

Systems Approach Cost-share Funding

Can I apply for additional cost-share funding if I follow a Systems Approach?

LEADS recognizes that multiple BMPs used in a “system” are often more effective than a single BMP to address nutrient loss risks. This additional support acknowledges the ongoing efforts of producers with advanced operations, where multiple BMPs have been implemented to support soil health and water quality.

An additional 5 per cent in cost-share funding is potentially available to producers who demonstrate that they have adopted a Systems Approach. To be considered for this funding, you must provide information on the Application Form that demonstrates how the project will be complemented or enhanced by the continued maintenance of previously implemented BMPs. For more information, see the Checklist for Systems Approach Cost-share Funding.

Checklist for Systems Approach Cost-share Funding

To qualify for a five per cent increase in *the Partnership* cost-share funding, you must answer the questions for at least two of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified in this checklist. Satisfactory answers for at least two BMPs will result in an additional five per cent in cost-share funding. Examples of the questions include:

Crop Nutrient Planning

- In what year did you complete your last Crop Nutrient Plan for this farm?
- What type of advisor did you use for your planning?
- Does the planning document contribute to your ongoing production practices?

Cover Crops

- Do you use cover crops annually?
- How many acres do you use cover crops on annually?
- Were/are your cover crops left in the field over winter?

Riparian Buffer Strips

- What is the length and width of your riparian buffer strip?
- What year did you most recently plant a buffer strip?

Windbreaks and Wind Strips

- How many acres of fields are protected by windbreaks/wind strips?
- What year did you last plant a windbreak or wind strip?
- Do the plants in the windbreak or wind strip provide food sources, nesting sites or host plants for pollinators?

Fragile Land Retirement

- How many acres of fragile land have you retired in the last five years?
- Do the plants on your retired fragile land provide food sources, nesting sites or host plants for pollinators?

Erosion Control Structures

- When was the erosion control structure implemented?
- Was the erosion control structure designed by an engineer?

Tillage and Nutrient Application Equipment Modifications

- How many acres are under no-till practices?
- How many acres are under strip-till practices?
- Do you have three or more crops in your rotation?

Checklist continued on next page

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Equipment Modifications to Reduce Soil Compaction

- Do you have an on-the-go tire inflation system?
- Do you use high flotation tires to reduce soil compaction?
- Do you use this equipment on rented or owned land?

Adding Organic Amendments to Soil

- How many acres do you apply organic amendments to?
- What type of material do you apply to your fields?
- Is adding organic amendments a regular annual practice for your farm?

Equipment Modifications to Improve Manure Application

- How did you modify equipment to better apply organic amendments?
- Since the equipment was modified, has it been used in each year of production?
- How many acres are impacted through the use of this equipment?