

Program Guidelines – 2017-18



Provincial Rat Eradication Program (PREP)

Purpose of the Program

The purpose of the Provincial Rat Eradication Program (PREP) is to provide financial and human resource assistance to rural municipalities (RMs) in their efforts to eradicate rat populations in their municipality.

Background

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) assumed responsibility for the Provincial Rat Eradication Program (PREP) in March 2010 with the goal of eradicating rats in Saskatchewan. The program continues to be in effect for 2017.

Program Outline

The PREP Program is funded through a grant to SARM from the Growing Forward 2 program and the Ministry of Agriculture. PREP is managed by a board of elected RM representatives and is designed to assist RMs in their rat control efforts, providing the following support:

1. Financial Resources. SARM administers the grant program which provides funding to assist RMs in paying for their rat control efforts.
2. Human Resources. SARM has retained the services of six (6) Pest Control Officer (PCO) Supervisors. There is one located in each of SARM's six divisions.

2017-18 Grant Funding* Available:

- Funding is again being provided for the PREP Program in 2017-18*
- The maximum amount of grant payable to an RM will be **50% of actual expenses reported for the year** to a maximum potential grant amount based on \$13.50 per farm site plus \$70 per township. Farm sites are based on Statistics Canada 1976 Census unless the use of a more recent Census is requested and justified by the RM.

** No funds shall be disbursed by SARM until the funding for this fiscal year has been received from the Provincial Government.*

Eligibility: For an RM to be eligible for the grant the following minimum level of service must be provided by an RM:

- An RM must have a Pest Control Officer (PCO) with a valid Pesticide Applicator's License.
- **Each site within an RM where agriculture produce is (or was) stored or where livestock or poultry are housed (or have been housed) must be inspected by the licensed PCO at least once a year. This includes both occupied and abandoned sites.**
- The RM must provide reports as required by SARM and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Steps that must be taken by an RM to access the grant:

1. The RM employs the services of a licensed PCO and has them inspect each site within an RM where agriculture produce is (or was) stored or where livestock or poultry are (or once were) housed at least once per year.
2. The RM needs to provide written notification to Saskatchewan Agriculture as to the name and address of their PCO. Please address as follows:

Executive Director of the Crops and Irrigation Branch,
Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
Room 125, 3085 Albert St.,
Regina, S4S 0B1

3. Have the PCO submit his/her reports to the RM Office (or to the Regional Pest Control Committees if the RM is utilizing one for rat control coordination). PCO Forms are available for order from SARM Trading Services by phoning 306-761-3722 or email at trading@sarm.ca
4. Eligible costs for RMs or Regional Pest Control Committees, as specified in the Agriculture Fieldworker Policy (Saskatchewan), include:
 - For Pest Control Officers - Training, wages or contract fees and travel reimbursement.
 - Additional costs may be included by SARM, subject to the approval of the Ministry.
 - Rat control bait provided by the RM to the rate payer.

RMs and Regional Pest Control Committees are strongly encouraged to provide bait for rat control to ratepayers at no charge. If the RM charges for the bait, then the bait, or its charged portion is no longer an eligible expense.

NOTE: If administration for pest control services is contracted out by the RM, the portion of administration costs relating to rat control only are considered to be an eligible expense.

5. The RMs (or Regional Pest Control Committees) must complete a **Statement of Compliance Form** and submit it to SARM by **December 31, 2017**. The Statement of Compliance must be signed by the RM Administrator.

Email: aellert@sarm.ca ♦ Fax: 306-761-0284

No other government grant, rebate, assistance program or payment can be received by the RM with relation to the expenditures subject to this program.

No RM will receive more than 50% of the expenses reported on the Statement of Compliance. This includes initial grant payments made as well as any top-up funds RMs may be eligible to receive.

Human Resources Available:

PREP employs the services of a Provincial Coordinator and six Regional PCO Supervisors. Their duties and responsibilities include advising and assisting PCOs, RMs and Regional Pest Control Committees in rat control in the province.

If you require assistance, please contact the PCO Supervisor located in your SARM Division:

Division 1: Henry Fieseler- 306-743-7875

Division 2: Ryan Budd- 306-631-7350

Division 3: Stewart Biech- 306-778-0715

Division 4: Colette Melnychuk- 306-269-7067

Division 5: Neil Mooney- 306-934-4782

Division 6: George Dresser- 306-228-3184

For more information on the PREP Program please visit www.prep.sarm.ca or contact Annette Ellert, PREP Manager, at 306-761-3744 or email at aellert@sarm.ca.