



About the program

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

The program is jointly administered by Sollio Cooperative Group and its affiliated cooperatives, Desjardins Group, and Fédération de la relève agricole du Québec.

If selected for the program, you'll have access to the following:



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

Eligible inputs

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

Ineligible inputs

- Construction material purchases
- Grain purchases
- Fuel purchases

2 Professional support All throughout the program, you'll have access to TELUS Health, a counselling service that provides immediate and confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, free of charge. FCARA covers five hours of professional support per year to help you better manage your finances, personal and work stress, parenting, or overall well-being, depending on your needs. The only exception is legal services, which are limited to one hour.







Over the course of the entire program, you'll be required to develop your professional skills through FCARA-approved training. You'll also be required to participate in community activities organized by your agricultural cooperative or Sollio Cooperative Group. Although the majority of the training is offered in French, the program may provide an adapted pathway for English-speaking candidates.

A wide range of training options: 7 credits per year for a total of 21 credits

You'll need to earn seven training credits per year to qualify for funding. A wide range of training options will be available, and you'll get to choose which courses to take based on your interests. Some courses could also be recognized if you're later elected as a director of a cooperative affiliated with Sollio Cooperative Group.

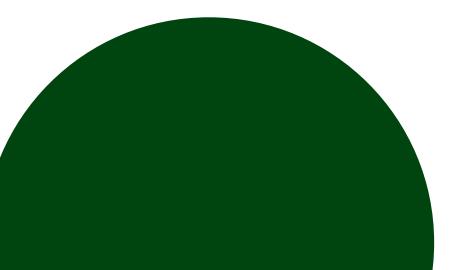
Coop activities: Two activities per year for a total of six activities

You'll be required to participate in at least two coop activities per year. You'll get to choose from a list of activities organized by your cooperative or Sollio Cooperative Group.

The activities include training-focused trips and tours of farms, agrifood businesses, and Sollio Cooperative Group facilities. They give you the opportunity to meet other young farmers in the network and see how the agricultural industry is changing in Québec and other parts of Canada.

4
Cooperative
development

Going on these trips is optional and will earn you training credits. The participating agricultural cooperatives and Sollio Cooperative Group will send out a joint list of trip dates and locations.



Eligibility criteria



Québec applicants

At the time of application, you must:

- 1. Be between 18 and 40 years old.
- 2. Be in the process of establishing or transferring for less than 10 years.
- 3. 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.
- 4. Be a member of a cooperative affiliated with Sollio Cooperative Group.
- 5. Be a member of Fédération de la relève agricole du Québec.
- 6. Be a member of a Desjardins Caisse or Desjardins Business Centre affiliated with Desjardins Group.
- 7. Have completed specialized training in agriculture or an equivalent training.*
- 8. Be ready to commit to developing your professional skills through FCARA-approved training.

Ontario and New Brunswick applicants

At the time of application, you must:

- 1. Be between 18 and 40 years old.
- 2. Be in the process of establishing or transferring for less than 10 years.
- 3. 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.
- 4. Be a member of a cooperative affiliated with Sollio Cooperative Group.
- 5. Be a member of a Desjardins Caisse or Desjardins Business Centre affiliated with Desjardins Group.
- 6. Have completed specialized training in agriculture or an equivalent training.*
- 7. Be ready to commit to developing your professional skills through FCARA-approved training.

^{*}If you do not have specialized training in agriculture, equivalent training, or a diploma, you can also submit your application, along with a cover letter outlining your background and interest in the FCARA program. Your application will be reviewed and considered.

How to apply

To apply, fill out and sign the **application form** and send it to your agricultural cooperative along with the necessary supporting documents.

Applications are accepted from September 1 to December 1. Applications are managed by agricultural cooperatives that are both affiliated with Sollio Cooperative Group and members of FCARA. Each cooperative evaluates applications according to the eligibility criteria and its budget cap.

To find your cooperative, search our directory.

For questions: fcara@sollio.coop







