

Frequently Asked Questions

General

What areas / specializations can a student study?

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

Do I really get a “Green Certificate”?

Yes. Upon successful completion of all 3 tests, trainees will receive an actual certificate. They can put the certificate on the wall, show it to future employers or keep in a portfolio.

Trainees

What types of trainees are there?

Student trainees access the program through their high school and receive diploma credits upon successful completion. (There is no longer an adult trainee program).

How old and 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, 11 or 12.

How many high school credits does a student earn?

A student trainee will earn 6 credits for completing training section 'X', 5 credits for completing training section 'Y' and 5 credits for completing training section 'Z'. Students work to complete 3 (30 level courses) for a total of 16 high school credits towards their high school graduation requirements. These courses can be used towards the Rutherford Scholarship.

What will I use as a guideline to train on my chosen specialty?

After a student has attended an induction meeting and completed a registration form, they will receive a manual on the specialization that they are training in. Each manual consists of 3 training sections (X, Y & Z). Within the training sections there are skills that need to be mastered. Each skill indicates key competencies and factors to determine knowledge and understanding.

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

No. A trainee can start training on whichever training section (X, Y or Z) that they choose. A trainee and trainer should look at what is required in the manual, and work it into the annual cycle of their farm.

How long will it take a student to complete the Green Certificate program?

The program can be completed anytime during grades 10 -12. There is no expected number of hours that need to be completed as students will work at their own pace to learn the required skills. Assignments and activities in the manual are for the students own use to assist in the learning and understanding of the required skills. A student can complete all 3 tests (courses) in 1 year or over their 3 years of high school.

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

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. However, once a student trainee has finished one specialization, they can begin training on another specialization.

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.

What prerequisite courses need to be completed?

Trainees will need to complete the Alberta Education prerequisite AGR 3000 safety course. Trainees will receive 1 high school credit upon successful completion. Trainees will work with their school coordinator to enroll in this course.

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 can be your trainer. Trainers can also be employers, coaches, 4-H leaders. They need to be knowledgeable in the specialty that the student is training in.

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

This is an ideal program for students who work on the family farm or are employed in agriculture. You do not have to live on a farm to participate. However, you do need a trainer that can mentor you and ensure that you understand all of the skills in the manual. If you need help finding a trainer, please talk to 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 manual to the student. A trainer must also know his/her limitations, and be able to ask another agriculture industry professional for assistance if need be. The training site must be a safe and viable farming operation.

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 Record of Competence (ROC) page.

Is the trainer covered by WCB while training the student?

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

Testing

How often does testing occur?

Testing dates and locations vary per region. The school coordinator or regional coordinator will have the yearly test schedule.

How many tests do I have to complete?

Each specialization requires a trainee to successfully complete 3 tests in order to receive certificate. However, trainees must test at least once within 12 months of registering for the program.

Where is testing done?

The majority of testing is done on the College Campus that hosts the Green Certificate program in your region. There are some off campus testing locations to assist students that would otherwise have to travel great distances.

Who is eligible to be a tester?

Testers are agriculture industry professionals. They are experienced farmers, and in some cases, former Green Certificate trainers. Testers are hired for their experience and their 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. They are much like a practice job interview. Trainees will have to be able to describe and talk about the information in the manual, share their learning experiences, as well as use props provided at the test site to show or demonstrate a skill to a tester.

Does a trainee have to take a test each round?

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

What happens to a trainee receives an 'incomplete' on a test? The trainee will receive feedback from the tester as to where they need more work and where to get more information to re-train. The 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 on line to find additional resources?

Go to the Green Certificate web pages on Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation 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 traceability, 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 review the manual 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 – Kelsey Jorgensen, Olds College of Agriculture & Technology (403) 507-0434

Northeast – Jessi Selte, Lakeland College (780) 581-4689

Northwest – Jennifer Stoby, Lakeland College (780) 940-3563

Peace – Amber Moskalyk, Northwestern Polytechnic—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 McMurray, 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, etc. Contact your regional coordinator to receive more information or to set up an induction meeting.