Contract Opportunity – Living Labs Engagement Facilitators (2)

Locations: Alberta (1 Peace/North, 1 Lethbridge/South), remote-based
Status: Part-time (approximately 0.5 full-time equivalent each); 5-year contract
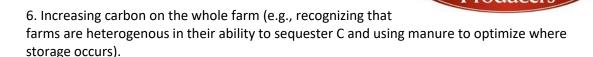**Start Date: May/June 2022   End Date: March 2027**

Background
The Living Laboratories Initiative is a $185 million, 10-year program intended to establish a Canada-wide network of Living Labs, where regional leaders will bring together agricultural producers, stakeholders, and scientists to co-develop, test, and monitor beneficial management practices (BMPs) to enhance climate resiliency. Living Labs are based upon three core principles: focusing on producer needs, broad and diverse partnerships, and testing in the real-life context under real agricultural production conditions. For more information please visit: https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-science-and-innovation/living-laboratories-initiative.

Alberta Beef Producers is the lead applicant on a Living Labs proposal "*Integrating beef, forage and cropping systems to improve soil C sequestration & reduce GHG emissions.*" If successful, this project has several overarching objectives:
> • Assess the ability of new, or adjustments to current, beneficial management practices (BMPs) to permanently sequester C and address climate change goals.
> • Identify barriers to adoption of and find solutions to increase adoption of BMPs and Agriculture Nature-Based Solutions (Ag-Nbs) to sequester C and address climate change goals;
> • Conduct farm-level, regional, and industry-level economic analyses of BMPs and Ag-Nbs and extend economically sustainable practices to encourage producer adoption;
> • Develop simple outcomes- and systems-based approaches for producers to quantify the costs and benefits of environmental BMPs;
> • Share accurate on-farm measurements of C sequestration and GHG emissions to support C sequestration prediction mapping, GHG modelling, and life-cycle analysis;
> • Inform federal and provincial policy on the effectiveness, economics, and adoption potential of Ag-Nbs and current BMPs for climate change solutions across the beef, forage, and cropping sectors; and
> • Build a producer-orientated mentorship network.

BMPs that may be considered for implementation on-farm fall under the following broad categories, which were developed with producer engagement and input:
> 1. Crop rotations and cropping systems (e.g., diversifying rotations, fall seeded crops, use of cover, relay, and intercrops, residue management, optimization of tillage, increased yields, incorporation of livestock grazing, etc.);
> 2. Land use changes (e.g., conversion of marginal land to perennial or annual forages, conservation/restoration of wetlands, forages/vegetative buffer strips, etc.);
> 3. Grazing management (e.g., planned livestock grazing on crop or marginal land, managed grazing strategies, etc.);
> 4. Livestock feeding (e.g., feed additives to reduce GHG emissions, diet formulation strategies, precision feeding, etc.);
> 5. Nutrient management (e.g., 4R nutrient management, variable rate fertilizer, nitrification inhibitors, manure application on no-till systems, composting, arrangements between crop and livestock producers for manure use, etc.); and

6. Increasing carbon on the whole farm (e.g., recognizing that farms are heterogenous in their ability to sequester C and using manure to optimize where storage occurs).

The project is targeting approximately 51 beef, forage, and cropping producers as core participants, two to three feedlots, and two to three Indigenous communities, primarily located in three geographical regions (Peace region, Edmonton/Central region, Lethbridge region).

Position Responsibilities:
The Engagement Facilitators will be responsible for direct interactions with producer collaborators participating in the project, acting as the main point of contact for producers to answer questions and assist with BMP implementation. Each Engagement Facilitator will be responsible for approximately 15 producers in each region. They will report to the Living Labs KTT & Engagement Lead. Specific responsibilities include:

- Ensure two-way communication flow with producer collaborators
- Answer questions and help to trouble shoot any issues that may arise during the project
- Provide a consistent and reliable point of contact for producer collaborators
- In conjunction with Living Labs Director, Living Labs KTT & Engagement Lead, Living Lab Activity Leads, AAFC Living Labs Coordinator, Indigenous Engagement Lead, and producer cooperators, develop and execute yearly Living Lab activities including planning meetings, co-development workshops, and feedback sessions
- Assist with data collection as required
- Assist with the creation and dissemination of KTT resources as required
- Assist with report and presentation creation as required
- Some travel required
- Other activities and tasks that may be identified through the course of the contract period

Position Qualifications:
- Demonstrated experience building rapport and trust with agricultural producers
    - Previous direct experience with livestock and/or cropping production systems is an asset
    - Pre-existing personal or professional producer networks in target regions is an asset
    - Experience with data collection from producers is an asset
- Strong interpersonal skills, including conflict resolution
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Strong problem-solving skills
- Strong attention to detail, time management, and organizational skills
- Ability to take direction and work as a part of a team while being self-motivated
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office 365 programs and video conferencing platforms, including Powerpoint, Excel, Word, Sharepoint, Teams, Zoom, etc.
- Valid drivers license, access to vehicle, and appropriate computer hardware/software

Positions are contingent upon receipt of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) funding. A funding decision is expected in late May. Only those applicants selected for interviews will be contacted.

If interested in one of these positions, please submit a cover letter, resume/CV, preferred location, and compensation expectation to Karin Schmid at karins@albertabeef.org. Positions will remain open until filled.