



Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cost-share funding to support species at risk habitat on Ontario farmland available in 2022

Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands program intake opens February 14

Guelph, ON (January 24, 2022) - The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) welcomes the opening of a new Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL) intake in 2022. SARPAL is an Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) initiative dedicated to working with Ontario farmers to support the management and recovery of species at risk (SAR) on agricultural land.

SARPAL provides up to 50 per cent cost-share funding to support farmers and agricultural landowners in implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) that play a key role in protecting and enhancing healthy SAR habitat while sustaining production and profitability. Wetlands, field edges, fencerows, buffer strips, windbreaks, and other grassy areas on farms are habitat, travel corridors and food sources for SAR, including the Loggerhead Shrike, American Badger, Eastern Foxsnake, Monarch and more.

Beginning February 14, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. (ET), OSCIA will accept applications for projects such as delayed haying, planting of trees and shrubs, grassland and wetland restoration and rotational grazing BMPs. Applicants can receive up to \$20,000 per farm business. The intake will remain open until 5:00 p.m. (ET) on February 18, 2022, or until funds are fully allocated.

“Farmland serves as habitat for many important plant, fish and wildlife species,” said Chad Anderson, President of OSCIA. “OSCIA is proud to support the voluntary conservation efforts made by Ontario farmers to conserve these habitats with projects that benefit both species at risk and farm businesses.”

Farm businesses and farmland owners must have a valid Premises Identification Number and a 4th Edition Environmental Farm Plan to be eligible for the program. As part of SARPAL, landowners enter into a Conservation Agreement with ECCC. These agreements will ensure the maintenance of funded projects and habitat protection for SAR for the length of the agreement.

Applications are only accepted during the intake period, and funding is limited. Farm businesses interested in applying are encouraged to explore opportunities and requirements before the intake opening on February 14. To learn more or apply, visit <https://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/sarpal/>.

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For more information contact:

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