

## On Farm Climate Action Fund

*For immediate release*

(March 18, 2024) - The On Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF), distributed by the Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture (PEIFA), will open for 2024 on Monday, April 15, providing additional support to PEI farmers for the implementation of climate-friendly management practices on their farms.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is providing PEIFA with up to \$4.1 million in additional federal funding support to continue the program on PEI under the [Agricultural Climate Solutions – On Farm Climate Action Fund](#). This builds on the initial nearly \$6.8-million AAFC investment through the first phase of the Fund, which is designed to assist farmers with the adoption of beneficial management practices (BMP) that store carbon and reduce greenhouse gases. The practices covered by the Fund are nitrogen management, cover cropping, and rotational grazing.

"Farmers right across the Island have felt the devastating impacts of climate change. To protect their operations, they are investing in climate-smart solutions and adopting more sustainable practices. That's why as a government, we're investing in programs that work – like our On Farm Climate Action Fund – so farmers won't have to carry that responsibility alone," says the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Member of Parliament for Cardigan.

"PEI farmers are more than ready to invest in beneficial management practices that will not only have an economic return for their operations, but will also advance the climate goals of our industry," says Keisha Rose Topic, PEIFA President.

PEI farmers have been eager participants in the program during the first phase of available funds awarded in 2023. Through the program, farmers are eligible for up to \$75,000 for projects.

"For our farm, federal OFCAF funding allowed us to adopt climate-friendly management practices with less risk and less up-front cost," says Matthew Barrett of Oceanbrae Farms, a dairy, beef and cropping farm in Belmont, PEI that has implemented projects in all three BMP categories. "We were able to increase our use of cover crops, improve how we manage liquid manure, start using slow-release nitrogen fertilizer, and improve our grazing practices, all of which we feel helped reduce our carbon footprint."

Due to the popularity of the program, PEIFA encourages eligible participants to prepare their application in advance of April 15th. PEIFA's OFCAF team will be hosting an application workshop on March 21st at Credit Union Place in Summerside where staff will answer questions about the program and eligibility. Funds are distributed in order of applications received, where eligibility criteria are met.

The 2024 program guidelines are available at [peifa.ca/ofcaf](https://peifa.ca/ofcaf).

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### Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture

Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture (PEIFA) is a non-profit, democratic organization of Island farmers working together for the betterment of primary producers. Learn more about PEIFA at [peifa.ca](https://peifa.ca)