
BEAVER CONTROL PROGRAM

Program Guidelines

2022 – 2023

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)

Purpose of the Program:

The purpose of the Beaver Control Program (CAP-BCP) is to provide financial assistance to rural municipalities (RM) and First Nations Bands (FNB), south of the Northern Administrative District, to control the beaver population in their respective jurisdictions.

Background:

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. Beaver dams can also cause the flooding of crop and pasture lands, which can have a negative financial impact on municipalities and property owners. 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 beavers creating this sort of damage are defined as nuisance beavers.

Program Administration and Budget:

The SARM is administering the CAP-Beaver Control Program (CAP-BCP) on behalf of the Province. The program is designed to achieve maximum results and accountability, while keeping administrative requirements for RMs and FNs to a minimum. Funding for the program is provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Federal Government under *Canadian Agricultural Partnership* agreement, in the amount of \$450,000 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 operate a humane beaver management program between **February 16, 2022 and February 15, 2023**; and who follow the minimum level of service determined by the 2022-23 CAP-BCP. Program funding will be prorated among all eligible claimants to a maximum of 50% paid per tail and up to \$500 per pond leveler/beaver deceiver; but not exceeding 50% of total expenses reported for the claim.

- The program will rebate:
 - Up to 50% 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 \$500 for pond leveler materials and installation each but not exceeding 50% of eligible cost (less any taxes with verified invoices); and
 - Up to \$500 for beaver deceiver materials and installation each but not exceeding 50% of eligible cost (less any taxes with verified invoices).

Program Eligibility:

- RMs and FNBs, located south of the Northern Administrative District, will be eligible to claim under the 2022-23 CAP-BCP.
- 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 required of First Nations Bands.

- RMs and FNBs must authorize/contract individuals with valid fur trapping license(s) issued by the Ministry of Environment, to remove nuisance beavers.
- **NEW:** RMs and FNBs **must determine and define the verification method** they choose to use when compensating licensed trappers for nuisance beaver removal **on the CAP-BCP Claim Form.**
 - Verification methods are defined for audit purposes and to ensure accountability for RMs/FNBs as well as authorized trappers.
 - Verification methods are determined by the RM or FNB as part of an overall humane beaver management program in their own jurisdiction.
- **NEW:** RMs/FNBs will receive a rebate of up to 50% paid per nuisance beaver removed within the program period.

Flow devices offer a cost-effective, non-lethal and sustainable humane approach to mitigate flooding problems due to 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 Officer for more information around ideas to these easy man-made solutions.

- RMs and FNBs claiming for the purchase and installation services of each pond levelers and/or beaver deceivers, must include validating invoices with the claim form.
 - The use of pond levelers and/or beaver deceivers, when installed correctly, are effective tools in long-term humane management of issues due to nuisance beaver activity.
 - Claims for pond leveler and/or beaver deceiver products and services are eligible when purchased and installed in the program year (April 1, 2022 and February 15, 2023).
- Legal land descriptions or GPS coordinates to three digits must be provided for:
 - Agricultural locations where 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, 2023:

1. 2022-23 CAP-BCP Claim Form

- Complete, sign and submit the CAP-BCP Claim form and supporting documents to SARM by the program deadline date of February 15, 2023 by email to Annette Ellert, Programs Administrator at aellert@sarm.ca
- Rebates are based on a 50:50 cost share per adult nuisance beaver removed by licensed fur trappers
 - **NEW: Clearly define the verification method** chosen to use when compensating licensed trappers for nuisance beaver removal. *Required for audit purposes.*
- Up to \$500 for pond leveler materials and installation each but not exceeding 50% of eligible cost (less any taxes with verified invoices); and
- Up to \$500 for beaver deceiver materials and installation each but not exceeding 50% of eligible cost (less any taxes with verified invoices).

Rebates will be determined once all claims are received by SARM following the February 15, 2023 claim deadline.

2. **Trapper Verification Form:** For each authorized/contracted individual, RMs and FNBs must provide the following information:
- Name of the authorized licensed individual;
 - Copy of the valid South Saskatchewan Fur license for the period nuisance beaver were removed (includes FN trappers when trapping off FN lands);
 - Trapping on FN lands: For trappers with a First Nation Status or free treaty license, that number must be provided in lieu of the Ministry of Environment trapping license.
 - *Each South Saskatchewan Fur license expires August 31 each year. Trappers must hold a valid and current fur trapping license number through the Ministry of Environment at the time their service is provided to the RM or FNB for the purpose of the CAP-BCP. Copies of each trapper license must accompany claims.*
 - Date of removal of nuisance beaver for each location listed: *February 16, 2022 to the claim deadline, February 15, 2023;*
 - Number of beavers removed from each location listed;
 - Amount paid per beaver to individual named on Trapper Verification Form;
 - Legal land description or GPS coordinates of the agricultural land where nuisance beavers were removed.

For a template of the TRAPPER VERIFICATION FORM visit the SARM website at www.sarm.ca

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:

If you require assistance or more information regarding the CAP-Beaver Control Program or additional resources, 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

For more information on the CAP-BCP 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.