

Frequently Asked Questions

General

What areas can a student study?

Areas of study include: Beekeeping, Cow/Calf, Dairy, Feedlot, Field Crop, Irrigated Field Crop, Sheep, Swine, Greenhouse Equine and Poultry.

What levels of study are there?

There are two levels of study: Technician (Level I) and Supervisor (Level II). (Level II is being re-written and is expected to be available in the near future.)

Do I really get a "Green Certificate"?

Yes. Trainees receive a certificate in a folio, along with their completed Skill Profile sheet. They can put the certificate on the wall, show it to future employers or keep in their portfolio.

Is there a cost to taking Green Certificate?

Effective September 1, 2017, new students enrolling in the Green Certificate Program will have their fee paid directly by Alberta Education. This fee helps to partially offset some of the cost to Agriculture and Forestry for administering the program for Alberta high school students.

Trainees

What types of trainees are there?

Student trainees access the program through their high school and receive diploma credits upon completion. We no longer offer an adult trainee program.

How old/what grade does a student trainee have to be in order to participate?

A student must be at least 15 years old and registered in Grade 10.

How many high school credits does a student earn?

A student trainee will earn 6 credits for completing the X section, 5 credits for completing the Y section and 5 credits for completing the Z section.

Can a trainee do more than one area (i.e. Cow/Calf Technician and Field Crop Technician) at once?

We strongly discourage a trainee from doing more than one area at a time. Each area has a large amount of material to cover, and it should be concentrated on.

Does a trainee have to do the book in alphabetic order?

No. A trainee can start with any letter that they wish. A trainee and trainer should look at what is required in the curriculum book, and work it into the annual cycle of their farm.

How long can a student take to finish the Green Certificate program?

A trainee can take up to 3 years to complete the program.

Does a trainee get paid while they are participating in the Green Certificate program?

A trainee can be paid or unpaid for their work while on the Green Certificate program. It is up to the trainer and trainee to determine if they are getting paid.

Is the trainee covered by WCB while they are on the Green Certificate Program?

Yes. A trainee is covered by WCB. If a trainee is hurt, they should first seek medical attention. A student trainee should then contact their school's coordinator and inform them of the injury. The school will give them the appropriate forms.

Trainers

Can my parent act as a trainer?

Yes, a parent or your employer can act as a trainer.

What if I don't live on a farm, how can I find a trainer and training site?

Check with your high school coordinator for assistance.

What experience does a trainer have to have to be eligible to train a student?

A trainer must be an experienced producer that is comfortable and capable of passing on the knowledge outlined in a curriculum book to the student. A trainer must also know his/her limitations, and be able to ask another farmer for assistance if needed. The training site must be a safe and viable farming operation. We have resources available for new trainers.

Can a trainee use more than one trainer?

Yes. A trainee can use as many trainers as necessary to complete the program. Each trainer must print their name and sign their initials on the Skill Profile page.

Is the trainer covered by WCB while training the student? No

No. The trainer is not covered by WCB – only the trainee is covered.

Testing

How often does testing occur?

Testing occurs three times each year.

How many tests do I have to complete?

Each subject area requires a trainee to successfully complete 3 tests in order to receive their certificate.

When is testing done?

Testing is generally done in the second half of November, the end of February or the beginning of March and the end of May or beginning of June in each year.

Where is testing done?

The majority of testing is done on the College Campus that hosts the Green Certificate program in your region. In some areas, testing is done at a local farm site (i.e. La Crete in the Peace Region and Oyen in the Central Region) to assist students that would otherwise have to travel great distances. Timing of satellite tests may be different than the regular testing.

Who is eligible to be a tester?

Testers are experienced farmers, and in some cases, former Green Certificate trainers. Testers are hired for their experience and ability to work with students. We have training available for new testers, contact your regional coordinator.

What format do the tests take?

The tests are oral and practical, hands-on tests. Trainees will have to be able to describe and talk about the information in the curriculum book, as well as show a tester using machinery/animals/props provided at the test site.

Does a trainee have to take a test each round?

No. A trainee and trainer determine together if the student is ready. He/she only takes a test if they are ready.

Can a trainee do more than one test each time?

A trainee can do up to 2 tests if the trainer and trainee feel that the student is ready. The trainee must let the Regional Coordinator know ahead of time so that they can be scheduled for two tests.

What happens to a trainee if they do not complete a test?

A trainee will receive feedback from the tester as to where they need more work and where to get more information. A trainee can return at the next round of testing and redo the test without academic or financial penalty.

Are you really going to send me home if I forget my book or do not have all of the necessary skills signed off when I come for testing?

Yes. No exceptions.



Resources

Where can the trainee go online to find additional resources?

Go to the Green Certificate web pages on Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's website at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/greencertificate

Where do trainees usually have difficulty with the Green Certificate program?

Trainees usually have the most difficulty when it comes to diseases and medications, anatomy and physiology (livestock specialties) and insects and weeds (crop specialties). Trainees also run into difficulty if they believe that they have been farming all of their lives and don't need to read or study.

High School Administration

What is the cost to the school for a student to participate?

Effective September 1, 2017, new students enrolling in the Green Certificate Program will have their fee paid directly by Alberta Education. After the effective date of September 1, 2017, school/school division authorities will no longer receive invoices for student enrollment into the Green Certificate Program.

Who should I contact for more information?

You should contact your Regional Coordinator:

South – Marina Grant, Lethbridge College 403-320-3202 ext. 5234

Central – Pam Church, Olds College 403-507-7912 or 403-507-0434

Northeast – Deanna Krys, Lakeland College 780-853-8613

Northwest – Janet Carolyn, Lakeland College 780-954-2677

Peace – Amber Moskalyk, Grande Prairie Regional College, Fairview Campus 780-835-6771

What region am I in?

The regions cover the following areas:

South Region– North to (and including) Strathmore, west to the BC border, south to the US border and east to the Saskatchewan border

Central Region– North to (and including) Ponoka, west to the Rocky Mountains, south to Strathmore and east to the Saskatchewan border

Northeast Region– North to Fort Mc Murray, west to Sherwood Park, south to Provost/Czar/Forestburg/Bashaw, Coronation, and east to the Saskatchewan border

Northwest Region– North to Swan Hills/Slave lake/Athabasca, west to Jasper/Drayton Valley, south to (and including) Wetaskiwin and east to Sherwood Park/Leduc

Peace Region– North to the NWT border, west to the BC border, south to Fox Creek/Grande Cache, and east to Slave Lake

How do I assign marks for the Green Certificate program?

Teachers should refer to the Green Certificate Program website www.agriculture.alberta.ca/greencertificate and follow the links to the School Coordinator's homepage to find the delivery procedures for school coordinators.

Do you have any materials that I can give to my students who are considering participating in the program?

Yes. We have a general overview sheets, specialization brochures and an orientation DVD that can be given to trainees. Contact your Regional Coordinator to receive free copies.

Can a school receive a refund (for a student registered prior to Sep 1, 2017) if a student quits the Green Certificate Program?

Yes, a school may receive a refund or a partial refund for students registered prior to Sep 1, 2017, depending on how far along the student trainee is in the program. Please ask your Regional Coordinator for the refund policy.