

Green

CERTIFICATE

Frequently Asked Questions **(FAQs)**



General

What is the Green Certificate program?

The Green Certificate (GC) program is an on-farm apprenticeship-style training program aimed at high school students and adults. It is a joint venture of Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Education.

What subject areas can a person train in?

There are nine 'specialties' in the GC program: Cow/Calf, Dairy, Equine, Feedlot, Field Crop, Irrigated Field Crop, Sheep, Swine & Beekeeping

Does a Trainee take all nine?

No, the Trainee registers in just one.

What are the requirements for a high school student to get into the program?

A high school Trainee must be a minimum 15 years old, in Grade 10, have a Trainer & a training site.

What are the requirements for an adult, or student not interested in credits, to get into the program?

An non-credit Trainee must be a minimum 16 years old, have a Trainer & a training site.

Are there any pre-requisite courses for Green Certificate?

For a high school student registering in GC, they must first take AGR3000 (Farm Safety). It is the school's responsibility to deliver AGR3000. A final grade for AGR3000 must be submitted to Alberta Education before any GC test marks are submitted. AGR3000 is worth one credit. There is no pre-requisite for an adult Trainee.

Is there a cost to the Trainee to participate in the Green Certificate program?

For a Credit Trainee, it depends on the Trainee's school. Talk to the School Representative for the school's specific policy. For Non-credit Trainees, there is no cost to participate in the program.

Is there a workbook or textbook?

When a Trainee registers in the program, they receive a curriculum manual. This is not a textbook. The manual outlines skills a Trainee needs to know in order to complete the program.

How many high school credits can a Trainee earn?

A student can earn a total of sixteen Level 33 credits for each specialty successfully completed.

How many certificates can a Trainee earn?

A Trainee can earn as many certificates as they want.

Can a Trainee register in more than one specialty at one time?

Most schools will allow students to take more than one specialty at a time, though it is not generally recommended.

How does a Trainee work through the book?

The Trainee works through the skills in the manual in whatever order they wish. A Trainee and Trainer should look at what skills are covered in the curriculum, and work the training into the seasonal/annual cycles on the training site.

How long does it take to complete the Green Certificate program?

That depends on each individual Trainee. A Credit Trainee can complete the program in one school year, or they can take all three years of high school to complete if they choose (presuming they started in Grade 10). Non-credit Trainees are allowed two years to complete the certificate.

Can a Trainee switch from one specialty to another specialty?

Yes, a Trainee may switch from one specialty to another. However, if a Trainee switches to a new specialty, they must do all three tests (X, Y, Z) in the new specialty, even if they have already successfully completed some of the tests from the original specialty.

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

Yes – a Trainee is covered by WCB. However, the Trainer and the training site are not covered by WCB.



Trainers

Who can be a Trainer in GC?

The Trainer can be anyone – parent, neighbour, relative, employer.

Can a Trainee’s parent/relative act as a Trainer?

Yes. For most of the Trainees enrolled in the program, a parent is their principal Trainer.

Can a Trainee have more than one Trainer?

Yes, a Trainee can have as many Trainers as they need to complete the program.

What experience/qualifications does a Trainer have to have to be eligible to train a Trainee?

A Trainer must be an experienced producer who is comfortable and capable of passing on the knowledge outlined in a curriculum book to the Trainee. A Trainer must also know his/her limitations, and be able to ask others for assistance if need be. A Trainer should also be keeping up with industry standards.

Are there a minimum number of animals a Trainer needs to have in order to be considered an appropriate training site for the Trainees?

There is no hard number – a Trainer needs to have enough so that the Trainee can learn and practice the skills required.

What does a Trainer do if there is a skill in the book that they do not have the ability/required equipment to do it on their farm?

A student must complete all of the ‘required’ skills, regardless of whether or not they have everything on their principal training site. The Trainee and Trainer will have to find another site where they have the ability/equipment to teach the Trainee that particular skill. Failing that, a Trainee can always talk to people in the industry such as equipment dealers, veterinarians, or other producers.

Is the Trainer covered by WCB while training the Trainee?

No – only the Trainee is covered.



Testing

How often does testing take place?

Testing is offered three times per school year – generally in late fall, during the winter and in late spring.

Does a Trainee have to take a test at each round of testing?

No. A Trainee tests only if they and their Trainer feel the Trainee is ready. However, a Trainee must take at least one test within one year of registering in the program. If they do not, they are withdrawn from the program.

How many tests does a Trainee have to complete?

In order to successfully complete the program, the Trainee must take three tests – one on each of the three sections (X, Y, Z) in the manual.

Can a Trainee do more than one test each time testing is offered?

If the Regional Coordinator allows it, yes. The Trainee must contact the Regional Coordinator ahead of time if they wish to take more than one test so that they can be scheduled for two tests.

Are the tests written?

No, the tests are oral. Trainees sit down one-on-one with a Tester and answer questions based on the information in the Curriculum book. Trainees may have the opportunity to use machinery / animals / props provided at the test site (if available) in their testing.

How long does a test take?

There is no set length. The length of a test varies anywhere from 30 minutes to two hours.

Is the Trainee tested on all the skills?

No. At each test, the Trainee is tested on five of the skills in a particular section (X,Y,Z). These skills are selected at random by the Tester. The Trainee will not know which five skills they will be tested on so they must be competent in all the skills for a particular section.

Where does testing take place?

The majority of testing is done on the college campus that hosts the GC program in each region. In some areas, testing is done at a local farm site to assist Trainees that would otherwise have to travel great distances.

What happens when a Trainee successfully completes a test?

The Tester signs the test page in Trainee’s manual to indicate that the Trainee has successfully completed a test. The Trainee gets a copy of their test, while other copies of their test are distributed to the GC Regional Coordinator, GC Head Office, and the Trainee’s school. If the test is the third and final test, the cardboard Skills Sheet at the front of the Trainee’s manual is removed and is sent to GC Head Office. Shortly thereafter, the Trainee will receive a ‘Green Certificate’ along with the Skills Sheet.

What happens if a Trainee does not complete a test and/or achieve a mark of at least 65%?

A Trainee receives an “Incomplete”. This is not a fail and there is no penalty. A Trainee will receive feedback from the Tester as to what areas they need to do more training on. The Trainee returns at the next round of testing to re-do the test.

What happens if a Trainee shows up for testing and does not have all of the necessary skills signed off by their Trainer?

The student will not be allowed to test.

What happens if a Trainee is registered to test but does not show up for testing?

The first time this happens, the Trainee will receive a letter of warning from the Regional Coordinator. If it happens a second time, the Trainee is removed from the program. If there is a legitimate reason for not showing up (emergency), there is no penalty.

Who are the Testers?

Testers are people actively involved in the agriculture industry, and in some cases, are former GC Trainers and Trainees. Testers are hired for their experience and ability to work with Trainees.

How does a person become a Tester?

A person interested in becoming a Tester should contact the Regional Coordinator closest to them for more information.



High School Administration

What is the cost to the school to participate?

The cost to a school for each registration is \$960.00 (+ 5% GST) for a total of \$1008.00.

Does the school get its money back?

For each credit a Trainee earns on the program, the school receives funding from Alberta Education. The dollar amount varies, depending on whether the school is public, separate, private, or charter.

What are the School Coordinator’s responsibilities?

School Coordinator responsibilities include knowledge of the program, promoting the program within their school, attending orientation sessions with students, communicating regularly with the Trainees in their school, following the Alberta Education Off-Campus Education policy (including a Farm Site Visit), administering the school’s fee procedure, assigning course marks for students, and arranging for the Trainees to receive appropriate credits from Alberta Education.

What is a ‘Farm Site Visit’?

In GC, the site where training is taking place must be visited at by the School Coordinator at the time the student registers, and a Farm Site Visit report done. This report must be completed and then kept on file at the school. This is a requirement of Alberta Education, not GC, so the form does not have to be sent to the Regional Coordinator. This form can be found on the Alberta Agriculture website at www.agriculture.alberta/greencertificate .

Are there any pre-requisite courses for Green Certificate?

For a high school student registering in GC, they must first take AGR3000 (Farm Safety). It is the school's responsibility to deliver AGR3000. A final grade for AGR3000 must be submitted to Alberta Education before any GC test marks are submitted. AGR3000 is worth one credit. There is no pre-requisite for a non-credit Trainee.

Who submits a student's marks to Alberta Education?

The school.

What happens if a Trainee withdraws from the Green Certificate Program?

It depends on how far along the Trainee is in the program. If a Trainee withdraws from the program without taking any tests, the school is eligible for a complete refund. If a Trainee has taken one test, regardless of the outcome of that test, a partial refund of \$425 is forthcoming. If a Trainee has taken two or more tests, again regardless of the outcome of those tests, no refund is forthcoming.



Green Certificate & 4-H

Can Green Certificate be a 4-H project?

Yes, with approval of the club leadership. There are Green Certificate Project Codes for Beef (cow/calf and feedlot), Equine, Dairy, Sheep, Swine, and Field Crops. Irrigated Crop and Apiculture (Beekeeping) can be used as 4-H projects under the COP project code.

What does a member have to do?

Meet all basic 4-H member requirements AND all basic Green Certificate requirements.

What are the basic Green Certificate requirements?

Be in at least Grade 10, minimum 15 years old, have a Trainer and a training site. Register in the program through a Regional Coordinator—either at school (may earn up to 16 diploma credits) or as an individual (no credits earned). If registering as an individual, a Trainee must be 16 years old. Complete an induction session, do on-farm training, keep training records, and complete testing

What are achievement day requirements?

At a minimum, members should have a display OR a presentation explaining their Green Certificate project.

What kind of record book do they use?

The Green Certificate training manual is NOT enough. Members should use the Generic or Creative Options Record Book in combination with a log summary of each training period.

Where does it go on the diary?

It goes on the first page like any other project. Induction, training, testing, and farm safety training (AGR3000) are requirements of Green Certificate and CANNOT be claimed on the diary (just like weigh-in day for the market beef project). Other special training events can be claimed as project workshops.

Do I have to be the leader?

No, but someone in the club needs to be assigned the project. The 4-H member doing Green Certificate must have a Trainer. This Trainer may be registered as a 4-H leader if you wish. General club leaders (or the leader designated for GC) should be in regular contact with the Trainer(s) to get periodic updates on how training is progressing.



For More Information

For more information, contact one of the five Regional Coordinators in the province:

REGION	COVERAGE	NAME	PHONE NUMBER
SOUTH (Lethbridge College)	North to (and including) Strathmore, west to BC border, south to US border, east to SK border	Kathy Waddell	403-329-7212
CENTRAL (Olds College)	North to (and including) Ponoka, west to Rocky Mountains, south to Strathmore, east to SK border	Henry Czarnota	403-507-7912
NORTHEAST (Lakeland College)	North to Smoky Lake, west to Calmar, south to Coronation, east to SK border	Deanna Kryz	780-853-8613
NORTHCENTRAL (Lakeland College)	North to Slave Lake, west to BC border, south to (and including) Wetaskiwin, east to Boyle, Morinville and Edmonton area	Janet Carlyon	780-954-2677
PEACE (Grande Prairie Regional College – Fairview Campus)	North to NWT border, west to BC border, south to Grovedale and/or Little Smoky, east to Slave Lake	Amber Havens	780-835-6799

www.agriculture.alberta.ca/greencertificate