

Apprenticeship-style Agriculture Training

What is the Green Certificate Program?

It is an apprenticeship-style, workforce development, training program serving the agriculture industry.

How does it work?

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF) works in partnership with the agriculture industry and Alberta Education (via the off campus education policy) to offer the Green Certificate Program to all Grade 10-12 Albertan High School Students. Trainees select a specialization and under the guidance of their trainer, work towards mastering all of the skills within their training program.

What is in it for me, as a high school student?

- Earn up to 16 grade-twelve diploma credits per specialization completed
- Have fun learning more about agriculture in a practical, hands-on environment
- Increase your knowledge and skill level and gain valuable work experience
- Reach further educational goals; many post secondary agricultural institutions and scholarship programs look favorably upon Green Certificate involvement
- Explore career options in the agriculture industry
- Earn recognition for what you can already do on the farm
- Learn more about crops or animals, agriculture, machinery and farming operations
- Include the experience and training on your resume and add the certificate of completion to your portfolio.

What will I learn?

You will learn specialized skills in one of the specializations:

Greenhouse

- Employability and safety skills
- Complete Seasonal Maintenance
- Understand Basic Botany
- Establish and Maintain Proper Growing Conditions
- Prepare to Grow Plants
- Seed, Root and Transplant Propagation Material
- Identify Plant Problems
- Maintain Production Quality
- Market and Sell Product

Equine

- Employability and safety skills
- Production cycles
- Handling, behavior and anatomy
- Facilities and environment
- Maintain equine health
- Administer nutritional programs
- Business management practices

Field Crop, Irrigated Crops

- Employability and safety skills
- Fertilizing and seeding
- Harvesting, handling and storing grain and forage crops
- Land preparation, field and crop care
- Operating and servicing equipment and facilities
- Management systems

Cow-calf, Feedlot, Sheep, Swine, Dairy

- Employability and safety skills
- Processing and handling systems
- Feeding systems and rations
- Waste management and sanitation
- Health and treatment of livestock
- Reproduction
- Management systems

Beekeeping

- Employability and safety skills
- Handling bees
- Maintaining bee health
- Operating bee equipment
- Beekeeping business planning

Poultry

- Employability and safety skills
- Industry structure
- bird biology & animal welfare
- Handle birds & biosecurity
- Barn/facility systems
- Receive chicks and poults
- Raise broilers or turkeys
- Produce broiler hatching eggs or table eggs
- Prepare for ship out
- Clean and maintain facility

How does funding work?

- Effective September 1, 2017, new students enrolling in the Green Certificate Program will have their fee paid directly by Alberta Education.

What are the minimum student requirements?

- 15 years of age
- Enrolled in grades 10, 11 or 12

What do I have to do?

Trainee

- Attend an induction
- Develop a training plan with your trainer
- Train on all the skills in the book
- Search out additional resources with your trainer to complete all skills (workshops, other producers, agri-businesses)
- Perform an on-farm test of skill competencies
- Communicate regularly with your school representative on your progress
- Attend regional training days when offered by your regional coordinator
- Attend the certification test at a regional test center when scheduled
- Turn in the test report forms to your school representative to receive your credits
- If incomplete, develop a further training plan with your trainer

Trainers/Parents

- Attend an induction
- Provide a work site with conditions that support the trainee's learning
- Develop a training plan with your trainee
- Mentor trainee on all skills
- Use the workbook as a training guide to develop best management practices
- Encourage and support finding additional resources
- Administer an on-farm test with the trainee, signing off on the skill profile sheet, where competency has been achieved
- Support the trainee's attendance at a regional certification tests
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How long does it take to complete the Green Certificate Program?

- In general, it takes about one year to achieve completion. In one year, the trainee will experience all of the seasons on a farming operation. Trainees are allowed up to three years to complete their training, if needed.

How can I get more info?

Contact your Green Certificate Regional Coordinator or School Representative:

Pamala Church - Central Alberta Regional Coordinator - Olds College

cellular: 403-507-0434 or **telephone:** 403-507-7912

email: pchurch@oldscollege.ca

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GreenCertificateOldsCollege/>

twitter: https://twitter.com/greencert_ag

instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/greencertificate/>

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 - Broiler Chicken Production, Broiler Hatching Egg Production, Table Egg Production and Turkey.

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 will be mailed a certificate, signed by the Minister of Agriculture, along with their completed Record of Competence Skill sheet. They can put the certificate on the wall, show to future employers or keep in their portfolio.

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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?

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How many high school credits does a student earn?

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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.

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

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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 need be. 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 middle of November, the middle of February, the middle of May and make-up days the beginning of October and end of June.

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, former Green Certificate trainers and trainees. 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?

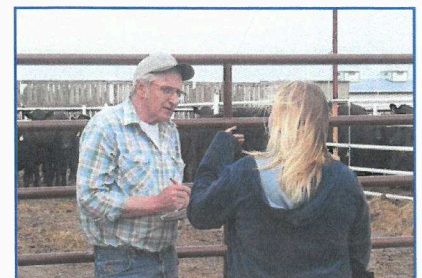
A trainee can do up to 2 tests if the trainer and trainee feel that the student is ready. The trainee must let the Regional Coordinator know ahead of time so that they can be scheduled for two tests.

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?

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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?

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

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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.

1. Trainee Information – Required
(Return the completed form to your School Coordinator)

Full Name:		
<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>M.I.</i>
Address:		
<i>Mailing Address</i>		
<i>Town/City</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Postal Code</i>
Primary Phone: ()	Email Address: _____	
Alternate Phone: ()	<i>Email addresses must be unique</i>	
Birth Date: ()	Grade:	Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
AB Student No.: _____		
<i>AB Student Number required to register (and leaving it blank will delay registration in the program)</i>		
Training Specialization (please check one):		
<input type="checkbox"/> Beekeeping <input type="checkbox"/> Cow-Calf <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy <input type="checkbox"/> Feedlot <input type="checkbox"/> Equine <input type="checkbox"/> Field Crop <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigated Crop <input type="checkbox"/> Sheep <input type="checkbox"/> Swine <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry - Turkey Production <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry – Broiler Chicken Production <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry – Broiler Hatching Egg Production <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry – Table Egg Production		
Training Level : <input type="checkbox"/> Level 1 - Technician		
Training Document Version (year): _____ Digital Copy _____ Hard Copy _____		

2. Parent/Guardian Information – Required if trainee is under 18 years of age

Parent/Guardian Name:		
<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>M.I.</i>
Address:		
Same as Trainee? <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mailing Address</i>		
<i>Town/City</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Postal Code</i>
Primary Phone: ()	Email Address: _____	
Alternate Phone: ()	<i>Email addresses must be unique</i>	

3. Trainer / Training-site Information – Required

Trainer Name:		
<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>M.I.</i>
Parent/Guardian named above is Trainer? <input type="checkbox"/>		
Farm Business Name:		
Trainer Address:		
<i>Mailing Address</i>		
<i>Town/City</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Postal Code</i>
Training-Site Address:		
<i>Physical Address (if different than Mailing Address)</i>		
<i>Town/City</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Postal Code</i>
Primary Phone: ()	Email Address: _____	
Alternate Phone: ()	<i>Email addresses must be unique</i>	

4. Additional Contact Information – OPTIONAL

Full Name:	_____		
	<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>M.I.</i>
Address:	_____		
	<i>Mailing Address</i>		
	_____		_____
	<i>Town/City</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Postal Code</i>
Primary Phone:	() _____	Email Address:	_____
Alternate Phone:	() _____	Email addresses must be unique	

5. School Information – For Green Certificate School Coordinator

(Enter information into GINA or contact your Regional Coordinator)

School Name, Town:	_____	
	<i>Town/City</i>	
School Coordinator Name:	_____	
Primary Phone:	() _____	Email Address: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Trainee has additional Training or Testing conditions? If there is any information that can help successfully test your student please let your Coordinator know		

6. For Green Certificate Program Use Only

Approved by (regional coordinator):	_____	
This agreement shall be in effect from	_____	to _____

Worker's Compensation Board Coverage: As a result of Workers' Compensation Regulation AR 325/2002, Section 7(1)(e), the Workers' Compensation Act applies to students registered in off-campus education programs, including Green Certificate. Section 153(3) of the Act states that, for the purposes of insurance coverage, these students will be considered to be workers employed by the Government of Alberta. This may be important for Green Certificate Job-Site trainers to consider prior to becoming involved in off-campus education programs, since it does affect procedures for reporting student injuries. Additional detailed information regarding any off campus education programs can be found within the "Off-campus Education Handbook" (<http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/off-campus.aspx>). When a student is engaged in approved off-campus education activities, that student is regarded as an employee of Alberta Education. Student injuries are covered under Alberta Education's WCB account. The Government of Alberta shall provide coverage under the Worker's Compensation Act for the Green Certificate Student/Trainee working on an APPROVED training farm site, EFFECTIVE FOR THE TERM OF THIS REGISTRATION, WHEN SIGNED. The Job-Site Trainer named in this Registration Form is NOT COVERED by the Government of Alberta under Worker's Compensation Benefits.

Liability Waiver: The Government of Alberta shall not be liable for any damages including consequential damage, to the equipment or to the farm operation of the farmer caused by Student/Trainee or incurred through the Job-Site Trainer's employment/training of the Student/Trainee. Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development may terminate this registration at any time with notice in writing.

Privacy: Personal information on this form is used for the administration of the Green Certificate Program, under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act section 33(c). Information provided is protected under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Your name, school, and birth date may be shared with Alberta Education for high school credit transcript information. If you need more information, contact the provincial Green Certificate office at 780-968-3551.

I have read and acknowledge the above terms and conditions. Participants may withdraw from the Green Certificate Program at their discretion with verbal or written notification to the regional coordinator.

Trainee: _____ Date: _____
 Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____
 Trainer: _____ Date: _____
 School Coordinator: _____ Date: _____

My contact information may be shared with the agricultural colleges (GPRC-Fairview, Lakeland, Lethbridge, and Olds) that partner with Green Certificate, in order that they can contact me about additional learning opportunities in agriculture

For more information contact
www.agriculture.alberta.ca/greencertificate

Green Certificate Regional Delivery Service Areas

Peace Region – Fairview
 GPRC (Fairview Campus)
Amber Moskalyk
 Box 3000
 Fairview AB T0H 1L0
 Ph: (780) 835-6771
 Fax: (780) 835-6789
amberhavens@hotmail.com

North East Region – Vermilion
 Lakeland College
Tammi Etherington
 5707 College Dr.
 Vermilion AB T9X 1K5
 Ph: (780) 853-8613
 Fax: (780) 853-8715
tammi.etherington@lakelandcollege.ca

Southern Region – Lethbridge
 Lethbridge College
Marina Grant
 3000 College Dr. S.
 Lethbridge AB T1K 1L6
 Ph: (403) 634-6308
 Fax: (888) 435-4827
marina.grant@lethbridgecollege.ca

North West Region – Barrhead/Leduc
 Lakeland College
Janet Carlyon
 Box 38 Site 2 RR 1
 Dapp AB T0G 0S0
 Ph: (780) 954-2677
 Fax: (780) 954-2698
jcarlyon@mcsnet.ca

Central Region – Olds
 Olds College
Pamala Church
 4500 50 Street
 Olds AB T4H 1W7
 Ph: (403) 507-7912
pchurch@oldscollege.ca

(School Coordinator will enter registration form into GINA or contact Regional Coordinator)

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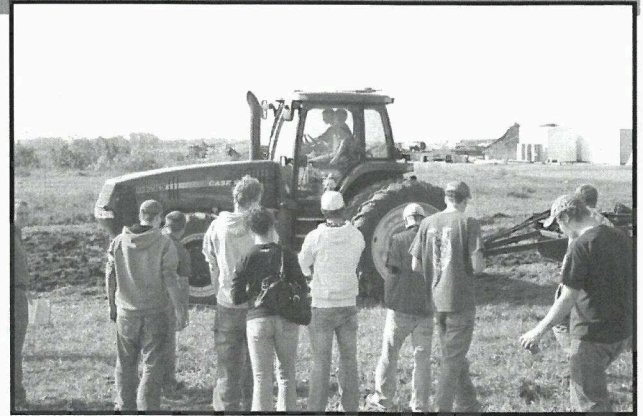
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A trainee can be paid or unpaid for their work while on the Green Certificate program. It is up to the trainer and trainee to determine if they are getting paid.

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 need be. 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 middle of November, the middle of February, the middle of May and make-up days the beginning of October and end of June.

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, former Green Certificate trainers and trainees. 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.

