

August 27, 2026

*Re: Announcement of Regional Agriculture Innovation Cluster Investment Readiness Funding
Through the Province of Alberta*

The regional partners are pleased to announce new provincial funding that will advance investment readiness and agriculture innovation across Southeast Alberta.

In early 2023, six Southeast Alberta municipalities partnered to apply for Northern and Regional Economic Development (NRED) grant funding to develop a regional economic development strategy. That work led to the Southeast Alberta Economic Opportunity Strategy, which was released in early 2025. Implementation has continued through ongoing engagement with businesses at events and workshops, stakeholder work sessions, and progress on broader strategic priorities, including the completion of investment attraction strategies.

To support priorities identified for the agriculture and agri-food sector, the County of Forty Mile led a subsequent application to the NRED Program, with support from the City of Medicine Hat, Town of Redcliff, Town of Bow Island, and the Village of Foremost. The application was successful, and the Province of Alberta will contribute 50% of the project cost, supporting the \$156,000 Regional Agriculture Innovation Cluster Investment Readiness project.

This project will include four primary activities: a Developers Playbook, a Producer Expansion Playbook, a Drone Spraying Regulatory Advancement Roadmap, and an Agriculture Cluster Development Leadership Program. Together, these tools will help support agriculture and agri-food growth across the region by highlighting expansion and diversification opportunities, guiding investment and development across participating municipalities, and reducing barriers that can slow innovation and project development. They will also strengthen business retention, support the safe adoption of new technologies, and help enable expansion within the region.

We look forward to continuing this regional collaboration and advancing investment readiness across Southeast Alberta's agriculture and agri-food sector.

Southeast Alberta Economic Opportunity Strategy & Implementation Framework, Regional Steering Committee

