



Fonds coopératif  
d'aide à la relève agricole

# Frequently asked questions



# Frequently asked questions

## 1 What is FCARA?

Fonds coopératif d'aide à la relève agricole (FCARA) is a program that provides farmers aged 40 and under with funding, professional support, and training opportunities.

## 2 How long is the program?

The program lasts three years. If selected, you'll be required to develop your professional skills through FCARA-approved training to earn the required number of credits and qualify for funding.

## 3 Who are FCARA's partners?

The program is jointly administered by Sollio Cooperative Group and its affiliated cooperatives, Desjardins Group, and Fédération de la relève agricole du Québec. The FCARA board of directors is made up of one representative from Sollio Cooperative Group, one from the agricultural cooperatives affiliated with Sollio Cooperative Group, one from Fédération de la relève agricole du Québec, and one from Desjardins Group.

## 4 Who can apply for FCARA?

Pour être admissible au programme FCARA, vous devez répondre aux critères suivants :

1. Reside in Québec, Ontario, or New Brunswick.
2. Be between 18 and 40 years old at the time of application.
3. Be in the process of establishing or transferring for less than 10 years.
4. Hold at least 20% of shares in the business. If you hold less than 20%, you can still apply; your application will be reviewed by FCARA's board of directors.
5. Be a member of a cooperative affiliated with Sollio Cooperative Group.
6. Be a member of a Desjardins Caisse or Desjardins Business Centre affiliated with Desjardins Group.
7. Be a member of Fédération de la relève agricole du Québec (only for Québec residents).
8. Have completed specialized training in agriculture or an equivalent training.
9. Be ready to commit to developing your professional skills through FCARA-approved training.

## 5 Can candidates who do not have specialized training in agriculture, equivalent training, or a diploma apply?

Yes, candidates must submit their application along with a cover letter outlining their background and interest in the FCARA program. Their application will be reviewed and considered.



## **6 Can an English-speaking candidate apply to the program?**

Yes, although the training is offered primarily in French, an adapted pathway may be provided based on individual needs.

## **7 How much funding is available?**

FCARA provides funding of up to \$7,500 per person per year, for a total of up to \$22,500. The annual amount of funding is calculated based on the volume of inputs you purchase and the percentage of shares you hold in the business.

## **8 Does the amount received from the FCARA have any tax implications for the recipient?**

Yes. The amount is fully taxable and must be reported on the appropriate tax return (T1, T2, or T5013, depending on the recipient type). The tax impact may differ if the financial assistance is paid in the name of the business versus in the name of the recipient. Please consult your agricultural cooperative and your accountant to determine the best option.

## **9 What input purchases are eligible?**

- 100 % of livestock production purchases
- 100 % of crop production purchases
- 100 % of hardware purchases

## **10 What input purchases are ineligible?**

- Construction material purchases
- Grain purchases
- Fuel purchases

## **11 How do I apply?**

You'll need to fill out and sign the application form and send it to your agricultural cooperative along with the necessary supporting documents. The application form is available on the Sollio Cooperative Group website under Our agricultural youth > Fonds coopératif d'aide à la relève Agricole > The documents.

## **12 If I meet all the criteria and apply, will I automatically be admitted to the program?**

No, you won't be admitted to the program just because you meet the criteria and submit an application. Agricultural cooperatives may stagger application approvals or turn down applications, depending on the program's annual capacity.

**13 Can I apply for the program even if my agricultural cooperative isn't a FCARA member?**

No. You're only eligible to apply if your agricultural cooperative is an official FCARA member. To join FCARA, an agricultural cooperative's board of directors must send a resolution to the FCARA team at Sollio Cooperative Group.

**14 If my application was rejected because I didn't meet some of the eligibility criteria, can I apply again?**

Yes, you can reapply the following year. However, your application will be rejected again if you still don't meet the eligibility criteria.

**15 If I'm 40 years old when I apply, and my application is approved, will I be eligible for funding for the duration of the program?**

Absolutely. Applicants must be 40 years of age or younger when they apply. If selected, you'll be eligible to receive funding for the duration of the program.

**16 Can more than one person from the same farm apply?**

No, two applicants from the same farm cannot both be admitted to the program in the same year. However, one of the two applicants may apply the year after the first applicant was admitted.

**17 Can an agricultural cooperative that's a FCARA member have different criteria from those of the program?**

No. For reasons of consistency and efficiency, all participating agricultural cooperatives must use the same eligibility criteria for the FCARA program. However, an agricultural cooperative may decide to reduce or increase its budget cap. If an agricultural cooperative decides to reduce the amount of funding available to selected applicants, it must also reduce the amount of funding from Sollio Cooperative Group. On the other hand, if an agricultural cooperative decides to increase the budget for its young farmers, it will have to cover the additional portion, including the portion normally covered by Sollio Cooperative Group.



**18 Can participating agricultural cooperatives admit applicants without covering some of the costs?**

No, agricultural cooperatives that participate in the program and admit applicants will be responsible for 50% of the funding awarded to their selected applicants for the duration of the program.

**19 Can I earn credits for training I completed before I was admitted to the program?**

No, except in certain cases, no credits will be awarded for training completed prior to admission to FCARA. If selected, you'll be required to develop your professional skills through FCARA approved training.

**20 What training expenses will FCARA reimburse agricultural cooperatives for if they request it?**

- Application fees up to a maximum of \$250 per eligible training.
- Mileage (at the applicable rate) up to 500 km per training.
- Meals upon presentation of receipt, excluding alcoholic beverages.

**21 How much training do I need to complete to receive FCARA funding?**

Selected applicants must earn seven training credits per year, for a total of 21 credits over the three years of the program, to qualify for annual funding. If selected, you'll be informed of the number of credits awarded for each course after you've been admitted.

**22 How many coop activities do I need to complete to receive FCARA funding?**

Selected applicants must participate in two coop activities per year to qualify for annual funding. You won't receive any training credits for these activities, but you're required to do them in order to receive funding.

**23 Do I have to go on one of the trips for young farmers?**

No, going on these trips is optional, and spots are limited. FCARA organizes one training trip per year that includes visits to farms and agri-food facilities in Québec and other parts of Canada.

**24 How many credits will I earn if I go on one of the trips for young farmers?**

Between 8 and 10 training credits, depending on the length of the trip. crédits de formation.