

Ministerial Initiative for Agri-Environmental Compensation

OBJECTIVE

To recognize and encourage the adoption by agricultural producers of agri-environmental practices that go beyond regulatory requirements and generate significant environmental gains. This initiative is a follow-up to the Ministerial Initiative for the Compensation of Agri-Environmental Practices (RPA) and aims in particular to support businesses in the continued implementation of good environmental practices.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for Agri-Environmental Compensation, you must:

- be a farming business registered with the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ) and have a Ministry Identification Number (NIM) as a farm operator; This is available to business owners who wish to take
- be the owner or tenant of agricultural land in Quebec;
- have already conducted, at the time of submitting your application, or undertake to conduct before the end of your participation period, an agri-environmental risk assessment of your business. The following assessments are eligible:
 - Agri-environmental support plan (PAA);
 - Agri-environmental fertilization plan (PAEF).

You must also undertake to:

- apply at least one eligible agri-environmental practice;
- participate in the Agri-environmental Compensation program for two years;
- carry out the procedures and declarations annually to enable the monitoring of the areas associated with the various practices applied, in particular:
 - × authorize La Financière agricole du Québec (FADQ) to produce an agricultural parcel plan;
 - × declare, by November 1st of each year of participation at the latest, the areas sown as well as the areas of new developments favourable to biodiversity. You must contact your service centre to make these declarations;
 - × declare, by December 15 of the first year of participation at the latest, the nitrogen fertilizer inputs for each of the five years preceding the first year of participation;
 - × declare, no later than December 15 of each year of participation, the inputs of nitrogen fertilizers as well as the areas of eligible practices applied during the year of cultivation. These declarations must be made in your online FADQ file;

- highlight the participation of MAPAQ and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in the SCAP program during any distribution or project promotion activities.

This corresponds to the total amount to which you may be entitled for the two years of participation. It is calculated at the time of your registration and according to the usable areas and eligible crop areas that you plan to farm in the year of your registration.

Financial assistance for eligible practices applied

This corresponds to the amount obtained by multiplying your annual surface areas of eligible practices applied by the assistance rates corresponding to your administrative region.

Financial assistance for agri-environmental training

This is available to business owners who wish to take [eligible training](#) under the 2020-2030 Sustainable Agriculture Plan. It is a flat-rate amount determined based on the number of training hours taken.

Minimum and maximum financial assistance

The minimum amount of financial assistance that can be attained is \$1,500. This minimum amount is required on three occasions:

- when registering for Agri-environmental Compensation, when calculating the potential financial assistance;
- after two years of participation, in order to receive the payments of the total accumulated amount of the values of the practices applied;
- finally, to receive, if applicable, financial assistance for the agri-environmental training courses taken.

The maximum amount of financial assistance is limited to \$50,000 per applicant for the duration of the Initiative.

PAYMENT TERMS

Financial assistance is paid in a maximum of four installments during Agri-environmental Compensation.

An initial advance of 40% of the potential financial assistance will be paid following registration confirmation.

The other two payments are scheduled after each year of participation. These payments are conditional on the mandatory annual declarations and compliance with the general participation conditions.

At the end of the two years of participation, a fourth payment for eligible training courses taken could be added to the previous payments.

PROGRESSION, APPLICATION THRESHOLDS AND ADJUSTMENTS TO THE TOTAL ANNUAL AMOUNT OF APPLIED PRACTICES

After the second year of participation, the FADQ will analyze the progression of the total annual amount of applied practices, comparing it to the amount of the previous year.

In order for the value of these applied practices to be considered in full, the total annual amount of applied practices must increase by at least 10% compared to the amount of the previous year.

However, even without demonstrating progression, the total annual amount of the applied practices may be considered at 100% for businesses that reach two application thresholds. These thresholds make it possible to recognize certain businesses as already implementing enough eligible practices to justify maintaining the value of the practices from year to year.

Depending on the progression observed, adjustments may be made to the cumulative financial assistance and the amounts paid.

REGISTRATION

To register for Agri-environmental Compensation, you must complete the registration form found in your online file, under the “Transactional Services” tab.

If you do not yet have a file with the FADQ, contact the [service centre in your region](#) to create your customer file and your online file. For more information, please visit the page [How do I register for an online file?](#)

Registration deadline: from March 5 to March 31, 2025, at the latest, or until the available funds are depleted.

ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

Practice 2 – Off-season soil protection

Protect the soil with crop residues or cover crops, by applying one of the following practices:

- B. Winter cover crops
- C. Combination of no fall tillage and Practice B
- E. Combination of Practice C and no spring tillage
- F. Autumn cereals

Practice 3 - Reduction of herbicide use

Reduce the amount of herbicides applied to annual crops by applying the following practices:

- A. Spot spraying
- B. Intercropped cover crops
- C. Band spraying
- D. Physical or mechanical weeding

Practice 6 – Improved fertilizer management

Promote balanced crop nutrient management by applying the following practice:

Practice 7 – Crop diversification

Reduce the proportion of land cultivated with corn (grain or fodder) or soybeans compared to the average proportion of the five years preceding the first year of participation, replacing it with the following crops:

- A. Other annual crops (field and horticultural crops)
- B. Perennial fodder crops

Practice 8 – Establishment of biodiversity-friendly facilities

Develop new areas to promote the conservation or improvement of biodiversity. Developments may not be intended for commercial harvesting purposes (firewood, fruit trees, etc.);

- A. Expanded shrub or tree riparian strip
- B. Hedge or wooded island

QUESTIONS?

If your questions concern:

- agronomic information on eligible practices,

Contact:

- your agricultural advisor or agri-environmental advisor
- [Agri-advice network](#) at 1 866 680-1858

If your questions concern:

- registration and declaration forms, the processing of your application, the administration of Agri-environmental Compensation

Contact:

- the FADQ at 1 800 749-3646

For more information on Agri-environmental Compensation, visit the section of our website: [Ministerial Initiative Agri-environmental Compensation](#)

This overview does not in any way take precedence over the provisions set out in the Ministerial Initiative Agri-environmental Compensation