



Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

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Get ready to help at risk species: The Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program is back!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Guelph ON – The Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program (SARFIP) is back for 2021! SARFIP supports Ontario producers who are enhancing on-farm habitats for species at risk across the province. The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA), with support from the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, is pleased to continue to offer this impactful program. Farms in Ontario can access cost-share dollars for on-farm projects that implement a variety of Best Management Practices (BMPs). With streamlined funding levels, and up to \$20,000 available per farm business, it is easy to benefit more with SARFIP – not only for your farm, but for species at risk too!

“The OSCIA is excited to offer SARFIP again this year. SARFIP has a great legacy through its cost-share funding of supporting on the farm activities that benefit both farmers and species at risk.” said Chad Anderson, President of OSCIA. “We’re very proud of all of the farmers and OSCIA members who have participated over the years.”

With a diversity of project opportunities, eligible BMPs encompass activities around croplands, grasslands, shorelines, stream banks, wetlands and woodlands. Many opportunities are available to support critical habitat through SARFIP, including cross fencing for rotational grazing, watering systems for livestock, native tree planting, improved stream crossings, native grassland plantings and invasive species removal, among others.

SARFIP 2021 is open to all agricultural landowners in the province. Projects that provide indirect benefits to species at risk are eligible for 45% cost-share, and projects that directly benefit species at risk are eligible for 60%. An additional bonus of 15% cost-share is available for direct benefit projects to producers interested in enrolling in SAR-Watch, a monitoring program that measures the impact of SARFIP projects on the ground for species at risk.

“With over 230 species identified as at risk in Ontario, farmers have an opportunity to implement farm management practices that benefit these species while also addressing their farm’s stewardship needs,” expressed Angela Straathof, Program Director at OSCIA. “At OSCIA, we recognize the value that programs like SARFIP have in building a more sustainable and efficient farming environment and we’re thrilled that MECP recognizes this as well.”

To find out if SARFIP is a good fit with your farm, consult the program brochure (www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/sarfip/) for complete and detailed program information. All program materials, including the brochure and application forms can be found on the OSCIA website. To be eligible to participate in SARFIP, Ontario farms must have a completed 4th Edition Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) workbook and verified Action Plan.

Applications will be accepted beginning April 7, and funding will be allocated to eligible projects until fully allocated. Funding for this program is limited; if you have a project idea that fits, submit your application as soon as possible. Projects initiated on or after April 1, 2021 may be eligible.

For more information on eligibility criteria, the application process, and program deadlines, or to sign up to an upcoming EFP workshop in your area, visit the SARFIP page on the OSCIA website at

www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/sarfip/ or contact OSCIA directly at 519-826-3035 or SARFIP@ontariosoilcrop.org.

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