

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

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Beaver Control Program

Program Guidelines

2024-2025

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)



PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

The purpose of the Beaver Control Program is to provide financial assistance to rural municipalities (RM) and First Nation communities, south of the Northern Administrative District, to control the adult nuisance beaver population in their respective jurisdictions.

BACKGROUND

Adult nuisance beavers and the structures that they create can cause many issues in all agricultural sectors, leading to flooding of property and roads that become a public safety concern. The dams can cause negative financial impact by the flooding of crop and pasture lands. Beavers can also block culverts causing the obstruction of waterways further leading to some negative impacts on ecologically sensitive areas, infrastructure and the economy. The adult nuisance beavers creating this sort of damage are defined as nuisance beavers.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET

The SARM is administering the Beaver 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 Ministry of Agriculture and the Federal Government under Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) agreement in the amount of \$450,000 for this program year (April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025).

PROGRAM OUTLINE

The program will provide a cost-shared payment to RMs and First Nations that operate a humane beaver management program between **February 16, 2024 and February 15, 2025**; and who follow the minimum level of service determined by the 2024-25 Beaver Control Program. Program funding will be prorated among all eligible claimants to a maximum of 50 per cent paid per adult nuisance beaver and up to \$500 per pond leveler and/or beaver deceiver, but not exceeding 50 per cent of total expenses reported for the claim.

- The program will rebate:
 - Up to 50 per cent of the cost to remove per adult nuisance beaver removed by licensed fur trappers;
 - As part of a long-term humane management plan, the use of pond levelers and/or beaver deceivers, when installed correctly, are eligible for:
 - Up to 50 per cent of cost to \$500 maximum rebate for pond leveler materials and installation (less any taxes with verified invoices); and
 - Up to 50 per cent of cost to \$500 maximum rebate for beaver deceiver materials and installation (less any taxes with verified invoices).

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- **Trapping:**
 - RMs and First Nations, located south of the Northern Administrative District, will be eligible to claim under the 2024-25 Beaver Control Program.
 - Eligible RMs must have passed a bylaw allowing beavers to be hunted in the municipality and

filed a certified copy of the bylaw with the Ministry of Environment, as per section 4 of *The Wildlife Regulations, 1981*. To determine if this was already done by your RM, please refer to the document entitled “Rural Municipalities Where Beavers May Be Hunted” found on the SARM website at www.sarm.ca.

- **Note:** *This bylaw is not a requirement of First Nations communities.*
- RMs and First Nations must authorize or contract individuals with valid fur trapping licence(s) issued by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, to remove adult nuisance beavers.
- RMs and First Nations must determine and define the verification method they choose to use when compensating licensed trappers for adult nuisance beaver removal on the Beaver Control Program claim form.
 - Verification methods are defined for audit purposes and to ensure accountability for RMs and First Nations, as well as authorized trappers.
 - Verification methods are determined by the RM or First Nation as part of an overall humane beaver management program in their own jurisdiction.
 - **Note:** *Provide a brief description of preferred validation method used.*

- **Pond Leveler/Beaver deceiver**

These devices offer a cost-effective, non-lethal and sustainable humane approach to mitigate flooding problems due to adult nuisance beaver populations. They promote ecosystem stewardship and municipalities save on costs of road repair and culvert clearing and help to maintain integrity of at-risk infrastructure. Contact your Plant Health Technical Advisor for more information around ideas to these easy man-made solutions.

- RMs and First Nations claiming the purchase and installation services of each pond levelers and or beaver deceivers, must include validating invoices with the claim form.
 - Claims for pond leveler and/or beaver deceiver products and services are eligible when purchased and installed in the program year (February 16, 2024 to February 15, 2025).
- Legal land descriptions or GPS coordinates to three digits must be provided for:
 - Agricultural locations where adult nuisance beavers were removed;
 - Agricultural locations where each pond leveler being claimed for was installed; and
 - Agricultural locations where each beaver deceiver being claimed for was installed.

MAKING A CLAIM - SUBMIT TO SARM BY FEBRUARY 15, 2025

2024-25 Beaver Control Program Claim Form

Submit claim form, trapper verification form, and supporting documents by the above deadline by email to Annette Ellert, Agriculture Program Administrator aellert@sarm.ca.

Trapper Verification Form:

For each authorized or contracted individual, RMs and First Nations must provide the following information:

- Name of the authorized licensed individual.
- Clearly define the verification method chosen to use when compensating licensed trappers for nuisance beaver removal. *Required for audit purposes.*
- Copy of the valid South Saskatchewan Fur licence for the period that an adult nuisance beaver was removed (includes First Nation trappers when trapping off First Nation lands).

- Trapping on First Nation lands: for trappers with a First Nation Status or free treaty licence, that number must be provided in lieu of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment trapping licence.
 - *Note: each South Saskatchewan Fur licence expires August 31 each year. Trappers must hold a valid and current fur trapping licence number through the Ministry of Environment at the time their service is provided to the RM or First Nation for the purpose of the Beaver Control Program. Copies of each trapper licence must accompany claims.*
- Date and number of removals of adult nuisance beavers for each location listed from February 16, 2024, to February 15, 2025.
- Amount paid per adult nuisance beaver to individual named on Trapper Verification Form.
- Legal land description or GPS coordinates of the agricultural land where adult nuisance beavers were removed.

Rebates will be determined once all claims are received by SARM following the claim deadline. If the deadline to submit a claim form falls on a statutory holiday or weekend, the deadline would move to the next business day.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- **Plant Health Technical Advisors**

The Plant Health Technical Advisors provide direct support, education, training to RMs, and their municipally appointed officers, as well as First Nations on how best to manage agricultural crop pests as per *The Pest Control Act* and prohibited and noxious weeds as per *The Weed Control Act*.

If you require assistance or more information on the Beaver 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
- Trapper Verification Form

- **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 or First Nation until March 31, 2034.