

RM of Leask

Dear Administrator and Council,

With the Federal election over, we are now able to promote that the 2025-26 Sustainable-CAP Pest Biosecurity Programs are available on the [SARM website](#).

- [Plant Health Network \(PHN\)](#)
- Check out the Newsletters, Resources and Events sections
- [Beaver Control Program \(BCP\)](#)
- [Gopher Control Program \(GCP\)](#)
- [Invasive Plant Control Program \(IPCP\)](#) *(new content)*
- [Rat Control Program \(RCP\)](#) *(new content)*

Did you know? Ratepayers are able to claim through the Gopher Control Program and Invasive Plant Control Program, along with RMs and First Nations. To assist in sharing this information with ratepayers, we have developed [media materials and instructions](#) available on the PHN website under the Resources section. The package includes posters to distribute or display in the RM office as well as social media graphics to post on websites or specified social platforms.

Please take the time to review program guidelines for changes to this program year. Feel free to reach out to your Plant Health Technical Advisor if you have any questions.

There are a few changes I would like to highlight for you. I strongly encourage you and your rate payers to review the *complete* guidelines for every program and contact me if you have any questions. My contract stipulates that I reach out to the RMs in my division each year to discuss programming updates, concerns and questions. I am free to visit in-person for Council meetings or via phone (to speak with the Administrator) to answer questions or to address any comments or concerns you may have.

Beaver Control Program

- wording update around 'First Nation communities'
- page 4 disclaimer in box included statement to reflect same restriction as other rebate programs (re: no double dipping): No other government funding can be received for expenditures related to this program. Verification, random audits, and specific reporting measures may be required.

Gopher Control Program

- funding commitment increased to \$900,000 this program year.
- page 3 Program Eligibility better defined who can claim under the program: RMs, First Nations, producers and ratepayers (excluding urban municipalities).

Invasive Plant Control Program

- eligible noxious weeds remain the same as last year and Appendix A has updated herbicides.
- iMap data entry requirement is removed from the WI expense for this year. The Ministry of Ag has discontinued its use of the iMapInvasive platform and until another one is in place, data entry is not required for WI expenses.
- "data entry" not eligible expense this year because it's not a requirement for rebate and no specific platform determined.

-page 5 Rules for Monitoring and Other Expenses: wording included to make RMs/FNs aware: *Although data entry into iMapInvasives is not required in 2025, weed inspectors or third parties are still encouraged to keep records of invasive weed findings. In subsequent years, it will be mandatory to enter findings into the chosen platform to claim monitoring and other expenses under the program.*

-page 3 Rules for Herbicide Rebates: specific wording included herbicide applied by drones not eligible: *There are currently no approved herbicides that can be sprayed with remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) for any eligible weed species, therefore no RPAS spraying expenses can be claimed.*

-sample WMP documents updated to remove iMapInvasives references

Rat Control Program - cleaned up wording and added new reporting requirement:

-Point 4 under program eligibility & on claim form: licence category will now be requested, tracked, and reported to the Ministry

-RMs and First Nations must contract or employ the services of a structural or rat control pesticide applicator with a valid pesticide applicator licence for the period in which the service is provided if this person is distributing or applying rodenticides.

Thank you and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions.

Cheers,

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