

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

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Rat Control Program

Program Guidelines

2023-2024

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)



PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

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

BACKGROUND

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) continues to administer the provincial Rat Control Program under the *Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership* (Sustainable CAP) agreement, along with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, to assist RMs and First Nations with the cost of rat control in the province. With a focus on maintaining uniform rat control efforts across the province, the Rat Control Program will provide funding of \$1.2 million for the 2023-24 program year.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET

SARM is administering the Rat Control Program on behalf of the province. The program is designed to achieve maximum results and accountability, while keeping administrative requirements for RMs and First Nations to a minimum. Funding for the program is provided by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and the federal government under Sustainable CAP in the amount of \$1.2 million for this program year (April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024).

PROGRAM OUTLINE

The program will provide a cost-shared payment to RMs and First Nations that are active in their rat control efforts determined by the 2023-24 Rat Control Program.

- The program will provide rebates of up to 50 per cent 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:

eligible rebate request per RM and First Nations

(50% of approved expenses reported)

X

\$1.2 M (less contract/program expenses)

total eligible rebate requests received

Rat Control Technical Advisors (RCTA)

RCTAs 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 Pest Control Officers (PCOs) and licensed pesticide applicators in the field on a case-by-case basis.

The RCTAs play an important role alongside the Plant Health Technical Advisor (PHTA) to develop and deliver training and educational opportunities for PCOs each year. One RCTA is focused on 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, First Nations and regional pest control committees by providing technical support and consistent and uniform delivery of the Rat Control Program in Saskatchewan.

Assistance that RCTA may provide to RMs and First Nations:

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

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

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

- RMs must appoint a PCO for 2023.
- The 2023 PCO appointment must be acknowledged by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.
 - Provide written notification of the PCO's name and current address to Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture by email to crops@gov.sk.ca (including email and phone number).
- First Nations must authorize an individual as Pest Control Officer for 2023 to act as the enforcement agent to claim through the Rat Control Program.
- RMs and First Nations must contract or employ the services of a pesticide applicator with a **valid pesticide applicator's licence for the period which the service is provided.**
 - All pesticide applicator licence numbers will be verified by Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. Invalid licence numbers will deem the claim invalid.
 - A sample PCO contract is available on the [SARM website](#).
- Each site within an RM or First Nations 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.
 - *Federal and provincial taxes and fees are not eligible to claim. This includes PCO licence fees.*
- RMs and First Nations must provide reports as required by SARM and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.

MAKING A CLAIM - SUBMIT TO SARM BY DECEMBER 31, 2023

2023-24 Rat Control Program Claim Form

Submit claim form by the above deadline by email to Annette Ellert, Agriculture Program Administrator at by email at aellert@sarm.ca:

- **Note:** Federal and provincial taxes and fees are not eligible to claim. This includes PCO licence fees.
- Invoices to verify purchase of bait provided free to ratepayers or band members in 2023.
- Invoices to verify 2023 PCO/applicator expenses claimed.

Rebates will be determined once all claims are received by SARM and all program expenses are recorded prior to March 31, 2024, 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 or First Nation 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

○ 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

● Plant Health Technical Advisors

The PHTAs provide direct support, education, training to rural municipalities (RM), and their municipally appointed officers, as well as First Nations 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 Rat Control Program, please contact the Plant Health Technical Advisor located in your SARM Division:

- Division 1: Tayo Adegeye, AAg, 306-580-8708, PHNdivision1@sarm.ca
- Division 2: Joanne Kwasnicki, PAg, 306-541-8437, PHNdivision2@sarm.ca
- Division 3: Betty Johnson, AAg 306-315-3925, PHNdivision3@sarm.ca
- Division 4: Katey Makohoniuk, TechAg, 306-594-7683, PHNdivision4@sarm.ca
- Division 5: Chelsea Neuberger, AAg, 306-380-4526, PHNdivision5@sarm.ca
- Division 6: Colleen Fennig, PAg, 306-946-9895, PHNdivision6@sarm.ca

- **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 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 and stick)
 - WARNING Rat Bait Poison poster (peel and stick)

- **More information**
 - Visit the SARM website at www.sarm.ca or contact Annette Ellert, Agriculture Program Administrator, at 306-761-3744 or email at aellert@sarm.ca.

As part of the Sustainable CAP funding agreement, all records, information, databases, audit and evaluation reports and other documents relating to this program must be retained by the RM, First Nations, or Stakeholder until March 31, 2034.