean clover and the strawberries really seem to like it too!



2023 fall strawberry harvest

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

Expanding your local food business

Leduc County is holding a workshop on scaling up your business to access new markets and providing a food processing development centre tour.

Event Details

- ▶ **Date:** Wednesday, Oct. 11
- ▶ **Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ▶ **Cost:** \$25 (Includes lunch)
- ▶ **Register:** Online at www.leduc-county.com/en/business-and-development/local-food.aspx or contact Sharon Faye at 780-770-9271 or sharon@leduc-county.com.



SAVE THE DATE

AG FORUM

Thursday, November 30, 2023
Lakedell Agricultural Society Grounds

FREE event (including lunch) for local farmers/ag producers. Featuring expert speakers presenting on a variety of emerging agriculture topics. Check JEDI's Social Media @JEDIAAlberta, website, or scan the QR code for more information as it becomes available. Registration will open soon!

www.jedialberta.com **780-335-5334**



