

# Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

## Livestock Predation Prevention: Predator Resistant Fence Construction Program

### Program Guide

Version 1.0



# Contents

Section 1 - Program Description .....	3
Section 2 - Program Eligibility .....	3
Section 3 - Program Details .....	4
Section 4 - Application Worksheet Assessment.....	8
Section 5 - How to Apply for Funding.....	9
Definitions.....	11
Appendix A - Eligible Fencing Expenses.....	13
Appendix B - Fence Guidelines.....	14

# Section 1 - Program Description

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) supports the growth and sustainability of the agriculture sector in Manitoba. The Livestock Predation Prevention Program (LPPP) is offered through Sustainable CAP. The objective of the LPPP is to accelerate adoption of non-lethal, on-farm measures that reduce the risk of livestock predation by wolves, coyotes, bears, and other predators. Funding is available for the construction of predator resistant fencing at calving areas, pastures, extending grazing areas, and deadstock compost sites. Reducing livestock predation promotes the co-existence of wildlife and livestock in agricultural regions of Manitoba.

## Section 2 - Program Eligibility

Eligible applicants include:

- Agricultural Crown Land forage lease holders
- Association of Manitoba Community Pastures
- Indigenous primary producers and communities, including First Nations and Métis
- Primary producers

To be eligible, all applicants:

- Must have had a paid (verifiable and/or probable) livestock predation claim under the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program in 2021 or later. For community pastures, their patrons must have paid claims for livestock on the pasture.
- Must manage and undertake their project on agricultural land used to produce agricultural products in Manitoba.
- Must have a Manitoba Premises Identification Number.
- Must ensure that they meet all eligibility requirements.
- Projects must be constructed on land owned by the applicant, or the applicant has permission from the landowner to execute the project.
  - If constructed on Agricultural Crown Land (ACL), the ACL forage lease holder must obtain a letter of support for the project from their Farm Production Extension Specialist.

A business or organization with multiple divisions, operating names, or units, will count as one business or organization.

Government employees, who are the majority shareholder (50 per cent or higher) in a business or organization, are not eligible to apply for funding. A business or organization, which includes a provincial government employee as a minority shareholder, will be eligible to apply for funding.

Additional factors may be considered in determining the eligibility of the applicant, including:

- the provision of false or misleading information by the applicant under other Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership and Manitoba programs
- amounts due and owing to Manitoba by the applicant under other Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership and Manitoba programs

## Section 3 - Program Details

Activities are cost shared between government and the applicant; the cost share ratio is 75:25 for eligible activities up to a limit of \$10,000.

### Eligible Expenses

Eligible Expenses must be directly related to the execution of a project that demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Project Administrator, that the items purchased will assist in reducing the risk of predation for a species of livestock eligible under the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program.

Financial assistance is available for the construction of the following fence types:

- **Predator Resistant Fencing:** constructed to deter predators from attacking livestock by protecting areas that are commonly used for calving, lambing or other birthing areas, pastures, or extended grazing.
- **Deadstock Compost Pen:** constructed to limit the attraction of predators to farms by protecting areas that are used for disposing or composting of deadstock.

The following expenses are **eligible** for funding:

- Incremental Personal Labour and Personal Equipment Use
  - Labour hours incurred by the applicant for eligible activities, at \$30/hour.
  - Equipment owned by the applicant can be used for the successful completion of the approved project. Reimbursement will be determined using the following rates:
    - post pounder at \$35/hour
    - tractor at \$100/hour
    - skid steer at \$80/hour
    - ATV at \$60/hour
    - Trailer at \$20/hour
  - These equipment rates do not include the labour to operate them. Labour should be claimed separately.
- Subcontracted Services
  - Third-party services related to custom labour, equipment use, and materials

- Equipment Rental
  - Equipment that is rented and required for the successful completion of the approved project
- Materials and Supplies
  - Construction and fence building materials necessary for the completion of the approved project, examples include gates, lumber, wire, and staples etc.
  - Fence energizers rated at 0.7 joules or higher
- Provincial Sales Tax (PST).

Where a project is approved, no eligible expense will be reimbursed unless a funding agreement is signed.

If work is started on a project before formal written approval of program funding is received, the applicant does so at their own risk and there is no guarantee that those expenses will be eligible for reimbursement.

Eligible expenses beyond that in the funding agreement are ineligible unless approved by the program administrator.

Fences will be inspected to verify the work to construct the approved fence has been completed, the type and size of the fence constructed, and that the meets standards in this Guide for deterring wild predators.

Retrofitting existing fences will be deemed eligible only if the fence is modified to resist predators and meets the standards in this Guide. The applicant must identify the old and new construction at the time of inspection.

Eligible expenses must have occurred on or after April 1, 2024, and be supported by an invoice and proof of payment. Any invoice dated before April 1, 2024, will be deemed ineligible. Use or replacement of inventory on-hand on April 1, 2024, is not eligible for reimbursement.

For additional information on eligible expenses and fence construction guidelines, see Appendix A and Appendix B.

## **Ineligible Expenses**

The following expenses are **ineligible** for funding:

- Any expenses incurred before or after the dates listed in a funding agreement
- Any eligible expense that is not supported by an eligible proof of payment.
- Any expense, including a tax, which is eligible for a rebate, credit, or refund such as Goods and Services Tax (GST)
- Normal operating expenses associated with carrying out business operations
- Extended warranties

- Spare parts or materials not used as part of the project
- Financing charges, loan interest payments, bank fees and charges
- Compensation to any government employee for providing services
- Purchase of land, buildings and facilities and associated taxes and fees (e.g., land transfer tax)
- Any additions or upgrades to new or existing buildings and facilities, associated taxes and fees
- Materials and supplies and/or equipment that are leased or part of a subscription
- Purchase of typical farm equipment (e.g., tractors, skid steers, combines, etc.) and related accessories and attachments
- Normal, current, or ongoing maintenance expenses
- Multi-use items (e.g., items not directly related to the project activities, such as computers, printers, phones, cameras, pressure washers, general farm equipment, batteries, ATV, trucks, clothing and footwear, tools, or fuel)
- Any project-related activity that generates revenue during the implementation of the project
- Any in-kind contribution
- Expenses incurred for other projects
- Managerial and administrative expenses incurred by the applicant
- Any item purchased before April 1, 2024
- Any other expense deemed ineligible by the program administrator

The applicant is solely responsible for all project expenses, including all ineligible expenses and any project deficits or over-runs.

### **Specific Ineligible Items**

- Barbed wire and barbed wire fences.
- Hard-wired power sources, lines, or outlets.
- Temporary fences or mobile fence panels.
- Waterers, feeders, sheds, windbreaks, or other infrastructure for housing or caring for livestock in a fenced area.
- Brush clearing, land levelling and other site preparation.
- Fencing around feedlots, feed storage areas, or non-grazed crops.
- Composting equipment and infrastructure such as compost turners, pads, aerators, sheds, bins, or power source.
- Projects not intended to reduce livestock predation for animals eligible for the Wildlife Damage Compensation program.

### **Funding from Government**

The applicant must adhere to the stacking limit. The stacking limit refers to the maximum level of total Canadian government funding (federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal) a successful Applicant can receive towards total approved eligible expenses of a project.

The maximum level of total government funding must not exceed:

- 100 percent of total approved eligible expenses; or
- If the Applicant is a for-profit business or organization, 75 per cent for capital items that are approved eligible expenses.

## Fence Standards

Fences constructed to contain cattle, sheep and other livestock are often ineffective barriers to predators. Fences must be constructed to effectively deter predators from climbing over, passing through, or burrowing under them. Fences must pass inspection, meet minimum standards, and design expectations for resisting predators, to qualify for funding:

Options for fencing construction that is eligible for program funding include:

- **Electric Fencing:** must be comprised of 7-strand, 9-strand, or 11-strand, depending on risk level.
- **Wire-net Fencing** must include page, welded, fixed-knot, chain link, or hinge-joint fencing.

Electric Fencing Standards:

- Predator resistant gate that is the same height and tightly fits to the fence.
- The bottom wire of an electric fence is placed no more than 15 cm (6") above ground level and the spacing between each of the lower three wires does not exceed 15 cm (6").
- The energizer is rated at 0.7 joules or higher and can generate 6,000 volts or more. The energizer has been installed and is electrifying the fence at time of inspection.
- Minimum fence height is 137 cm (54") but will need to be higher for 9-wire and 11-wire fences.
- Barbed wire cannot be used with electric fences.
- If an apron is used, it is attached to the fence and extends a minimum of 40 cm (16") at ground level out from the fence.

Wire-net Fencing Standards:

- Predator resistant gate that is the same height and tightly fits to the fence.
- Minimum fence height is 137 cm (54"). Electrified, high tensile wires can be added above the top of net-wire fencing to meet the standard for the total fence height.
- Openings on wire-net fences do not exceed 15 cm (6"). Smaller closer openings closer to the ground are recommended, typically 5 cm to 7.5 cm (2" to 3") vertical spacing. The wire is tight to the ground.
- An apron is highly recommended and should be attached to the fence and extends a minimum of 40 cm (16") at ground level out from the fence.

- An electrified high tensile wire is recommended at the top of page, welded, fixed knot, hinge-joint and other net-wire fencing to discourage predators from climbing over.

An apron is highly recommended for all fences to deter burrowing. Fences over 60" high will further deter coyotes which are known for their agility.

See Appendix A and B for eligible fencing expenses and recommendations for fence construction that deters predators and meets program eligibility requirements.

## **Section 4 - Application Worksheet Assessment**

Application Worksheets will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Applicant eligibility
- Completeness of form
- Factors related to livestock predation risk including:
  - frequency of past predation claims
  - head for past claims
  - predation risk region based on municipality
  - herd or flock size
  - pasture acres
  - type of fence to be constructed.



## Section 5 - How to Apply for Funding

The Applicant Information Form and the Application Worksheet are available on the Manitoba Agriculture website. Go to <https://www.manitoba.ca/scap/> and click on Resiliency and Public Trust and then on Livestock Predation Prevention Program.

Manitoba Agriculture will publish deadline dates through newsletter, website, and social media channels.

The completed Applicant Information Form and Application Worksheet must be submitted to the Program Administrator, via email at [agriculture@gov.mb.ca](mailto:agriculture@gov.mb.ca), by no later than 11:59 PM on June 14, 2024. Application Worksheets and supplementary documentation will not be accepted after this deadline.

Multiple fence projects can be submitted on one Application Worksheet.

Applicant must acknowledge and agree to all terms and conditions contained in the Application Worksheet, Program Guide and Program Terms and Conditions.

Only the applicant may sign the Applicant Information Form, Application Worksheet, or other program documents.

Applicants must comply with all Manitoba and federal government laws and regulations applicable to their projects and to their business or organization's operations. Applicants must also accept and agree to all the terms and conditions of the program.

In the case of corporations, partnerships and other business organizations, a designated person with legal authorization must sign the Applicant Information Form, Application Worksheet, and other program documents. The program administrator may require proof of authorization.

Funding for projects will be subject to the appropriation of funds by the Government of Canada and the Manitoba government.

Funding amounts received from all sources must be declared on the Application Worksheet. Failure to disclose all financial sources for a project may nullify the funding request.

## Funding Decision Letter

Applicants will receive a funding decision letter indicating if the fence application approved and funding level approved. Other details and conditions may be provided.

## Fence Completion, Inspection, and Claim Submission

Complete fence construction by October 31, 2024, to provide time for the fence to be inspected by November 29, 2024. A fence inspection can be requested by contacting Manitoba Agriculture at:

- Program Funding Information Line: **1-800-811-4411**
- Email: [agriculture@gov.mb.ca](mailto:agriculture@gov.mb.ca)

The applicant will then be contacted by an inspector from their local MASC Service Centre, who will attend and assess the project. The inspector will complete an inspection report and will forward the report to the Program Administrator on behalf of the applicant. An inspection report must be received before payment can be issued.

The applicant must complete the Claim Worksheet and submit it along with all invoices, and proof of payment by December 20, 2024, unless otherwise stated in the funding agreement. These documents and the Claim Worksheet must be emailed to: [agriculture@gov.mb.ca](mailto:agriculture@gov.mb.ca)

As part of the LPPP, the Program Administration will access MASC records of predation claims made under the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program between 2021 to 2027. The claim history will assist in the evaluation of the degree to which the program has reduced the risk of livestock predation. Claims within predator resistant fences will assist in evaluating fence design, construction, and effectiveness. Upon completion of the project, the applicant may be asked to participate in program evaluation activities such as questionnaires, surveys, and on-farm risk assessments.

# Definitions

**Agri-business:** a person or entity involved in for-profit commercial activity in the agricultural sector, other than an agri-processor or a primary producer

**Agricultural Crown Land:** as identified under The Manitoba Crown Lands Act, lands owned and managed by the Manitoba government.

**Agricultural land:** private land, leased agricultural Crown land, First Nation land or Association of Manitoba Community Pastures land; used for agricultural crop production or pasture; located in Manitoba.

**Applicant:** a person or entity who satisfies all the eligibility requirements set out in the terms and conditions and who submits an Applicant Information Form and an Application Worksheet under this program.

**Association of Manitoba Community Pastures:** an association operating community pastures throughout Manitoba and along the Saskatchewan border.

**First Nation:** an Indigenous community officially recognized as an administrative unit by the federal government.

**Government Funding:** any financial assistance in the form of provincial or federal grants, loans, or other assistance.

**Indigenous:** individuals who self-report an Indigenous identity, either First Nations, Metis, and/or Inuit, or a combination of those

**In-kind Contributions:** non-monetary goods and/or services

**Land Manager:** individual or entity responsible for the management of agricultural land.

**Landowner:** a person or entity who owns the land on which the project is occurring.

**Manitoba Government Employee:** any full-time, regular, part-time or term individual employed by the provincial government, including any special operating agency or Crown corporation.

**Manitoba Senior Public Servant:** the Clerk of the Executive Council; a deputy minister or equivalent, or an assistant deputy minister; a chairperson, president, vice-president, chief executive officer or deputy chief executive officer of a Crown agency; a person who is designated or who occupies a position that is designated under section 31.1 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Conflict of Interest Act; and includes a person who, on a temporary basis, occupies a position described here.

**Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation:** is a Crown corporation of the Manitoba Government, established by The Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation Act.

**Minister:** the Minister of Agriculture for the Manitoba government, including any person authorized to act on the minister's behalf.

**Municipality:** an incorporated municipality with a minimum population of 1,000 and a density of less than 400 people per square kilometre.

**Person:** includes an individual, partnership, association, or corporate body (entity).

**Primary Producer:** an individual grower, producer or rancher, partnership, corporation, co-operative, or any other association of people who is actively engaged in farming.

**Program:** refers to the Livestock Predation Prevention: Predator Resistance Fence Construction Program.

**Program Activity:** a specific action under the Program, where applicants can apply for funding. Activities may have one or several focus areas.

**Program Administrator:** Manitoba Agriculture and Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation, or where applicable, any person engaged by the Manitoba government, to conduct administrative activities related to the program.

**Project Proponent:** can be any one, or more, of the individuals or groups described under program eligibility; where several of the eligible groups engage in a single proposal, one individual shall be assigned as project contact for the group.

**Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership:** a five-year agricultural policy framework by Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial governments to encourage market development, innovation and research, environmental sustainability, value added processing, improved public trust and risk management across Canada's agriculture, agri-food, and agri-product sectors.

**Terms and Conditions:** the program rules that applicants accept and agree to follow, as part of the funding agreement; may be occasionally revised, altered or amended.

**Wildlife Damage Compensation Program:** a program delivered by Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation to compensate producers who suffer losses to eligible livestock due to attacks by designated natural predators.

# Appendix A - Eligible Fencing Expenses

Project Type	Fence Type	Project Cap (base + additional cost per linear foot of fence)
Predator Resistant Fence	Wire-net fence (e.g. page, welded, fixed-knot, or hinge-joint fencing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 152 cm (60") high: \$1,000 + \$6/linear foot</li> <li>• 178 cm (70") high: \$1,000 + \$7/linear foot</li> </ul>
	Electrified, high tensile, no apron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7-wire fence: \$1,000 + \$3/linear foot</li> <li>• 9-wire fence: \$1,000 + \$4/linear foot</li> <li>• 11-wire fence: \$1,000 + \$5/linear foot</li> </ul>
	If an apron is added to prevent burrowing under a fence, a \$1/linear foot premium is added to the project cap calculation.	
Deadstock Compost Pen	For each of the above fence types, the base funding is \$2,000 (instead of \$1,000). The per linear foot rates are the same as for Predator Resistant Fence.	
<p><b>Additional Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An applicant's total funding for fence construction is capped at \$10,000. Based on 75% government cost share, this cap is reached with total eligible expenses of \$13,333.33 (or more).</li> <li>• A funding decision letter will be sent to the applicant identifying the funding available. Depending on fence size and type, the funding available may be less than the \$10,000 fence category cap applied to all applicants.</li> <li>• The highest rated fences are the 178 cm (70") high fence with an apron and the 9-wire and 11-wire electrified fences. They are recommended for locations away from the home yard, compost pens, and farms with elevated predation risks.</li> <li>• Total Incremental Personal Labour and Equipment Use that can be claimed will be capped at the following rates:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$1/linear foot for predator resistant fences</li> <li>○ \$1.50/linear foot if the predator resistant fence has an apron.</li> <li>○ \$3/linear foot for deadstock compost areas</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

# Appendix B - Fence Guidelines

Fences that are typically constructed to contain cattle, sheep and other livestock are often ineffective barriers to predators. Fences must be constructed in a manner to effectively deter predators from climbing over, passing through, or burrowing under them. To ensure that fences pass the required onsite inspection, applicants are encouraged to follow the guidelines referenced below to assist with the construction of an appropriate fence that will deter predators from crossing over, passing through, or burrowing under.

## Electric Fencing Recommendations

Wire	Charge	7-wire	9-wire (corral or home areas)	11-wire (away from corral or home areas)
Top	+	1.37 m (54")	1.52 m (60")	1.83 m (72")
2 <sup>nd</sup>	-	1.07 m (42")	1.27 m (50")	1.63 m (64")
3 <sup>rd</sup>	+	81 cm (32")	1.07 m (42")	1.42 m (56")
4 <sup>th</sup>	-	56 cm (22")	91 cm (36")	1.22 m (48")
5 <sup>th</sup>	+	41 cm (16")	76 cm (30")	1.02 m (40")
6 <sup>th</sup>	-	25 cm (10")	61 cm (24")	81 cm (32")
7 <sup>th</sup>	+	12 cm (5")	46 cm (18")	66 cm (26")
8 <sup>th</sup>	-		30 cm (12")	51 cm (20")
9 <sup>th</sup>	+		15 cm (6")	38 cm (15")
10 <sup>th</sup>	-			25 cm (10")
11 <sup>th</sup>	+			15 m (6")

### Note:

- A 7-wire design is primarily used to deter wolves, coyotes, and black bears in areas where predator activity is low to moderate.
- A 9 or 11-wire design is primarily used to deter wolves, coyotes, and black bears in areas where predator activity or risk is high or where deer or elk damage to a lower fence might be anticipated.

A wire-net apron (ground cover) with openings less than or equal to 15 cm (6") is also recommended to extend from underneath the fence, outwards to at least 40 cm (16"). This should be affixed to the fence and the ground to prevent predators from lifting it up and digging under.

Electric fencing systems must deliver 6,000 volts or more over the full distance of the fence and require an energizer with a rating of at least 0.7 joules.

Wires should be 11-14 gauge. Barbed wire should not be used in an electric fence. Wires should be affixed to the outside of the fence posts.

## Wire-Net Fence

A wide range of fencing materials are potentially available and come under a variety of names. Examples are page, woven, field, welded, chain link, fixed-knot, and hinge-joint wire.

Wire-net fence should be constructed to a minimum height of 1.52 m (60"), with maximum openings of 15 cm x 15 cm (6" x 6"). Smaller openings on the bottom portion of the fence are recommended, with 5 cm to 7.5 cm (2" to 3") horizontal spacing providing a high resistance to predators. High tensile wire is less prone to stretching and sagging. A minimum wire size of 12.5 gauge and Class 3 galvanizing should be considered for longer fence life.

**It is highly recommended that a minimum of one strand of electrified wire be added to the top of the woven wire fence to prevent animals from climbing over.** Even better, would be to have two hot wires at the top, with a ground wire between them. These should be spaced at a maximum of 15 cm (6") apart. Electric wires can be used to increase the effective height of the fence and discourage climbing. Electric wires can be used in this manner with 48" wire-net fencing to create an effective barrier. Coyotes are particularly agile and are known to cross over 1.52 m (60") high fences.

A wire-net apron (ground cover) with openings less than or equal to 15 cm (6") is also recommended to extend from underneath the fence, outwards to at least 40 cm (16"). This should be affixed to the fence and the ground to prevent predators from lifting it up and digging under. It is possible to purchase fixed-knot or other fencing with the apron already attached.

Hinge-joint fencing can be bent where the wire meets the ground so that it stretches out and covers the area out from the fence. Hog panels attached to the fence with hog clips could be another option. Whichever option is used, an apron is a significant deterrent to burrowing and is highly recommended. Unlike electrified fence, an apron does not short out due to weeds or snow.



Fixed-knot fence with apron to deter burrowing



## Predator Resistant Gates

Gates can be the weak point in a predator resistant fence. Gates should be the same height as the surrounding fence and provide a tight fit to the fence. An electric wire can be included on top, or the entire gate can be electrified. Burrowing under the gate should be deterred by installing a wire net apron underneath and extending out from it or another barrier such as concrete threshold.



Gate with concrete threshold