

BC FARM BUSINESS RECOVERY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program Objective

In addition to the provincial Wildfire Recovery Programs the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture has developed a new farm business advisory program for livestock producers, to help families and businesses recover from their losses caused by the recent wildfires in B.C.

Program Description

Recovering from the effects of wildfires can seem overwhelming. Given the urgency of current conditions, livestock producers are being given priority in the application process. The aim of the initiative is to assist farmers and ranchers to better understand the adverse effects of last year's wildfires on their current production and financial situation, to enable them to implement an immediate and long-term recovery plan.

This program has a farm self-assessment component and consulting component. The purpose of the self-assessment is to enable producers to assess their situation after the wildfires, develop a recovery business plan and implement that plan with help from a team of specialized business advisors. The self-assessment process results in the development of a farm action plan which is required to access program funding.

To help producers complete their self-assessment and farm action plan, the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture will be providing a self-assessment workbook titled "*BC Wildfire Recovery for Agriculture*" and supporting producers through a toll-free number as well as delivering information sessions. Once a farm action plan is completed producers can proceed with applying for Farm Business Advisory Services. (This workbook adapted Saskatchewan's workbook that was modified from Ontario's "*Growing Your Farm Profits*" workshops.)

The new Farm Business Recovery Program (FBRP) will provide access to basic financial analysis, specialized business planning and coaching services. Full program support will provide up to \$5,000 for service from a qualified advisor.

Planning services include:

- Impact assessment
- Impact mitigation
- Financial analysis
- Financial management
- Business strategy
- Production economics
- Marketing strategy
- Human resources
- Succession planning

Eligible Producer(s) / Farm Entities

- Applicant/s that live in an area of British Columbia where the Local Government had issued an evacuation alert or evacuation order due to wildfire(s) occurring during 2017.
- The applicant business is an active farming entity at the time of 2017 wildfire (i.e. participates in the day-to-day operations).
- Currently have BC Assessment Authority farm status
- A farm operation with a minimum of \$10,000 in annual gross farm sales income as stated on applicants Canada Revenue Agency's income tax return. (Annual gross income from sales is

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defined as sales of farm commodities including production insurance, livestock sales and value-added farm products; but does not include income from custom work, riding lessons, boarding horses, land and facilities rent, aquaculture, raising of pets, agri-tourism income, sales of forestry products and some agro-forestry products, government program payments, or any other non-commodity income.)

- A beginning farmer who has farmed for less than three years (immediately prior to the year of application); owns or controls (by written agreement) productive agricultural assets (land, buildings, machinery, livestock) and can demonstrate that the farming operation can generate gross farm income from sales of \$10,000 or more within the next three years and has completed the Ministry's information requirements for beginning farmers.
- Farm entities eligible to participate include: sole proprietor, partnership, corporation or other association of persons. Applicants must be actively engaged in the farming entity (i.e. participate in the day-to-day operations of the farm) and be British Columbia residents over 19 years of age.
- At least one member of the farm business is required to complete the BC Ministry of Agriculture's "**BC Wildfire Recovery for Agriculture**" self-assessment workbook including the farm action plan. This self-assessment farm action plan must be submitted for funding support.
- Applicants must authorize and agree to provide other information related to determining eligibility and reporting requirements of the program.

Eligible Farm Business Recovery Advisors

- Farm Business Advisors must be on the Ministry's list of eligible Farm Business Recovery Program Advisors.

How to Get Started

- Producer completes and submits an Application Form including required documentation.
- Ministry provides applicant with list of eligible Recovery Farm Business Advisors.
- Producer selects a qualified consultant from the Ministry's list of eligible Farm Business Recovery Advisors.
- Producer chooses to either complete the "**BC Wildfire Recovery for Agriculture**" self-assessment or review it with the help of their selected advisor.
- Advisor submits initial action plan and specialized business planning services project proposal (signed by both the applicant and the advisor) to the Ministry.

Invoice for Support Payment

- The Farm Business Advisor submits a Ministry claim form with appropriate documentation, attachments and signatures.

The Farm Business Recovery Program initiative is cost-shared between the federal and provincial governments on a 60-40 percent ratio. This program is administered by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and will terminate on March 31, 2019. The program may be altered or discontinued without notice by the Ministry. Funding for this project has been provided by the Governments of Canada and British Columbia through the *Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)*, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

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