



Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program





# SARFIP 2021

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Please review and understand the information presented in this brochure before submitting an application.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (ENDANGERED)



# THE SPECIES AT RISK FARM INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Farmland stretches over 12 million acres of Ontario, often integrated with valuable plant, fish and wildlife habitat. As stewards of the land, farmers have a unique opportunity to support species at risk (SAR) alongside their farming practices.

The Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program (SARFIP) provides funding to agricultural landowners interested in completing habitat creation, enhancement and protection Best Management Practices (BMPs) that support species at risk. Addressing risks identified through the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) workbook, farmers can implement practices that are beneficial for species listed as at-risk in Ontario. The range of possible activities applies to croplands, grasslands, stream banks, shorelines, wetlands and woodlands.

Cost-share funding is available for beneficial practices that directly or indirectly benefit SAR. The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) allocates cost-share based on project

applications and issues approved cost-share after projects have been completed and the required documentation is received.

SARFIP is available to farmers across the province. The program requires a 4th Edition EFP workbook and verified Action Plan complete for the property where the project is proposed. A list of upcoming EFP workshops is available at [www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org).

SARFIP is funded by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks through the Species at Risk Stewardship Program. The EFP is supported by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. Local program delivery is carried out by OSCIA.

## SPECIES AT RISK IN ONTARIO

In Canada, species at risk (SAR) are listed both provincially and federally. A provincial list of SAR is available on the Government of Ontario's website at [www.ontario.ca](http://www.ontario.ca). Information on the federal Species at Risk Act can be found at [www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca) and a national Aquatic Species at Risk Map (for fishes and mussels) provided by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) at <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/sara-lep/map-carte/index-eng.html>.

There are currently over 230 species identified as at-risk provincially. In Ontario, SAR fall into one of four categories: extirpated, endangered, threatened or special concern. There are many reasons for a decline in a species' population, including habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution, resource management activities, and the spread of invasive species or disease. Farmland is often an essential host for wildlife of all kinds, meaning farmers have an important role in sustaining and building habitat for at-risk plants, fish, and wildlife.

**Did you know that map turtles are fantastic swimmers? They have large webbed feet to help them swim in deep cold waterbodies.**

The northern map turtle can be found in rivers and streams throughout southern Ontario and as far north as Georgian Bay. It prefers rivers and lakes with high water quality that contain basking sites (rocks and logs) and lots of food prey. Northern map turtles primarily eat molluscs and have a hard, strong jaw used to crack them open. Female northern map turtles take more than 10 years to reach maturity. At maturity, map turtles lay 7-23 eggs in a clutch in May and June. Habitat loss and degradation, road mortality, boat propeller mortality and illegal collection for the pet trade threaten this species.

**NORTHERN MAP TURTLE (SPECIAL CONCERN)**





# AM I ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for SARFIP, an applicant must meet the following three criteria:



**Be actively farming or own actively farmed land in Ontario** as demonstrated by:

- A valid Farm Business Registration Number (FBRN)
- OR**
- A Gross Farm Income Exemption Certificate provided by OMAFRA
- OR**
- A Religious Exemption Letter provided by the OMAFRA Appeal Tribunal
- OR**
- A Cultural Exemption Letter – First Nations producers can furnish a letter from the Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario verifying the farm business operates in a First Nations community
- OR**
- Proposed project is located on 25 acres of land or more which is assessed as 'Farm' (indicated by a current Municipal Property Assessment Notice or Municipal Tax Bill).



**Have a completed Environmental Farm Plan** (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) and Action Plan verified complete by OSCIA.



**Have a valid Premises Identification Number (PID)** for the farm property where the proposed project will be completed. For more information call 1-888-247-4999 or visit [www.ontariopid.com](http://www.ontariopid.com).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (SPECIAL CONCERN)





# HOW MUCH FUNDING COULD I RECEIVE?

45%

## Indirect Benefits to SAR — Up to \$15,000

Are you interested in implementing an on-farm BMP from this brochure? SARFIP cost-share is 45% for farmers wishing to implement an eligible BMP activity (listed on pages 8 - 15) on their farm property. You must enroll with OSCIA and submit a complete SARFIP Application Form, accompanied by any other required documentation for the BMP activity you are applying for.

60%

## Direct Benefits to SAR — Up to \$20,000

Do you have SAR on or nearby your property? Does your project focus on the specific conservation needs of a SAR (e.g. installing bat boxes, creating nesting sites for SAR turtles)? You could be eligible for 60% cost-share. Complete a Habitat Self Assessment (HSA) to be considered. Letters of support or formal documentation of SAR presence on the farm property can be included too.

+

15%

## BONUS: SAR Watch

As a bonus for projects directly impacting SAR, farmers can choose to participate in SAR Watch, a monitoring program to measure the impact of SARFIP projects on-the-ground for SAR. A property assessment by a technical specialist to evaluate SAR presence and project impact is completed for participating farms and the specific information gathered will be shared with government funding partners. Participating in SAR Watch provides an additional +15% to your merit-based (60%) cost-share.

Farm businesses can access up to \$20,000 in cumulative SARFIP cost-share for the 2021-2022 program year. Past participation does not count towards this limit. SARFIP funds will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Decisions on which cost-share level applies to submitted applications will be made by OSCIA following a thorough review of the information submitted by the applicant. If you believe your project directly benefits SAR, and you would like to be considered for the higher cost-share level, it is your responsibility to provide all the required information to OSCIA, including a carefully prepared Habitat Self Assessment.





# WHEN AND WHERE DO I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION?

SARFIP projects can be completed between April 1, 2021 and December 15, 2021; invoices for project costs must be dated within this timeline.

**Your project must be complete and operational no later than December 15, 2021.**

## Applications can be submitted by:

**Email** SARFIP@ontariosoilcrop.org

**Post** ATTN: SARFIP  
Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association  
Unit #1, 367 Woodlawn Road West  
Guelph ON N1H 7K9

## Eligible Invoice Dates:

April 1, 2021 to December 15, 2021

## Project Completion and Claim Submission Deadline:

December 15, 2021

## KEY GUIDELINES:

- If the applicant goes ahead with 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.
- All applicable authorizations, permits and approvals are the responsibility of the applicant.
- Some BMP projects, including fencing and tree planting, have financial caps that dictate the amount of cost-share that can be received for these activities. For details, review the BMP descriptions in this brochure and the additional details for fencing and tree planting on page 11.
- OSCIA issues payments after projects have been completed and the required documentation is received. This means projects must be paid for in full by the applicant prior to cost-share being issued.
- When determining the total estimated cost of the project, obtain quotes and be accurate regarding figures for all applicable materials, services, equipment and in-kind contributions. Please be very clear in your cost descriptions. Gross over-estimates lead to program dollars being unnecessarily allocated and can limit opportunities for other applicants.
- See page 17 for SARFIP Limits of Funding, which outlines complete terms and conditions.
- Please note that SARFIP funds will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.



## REMINDER: DON'T LEAVE YOUR PROJECT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!

Some SARFIP projects may depend on weather conditions or have certain timelines dictated by permitting agencies (e.g., erosion control, fencing, or some planting). The project completion deadline is **DECEMBER 15, 2021!**



# WHAT FORMS DO I NEED AND WHERE CAN I FIND THEM?

## Enrolment Form

The Enrolment Form collects information about the farm business applying. Include a completed Enrolment Form with your application.

## SARFIP Application Form

The SARFIP Application Form collects the what, where and how of your project. SARFIP Application Forms are organized by BMP (different BMPs cannot be combined on a single application). Use the BMP descriptions in this brochure to choose which application form(s) you will need. You will need to provide the following information on your application:

- Project location
- A detailed site sketch of the farm property that includes the precise location and dimensions of the project **Note: use Google Maps or AgMaps for the sketch, hand drawn sketches will not be accepted.**
- Estimated costs for the project
- Description of your project, including BMP-specific details (e.g. how many and what species of trees you will plant)

## Habitat Self-Assessment (for 60% cost-share)

Applicants who wish to be considered for 60% cost-share must complete a Habitat Self-Assessment as part of their submission. The assessment asks for: additional information about the habitat and landscape features on the farm property (not just the project site); the specific SAR that may reside on the property; and how the proposed project will support them. Completion of the Habitat Self Assessment also allows you the option to be considered for participation in SAR Watch.

## SARFIP Claim Form

The SARFIP Claim Form and In-Kind Claim Declaration Form will be provided to applicants for projects approved by OSCIA. Upon completion of your approved project, you must submit a SARFIP Claim Form in order to receive the allocated cost-share. The claim form must be accompanied by invoices and proof of payment for all project costs, and an In-Kind Claim Declaration Form for any in-kind contributions. (See page 16 for details on in-kind contributions.) An Electronic Funds Authorization Form with a void cheque or direct deposit print-out from your financial institution must also be submitted to receive payment.

All required forms are available for download on the SARFIP page of the OSCIA website at [www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org).

Don't have access to the internet?

Call the OSCIA Guelph Office directly at 1-800-265-9751 to request a paper copy.

SWAMP ROSE-MALLOW  
(SPECIAL CONCERN)

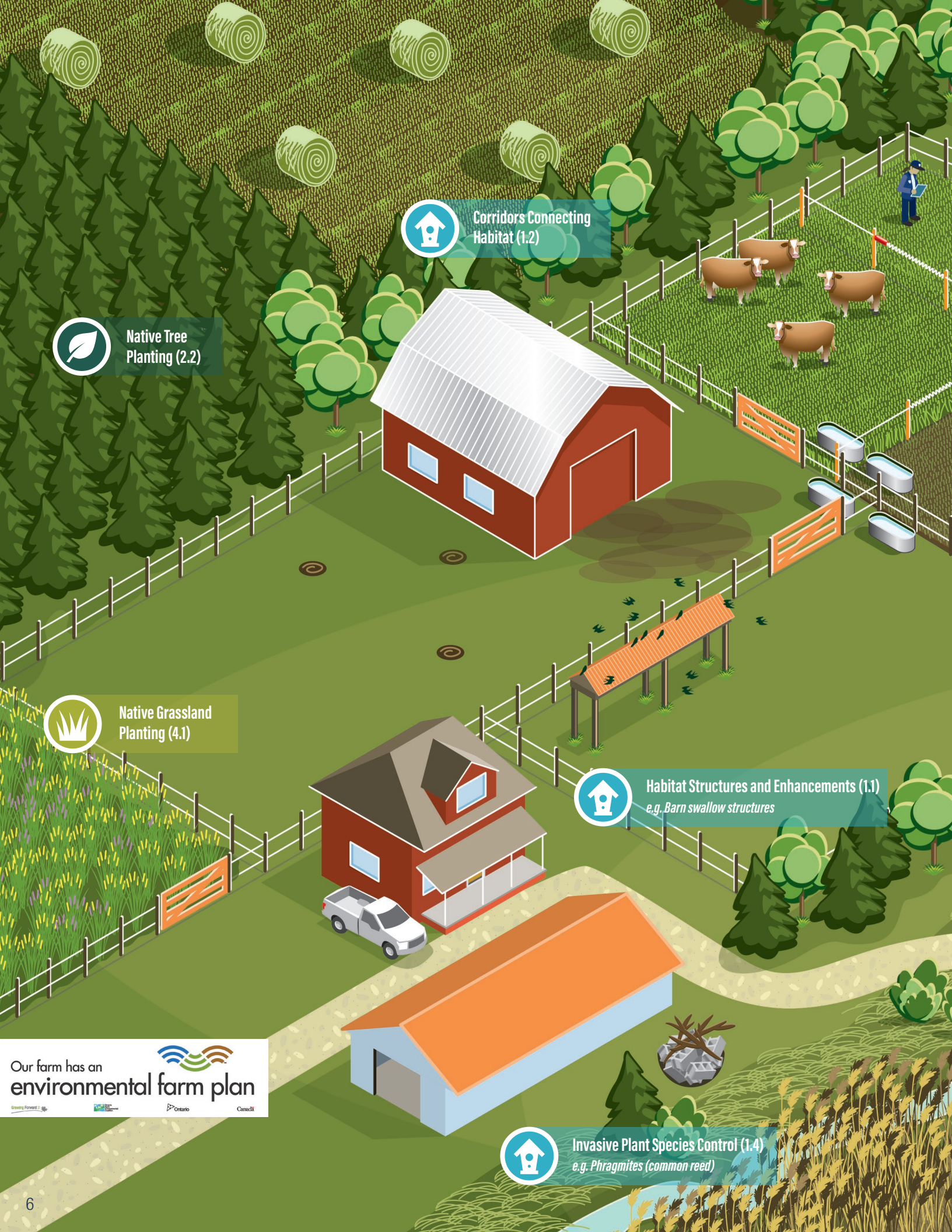


REDSIDE DACE

(ENDANGERED)







**Native Tree  
Planting (2.2)**



**Corridors Connecting  
Habitat (1.2)**



**Native Grassland  
Planting (4.1)**



**Habitat Structures and Enhancements (1.1)**  
*e.g. Barn swallow structures*



**Invasive Plant Species Control (1.4)**  
*e.g. Phragmites (common reed)*





Fencing to Exclude Livestock from Woodland Areas (2.1)



Livestock Watering Systems (3.2 and 4.2)



Wetland Restoration (3.1)



Cross Fencing for Rotational Grazing (4.2)



Fencing to Exclude Livestock from Water's Edge (3.2)



Native Tree Planting (2.2)  
*e.g. Vegetated buffer strips*



Erosion Control Structures Along Water's Edge (3.4) *e.g. Bank Stabilization*



Biodiversity Enhancement Plan (1.3)



Improved Stream Crossings (3.3)



Native Tree Planting (2.2)  
*e.g. Tree shelterbelts and windbreaks*

## ON-FARM BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES SUPPORTED BY SARFIP



ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT MOONEY



# SPECIFIC SPECIES AT RISK NEEDS

## 1.1 Habitat Structures and Enhancements

Funding to support the purchase, construction and installation of species-specific habitat structures and enhancements to natural habitat for specific SAR. These include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Bat houses and/or bat roosts
- ✓ Specialized nest boxes for SAR birds only (e.g. barn owl, barn swallow, prothonotary warbler, short-eared owl)
- ✓ Winter bird roosts
- ✓ Turtle sunning platforms
- ✓ Pollinator nesting sites to support pollinators and plant species at risk
- ✓ Snake hibernacula (overwintering sites)
- ✓ Turtle nesting sites
- ✓ Pollinator planting projects
- ✓ In-stream structures to enhance survival of fish or mussels (including in-stream brush bundles). *Copies of required permits must be submitted to OSCIA with the project claim for this activity.*

✗ Costs related to bird houses or other habitat that does not benefit a Species at Risk (i.e. eastern blue bird boxes)

More information and further resources on these and other habitat structures can be found on the SARFIP page of the OSCIA website (<https://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/sarpal/additional-resources/>).

Some projects may require consultation with an MNRF partnership specialist, a Department of Fisheries (DFO) biologist, a Conservation Authority, biologist, or other qualified third party.

## 1.2 Corridors Connecting Habitat

Funding to support improving or creating connectivity of fragmented habitat for plant and animal species through plantings. Corridors include protected areas of tall grass, shrubs, and/or trees and may be composed of existing fencerows, field edges, and marginal lands that effectively connect natural areas. Mowing, if desired, must occur after July 15 to protect nesting birds.

- ✓ Site preparation and planting of native grasses, less than 40% legumes, herbaceous plants, trees, and/or shrubs (see limits for tree planting on page 11)
- ✓ Provision of species shelter through brush piles, rock piles, or logs integrated with plantings



- ✗ Ongoing maintenance costs (including maintenance and renovation of existing plantings)
- ✗ Planting invasive or non-native plants (a list of native species can be found at [www.ontariowildflowers.com](http://www.ontariowildflowers.com))
- ✗ Opportunity costs associated with payments for land taken out of production
- ✗ Trees, shrubs or other plantings for landscaping or around buildings
- ✗ Establishment of trees, shrubs, or other plantings that are intended for harvest for economic benefit within 15 years, such as fruit orchards, Christmas trees, ornamental nursery stock, etc.
- ✗ Tree spaded stock or the transplant of large caliper trees



**GYPSY CUCKOO BUMBLE BEE**  
(ENDANGERED)





## 1.3 Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

Funding is to support the fees for qualified consultants (e.g. professional ecologist, biologist, or forester) to conduct an assessment and produce **a written report and a plan** that provides recommendations specific to the property and management practices for implementing biodiversity-enhancing BMPs. **Note: the +15% SAR Watch Bonus is not applicable to this BMP.**

- ✓ Planning and decision support tools (e.g. computer software, aerial photos)
- ✓ Maps and land resource information costs
- ✓ Data collection (e.g. SAR-specific surveys), materials, sampling and analysis costs of consultant for biodiversity enhancement plan
- ✓ Consultant fees to develop a biodiversity enhancement plan, including tree marking if part of a plan
- ✓ Design work for biodiversity enhancement in riparian, upland and wetland areas or other wildlife habitat



- ✗ Time, effort, and travel by the producer for planning activities
- ✗ Professional services not directly related to the biodiversity enhancement plan
- ✗ Routine sampling and analysis to determine annual requirements for crop and animal nutrients or pest control
- ✗ Field-specific agronomic practices (e.g. variable rate application of crop inputs)
- ✗ Repeat services on the same crop acres, woodland, or wetland area
- ✗ Any plan, assessment, report, etc. not prepared by a qualified consultant/professional

## 1.4 Invasive Plant Species Control

Funding is to support the implementation of best practices to control invasive plant species, such as Phragmites, Dog-strangling Vine, Common Buckthorn. For a full list of species, visit [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com). Project costs could include the following:

- ✓ Development of invasive plant species management plan
- ✓ Rental of specialized equipment for mechanical removal
- ✓ Appropriate disposal
- ✓ Professional contracting services for removal or up to a maximum payment of \$4,000 in-kind labour and equipment use for the project.



- ✗ Major clearing of fencerows or field landscapes
- ✗ Purchase of cultivation equipment, including equipment used primarily for general vegetation control around farmsteads
- ✗ Chemical control (herbicides) – unless proven to be the most effective means of control with a support letter from technical specialist, other supporting information deemed appropriate by OSCIA
- ✗ Control and management of plants not identified as invasive
- ✗ Fuel costs



### INVASIVE SPECIES

Non-native species whose introduction or spread threatens the environment, the economy, or society.

*Please note that funding for biological control agents is limited to those that are approved by appropriate regulatory authorities and are compatible with existing OMAFRA biological control programs.*

*Mechanical mulching of woody plants in pastures must occur after **July 15** to remove risk to ground nesting grassland birds.*

*Information about invasive plant species and best practices can be found at [www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca](http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca) and [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com).*

## 1.5 Other Specific Species at Risk Habitat Improvement Projects

Do you have an idea for a SAR habitat project that does not fit the BMPs listed in this brochure?  
Contact OSCIA directly to discuss your project at 519-826-3035 or [SARFIP@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:SARFIP@ontariosoilcrop.org).



## 2.1 Fencing to Exclude Livestock from Woodland Areas

Funding is to support permanent fencing to exclude livestock from forest/woodland areas. Fences must be at least three metres from any environmentally sensitive feature; this buffer zone must be permanently planted. **Fencing along a farm property boundary is not eligible for cost-share**; a farm is expected to have adequate farm perimeter fencing already in place. Please note that cost-share applies to total eligible project costs of up to \$11.50/metre of fencing installed, inclusive of all costs and in-kind contributions. See page 11 for additional information on fencing projects.

- ✓ Sections of permanent livestock fencing directly adjacent to a forested area on the farm property, materials could include;
  - ✓ Wire, posts, labour to install, nails, staples, equipment rental and labour to install



- ✗ Repair and maintenance of existing fencing
- ✗ Perimeter fencing around the farm property

## 2.2 Native Tree Planting

Applicants planting trees are encouraged to secure tree advisory services from a qualified forestry professional, such as a Conservation Authority, registered professional forester, etc., who will undertake the work in compliance with the Professional Foresters Act of Ontario and according to the guidelines endorsed by a member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association (OPFA). It is important that the area where planting is to take place and the chosen tree species will not prove harmful to SAR. Only native trees or shrubs are eligible. Cost-share applies to total project costs of up to \$50/tree, inclusive of all costs and in-kind contributions. See page 11 for additional information on tree planting projects. Types of supported tree planting projects are:

### Reforestation (Block Tree Planting)

Block plantings require a plan from a qualified forestry professional, such as a Conservation Authority, registered professional forester, etc.

### Tree Windbreaks

Trees planted along a pasture, field, or crop edge. A multi-species windbreak is preferred as it more beneficial to SAR.

### Buffer Strips

Permanently vegetated multi-species buffer establishment (a minimum of five metres in width) along a natural habitat area (e.g. stream, wetland, pond, forest, or grassland).

- ✓ Site preparation (limited to up to 50% of total project costs)
- ✓ Planting of native trees and shrubs (seeds, seedlings, potted stock or plugs)
- ✓ Weed and rodent control systems (mulch, mowing, tree guards, etc.)
- ✓ Planting of SAR trees and shrubs (more than one tree/shrub per species)
- ✓ Establishment support as recommended and provided by a Professional Forester, or other qualified party
- ✓ Tree Service Agreement for spring 2022 planting (see page 11 for more details)
- ✓ Woodlot management practices that support SAR (e.g. releasing eastern flowering dogwood or American chestnut from canopy suppression)



- ✗ Ongoing maintenance costs (including maintenance and renovation of existing tree plantings)
- ✗ Planting invasive or non-native trees (e.g. European Larch and Norway Spruce)
- ✗ Opportunity costs associated with payments for land taken out of production
- ✗ Trees, shrubs or other plantings for landscaping or around buildings
- ✗ Establishment of trees, shrubs, or other plantings that are intended for harvest for economic benefit within 15 years, such as fruit orchards, Christmas trees, ornamental nursery stock, etc.
- ✗ Tree spaded stock or the transplant of large caliper trees
- ✗ Purchase of cultivation equipment and related accessories or attachments

**Won't be able to complete your tree planting project in 2021?**

**See page 11 for information on Tree Service Agreements with your Conservation Authority for Spring 2022 planting.**



# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NATIVE TREE PLANTING

## Tree Planting Projects

Cost-share applies to the total eligible project costs up to \$50 total per tree, including trees, planting operations, and in-kind contributions. The SARFIP Application Form must outline the project type(s) (Reforestation, Windbreak, Buffer Strip), tree species, how many trees will be planted, and where they will be planted.

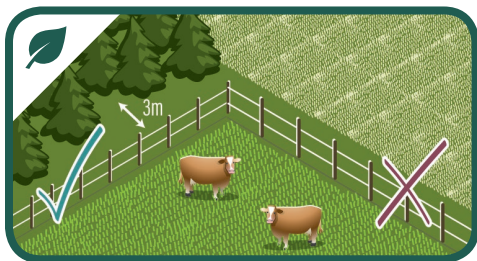
## 2021 Planting

- Farm businesses can purchase trees and shrubs and perform site preparation, planting and maintenance themselves
- All aspects of the planting project must be complete by **December 15, 2021**
- Associated in-kind costs are eligible in accordance with the SARFIP in-kind contribution policy (page 16)
- All planting must proceed as identified in the approved SARFIP application

## Spring 2022 Planting

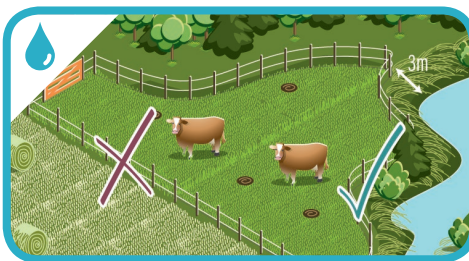
- Planting must be done directly through a Conservation Authority or eligible Planting Delivery Agent and **prepayment for all services and fees must be completed with proof of payment submitted to OSCIA by December 15, 2021**
- A minimum of 50 trees for a windbreak and 500 for a block planting must be planted
- Applicant must enter into a Tree Service Agreement (provided by OSCIA to applicant upon conditional approval of proposed project). The agreement must be signed by the applicant and the Planting Delivery Agent (e.g. the Conservation Authority) before being submitted to OSCIA
- **In-kind costs are not eligible**
- A planting plan prepared by the Planting Delivery Agent that includes a site map must be submitted with the application
- All planting must proceed as identified in the planting plan

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FENCING



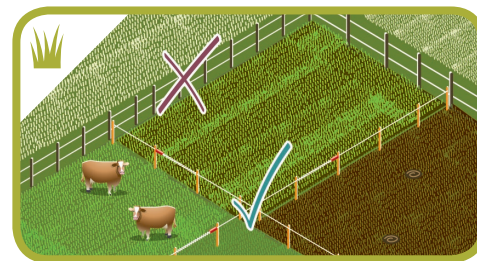
### 2.1 Fencing to Exclude Livestock from Woodland Areas

- Permanent fence (i.e. no movable, temporary installations)
- Up to \$11.50/m in total project costs eligible for cost-share



### 3.2 Fencing to Exclude Livestock from Water's Edge

- Permanent fence (i.e. no movable, temporary installations)
- Up to \$11.50/m in total project costs eligible for cost-share



### 4.2 Cross Fencing for Rotational Grazing

- Temporary, movable fencing
- Total project costs eligible for cost-share:
  - Conventional fencer: \$2.45/m
  - Solar powered fencer: \$5/m

## Example of fencing cost-share

Joe wants to install 200m of permanent fencing along a stream that runs through his sheep pasture. The maximum total project cost for this activity is \$11.50/m and his cost-share is 50%, which means the most funding he could receive from SARFIP is \$1,150.00.

## Remember:

- Farm perimeter fencing is never eligible
- Repair and maintenance to existing fencing is never eligible
- Always leave a planted buffer of at least 3 metres between fencing and any environmentally sensitive feature (e.g. woodland or top of streambank)

Joe's maximum total project costs eligible for cost-share:  $200 \text{ m} \times \$11.50/\text{m} = \$2,300$

At a cost-share rate of 50%, Joe would receive:  $\$2,300 \times 50\% = \$1,150$



## 3.1 Wetland Restoration

Funding is to support restoration of wetlands, returning them to their original size, depth and ecological function. **All applications must include a letter of support** from a Conservation Authority, technical specialist, or recognized conservation group (e.g. Ducks Unlimited Canada) to be considered eligible. The letter should make reference to:

- The original existence of a wetland (if possible)
- That previous alteration resulted in negative impact
- That ecological function can be restored

Eligible activities can include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Earthwork, equipment rentals
- ✓ Ditch plugs
- ✓ Consultant fees
- ✓ Plant establishment
- ✓ Habitat enhancements such as brush or rock piles, pollinator plantings, deadwood, and snags



- ✗ Work associated with irrigation ponds or landscaping
- ✗ Opportunity costs associated with payments for land taken out of production
- ✗ Planting invasive or non-native plants; a list of native species can be found at [www.ontariowildflowers.com](http://www.ontariowildflowers.com)
- ✗ Vines, ornamentals and other species unlikely to offer value to SAR habitat
- ✗ Costs for permits
- ✗ Livestock Fencing



### RIPARIAN AREA

The area adjacent to streams, rivers, and other bodies of water

## 3.2 Fencing to Exclude Livestock from Water's Edge

Funding is to support permanent fencing to exclude livestock from water's edge or riparian areas. Fences must be at least three metres from top of bank (or the high water mark for aquatic SAR that depend on seasonally flooded riparian areas); this buffer zone must be permanently planted. **Fencing along a farm property boundary is not eligible for cost-share**; a farm is expected to have adequate farm perimeter fencing already in place. Please note that cost-share applies to total eligible project costs of up to \$11.50/metre of fencing installed, inclusive of all costs and in-kind contributions. See page 11 for additional information on fencing projects.

- ✓ Sections of permanent livestock fencing directly adjacent to a riparian area on the farm property, could include;
  - ✓ Wire, posts, labour to install, nails, staples
- ✓ Alternate watering systems where fencing is being installed to exclude livestock from surface water or other natural water sources
  - ✓ Gravity fed systems
  - ✓ Solar, wind, or motorized power pumps
  - ✓ Waterlines
  - ✓ Storage tanks
  - ✓ Water aeration systems on existing ponds or reservoirs



- ✗ Repair and maintenance of existing fencing or watering systems
- ✗ Perimeter fencing around the farm property
- ✗ Watering systems not associated with excluding livestock from natural water sources, or systems installed at the barn
- ✗ New water supply development (e.g. drilling a new water well)
- ✗ Shelters for watering systems

**If you are interested in completing a SARFIP project that results in the direct creation, enhancement or protection of SAR habitat on you farm, you may wish to participate in SAR Watch!**

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**SAR Watch provides a unique opportunity to monitor SAR while receiving an additional 15% cost-share (see page 3 for more details).**



### 3.3 Improved Stream Crossings

Funding is to support improved stream crossings for livestock or equipment and must enhance or replace an existing crossing. All improved stream crossing projects within the channel of a watercourse must not violate the Fisheries Act nor the Conservation Authorities Act nor any other piece of legislation. **A letter of support** from a Conservation Authority (and in some cases, Fisheries and Oceans Canada) confirming that the project will comply with applicable legislation must accompany all improved stream crossing applications and work proposed within the channel of a watercourse. *Copies of required permits must be submitted to OSCIA upon project completion with the SARFIP Claim Form.*

Actions must be compliant with all legislation including the federal Species at Risk Act, provincial Endangered Species Act, and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act. Authorizations may be required; please contact Fisheries and Oceans Canada and your local MNR office for more information.

- ✓ Engineering, contracting services, or professional design costs
- ✓ Improved structures to enhance riparian condition
- ✓ Bed-level, mid-level, full-flow culvert and bridge crossings are eligible. **All clear-span bridge crossing designs must be stamped approved by a Professional Engineer.** *Copies of required permits must be submitted to OSCIA with the SARFIP Claim Form*
- ✓ Removal of harmful crossings/structures (e.g. weirs or dams)



- ✗ Stream crossing projects that are associated with a new or expanded pasture or field, where no crossing existed previously (i.e. providing access to lands previously not accessed)



### Restored wetland brings back wildlife

Story excerpt by Lilian Schaer

Janice Keil's passion for nature, the environment, native species and habitats is undeniable. The organic market gardener grows her crops on 97 acres in the northeast corner of Northumberland County, on the land between the Canadian Shield and the St. Lawrence Lowlands that is said to have the highest species diversity in Ontario.

Keil's land is home to many habitats and species at risk, including Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Grasshopper sparrows, Monarch butterflies, Eastern Wood-Pewees, Wood Thrush, and Eastern Ribbon Snakes.

But she was struggling to deal with an infestation of invasive Reed Canary Grass in eight acres of wetland on her property. Her goal: to restore the wetland into the diverse marsh area it used to be, as designated on the original survey maps of the land dating back to 1832.

She was excited to receive cost-share funding from the Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program (SARFIP) for a collaborative project with Ducks Unlimited and the Lower Trent Conservation Authority to restore the wetland and plant native tree species.

"Species at risk are something that's very important to me," Keil says. "When I was growing up on a farm in southwestern Ontario,

species at risk wasn't something that was talked about, but now, thanks to programs like SARFIP, it's definitely on people's radar and they're aware."

She was able to restore 1.5 acres of open marsh, to which she added basking logs for turtles, a constructed island, floating nesting platforms for marsh birds and hibernacula, winter habitat for snakes. She also planted over 1,750 native trees and shrubs in the land around the wetland, including over 90 different species.

Now, wildlife activity in the area has surged with birds, turtles, frogs, snakes, ducks and other wildlife, as well as a bald eagle sighting, and her trees and shrubs are growing well.



Want more information on SAR that might be found on your farm?  
Contact OSCIA to get copies of our Farm Field Guides to grasslands, wetlands, woodlands, and rivers & streams.

## 3.4 Erosion Control Structures Along Water's Edge

Funding is to support erosion control structures in riparian zones with concentrated water flow, and soils with moderate to steep slopes susceptible to severe water erosion. Shoreline and stream bank management practices must follow all applicable legislation (e.g. Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, Drainage Act, Fisheries Act, etc.). Contact your local Conservation Authority or Fisheries and Oceans Canada for details on legislation.

**All projects must be properly designed by a certified erosion control contractor or other professional** according to the specifications included in the OMAFRA publication 832 entitled Agricultural Erosion Control Structures – A Design and Construction Manual. A link to OMAFRA's list of Soil Erosion Control Contractor Certificate Holders is available on the SARFIP resources page on the OSCIA website at [www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org). Projects involving municipal drains require approval **in writing** from the local Drainage Superintendent (letters should be submitted with the SARFIP application). *For all erosion control projects, copies of required permits must be submitted to OSCIA with the SARFIP Claim Form.*

- ✓ Engineering, contracting services, or professional design costs
- ✓ Ditch bank and shoreline stabilization (including bio-engineering)
- ✓ Grade control structures: rock chute spillways and drop pipe inlet structures
- ✓ In-channel control structures to reduce velocity, the erosive force of water and to provide fish habitat (e.g. pools and riffles, natural channel design)
- ✓ Water and Sediment Control Basins (WaSCoBs)
- ✓ Grassed waterways and gully stabilization
- ✓ Tile outlet structures to upgrade existing eroded outlets—must include rigid outlet pipe, rodent gate, proper rock protection with filter cloth underneath



- ✗ Converting open channels to closed drainage systems
- ✗ Systematic tiling and other subsurface drainage systems that are not an integral part of an erosion control structure
- ✗ Projects primarily concerned with drainage, including but not limited to;
  - ✗ Construction of new drainage channels
  - ✗ Repair of existing drainage systems (e.g. drainage ditch clean-outs, French drains)
  - ✗ Installation of drop inlets for drainage of ponded surface water
  - ✗ Tile outlet structures associated with new tile drainage installations
  - ✗ Projects initiated through the Drainage Act
- ✗ Costs of tile and installation that exceeds 30 metres for riparian drop inlet structure projects
- ✗ Header tile systems
- ✗ Retrieving topsoil from areas of deposition and transporting it upslope to eroded hillsides
- ✗ Construction and land improvement activities not associated with soil erosion control
- ✗ Repair and maintenance of existing erosion control works

## Building habitats a win-win for both farm and species at risk

Story excerpt by Lilian Schaer

When John VanRooijen began a fragile land retirement project on his farm north of Aylmer three years ago, species at risk weren't his primary motivator. His focus for turning an area of hilly, erodible clay knolls at the back of his property into a marsh and grassland area was primarily on water quality – minimizing phosphate runoff from fertilizer and controlling soil erosion.

It didn't take long for the newly established area to start attracting insects, ducks, turtles, and other species. And as VanRooijen became aware of cost-share opportunities through the Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program (SARFIP), he began looking at additional ways he could make improvements to that section of his farm.

With SARFIP support, he planted native grasses and wildflowers to encourage wildlife habitat and control invasive plant species like Reed Canary Grass and Phragmites on the five acres of land adjacent to the marsh.



## 4.1 Native Grassland Planting

Funding is to support native grassland restoration (includes native prairie and savannah), including establishment along the water's edge or in upland areas. Grazing and haying for on-farm use is permitted after July 15. No off-farm sales are permitted.

- ✓ Mixed planting of native grassland species for wildlife habitat
- ✓ Site preparation
- ✓ Rental of specialized planting equipment



- ✗ Pasture seeding and establishment costs
- ✗ Pasture renovation
- ✗ Forage management
- ✗ Establishment of native grasses and vegetation for harvest (e.g. biomass)
- ✗ Purchase of cultivation equipment
- ✗ Opportunity costs associated with payments for land taken out of production
- ✗ Planting of invasive species

## 4.2 Cross Fencing for Rotational Grazing

Funding is to support new fencing and livestock watering systems infrastructure to strengthen rotational grazing systems and enhance habitat for grassland birds. Ungrazed pastures can provide refuge-areas for nesting grassland birds, if grazing is delayed until after July 15th. **Rotational grazing systems must be implemented on at least 10 acres of pasture and must include at least four (4) sections (fields or paddocks) for rotation to qualify for this program.** Only interior sections are eligible for cost-share; it is expected that pasture perimeter fencing is already established.

Please note that:

- Applicants will be required to submit a diagram of their proposed grazing and/or watering system with their application.
- cost-share applies to total eligible project costs up to \$2.45/metre of eligible fence installed or \$5/metre if the purchase of a solar charger is necessary to run the additional fencing. See page 11 for additional information on fencing projects.

- ✓ Fencing materials, including wire, posts, insulators, fencers, and gates
- ✓ Consultant fees to develop a Grazing Management Plan
- ✓ Watering systems to support rotational grazing system
  - ✓ Gravity fed systems
  - ✓ Solar, wind, or motorized powered pumps
  - ✓ Purchase and installation of solar powered systems to support electric fencing
  - ✓ Waterlines
  - ✓ Storage tanks
  - ✓ Water aeration systems on existing ponds/reservoirs



- ✗ Repair and maintenance of existing fencing or watering systems
- ✗ Perimeter fencing around the farm property or pasture (this includes any sections of fencing along a property line)
- ✗ Consulting services not directly related to the Grazing Management Plan
  - ✗ Time, effort, and travel by applicant for planning activities
  - ✗ Repeat services on the same crop acres
  - ✗ Any plan, assessment, report, etc. not prepared by a qualified consultant/professional
- ✗ Watering systems not associated with a rotational grazing system, or systems installed at the barn
- ✗ New water supply development (e.g. drilling a new water well)
- ✗ Shelters for watering systems



# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

The applicant's in-kind labour and equipment use for the project, up to a maximum payment of \$2,000 (unless otherwise specified in the BMP category) as supported by an In-Kind Claim Declaration Form and reported on the Project Claim Form, may be considered eligible for cost-share.

Reasonable hours of labour invested by the applicant, his/her dependents, and business partner(s) may be claimed. Costs associated with completing the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP), education, project planning, supervision, or administration are not eligible for funding as in-kind costs. Eligible in-kind contributions are invested in the project in the form of unpaid labour and/or use of farm business equipment and may be claimed as follows:

The maximum allowable labour rate is \$20 per hour. OSCIA will make a final determination on what a reasonable number of hours claimed is based on the BMP being implemented and the nature of the work performed.

The maximum allowable in-kind equipment rate for a tractor and implement is \$50 per hour of operation. Applicable in-kind operator charges may be claimed along with the in-kind equipment rate, at up to the accepted maximum hourly labour rate.

If a business plans to claim in-kind contributions, accurate estimates must be reflected in the total project cost submitted with the SARPAL Application.

When making a project claim for in-kind contributions, the figure added to the Claim Form must be supported by an In-Kind Claim Declaration Form which details specific hours worked, dates the work was performed, by whom, and the hourly rate(s) charged. The In-Kind Claim Declaration Form will be provided to applicants upon final project approval.

Examples of eligible in-kind contributions:

- ✓ Applicant's child planting trees
- ✓ Applicant stringing wire for cross fencing project
- ✓ Applicant's tractor used for augering post holes
- ✓ Applicant/business partner operating tractor

**Tip:** Keep track of your work on the project and on-farm equipment used throughout your project implementation so you don't have to recall specific dates and hours at claim time.

Examples of ineligible in-kind contributions:



- ✗ Applicant's employee planting trees (*an invoice and proof of payment should be submitted for this cost*)
- ✗ On-farm materials used for project (e.g. on-farm posts, electric wire purchased outside of program year, wood for nesting boxes, trees, etc.)
- ✗ Applicant/business partner completing EFP, designing project, filling out applications, supervising project implementation (i.e. any administrative tasks)
- ✗ Rates that exceed \$20 per hour for in-kind labour
- ✗ Rates that exceed \$50 per hour for a tractor and equipment

OSCIA will provide an In-Kind Claim Declaration Form to applicants upon final project approval. In-kind contributions should be documented on this form as part of the applicant's claim.

## Did you know that bank swallows can dig a 60-90 cm long burrow in just 5 days?

Bank swallows can be found in spring and summer throughout southern Ontario, with small populations in northern Ontario. Bank swallows nest in burrows within sand or silt deposits with vertical faces. Nests are often found along riverbanks and lakes but can also be found in gravel or sand pits. Bank swallows primarily consume insects while flying, and hunt on land for insects including spiders. This species is threatened by loss of habitat, vehicle collisions, and decreasing prey populations.

**BANK SWALLOW (THREATENED)**



# LIMITS OF FUNDING

1. SARFIP cost-share is available to new projects initiated on or after April 1, 2021. No cost-share will be offered for project invoices issued before this date. To receive cost-share, all projects must be complete and operational and the complete SARFIP Claim Form received in the OSCIA Guelph office by December 15, 2021. OSCIA reserves the right to perform a project inspection at a mutually agreeable time.
2. SARFIP cost-share may be utilized by eligible applicants for approved Best Management Practice projects on farm properties owned, rented, leased or otherwise under their control.
3. Cost-share opportunities offered through SARFIP are designed to encourage the adoption of new BMPs to reduce environmental risks identified in the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Action Plan and to enhance habitat for species at risk.
4. Participation in SARFIP over previous years by the farm business does not affect the allowable contribution available for the 2021-2022 program year.
5. All invoices for the approved project must comply with the eligible invoice dates. OSCIA cannot issue cost-share payments for incomplete projects (i.e. partially complete).
6. Materials or products produced on farm (e.g. trees or fence posts) or purchased outside the eligible invoice dates cannot be cost-shared.
7. Stacking of SARFIP contributions towards the same project by two or more farm businesses is not permissible.
8. Applicants are entirely responsible for securing all necessary approvals and permits for the proposed project before starting construction, and complying with all applicable municipal bylaws and provincial or federal regulations. OSCIA will require copies of permits obtained for some projects before issuing program funding.
9. Only invoices from vendors or service providers directly engaged in the business reflected in the item or service purchased in accordance with the approved SARFIP Application will be accepted with the project claim.
10. All invoices that support materials or services provided to a project must originate with companies or individuals not in any way associated through ownership with the farm business making the project claim. All eligible invoices must match the farm business name identified on the Enrolment Form.
11. OSCIA reserves the right to require additional documentation and ultimately accept or reject submitted project invoices and proof of payment for cost-share consideration.
12. A single project may receive cost-share from one BMP category only. Multiple categories cannot be accessed for a single activity in efforts to maximize SARFIP contributions (i.e. cost-share will only be applied once to a project cost item).
13. Eligible projects must be new to the farm business, unless otherwise indicated in the project category description.
14. The farm business shall ensure that the total cost-share assistance from all sources, including other government or non-government programs, for eligible expenses shall not exceed 100 percent of project costs. The farm business is required to confirm at the time the claim is submitted all other sources of funding for eligible project expenses.
15. Across all BMP categories, HST (Harmonized Sales Tax) is not eligible.
16. Across all BMP categories, maintenance, extended warranties, hand, and power tools and attachments are not eligible for cost-share.
17. OSCIA will not accept additional SARFIP applications once the total SARFIP funding available for the program year has been committed. The funds will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.
18. All applicable information on the Enrolment Form and the SARFIP Application Form must be complete before it is submitted to OSCIA Guelph. If the OSCIA Guelph office considers an Enrolment or SARFIP Application Form to be incomplete, the form will promptly be returned in its entirety to the applicant to obtain the missing information. Only proposed projects detailed on SARFIP Applications deemed to be complete by the OSCIA Guelph office will be considered for cost-share.
19. If the applicant goes ahead with the project prior to receiving final approval to proceed from the OSCIA Guelph office, they do so at the risk of forfeiting the cost-share if all terms and conditions are not satisfied.
20. Information presented is the best available at the time of printing. Check with OSCIA for applicable updates. Material is subject to change without notice as the cost-share program evolves.
21. If a proposed project receives a SARFIP allocation, the same project is not eligible for other funding programs delivered by OSCIA (e.g. The Partnership, LEADS). Other cost-share programs may be available from local Conservation Authorities, Ducks Unlimited Canada and other stewardship organizations. Farm businesses are encouraged to seek out these opportunities.
22. SARFIP cost-share allocation is based on the eligible project costs outlined on the approved SARFIP Application Form. Accurate estimates must be reflected in the total project cost submitted on the SARFIP Application Form. If final project costs exceed the original estimate, there is absolutely no obligation by OSCIA to extend cost-share beyond the original allocation.
23. Site preparation costs that exceed 10-times the cost of planting/seeding are not eligible.
24. An entity is considered Arm's Length if they are not related, not affiliated persons or otherwise controlled by another member or members. Refer to Section 251 of the Income Tax Act (Canada) for the detailed statutory provision for determining arm's length relationships. If you have any questions about whether a supplier meets this requirement, please contact: 1-800-265-9751.



# WHEN AND WHERE DO I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION?

SARFIP projects can be completed between April 1, 2021 and December 15, 2021; invoices for project costs must be dated within this timeline.

Your project must be complete and operational, with Claim Forms to OSCIA Guelph, no later than December 15, 2021.

## Applications can be submitted by:

**Email** SARFIP@ontariosoilcrop.org

**Post** ATTN: SARFIP  
Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association  
Unit #1, 367 Woodlawn Road West  
Guelph ON N1H 7K9

## Eligible Invoice Dates:

April 1, 2021 to December 15, 2021

## Project Completion and Claim Submission Deadline:

December 15, 2021

*The views expressed herein are those of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association.*

