

Environmental Stewardship News

- Highlighting information, projects & resources from the Environmental Stewardship Branch (ESB)

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Website Changes

Have you noticed something looks different when using the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) website? The AF website is currently being migrated to the Government of Alberta (GOA) website. After March 31, 2019 the AF ministry information will be under the GOA website. So what does this mean to you?

- Your bookmarked links should continue to work. When the changes from the AF website to the GOA website are complete, the links and shortcuts should redirect to the information and resources transferred to the GOA website.
- Pages might look dated the next few months while this change is happening. If you need to confirm you have the most updated information, please reach out to your ESB contacts. We will try to connect you to the necessary resources for your extension needs.
- Currently typing in www.agriculture.alberta.ca will go directly to the AF ministry page on the GOA website. Please be aware that not all our information is currently there during the GOA website migration. During this transition, if you are unable to locate information, please try to search for the documents on Google.
- Factsheets and publications are moving to an area called “[open government](#)”. This is a separate area from the direct GOA website. Navigation will be different and might take time before documents relocate to that area.
- If the links in this newsletter are not working or your bookmarks are not redirecting, please contact [Laura Thygesen](#). She will try her best to help you locate the necessary environmental stewardship information during this transition to the GOA website.

What's New - Environmental Stewardship & Climate Change Program

There are new changes to the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) [Environmental Stewardship & Climate Change \(ES&CC\) Producer Program](#). The changes are available on the CAP website and highlighted below:

1. The target audience now includes Commercial Manure Applicators.
 - Eligible to apply for specific manure application equipment and other items related to improved land application of manure
 - Pre-requisite for funding is attendance and participation in a Commercial Manure Applicator workshop. Workshop information will be on the CAP ES&CC website.
 - Eligible expenses are retroactive to January 1, 2019 under Category E.
2. Changes to the Innovative Category (Category D) are the following:
 - A new application form has been created
 - Eligible expenses are retroactive to April 1, 2018.
 - Innovation definition is clarified in the Funding List.

3. Revision to in-kind contribution rule:
 - In-kind contribution caps for Activity Code 101 (Riparian Fencing) and 304 (Shelterbelt Establishment) were modified from 25% to 50% of eligible expenditures.
 - Changes were effective as of Feb 13, 2019. Any application received after this date qualify for the new rate; applications received prior to this date are still subject to the old rate.
4. Revision to application submission methods to include email and mail.
5. Inclusion of a standard precedence clause stating that approval of any project through the Technical Review Panel shall not set a precedent for approval of similar projects.

The 2019 intake dates for the ES&CC [Producer](#) & [Group](#) Programs are below. If you have any questions regarding these changes for the Producer Program, please contact [Denika Piggott](#). For questions regarding the Group Program, please contact [Barb Archibald](#).

ES&CC Producer Program

Intake deadline	Review Committee Meeting
March 7, 2019	March 28, 2019
May 15, 2019	May 29, 2019
July 24, 2019	August 14, 2019
October 2, 2019	October 23, 2019
November 20, 2019	December 11, 2019

ES&CC Group Program

Intake deadline	Review Committee Meeting
March 14, 2019	April 11, 2019
August 1, 2019	August 29, 2019
January 30, 2020	February 20, 2020

Program Posters

Thank you to everyone stopping by the booth to talk to our Environmental Stewardship and Energy Outreach staff this winter. It is great to hear feedback and thoughts on your extension needs. For those looking for extra help summarizing the funding programs, here are some posters for your use. These posters are available for you to post on your website, send out with your group emails and newsletters or share directly with your members. Also included is a poster for the ManureTracker App.

Posters:

- [Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change – Producer](#)
- Farm Energy and Agri-Processing Program – attached to email
- Solar Program – attached to email
- [ManureTracker App](#)



Agricultural Carbon Offsets Reminder

Remember that farmers must have their quarters pre-registered by the **May 1st deadline**. For further information see [May 1st Sign Up Date for Conservation Cropping Offsets](#) on the [Agricultural Carbon Offsets](#) page or contact [Paul Jungnitsch](#).

Ag Plastics Recycling Pilot Project

The Alberta Beef Producers received \$1,000,000 grant to coordinate the recycling program on behalf of the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG). The APRG will implement the three-year pilot program. To view press releases, please refer to the email attachment but note that the funding levels were increased to \$1 M.

The Alberta Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Program is aimed at:

- recycling grain bags and twine
- researching markets for other agricultural plastics not included in the pilot program
- conducting a waste characterization study to determine agricultural plastic volumes
- surveying producers to get feedback
- educating producers on the program and how to recycle their plastics

For all questions relating to the Alberta Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Program, please contact [Tammy Schwass](#) from APRG.

Coming Events Calendar

Check out the list below to see when and where you can connect with our AF specialists and stock up on the newest publications, factsheets and grant information.

Events and Topics of Interest:

Western Canadian Dairy Seminar, Red Deer – March 6- 8, 2019

- ESB is sharing a booth with Economics at this event. ESB specialists will be there to talk about energy efficiency, sustainability, manure management and of course demonstrate the [ManureTracker](#) app.

Sustainability Series Webinar: [Future Directions for Alberta's Environmental Farm Plan](#) – March 19, 2019 @ 10:00 AM MDT.

- Even if you are not able to listen to the live webinar, please register. This will allow the recording to be sent directly to you (as we are unable to update the Sustainability Series page during the GOA website changes). To register for this webinar, [click here](#).

Look for the **Farm Energy Outreach Officers** at the booth or catch them speaking at one of the following events:

- [Peace Country Classic Agri-Show](#) in Grande Prairie on March 7-9, 2019
- [SARDA Agricultural Trade Show](#) in Falher on March 14-16, 2019
- [Organic Alberta La Crete Conference](#) at the Le Crete Heritage Centre from April 5- 6, 2019

