

## **2021 Wildfire AgriRecovery Talking Points For BCCA, September 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 – Tyler Morhart**

### **Program details:**

- The deadline for the 2021 AgriRecovery General Application is Jan 31, 2022.
- After Jan 31, 2022 and until July 1, 2022 any application submitted will only be eligible for funding for Irrigation System Repair, Replanting of Perennial Forage, Incremental Grazing Cost (for 2022 & 2023) & Extraordinary Costs for Return to Production.

### **Program Statistics and funds allocated:**

- Roughly 70+ applicants as of September 10, 2021.
  - o 6 applications have been submitted from the producers and 2 have been processed for payment, and the remaining require additional information, which staff will work with applicant to receive.
- Majority of the assistance requests have been for Feed Assistance.

### **Efforts taken to promote AgriRecovery:**

- Upon approval of the 2021 AgriRecovery program details were distributed to:
  - o All government staff in Agriculture, Environment, Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation, and Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development.
  - o Various Producer groups (BC Cattlemen's Association, BC Dairy Association, BC Sheep Federation, BC Breeders & Feeders, BC Forage Council, BC Abattoirs Association, BC Agriculture Council, Beaverhill and Westlock Auctions)
- Agriculture has had a contractors working on the ground assisting producers with the applications, and getting impacted people in to the program.
- Agriculture contacted all the individuals reported as impacted by Emergency Management BC, and works with the local Range staff to find out with producers were impacted on their crown range.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

1. What are the eligibility requirements for Livestock?
  - a. An agriculture producer who has been impacted by the 2021 wildfires or drought (land or livestock in area), that is a taxable entity, and files farm income tax (or is exempt from filing).
2. My main farmstead is outside the Designated Area but I pasture my cows within the Designated Area. Do I qualify for the 2021 AgriRecovery?
  - a. Anyone who traditionally pastures eligible breeding animals within the Designated Area may qualify for the CBCWDRIL. It is the location of the traditional grazing lands for your breeding animals, not your home location that qualifies you.
3. How much assistance will be provided?
  - a. Up to 70% of the extraordinary cost can be covered.
4. How is feeding assistance determined?

- a. Feeding assistance is available for domestic ungulates and is calculated by subtracting the available feed on hand and normal feed purchases, from the total animal requirements during the eligible feeding period for each stock class. The program is designed not to replace all feed lost, just the extraordinary feed required to keep the animals feed until June 1, 2022.
5. Can I apply for feed transportation assistance as well as Feeding Assistance?
  - a. Unfortunately no, the feed assistance support has already had transportation determined in the value. The transportation assistance is to assist a producer that owns feed at different location who is now required to transport it to a location for feeding their animals. This transportation must be a unique situation caused by the wildfires that is not normally required.
6. Can I be waived from the pregnancy checking if it is not a normal practice on my operation?
  - a. If you choose not to pregnancy check your stock it is your choice but there will be a holdback on feeding assistance to account for the feeding of open animals till June 1, 2021. The compensation for pregnancy checking allows the producer to see how many animals are open, as well as gives them the opportunity to have a close up look at their stock for any health or injuries that need to have addressed. The pregnancy checking also ensures that open animals are not consuming extra feed, due to the feed shortages across western Canada.
7. What does extraordinary mustering and transportation cover?
  - a. This covers receipted cost for mustering and transport, that takes place after the EMBC evacuation alert has been lifted until Dec 31, 2021 for mustering and until Dec 31, 2022 for animals unable to return to their home feeding location due to fire. Transportation and mustering before the alert has been lifted is not available through AgriRecovery because the assistance was available from EMBC, making it ineligible for the AgriRecovery program.
8. If I have to euthanize an animal because of the injuries it sustained from the fire will I get any assistance?
  - a. If the animal was put down based on a vet's recommendation or because the injuries were too severe for humane treatment, the producer should provide evidence (photos, vet recommendation) and that animal will be compensated as a mortality.
9. Is assistance available to help with pasturing or feeding livestock on deeded land for 2022 and 2023?
  - a. AgriRecovery will cover feeding of eligible livestock, where wildfire has damaged owned, leased or crown pasture for 2022, and only damaged crown land for 2023.
  - b. Assistance will only be provided on June 1, 2022 until the end of the normal grazing season with proof of loss (example letter of directed non-use on crown, loss of fences, etc),
  - c. Assistance will be made on provided receipted costs for feed, alternative pasture, and/or transportation.
10. Is there any assistance if I require extra time to manage my livestock due to damage to my crown range?

- a. Yes, assistance is available if you are required to graze on crown range that is unfamiliar to your livestock, or if extra management is required due to lost fences and changes in normal range utilization.
11. Increased risk of flooding due to log jams and increased overland flow – will it be easy to get assistance through this program if another disaster should befall?
- a. Unfortunately the AgriRecovery is only for a specific event. In this case, it is exclusively for the BC Wildfires and drought of 2021.
  - b. If a disaster presented itself in the future the only opportunity for assistance would be a different AgriRecovery initiative or alternative program was developed.