



Growing Forward

Environmental Farm Plan Program & the Beneficial Management Practices Program

Irrigation Management BMP's - Information for Industry *June 2011*

The *Growing Forward* Canada–BC Environmental Farm Plan Program complements and enhances the current environmental stewardship practices of producers. Led by the province's agriculture and agri-food industry, this initiative encourages producers from all parts of the province to adopt Beneficial Management Practices (BMP's) that enhance agricultural sustainability and contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment.

Environmental farm planning is a no charge, confidential, voluntary process available to producers to identify both environmental strengths and potential risks on their farms. As appropriate, it includes a prioritized action plan to reduce the risks. The producer may be eligible to apply for cost-sharing incentives under the Growing Forward Beneficial Management Practice Program to address environmental risks that have been identified in the completed farm plan.

One of the categories within the BMP program that producers can access cost-shared funding is Irrigation Management. There are two main funding areas for producers/industry to be aware of; the Certified Irrigation Management Plan (Design), and the implementation of an irrigation system based on such a plan.

System Conversion (BMP 1801-intensive & 1805 - extensive) Application Process & Requirements

- 1)** Producer receives Statement of Completion after completing Environmental Farm Planning Process.
- 2)** If an irrigation system or irrigation equipment upgrade is identified as an action item through the EFP process, a producer may be eligible for BMP cost share funding.
- 3)** Producer must apply to ARDCorp to receive BMP funding approval to get a Certified Irrigation Management Plan completed as well as funding approval for any related irrigation infrastructure upgrades.
 - i) BMP funding approval is required before any work is initiated.
 - ii) EFP Planning Advisor is required to sign off on BMP funding application to ensure that Irrigation BMP upgrade was identified in the EFP process and that funding application is complete.
 - iii) Water Use Assessment worksheets from the EFP Planning Workbook that were completed by the EFP Planning Advisor must be submitted with funding application.
 - iv) Evidence of a pre-existing system (picture, certified design of existing system, etc.) must be submitted.
- 4)** Once BMP funding approval is granted, the producer can hire the Certified Irrigation Designer to complete the Certified Irrigation Plan. This plan must be submitted to ARDCorp to receive BMP funding. The Complete Certified Irrigation Management Plan must include:
 - i) Signature & seal of a certified irrigation designer
 - ii) Statement of 15% efficiency or calculation of efficiency by the certified irrigation designer
 - iii) Irrigation Design Information (as required per BC Sprinkler Irrigation Manual)
 - iv) Suitably scaled as built drawing
 - v) Detailed quote outlining materials required for irrigation infrastructure upgrade

System Upgrade (BMP 1804) Application Process and Requirements

- 1)** Producer receives Statement of Completion after completing Environmental Farm Planning Process.
- 2)** If an irrigation system or irrigation equipment upgrade is identified as an action item through the EFP process, a producer may be eligible for BMP cost share funding.
- 3)** Producer must apply to ARDCorp to receive BMP funding approval to get a Irrigation Management Plan completed as well as funding approval for any related irrigation infrastructure upgrades.
 - i) BMP funding approval is required before any work is initiated.
 - ii) EFP Planning Advisor is required to sign off on BMP funding application to ensure that Irrigation BMP upgrade was identified in the EFP process and that funding application is complete.
 - iii) Water Use Assessment worksheets from the EFP Planning Workbook that were completed by the EFP Planning Advisor must be submitted with funding application.
 - iv) Evidence of a pre-existing system (picture, certified design of existing system, etc.).
- 4)** Once BMP funding approval is granted, the producer can hire the Certified Irrigation Designer to complete an Irrigation Management Plan. The Certified Irrigation designer must inspect the site and complete an Irrigation Management Plan. This plan must be submitted to ARDCorp to receive BMP funding. The plan must include:
 - i) Signature & seal of a certified irrigation designer.
 - ii) A site plan that identifies locations of mainlines and other equipment that is being replaced/repaired.
 - iii) Report that *provides justification on what* irrigation infrastructure needs to be replaced / repaired and any assessment calculations used to determine sizing requirements if the system is upgraded.
 - iv) Detailed quote outlining materials required for irrigation infrastructure upgrade
- 5)** Once Irrigation system improvement has been completed, the Certified Irrigation Designer must inspect the site and provide a signed statement confirming that the upgrades have been installed as per the Irrigation Management Plan.

Ineligible costs for reimbursement under the BMP Program include:

1. Installation costs (unless identified for replacement/repair under category 1804),
2. Mainline and sub main piping (unless identified for replacement/repair under category 1804),
3. Wires, posts for hanging drip irrigation lines,
4. Pumps,
5. Electrical supply and panels (unless identified for replacement/repair under category 1804), and
6. In-kind services by the applicant (unless identified as installation costs under category 1804).

For further information about the Environmental Farm Plan &

Beneficial Management Practices Programs, contact:

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