

On September 5, 2017 the Federal and Provincial Agriculture Ministers announced a \$20 million AgriRecovery Initiative to help BC farmers and ranchers return to normal production. The BC Cattlemen's Association has been working closely with government officials for the last few weeks to ensure we get the best possible AgriRecovery response. Federal Minister MacAulay and Provincial Minister Popham have been very supportive in getting the funding in place for this initiative.

AgriRecovery is intended to help cover (70%) extraordinary costs required to return to production. It does not compensate for the loss of assets which could have been covered by commercial insurance nor does it cover lost revenue or income. The application packages should be available in two to three weeks. Many of you face some tough management decisions in the coming weeks. Hopefully knowing AgriRecovery will be available helps you make those decisions. If you need more detailed information now to make decisions than is provided here you may call the Kelowna BC Ministry of Agriculture office at 1-888-332-3352.

Following is a list of things which will be included in AgriRecovery (these are the 70% values);

- Extraordinary feeding costs (\$2.14 per day per bred cow) up to regular turn-out dates in 2018. Values to be determined for bulls, heifers and sheep.
- Full payments will require cattle are preg checked.
- \$3.50 per head for preg checking is covered.
- Extraordinary feeding costs for calves and yearlings will be included up to sale date or November 30, whichever is earlier.
- All payments for extraordinary feeding costs will take into account feed produced, normal purchases and payments from other sources
- If fire has burned onto your ranch site \$20 per head for general clean-up
- If fire has destroyed cattle handling and watering infrastructure up to \$60 per head to re-establish safe feeding, watering and containment for winter.
- Extraordinary mustering, transportation and veterinary costs
- Mortality of cows, bulls and bred heifers. (values to be determined)
- Labour cost of replacing private fences (\$4200/km or \$4.20/meter)
- Critical crop production infrastructure. This includes pumps, pipes and private power poles for irrigation.
- Reseeding costs for private hay and pasture killed by fire
- Extraordinary grazing costs for 2018. If normal grazing is not available trucking costs, feed purchases and pasture rental are included.

It is expected most ranchers will not know their exact feed requirements, mortality rates or next year's grazing costs for some time. Initial payments can be made for feed based on estimates and additional payments will be made as information becomes available.