

# Systems Approach Cost-share Funding

## Can I apply for additional cost-share funding for adopting a Systems Approach?

An additional five 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 Best Management Practices (BMPs).

## Checklist for Systems Approach Cost-share Funding

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

### **Nutrient Management and Soil Health Planning**

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- What year did you complete one of the following: crop nutrient plan; nutrient management plan; riparian health assessment; soil erosion plan; or waste/wastewater management plan?
- What type of advisor did you use for your planning?
- Does the planning document contribute to your ongoing production practices?

### **Cover Crops**

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- 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**

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- 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**

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- 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**

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- 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**

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

### **Nutrient Recovery from Wastewater/Washwater**

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- How many nutrient unit equivalents do you contain or manage?
- How many litres of water is treated and/or recycled?

### **Tillage and Nutrient Application Equipment Modifications**

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- 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 for Systems Approach Cost-share Funding

## Equipment Modifications to Reduce Soil Compaction

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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?

## Manure Storage Improvements

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- Has increasing storage capacity helped reduce soil compaction levels within your fields, by allowing you to apply manure at the right time?
- Has increasing storage capacity helped eliminate the need to spread manure on frozen or snow-covered ground?
- Did increasing storage capacity allow you to increase nutrient efficiency?

## Runoff Control for Livestock Facilities

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- Has a livestock yard been roofed, or a covered yard been built, within the last five years to prevent runoff?
- For livestock yards, have impermeable surfaces and concrete curb walls been either installed or included in the original design to direct runoff to storage or treatment areas?
- Did you create observation and shut-off stations and/or plug tile drains within 15 metres of livestock facilities?