
RAT CONTROL PROGRAM

Program Guidelines

2022 - 2023

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)

Purpose of the Program:

The purpose of the Rat Control Program (CAP-RCP) is to provide financial and human resource assistance to rural municipalities (RMs) and First Nations Bands (FNBs) south of the Northern Administrative District, to control the rat population in their respective jurisdictions.

Background:

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) administered the Provincial Rat Eradication Program (PREP) from 2010 to 2018. PREP ran successfully providing financial assistance, human resources, training, education and printed materials bringing RMs and Pest Control Officers (PCO) together to create uniformity in rat control processes province wide. With a proven program history of high RM participation and continual decreases in rat infestation rates throughout the province, SARM continues to administer the provincial rat control program under the *Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)* agreement, along with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture (SMA), to continue to assist RMs with the cost of rat control in the province. Focusing on the importance of maintaining uniform rat control efforts across the province, the CAP-Rat Control Program (CAP-RCP) funding available is \$1.2 million for the 2022-23 program year.

Program Administration and Budget:

The SARM is administering the CAP-RCP on behalf of the Province. The program is designed to achieve maximum results and accountability, while keeping administrative requirements for RMs and FNBS to a minimum. Funding for the program is provided by the SMA and the Federal Government under the *Canadian Agricultural Partnership* agreement, in the amount of \$1.2 million for this program year (April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023).

Program Outline:

The program will provide a cost-shared payment to RMs and FNBS that are active in their rat control efforts and who follow the minimum level of service determined by the 2022-23 CAP-RCP.

- The program will provide rebates of up to 50% of approved expenses.
- To ensure rebates are distributed in a fair and equitable manner, funding will be determined by the number of claims received, the value of rebates requested and based on the following prorated formula:

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{eligible rebate request per RM/FNB} \\ \textit{(50\% of approved expenses reported)} \end{array} \quad \times \quad \$1.2 \text{ M (less contract/program expenses)} \\ \text{total eligible rebate requests received}$$

Rat Control Technical Advisors (RCTA) are contracted by SARM and these roles will support the Rat Control Program by providing ongoing mentoring and technical guidance to new and existing appointed PCOs and licensed pesticide applicators in the field on a case-by-case basis.

The RCTAs play an important role alongside the Plant Health Officers (PHO) to develop and deliver training and educational opportunities for PCOs each year. One Advisor is focused in the southern SARM Divisions (1, 2 and 3) and another in the northern Divisions (4, 5 and 6) and they work together to provide mentorship and technical rat control resources throughout the province. Duties and responsibilities include advising and assisting PCOs, RMs, FNBS and regional pest control committees by providing technical support and consistent and uniform delivery of the rat control program in Saskatchewan.

Assistance Rat Control Technical Advisors may provide to an RM/FNB:

- On a case-by-case basis, be available via phone, email and in person when necessary to provide technical advice to assist FNBs, appointed RM Pest Control Officers and RMs in their efforts to effectively manage the rat population within their jurisdiction.
- Provide mentorship and technical advice to appointed PCOs, RMs and FNBs consistent with provincially accepted best practices that may include inspection procedures, baiting processes, biosecurity measures and best practices for dealing with difficult landowners.
- Work with the Plant Health Officer in each SARM Division to assist RMs without an appointed PCO or licensed pesticide applicator to find appropriate individuals to fill each role.
- Provide mentorship and technical advice and guidance to FNBs, RMs, appointed PCOs and licensed pesticide applicators in the application of baits or chemicals when undertaking rat management and control efforts in their respective jurisdictions.
- Assist in identifying and delivering topics concerning rat control best practices at educational training events facilitated through the Plant Health Network (PHN) or the SPCOA.
- Communicate with PHOs regarding any rat infestations or rat control issues and work with them to ensure RM and FNB Councils and appointed PCOs have the technical advice and support they need to effectively manage rat populations within their jurisdictions.

For rat control technical assistance, please contact the RCTA for your SARM Division:

- SOUTHERN SARM Divisions 1, 2 & 3: **Grant Peeling**, (306) 631-7141, gpeeling@sasktel.net
- NORTHERN SARM Divisions 4, 5 & 6: **Colette Melnychuk**, (306) 269-7067, melnychuk@sasktel.net

Program Eligibility:

The following minimum level of service is required to be considered for the CAP-RCP rebate:

- RMs must appoint a Pest Control Officer for 2022
- The 2022 PCO appointment must be acknowledged by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture (SMA)
 - provide written notification of the PCO's name and current address to SMA by email to crops@gov.sk.ca (including email and phone number if available)
- FNBs must authorize an individual as Pest Control Officer for 2022 to act as the enforcement agent based on the provincial regulations laid out in *The Pest Control Act*.
- RMs/FNBs must contract/employ the services of a pesticide applicator with a valid pesticide applicator's license for the period which the service is provided.
 - All pesticide applicator license numbers will be verified by SMA. Invalid license numbers will deem the claim invalid.
 - Sample PCO contract is available on the [SARM website](#).
- Each site within an RM/FNB where agriculture produce is (or was) stored or where livestock or poultry are housed (or have been housed) must be inspected at least once a year. This includes both occupied and abandoned sites.
 - Site numbers for RMs are based on 1976 and most recent Census data available from Statistics Canada
 - Visit sarm.ca to view "Farm Site CENSUS 1976 and Current"

- Copies of invoices for all expenses claimed must be included. **Taxes (GST and PST) are not eligible for rebate.**
- RMs must provide reports as required by SARM and the SMA.

Making a Claim - Submit to SARM by December 31, 2022:

[2022-23 CAP-RCP Claim Form](#)

- **Note:** PST and GST are not eligible for rebate on any expense listed below
- Invoices to verify purchase of bait provided free to ratepayers in 2022
- Invoices to verify 2022 PCO/Applicator expenses claimed
- Invoices to verify any “Other” detailed expenses

Rebates will be determined once all claims are received by SARM and all program expenses are recorded prior to the March 31, 2023 program end date.

If the deadline to submit a claim form falls on a statutory holiday or weekend, the deadline would move to the next business day.

No other government grant, rebate, assistance program or payment can be received by the RM/FNB with relation to the expenditures subject to this program. Verification of fulfillment of program requirements may be requested, random audits may be conducted, and information on specific reporting measures may also be requested.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE – www.sarm.ca

FORMS - visit the [SARM website](#) to download:

- Program Guidelines
- Claim Form
- “Farm Site CENSUS 1976 and Current”
- Rat Infestation Reports
- PCO Inspection Reports
- Notice to Destroy (Template for RM use)
- PCO Sample Employment Contract

PCO Resources for order only [online through SARM](#) (free of charge)

- "Your PCO Called" door knockers (100/pkg)
- POISON Rat Bait Stickers (100/pkg) (peel & stick)
- WARNING Rat Bait Poison poster (peel & stick)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE

PLANT HEALTH NETWORK (PHN) provides human resources to compliment the rebate programs as part of the Pest Biosecurity Programs.

Each SARM Division has employed a full-time Plant Health Officer (PHO) who is in place to develop, promote and implement best practices within their Division to proactively identify, monitor and assist in the control of

invasive/emerging threats to plant biosecurity in agriculture with the goal of developing more comprehensive and uniform control strategies across the Province.

PLANT HEALTH OFFICERS provide direct support, education, training to rural municipalities (RM), and their municipally appointed officers, as well as First Nations Bands (FNB) on how best to manage the agricultural crop pests and prohibited and noxious weeds that all landowners are required to manage under *The Pest Control Act and The Weed Control Act* in Saskatchewan.

If you require assistance or more information on the CAP-Rat Control Program, please contact the Plant Health Officer located in your SARM Division:

Division 1: Tayo Adegeye, (306) 580-8708, division1pho@gmail.com

Division 2: Joanne Kwasnicki, (306) 541-8437, joanne.kwasnicki@gmail.com

Division 3: Betty Johnson, (306) 315-3925, bettyjohnson0025@gmail.com

Division 4: Katey Makohoniuk, (306) 594-7683, katey.makohoniuk@gmail.com

Division 5: Chelsea Neuberger, (306) 380-4526, chelsea.baraniecki@gmail.com

Division 6: Colleen Fennig, (306) 946-9895, colleen.fennig@gmail.com

RAT CONTROL TECHNICAL ADVISORS

For rat control technical assistance, please contact the Rat Control Technical Advisor for your SARM Division:

- SOUTHERN SARM Divisions 1, 2 & 3: **Grant Peeling**, (306) 631-7141, gpeeling@sasktel.net
- NORTHERN SARM Divisions 4, 5 & 6: **Colette Melnychuk**, (306) 269-7067, melnychuk@sasktel.net

For more information on the CAP-RCP please visit the SARM website at www.sarm.ca or contact Annette Ellert, Programs Administrator, at 306-761-3744 or email at aellert@sarm.ca.

As part of the CAP funding agreement, all records, information, databases, audit and evaluation reports and other documents relating to this program must be retained by the RM/FNB office until March 31, 2029.