

Ministerial Initiative on Compensating Agri-Environmental Practices (RPA)

OBJECTIVES

To recognize and encourage agricultural producers to adopt agri-environmental practices that go beyond regulatory requirements and generate significant environmental gains.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the RPA, you must :

- be an agricultural business registered with the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ) and have a farm operator ministerial identification number (MIN).
- be the owner or tenant of agricultural land located in Quebec.

You must also commit to :

- applying at least one of the eligible agri-environmental practices.
- participating in the RPA for three years.
- carrying out annual procedures and reporting to monitor the areas associated with the various practices implemented, including :
 - × authorizing La Financière agricole du Québec (FADQ) to produce an agricultural plot plan.
 - × reporting, no later than August 1 of each participation year, the areas sown and, no later than November 1, the developments favourable to biodiversity. Reporting must be completed by contacting your service centre.
 - × report, no later than December 15 of each participation year, the areas of eligible practices implemented during the crop year. This reporting must be completed in your FADQ on-line file.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Potential Financial Assistance

This corresponds to the **total amount** you may be eligible to receive for **the three years of the RPA**. It is calculated upon enrolment and is based on the harvestable acreage and eligible crop area that you plan to harvest during the year of registration.

Financial Assistance for Applied Eligible Practices

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

Financial Assistance for Agri-Environmental Training

This is available to business operators who wish to take eligible training courses under the 2020–2030 Sustainable Agriculture Plan. It is a lump sum determined according to the number of hours of completed training.

Minimum and Maximum Financial Assistance

The **minimum amount of financial assistance to be reached is \$1,500**. This minimum amount is required for :

- enrolling in the RPA when calculating potential financial assistance.
- receiving instalments for the total accumulated value of the practices applied.
- if applicable, receiving financial assistance for the completed agri-environmental training courses.

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

TERMS OF PAYMENT

Financial assistance is paid in a **maximum of five instalments** over the duration of the RPA.

An initial 25% advance of the potential financial assistance will be paid following confirmation of enrolment in 2023.

The **remaining three instalments** are payable each year of participation. These instalments are conditional on mandatory annual reporting and compliance with the general conditions of participation.

At the end of the three years of participation, a **fifth instalment** for completed eligible training may be added to the previous instalments.

PROGRESSION, APPLICATION THRESHOLDS, AND ADJUSTMENTS TO THE TOTAL ANNUAL AMOUNT FOR IMPLEMENTED PRACTICES

Following the second year of participation, La FADQ will review the progression of the total annual amount of applied practices, comparing it to the previous year's amount or to the year with the highest amount.

In order for the value of its applied practices to be fully considered, **the total annual amount of applied practices must increase by at least 10%** over the amount to which it was compared.

However, even without any demonstrated increase, the total annual amount of implemented practices may be considered at 100% **for businesses that meet three implementation thresholds**. These thresholds allow some businesses to be recognized as already implementing sufficient eligible practices to justify maintaining the value of the practices from year to year.

Depending on the level of progress observed, adjustments may be made to the cumulative financial assistance and the payments made.

REGISTRATION

To register for the RPA, you must **complete the form in your on-line file**, under the tab *Services transactionnel*.

If you do not yet have a FADQ file, contact your [local service centre](#) to create your client file and your on-line file. For more information, visit the [How do I register to the on-line file?](#)

Registration deadline: from March 6, 2023, and no later than March 31, 2023, or until available funding is depleted.

ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

Practice 1 - Crop Diversification

Reduce the proportion of land in corn (grain or feed) or soybeans during the first year of participation, by replacing it during the second or third year with:

- A. **Other annual crops** (grains, oilseeds, and special crops and horticultural crops)
- B. **Perennial forage crops**

Practice 2 - Off-season Soil Protection

Protect soils with crop residues or cover crops using one of the following practices.

- A. **No fall tillage**
- B. **Winter cover crops**

C. **A combination of practices A and B**

D. **No spring tillage in combination with practices A and B**

Practice 3 - Reducing the Use of Herbicides

Reduce the amount of herbicide applied to annual crops by implementing the following practices.

- A. **Localized spraying**
- B. **Interplanting of cover crops**
- C. **Band spraying**
- D. **Physical or mechanical weeding**

Practice 4 - Using Insecticide-free Seeds

Use corn seed (grain, forage or sweet) that does not contain any pest control products registered for insect or mite control.

Practice 5 - Biodiversity Friendly Planning

Develop areas to support biodiversity conservation or enhancement. Land use cannot be for commercial harvesting purposes (firewood, fruit trees, etc.).

- A. **Extended riparian strip with shrubs or trees**
- B. **Hedge or forest patch**

QUESTIONS?

If your questions are concerning :

- **agronomic information on eligible practices**

Please contact :

- your agricultural or agri-environmental advisor
- The Réseau Agriconseils ([Agricultural Advisory Network](#)): **1-866-680-1858**

If your questions are concerning :

- **registration and reporting forms**
- **processing your request**
- **the RPA's management**

Please contact :

- the FADQ at **1 800 749-3646**

For more information on the Initiative, please visit our website at [Ministerial Initiative on Compensating Agri-Environmental Practices](#)

This summary does not take precedence over the provisions of the Ministerial Initiative on Compensating Agri-Environmental Practices