PROGRAM GUIDES

CORE BMPS

NITROGEN MANAGEMENT

On-Farm Climate Action Fund

Generated on November 19, 2026

Not Accepting Applications

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PROGRAM AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association

T: 519-826-4214 **E:** oscia@ontariosoilcrop.org

View Program Online →

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

For farmers who want to implement a practice that is new to the acres being applied for, within their field-based nitrogen management activities. A new practice is one that **has not been previously implemented by the applicant** on the acres included in the application.

INTAKE DATES

INTAKE	INTAKE DATES	ELIGIBLE PROJECT START DATE (INVOICE DATE)	ELIGIBLE PROJECT COMPLETION DATE	CLAIM DEADLINE	PREVIOUS INTAKE GUIDE
1	Intake Opened: February 24, 2026, 9AM ET Intake Closed: February 24, 2026, 10:05 AM ET	Eligible invoice date: February 1, 2026; Eligible project implementation start date: April 1, 2026	December 15, 2026	December 15, 2026	

Eligible project costs may be incurred, invoiced, and paid for by the approved farm business on or after February 1, 2026, and must be claimed by December 15, 2026. Project implementation as a field-based activity cannot begin before April 1, 2026. Costs incurred, invoiced and/or paid for outside of these dates will not be eligible for cost-share. For costs to be supported, the practice must be implemented as a new, field-based activity before a claim can be submitted.

*OFCAF will support multi-year project implementation. Please refer to information in the Eligible Activities and Costs section below.

Approved applicants must also participate in a **Knowledge Sharing Event (KSE)** *KSEs support learning and adoption of BMPs specific to addressing climate change challenges in Ontario. A KSE is both a learning and networking opportunity for farmers. For more information about KSEs, see the section below on Required Participation in Knowledge Sharing Events* before their project can be considered complete. KSEs can be completed on or after Feb 1, 2026.

COST SHARE SUMMARY

65% of eligible project costs, up to a maximum cost-share payment of $30,000 per project

75% of eligible project costs, up to a maximum cost-share payment of $30,000 per project for applicants new to OFCAF

PROGRAM DETAILS

Who is Eligible to Apply?

Eligible farm business must be actively farming or own actively farmed land in Ontario, as demonstrated by:

- A valid **farm business registration number (FBRN)** *For information on registering a farm business and/or a religious exemption, visit Overview (agricorp.com).*

OR

- A Religious Exemption Letter provided by the OMAFRA Appeal Tribunal (include with application submission)

OR

- A Cultural Exemption Letter provided by the First Nations Agriculture & Finance Ontario to First Nations farmers, verifying the farm business operates in a First Nations community (include with application submission)

OR

- 25 acres of land or more, assessed as ‘Farm’, as indicated by the most current Municipal Property Assessment Notice or Municipal Tax Bill in the name of the farm business (include with application submission)

OR

- An income exemption from the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program (i.e., Start-up farm businesses, Business structure change, Not a normal production year, Age/Illness/Death of a spouse) (provide with application submission).

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Eligible Activities and Costs

To be eligible for funding, the proposed practice must be **new** to the acres proposed in the application

Soil sampling, analysis, and mapping costs*, including fees for a third-party Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) or Professional Agrologist (P.Ag.) to develop a written plan that addresses nitrogen management (e.g., crop nutrient plan, crop diversification plan, nutrient management plan). Eligible costs, up to a maximum of $20,000 in cost-share funding may include:

- Soil sampling, analysis, and mapping
- Plant tissue sampling, analysis, and mapping
- Manure sampling and analysis
- Costs for diagnostic testing used for in-season rate adjustments (i.e., drone imagery, satellite imagery, pre-side dress nitrate test, tissue testing, chlorophyll testing)
- Development of a written Crop Nutrient Plan that meets the program minimum requirements outlined here. A copy of the completed plan is required as part of the claim submission
- *If you are not submitting a separate application for the implementation of a new nitrogen management practice, then sampling, analysis, and mapping activities cannot be submitted as standalone costs. In this case, you must submit a completed Crop Nutrient Plan that meets the program's minimum requirements. A copy of the completed plan is required as part of the claim submission.

To qualify for funding, all planning, and/or sampling, analysis, and mapping activities must either:

- Demonstrate a fertilizer rate reduction

  OR

- Be accompanied by an application for the implementation of a new, eligible nitrogen management practice on new acres, e.g., first time use of synthetic fertilizer substitutes, split application, use of dual action nitrogen stabilizers, etc.

Costs for implementing a practice that is **new** to the acres proposed in the application, related to in-field nitrogen management, **as recommended in a letter of support** from a CCA or P.Ag. (see Documentation required with an application), including:

- Use of dual action nitrogen stabilizers (both urease and nitrification inhibitors) that follow the provided recommendations. Eligible projects must include both urease and nitrification inhibitors, either in one dual mechanism product, or two separate single-mechanism products applied to the same field(s) together.

  Split application of nitrogen fertilizer that follows the provided recommendations, including:

  - Custom application costs only for additional passes for nutrient application later in the growing season

  Cost of fertilizer application equipment and/or equipment modifications to support banding, side dressing or below canopy applications, and injection

  - If applicable, costs for equipment use and the associated fuel and labour required for the fertilizer application. Costs must be in line with **local custom rates** *Estimated costs must be provided on the application form. Costs should align with local custom farm work rates. To estimate costs, please refer to the custom farm work rate calculator available on the OMAFA website or through the Ontario Professional Agri-Contractors Association.*

  Use of synthetic fertilizer substitutes including compost, digestate, or manure that follows the provided recommendations, including:

  - Material cost and custom application costs

- Equipment and/or equipment modifications to support injection of manure on new acres
- If manure, digestate, or compost are spread, it must be incorporated within 24 hours
- Costs for using equipment, fuel, and labour required for a single incorporation pass. Costs must be in line with **local custom rates** *Estimated costs must be provided on the application form. Costs should align with local custom farm work rates. To estimate costs, please refer to the custom farm work rate calculator available on the OMAFA website or through the Ontario Professional Agri-Contractors Association.*
- Note: Agricultural source materials (ASM) such as manure, digestate, and compost, must be applied and incorporated after March 31st 2026 and before December 1st 2026

A note on equipment purchases under Nitrogen Management:

- **Any equipment supported must be used to implement the eligible new practice on new acres BEFORE the Project Completion Date and BEFORE a claim can be submitted**
- A farm business is limited to a maximum of $30,000 in cost-share funding for Nitrogen Management equipment purchases and/or equipment modifications to support eligible new practices across all approved applications under the OFCAF program inclusive of April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2028

Multi-year projects under OFCAF:

A farm business can propose multi-year implementation of a new, field-based practice, on the same acres, for up to two years. Program years are:

- 2026: April 1, 2026, to December 15, 2026, for single-year projects *Costs can be incurred beginning February 1, 2026
- 2026: April 1, 2026, to December 15, 2026, for the first year of multi-year projects *Costs can be incurred beginning February 1, 2026
- 2027: April 1, 2027, to December 15, 2027, for the second year of multi-year projects

- To be eligible for multi-year support the proposed practice must be new to the acres proposed in the first year, and the same practice must be implemented on the same acres in subsequent program years

- When completing an application that proposes multi-year implementation, project costs can be proposed in each program year that the new practice will be undertaken

- If the application is approved, the practice must be implemented, and a claim submitted in each program year that project costs were proposed, and a funding allocation approved multi-year projects are limited to the maximum cost-share payment amount of $30,000 noted in the below section, How Much Cost-Share Funding is Available?

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Ineligible Activities and Costs

- Any cost not set out as an Eligible Activities and Costs and not specifically required for the execution of a **project** *If you are uncertain about the eligibility of a project or cost, contact OSCIA before applying at OFCAF@ontariosoilcrop.org.*

- Costs for nitrogen management activities where the proposed practice is not new (i.e., the proposed practice has been previously used by the applicant on the acres included in the application), unless proposed as a multi-year project.

- Consulting services related to a plan or for soil and/or tissue sampling, analysis, and mapping that does not address nitrogen, and/or any plan or assessment not prepared by a qualified consultant

- Nitrogen fertilizer, including polymer-coated nitrogen and any registered fertilizers derived from organic materials

- Biological inoculants

- Single action nitrogen stabilizers used alone that **are not** both a nitrification and urease inhibitor (products that are only a urease inhibitor or a nitrification inhibitor)

- Dual action nitrogen stabilizers, split applications of nitrogen fertilizer, or synthetic fertilizer substitutes, **if not recommended in a letter of support from a CCA or P.Ag. submitted with**

the application

- Equipment that does not result in injection applications of manure (e.g., vertical beaters, weigh scales)
- Equipment used to apply manure if the manure is not incorporated after application (e.g., dribble bars)
- Irrigation and/or fertigation equipment
- Broadcast spreaders
- Lift kits to convert low clearance equipment to high clearance, unless part of a proposed project to install eligible equipment to improve in-field nitrogen management *please refer to the limitations of equipment purchases under OFCAF in the section Eligible Activities and Costs
- Equipment to solely support variable rate application, including variable rate monitors, controllers, drag line components, and/or fertilizer spreaders which are not being applied for as part of a system to support banding, side dressing, below canopy application, or injection
- GPS components related solely to a guidance system (e.g., autosteer systems)
- Invoices and/or proof of payment not issued in the applicant's name
- Extended warranties, taxes, legal fees, financing charges, loan interest payments, bank fees
- In-kind contributions of labour and farm equipment
- Materials or products produced by the applicant’s farm business
- Materials or services purchased outside of the eligible invoice dates outlined in the letter of approval
- Typical farm equipment (e.g., tractors, skid steers, combines, grain carts) and related accessories or attachments (unless specified as an Eligible Activity and Cost)
- Any cost purchased from a supplier who is not at arm’s length from the applicant (i.e., businesses owned the same individual(s), or by siblings or parents, through blood or marriage)

Other Ineligible Costs and Activities

- Normal operating costs associated with conducting or expanding a business’s current operations

- Any cost that is eligible for a rebate, credit, or refund (e.g., a refundable portion of the Harmonized Sales Tax)
- Gifts and incentives
- Equipment or equipment customizations that do not support an increase in soil carbon or a decrease in nitrogen loss
- Costs related to activities that directly influence or lobby any level of government
- Costs of basic research, ongoing activities, normal commercial expansion costs, and annual services fees of any type
- Lease of land, buildings, and facilities, or new building construction
- Costs of training and skills development that fulfill any academic requirements towards completion of a professional certificate, diploma, or degree program
- Costs of sponsorship for conferences and learning events or initiatives
- Costs of travel, hospitality, meals, and/or accommodations
- Permits and approvals
- Purchase or sale of land, buildings or facilities, and associated taxes or fees (e.g., land transfer tax)
- Tile drainage systems, crop storage facilities (e.g., grain bins, seed storage), TMR mixers, feed pushers and automated feeding systems
- Mentoring or coaching services that do not support the development of a written plan or soil and/or tissue sampling, analysis, and mapping
- Multi-use items (e.g., items that can reach beyond the scope of the project such as computers, printers, hand or power tools and attachments, etc.)

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How Much Cost-Share Funding Is Available?

Nitrogen Management has a maximum cost-share amount per project of 65% of eligible project costs, up to a maximum cost-share amount of $30,000 for farm businesses that have previously received OFCAF cost-share funding. The maximum cost-share amount for applicants new to OFCAF is 75% of eligible project costs.

Cost-share funding is available at 65% of approved, eligible costs for farm businesses that have previously received OFCAF cost-share funding. Cost-share funding is available at 75% of approved, eligible costs for applicants new to OFCAF.

The maximum cost-share funding a farm business can receive under the OFCAF program, from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2028, inclusive of all approved application under all project categories is $100,000*.

- For soil testing, mapping, analysis and planning activities, the maximum funding a farm business can receive is $20,000 inclusive of April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2028. To qualify for funding, all planning, and/or sampling, analysis, and mapping activities must be accompanied by an application for the implementation of a new, eligible nitrogen management practice on new acres, e.g., first time use of synthetic fertilizer substitutes, split application, use of dual action nitrogen stabilizers, etc

- A farm business is limited to a maximum of $30,000 in cost-share funding for equipment purchases and/or equipment modifications across all approved nitrogen management applications under the OFCAF program inclusive of April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2028

- To be eligible to receive a cost-share funding payment, the approved project must be implemented on new acres, and the farm business must have participated in an eligible **Knowledge Sharing Event (KSE)** before the Project Completion Date and Claim Deadline indicated in their approval notice

* This includes any funding under the On-Farm Climate Action Fund, delivered by any organization across Canada (e.g., in Ontario, funding delivered by OSCIA and by Ecocert)

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Required Participation in Knowledge Sharing Events

OFCAF provides a high level of cost-share funding to support implementation of targeted BMPs with a goal of encouraging successful, long-term adoption. Access to knowledge and resources are key components to ensure success.

Applicants must participate in a minimum of one (1), OSCIA-recognized, Nitrogen Management, Knowledge Sharing Event (KSE) for each approved Nitrogen Management OFCAF application, before submitting a claim for cost-share.

KSEs support learning and adoption of BMPs specific to addressing climate change challenges in Ontario (e.g., carbon sequestration and reducing GHG emissions). A KSE is both a learning and networking opportunity, where farmers can benefit from:

- Seeing the latest applied research
- Hearing first-hand experiences from other farmers and industry experts
- Gaining access to information networks and resources

A KSE can be a new or existing demonstration event, webinar, workshop, or conference, and may be delivered by OSCIA or by other agricultural organizations or service providers. Costs associated with attending a KSE (e.g., registration, mileage, travel, etc.) are not eligible for cost-share.

A listing of approved KSEs can be found at https://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/knowledge-sharing-event-kse/

Contact OSCIA at ofcaf@ontariosoilcrop.org to inquire if an event that is not listed meets the OFCAF KSE requirements.

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Documentation Required with the Application

- **Digital site map(s)** based on a satellite image (e.g., using Google Maps, Ag Maps) of all field(s) included in the application. The site map(s) must show the precise location (address/GPS coordinates) and total area (acres) of the project. For an example of a site map, click here.

  Hand drawn sketches will not be accepted. If you need help accessing a satellite image of

your project location, contact your local OSCIA Field Representative for assistance. Click here for contact information.

- **Letter of support** from a qualified, third party, i.e., CCA, P.Ag., supporting the application of any proposed dual action nitrogen stabilizers (both urease and nitrification inhibitor), split applications of nitrogen and/or synthetic fertilizer substitutes (i.e., manure, compost, digestate) projects.
  Click here for minimum requirements for a letter of support. A crop nutrient plan that meets the same requirements can be provided in lieu of a letter of support.

  A letter of support is not required for written plan development, soil/plant tissue/manure sampling, analysis or mapping. All other Nitrogen Management project types require a letter of support.

- If an FBRN has not been provided, please provide documentation to support an eligible FBRN exemption, income exemption, or the most current Municipal Property Assessment Notice or Municipal Tax Bill, **in the name of the farm business** that is applying.

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How Do I Submit My Application?

Applications are only accepted during application intakes. Be sure to review the program guide in entirety – only eligible and complete applications will be considered.

The Enrolment and Application Form and all required documentation can be submitted electronically through the OSCIA Portal:

If the intake is not currently accepting applications, you may still visit osciaportal.org to create a user account, enrol your farm business, and be ready for upcoming opportunities.

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Limits of the Cost-Share Funding

- If the applicant initiates the project before receiving final approval from OSCIA, they do so at the risk of forfeiting the cost-share if all terms and conditions are not satisfied.

- OSCIA issues payments after projects have been completed and all required claim documentation is received. The project must be paid for in full by the applicant and the approved practice(s) must be implemented on new acres prior to cost-share being issued.

- All invoices for the approved project must comply with the eligible invoice dates outlined in a letter of approval issued by OSCIA for the proposed project. OSCIA cannot issue cost-share payments for incomplete projects.

- Applicants are responsible for securing all necessary approvals and permits for the proposed project before starting and complying with all applicable municipal bylaws and provincial or federal regulations. OSCIA may require copies of permits obtained for some projects before issuing cost-share payments.

- OSCIA reserves the right to require additional documentation and ultimately accept or reject submitted project invoices and proof of payment for cost-share consideration.

- Stacking of OFCAF cost-share funding from one or more farm business and/or one or more sources of OFCAF funding, towards the same project is not permitted.

- Stacking of OFCAF cost-share funding with other programs outside of OFCAF up to 100% of the project cost, is permitted if the other program(s) allow stacking and at least 15% of the project costs come from non-government sources. All funding for a project from off-farm sources, excluding financing, must be listed on the claim form for an approved project.

- A cost-share allocation is based on the eligible project costs outlined on the approved Application Form. Accurate estimates to the best of the applicant's ability must be reflected in the total project cost submitted on the Application Form and quotes are recommended to inform proposed project costs. If final project costs exceed the original estimate or the scope of the project changes, there is no obligation by OSCIA to extend cost-share beyond the original allocation and/or project scope.

- All goods and services must be purchased from an entity that is **at arm's length** from the farm business. An entity is considered arm's length if they are **not related, not affiliated persons or otherwise controlled by another member or members**. Parent/child and siblings, through blood or marriage, or businesses owned by the same individual(s) **are not** considered arm's length. Refer to Section 251 of the Income Tax Act (Canada) for the additional detail on determining arm's length relationships.

- Any GHG emission reductions arising from an approved project between February 15, 2022, and March 31, 2028, shall not be used by the farmer to apply for any existing or future federal or provincial offset credit programs.

- Information presented is the best available at the time of publishing. Check with OSCIA for applicable updates. Material is subject to change without notice as the cost-share program evolves.

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How Do I Submit a Claim?

If an application is approved for a cost-share allocation, written confirmation will be provided from OSCIA by email (or by post, if no email address is provided). This approval letter will confirm:

- Any costs from the application that were deemed ineligible
- Eligible invoice dates, project completion and claim submission deadlines
- What is needed with the claim submission
- Instructions on how to verify participation in an eligible KSE
- Information on how to submit your claim using the OSCIA online Portal

Each project must be complete, fully paid for, the practice implemented on new acres, and an eligible KSE completed before a claim is submitted.

As part of an eligible project, every claimed cost must be supported by an invoice in the name of the applicant farm business. All costs being claimed must be paid for by the applicant farm business. **Proof of payment must verify who paid, who received payment, the amount of payment, and the date of payment.** Proof of payment may be any one of the following:

- Copy of front and back of a cancelled cheque
- Electronic image of a processed cheque
- E-Transfer confirmation, which includes the word ‘Deposited’ or ‘Autodeposited’
- Bill Payment confirmation from a banking institution
- Statement from banking institution with the applicant business name indicating to whom the processed cheque was written, or electronic payment made, and for what amount

- Credit card or debit card receipt clearly identifying the amount and to whom the payment was made. Credit card or debit card numbers and other information, including costs that are unrelated to the project, should be blacked out

Cash payments for project costs are strongly discouraged, as they may not meet requirements for proof of payment. If proof of payment is not provided, OSCIA cannot support the cost. OSCIA may request any additional information from the applicant that OSCIA deems necessary (e.g., copies of any audit reports, plans or permits obtained by the applicant in conducting the project) to support their claim.

Cost-share payments are made by electronic funds transfer (EFT) in the name of the legal farm business. All cost-share funding is considered taxable income to the farm business. OSCIA will issue a tax form (AGR-1) and report the amount paid to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA); this is why an applicant's Social Insurance Number (SIN) is collected if the applicant does not have a CRA Business Number.

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