

RED RIVER MÉTIS ON-FARM CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAM



ACTIVITY#1 FACT SHEET

SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION AND ON-FARM IMPLEMENTATION OF NITROGEN MANAGEMENT BMPs

Through this program, the MMF will provide non-repayable funding (up to \$75,000- and based on the number of applications received) to Red River Métis Citizens engaged in agricultural production, to support the adoption and on-farm implementation of (1) Nitrogen Management BMPs, (2) Cover Cropping BMPs, and (3) Rotational Grazing BMPs.

Cost-share ratio:

95% non-repayable contribution
5% in-kind contribution required

**For all inquiries on the program, please email: agriculture@mmf.mb.ca
To ensure we are able to contact you, please provide us with your phone number(s)**

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicant must be a Red River Métis Citizen
- Applicants must currently be engaged in agricultural production on lands owned 50% or greater, by a Red River Métis Citizen(s), and must provide proof of at least 50% ownership only on the lands in which project activities will be conducted on.
- Applicants who wish to utilize project funds on rented or non-crown lease lands are required to provide the MMF with signed consent by the landowner(s), and proof of possession lasting until at least March 31, 2024. Documented proof must be provided at the time of application submission to ensure eligibility and avoid delays.
- Applicants with no alternative but to utilize project funds on crown lease lands should first contact agriculture@mmf.mb.ca to discuss eligible activities.
- Eligibility will be determined based on funding availability for applicants who's farm business holds less than 50% Red River Métis ownership of the land on which program funds will be spent.
- All project costs and activities must first be approved by the MMF before any expenses incurred by the applicant are to be eligible for payment to the applicant.
- All MMF approved project activities submitted by the applicant must demonstrate BMP that are either a new practice or an improvement to the applicants existing practices.
- Applicants must ensure all eligible activities and costs are approved and signed by the appropriate staff delivering the MMF's Manitoba Métis On-Farm Climate Action Program before any purchases or on-farm work begins.
- Applicants are welcome to include their Red River Métis values and traditions into eligible activities, provided applicant can justify how their values and traditions fit within eligible project activities.
- Costs associated with the creation of an applicant's action plan, and the labour costs to perform approved activities will be

Eligible Costs & Activities:

- Utilizing the services of licenced Professional Agrologists (P.Ag), with demonstrated competency, or alternatively include professionals with a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) designation. Note: The MMF will utilize a Professional Agrologist for project application approval and provide sufficient virtual and on-farm supports as needed.
- Costs associated to transitioning to or improving existing manure management: Must improve manure incorporation in the soil. (Note: Injection is preferred; however, if equipment for this is not available, other methods of incorporation as soon as possible after application are also eligible. Solid manure should be incorporated as soon as possible to avoid ammonia loss.)
- Use of polymer coated urea (PCU) Nitrification and urease inhibitors must be used together (Note: the use of PCU should not exceed 33% of the nitrogen management budget)
- Split application of fertilizer with reduced rate as a result of increased crop use efficiency.
- Costs for using equipment and the associated fuel and labour required for an additional fertilizer application. (Note: Determination of costs for using equipment and the associated fuel and labour required for the additional fertilizer application needs to be in line with local custom rates.)
- Cost of fertilizer application equipment and equipment upgrades to allow for banding, side dressing and injection.

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- If transitioning to manure, costs associated with spreading, using hoses or equipment for shallow incorporation (to avoid volatilisation).
- Planning, Technical Assessments, and engineering or technical design fees and costs of other agronomic support (e.g., nutrient management plan, crop diversification plan)
- Soil testing and soil mapping costs.
- Use of soil organic amendments and synthetic fertilizer substitutes (manure/solid manure, compost, digestates).
- Seed and planting costs associated with increasing legumes in rotations.
- Costs associated with application of nitrogen in spring instead of fall.

Ineligible Costs & Activities:

- Purchase, rental, lease, or sale of land, buildings, facilities, inventory, and associated taxes and fees
- Normal operating costs associated with conducting or expanding a business
- Materials or services purchased outside the eligible invoice dates
- Any cost that is eligible for a rebate, credit, or refund
- Purchase of new or used farm equipment or other assets that is deemed non-essential to implementing eligible activities as approved by the MMF. (e.g., tractors, skid steers, combines, grain carts) and related accessories or attachments)
- Purchasing livestock, feed, seed, or any costs associated beyond what is listed under eligible costs and activities (please first review all 3 factsheets)
- Use of Biosolids
- Costs related to the management of nutrients other than nitrogen are not eligible
- BMPs applied to a specific farm area prior to the Program are ineligible (Note: however, an expansion of a BMP application on a farm area where these BMPs have not recently been used are still eligible)
- Gifts and incentives
- Costs related to activities that directly influence or lobby any level of government
- Costs of training and skills development that fulfill any academic requirements
- Costs of travel, hospitality, meals, and/or accommodations
- Tile drainage systems
- Crop storage facilities (e.g., grain bins, seed storage), TMR mixers, feed pushers and automated feeding systems.
- Multi-use items that go beyond scope of project (e.g., computers, printers, hand or power tools and attachments, etc.)
- Materials or products produced by the applicant's farm business (e.g., seed)
- Invoices not issued in the applicant's name or business

In-Kind Eligible Activities:

All In-kind activities require the approval of the appropriate MMF program staff and will be determined together with applicants on or after the date of their application approval. In-kind activities must be completed by the applicant by no later than March, 2024.

- **Recommended:** Mentoring of a Red River Métis young agrarian or established producer looking to improve their knowledge (age 18-39). Note: It is possible for a mentor to also receive mentorship to gain new perspective and knowledge to improve their business.
Details on mentoring cost that can be claimed toward in-kind will be detailed during the application approval phase. (Note: Immediate family would not typically be eligible to receive mentoring).
- Maximum 3 hours at \$25 per hour can be claimed toward in-kind to complete the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). Voluntary and confidential. The MMF will not be requesting confirmation of completion.
- Provide a gift to be distributed to Citizens in-need (e.g. Meat processed in certified facility, feed, Fur/hides, Red River Métis traditional offerings including artwork, Traditional Knowledge, bison skulls, food.
- Labour costs associated with implementing eligible activities (if they are not already claimed by the applicant)
- Other activities as determined with the successful applicant