

## **Backgrounder**

### **Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program**

The program has three parts: the interim Emergency Community Projects; the Community Well Component; and the On-Farm Component.

#### **Emergency Community Projects**

The purpose of this component is to develop short-term water supply initiatives for emergency assistance in areas of critical water shortage.

RMs in drought-designated areas of Southwest Saskatchewan are eligible.

Initiatives that may be funded include community water projects that will establish a temporary water supply and provide immediate relief in areas of critical water shortage. Several measures have been identified by the FRWIP Producer Advisory Committee that may be considered as projects by RMs. They include:

- pumps in reservoirs or other water supplies;
- temporary tank-loader facilities;
- adaptation of existing wells to supply non-potable water; and
- other surface water initiatives.

Funds may be allocated to RMs to provide cost-sharing to cover up to one-half of eligible costs, to a maximum of \$10,000 per project. In the event that a project receives funding from other government programs, the grant will top-up cost-sharing to one-half of the total eligible project costs.

Eligible costs include works and equipment associated with emergency pumping and/or loading facilities, development of access roads and sites, and providing power to the site (e.g. electrical generators and SPC lines and hook-ups).

The deadline is **June 17, 2008**.

#### **On-Farm Component**

The purpose of the on-farm component is to develop water infrastructure to meet the needs of ranchers and farmers in the designated drought-affected regions of Southwest Saskatchewan.

Projects eligible for funding include on-farm wells, shallow buried pasture pipelines and deep buried pipelines (\$60,000 maximum grant for deep buried pipeline).

The program will provide a cost-sharing grant to cover up to one-half of eligible costs.

### **On-Farm Component** (continued)

All on-farm well and pipeline projects that are approved under Tier 1 of the Canada-Saskatchewan Water Supply Expansion Program (CSWSEP) for large and small-diameter wells and shallow and deep buried pipelines will be eligible for a top-up grant. The amount of the top-up will be calculated to ensure government-funded grants comprise no more than one-half of eligible project costs (grant maximum \$60,000 in the case of deep buried pipeline).

On-farm wells and buried pasture pipelines that were started after the fund was announced (March 19, 2008) but before the CSWSEP application deadline of May 30, 2008 will not be eligible under CSWSEP. These projects may be eligible for a Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program grant covering up to one-half of eligible costs. Application forms for these projects will be available later this month through the Ministry of Agriculture.

For projects to receive automatic approval and a top-up to Tier 1 of the CSWSEP grant for large and small-diameter wells and shallow and deep buried pipelines, applications must be made to CSWSEP by **May 30, 2008** and approved under that program.

For projects that were started after March 19, 2008 but before May 30, 2008 an application must be made to the Ministry of Agriculture by **June 30, 2008**.

### **Community Well Component**

RMs within the designated areas of Southwest Saskatchewan are eligible to apply.

Community wells for non-potable water are eligible for funding.

The program will provide a cost-sharing grant to cover up to two-thirds of eligible costs.

Requirements, approval process, deadlines and application address are the same as for the on-farm component.

Applications should be sent to:

Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Financial Programs Branch  
329 – 3085 Albert Street  
Regina, SK S4S 0B1