



# Highlights of Environmental Stewardship Programming under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)

Anishinabek Nation – Regional Round Tables  
September 2021

## Three Priority Areas



### **Economic Development**

- Business Analysis
- Market Development
  - Productivity



### **Environmental Stewardship**

- Soil Health
- Water Quality



### **Protection and Assurance**

- Animal Health
- Food Safety
- Plant Health

# Overview of Programming: Stewardship

## **Programming seeks to address key environmental outcomes in Ontario:**

- Improve the health of Ontario's farmland resulting in improved productivity and a more resilient and profitable agri-food system
- Improving Lake Erie water quality by minimizing nutrients loss
- Provide co-benefits of enhancing pollinator habitat and building sector resilience to extreme weather conditions

## **Current Environmental Stewardship Programming (focus on Cost-share Funding/ Education):**

1. Farmers: Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)
2. Farmers: Province-wide Environmental Stewardship cost-share funding
3. Farmers: Lake Erie Agriculture Demonstrating Sustainability (LEADS) Initiative
4. Place to Grow: Funding for Sectors (formerly Organizations and Collaborations)
5. Other supporting activities include development of new tools (e.g., AgriSuite, soil mapping projects), knowledge transfer projects and monitoring and applied research efforts including the On-Farm Applied Research and Monitoring (ONFARM) project



environmental farm plan  
*sustainably farmed*

# 1. Province-wide for Farmers: Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)

EFP is a voluntary environmental education and awareness program

- Enables farm business to prepare confidential risk assessment, and to develop a site-specific action plan to address identified potential risks
- Builds farmers' environmental awareness, supports continuous improvement and sustainability of farm business
- Requirement to access environmental stewardship CAP cost-share funding (supports merit determination)
- Free EFP educational workshops delivered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA)
  - 2-day in person
  - 1-day in-person for return farmers
  - Electronic EFP (eEFP) workbook, new platform launched June 2019





## 2. Province-wide for Farmers: Stewardship Cost-Share Funding

- **Merit-based cost-share** funding program **targeted** at supporting soil health and water quality outcomes, with co-benefits of enhancing pollinator habitat and building resilience to climate change while strengthening the sustainability of the agricultural sector
- **Thirteen project categories** (best management practices - BMPs)
- Cost-share rates and caps set at the project category level based on priority of the BMP
  - Cost-share rates of 30%, 40% or 50%
  - Option to apply for 5% systems bonus
  - Project caps vary from: \$8,000 to \$25,000
- **Completion of a reviewed EFP is required**

# 3: Geographically Targeted For Farmers: Lake Erie Agriculture Demonstrating Sustainability (LEADS)



**LEADS is a unique sub-program under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership**

- Geographically focused program for farmers in the Lake Erie watershed
- Targeted actions in support of helping to reduce phosphorus loss from agricultural land, using a risk-based approach to direct government funds
- Demonstrates measureable change in response to bi-national phosphorus reduction targets for Lake Erie and the Lake Erie Action Plan
- Leverages industry collaboration, connecting farmers with technical support
- Delivered by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA)



## **LEADS Components include:**

- a) Farmland Health Check-Up
- b) LEADS cost-share program



## 3a. LEADS - Farmland Health Check-Up

- Farmers working one-one-one with participating Certified Crop Advisor or Professional Agrologist
- Free tool to support the assessment of field-specific land and management factors related to soil health
- Supports identification of highest risks and priorities for action
- Supports merit determination for LEADS cost-share program

Covers: Erosion (water, wind, tillage)  
Surface structure  
Subsurface compaction  
Organic matter  
Soil life  
Soil chemistry  
Phosphorus  
Pollinators  
Nitrogen

**FARMLAND HEALTH CHECK-UP**

What should I do with my soil test results?

Should I plant a cover crop?

Will no-till work on my farm?

**GROWERS HAVE QUESTIONS**

**YOU HAVE ANSWERS**

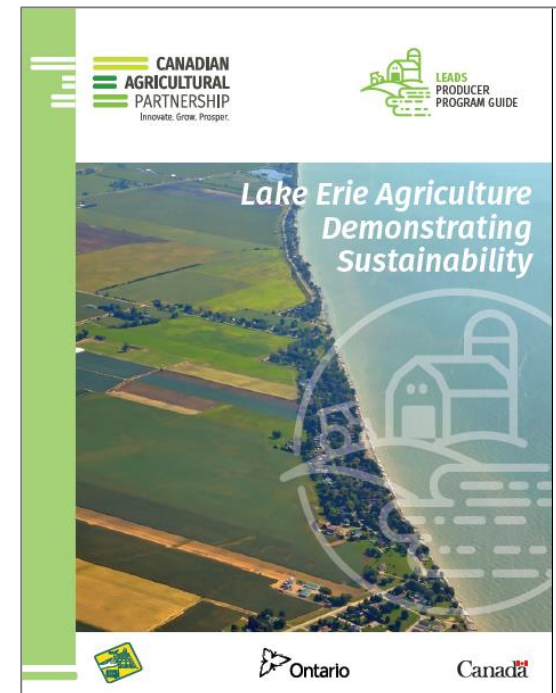
Start the conversation with potential clients using the Farmland Health Check-Up.



## 3b. LEADS Cost-Share Funding Program

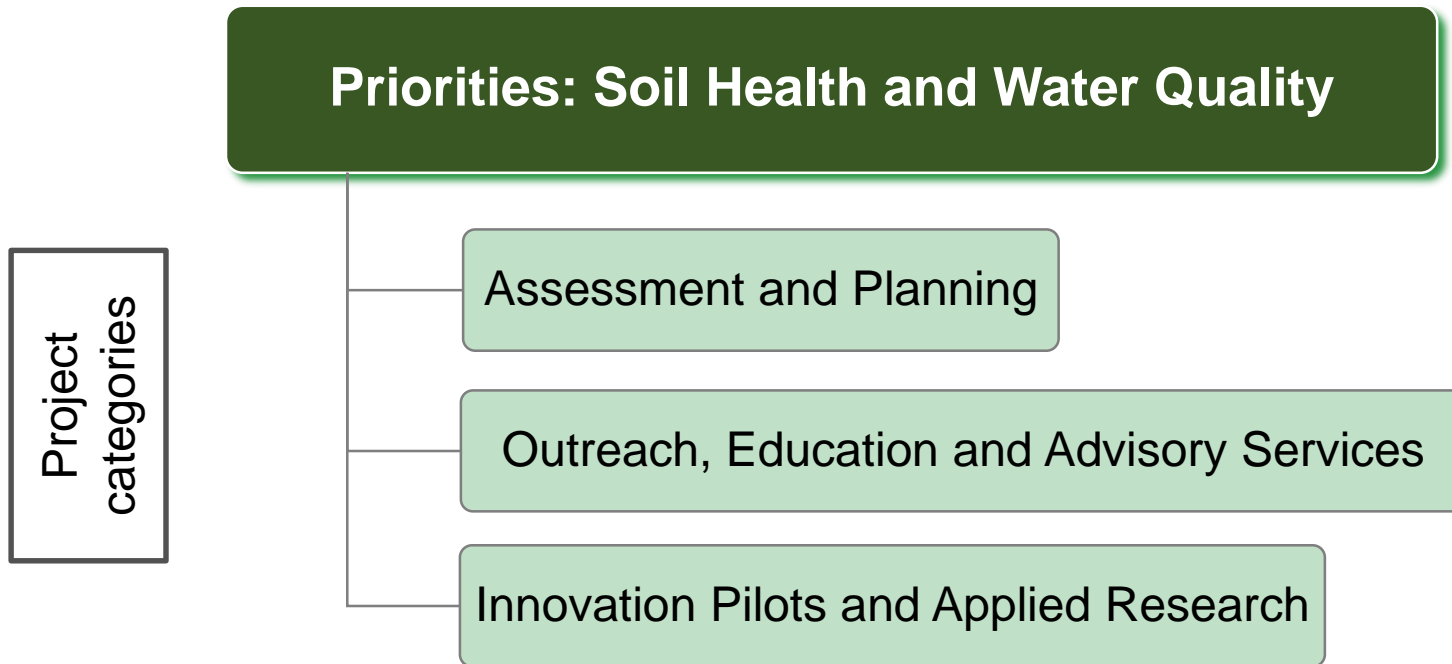
LEADS is designed as a continuous intake, merit-based cost-share funding program to support on-farm projects (farmer application process)

- 10 categories of best management practices
- Varying cost-share rates of 45% up to 75% dependent on BMP and field-based risk assessment up to cap of \$20,000/project
- Information from Farmland Health Check-Up used to determine level funding
- Require a completed Farmland Health Check-Up and reviewed Fourth Edition EFP to participate in the LEADS cost-share program





# 4. Place to Grow: Funding for Sectors – Environmental Stewardship



- Place to Grow - Funding for Sectors was launched in June 2019, replacing the Cost-share Funding Program for Organizations and Collaborations, delivered by the Agricultural Adaptation Council.
- Application-based cost-share funding, delivered by OMAFRA's Rural Programs Branch

# Overview of Programming: Stewardship Cost-share Funding

Farmers		Place to Grow: Funding For Sectors
<b>Province-Wide:</b> 13 Project Categories	<b>LEADS:</b> 10 Project Categories	3 Project Categories
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manure Storage Improvements</li> <li>• Nutrient Management and Soil Health Planning</li> <li>• Nutrient Recovery from Wastewater/Washwater</li> <li>• Runoff Control for Livestock Facilities</li> <li>• Water Wells (offered in Year one only)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop Nutrient Planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil Health &amp; Water Quality – Assessment and Planning</li> <li>• Soil Health &amp; Water Quality – Innovation Pilots and Applied Research</li> <li>• Soil Health &amp; Water Quality – Outreach, Education and Advisory Services</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adding Organic Amendments to Soil</li> <li>• Cover Crops</li> <li>• Equipment Modifications to Improve Manure Application</li> <li>• Equipment Modifications to Reduce Soil Compaction</li> <li>• Erosion Control Structures</li> <li>• Fragile Land Retirement</li> <li>• Windbreaks and Wind Strips</li> <li>• Riparian Buffer Strips</li> <li>• Tillage and Nutrient Application Equipment Modifications</li> </ul>		

## 5. Other CAP Initiatives to Influence Environmental Stewardship

A combination of initiatives are being used to advance water quality and soil health improvements to protect Ontario agricultural land, and improve performance measurement.

Initiatives	Summary
<b>Knowledge Transfer</b>	Inform of environmental challenges and share information on possible solutions (e.g., Ridgetown College, UofG - <a href="#">Soil health education</a> , Farm and Food Care – <a href="#">videos</a> )
<b>Risk Assessment Tools</b>	Support targeted and informed decision making (e.g., <a href="#">AgriSuite</a> decision support tools, <a href="#">Soil Test Manager app</a> )
<b>Data Acquisition &amp; Analysis</b>	Measure progress (behaviour change- BMP adoption) and impact of BMPs on improving environment and productivity
<b>Soil Information &amp; Mapping</b>	Update provincial soil data, information and maps to support farmers decision-making to improve efficiencies and drive productivity while sustaining soil resources
<b>Monitoring &amp; Applied Research</b>	Improving knowledge of BMPs efficacy and modelling impact ( <a href="#">ONFARM</a> )

# Environmental Stewardship



For more information:

Programming for farmers – see the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) website at [www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/) or call 1-800-265-9751

- CAP province-wide cost-share: [CAP@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:CAP@ontariosoilcrop.org)
- LEADS: [LEADS@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:LEADS@ontariosoilcrop.org)

Programming for sector organizations and other CAP funding – see Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) website at [www.omafra.gov.on.ca/English/cap/placetogrow.html#ptg](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/English/cap/placetogrow.html#ptg)