

Canada/Yukon Agricultural Policy Framework

General Conditions and Application Procedures

April 2003 – March 2008



Introduction

Agricultural Policy Framework

The Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) is a long-term action plan for Canadian agriculture. The APF offers programs that provide the Canadian agriculture and agrifood industry with the tools, services and options to strengthen business, increase prosperity and meet the demands of consumers at home and abroad. These programs will help brand Canada as a leader in agriculture in both the domestic and international marketplace.

Yukon was the first territory to sign an agreement with the Government of Canada to begin implementation of the APF. The agreement will enhance opportunities for the agriculture and agrifood industry in Yukon by providing assistance under five elements:

- **Food Safety and Food Quality:** Designed to make Canada a world leader in producing, processing, and distributing safe and reliable food through increased protection to human health by reducing exposure to hazards through improving the sector's ability to identify and respond to food safety and quality issues; improving the industry's ability to meet or exceed market requirements; increasing consumer confidence; and creating value-added opportunities.
- **Environment:** Designed to accelerate the efforts to reduce agricultural risks and provide benefits to the water resources, soil, air and biodiversity in the Yukon.
- **Renewal:** Designed to provide farmers with the skills, knowledge and tools to help them succeed in farming; access to advice on increasing profitability through new business opportunities and value-added activities; and opportunities to help them improve farm family incomes and/or make informed choices about sources of income.
- **Science and Innovation:** Designed to provide scientific and technical support aimed at developing innovative approaches to the diversification of the agrifoods industry. The overall goals include realigning public science resources, enhancing coordination along the whole value chain and nurturing an innovative climate.
- **Business Risk Management:** Designed to help farmers move beyond crisis management to long-term profitability and competitiveness through assistance in managing business risks, such as those posed by weather and disease. The Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program will target government funds effectively to those in need, while conveniently combining in one program both farm income stabilization and disaster assistance.

This information guide outlines the program activities under the Canada-Yukon APF Implementation Agreement. APF programming is in effect for a five year period from 2003/2004 to 2007/2008. Program details are still being finalized in some programs.

Assistance is available to agricultural stakeholders that will enhance the safety, environmental stewardship, business management tools, technical advancement and risk mitigation of agribusinesses. Funding is provided by the Government of Canada and the Government of Yukon on an over all 60/40 cost sharing basis.

1.0 Eligibility Requirements

Eligible applicants must have reported a minimum of \$10,000 in gross farm sales to Canada Customs and Revenue Agency in at least one of the last three tax years or be considered a new entrant (Sec. 3). All agricultural commodities, including supply management are eligible for APF programming.

Funding offers for agricultural groups and organization, not-for-profit associations and government will be based upon the identified need of the project, the project's benefit to the territorial agrifoods industry, the overall viability of the project, and the expected impact, reach and results of the project.

2.0 Maximum Program Contribution –

Food Safety and Food Quality Programs, Yukon Renewal Programs and Science and Innovation Programs

Producers, processors, partnerships, corporations and cooperatives may be eligible for a maximum of \$10,000 in a program funding year to a maximum of \$50,000 for the life of the program.

APF funding is subject to the annual appropriations by the Parliament of Canada and the Yukon Legislature. All funding offers are subject to the availability of program funds.

New entrants may be eligible for a maximum funding limit up to \$10,000 per year.

The annual funding limits established above are the **maximum** funding levels per applicant, however, funding offers may be reduced based on the commercial viability of the applicant and the project proposal. Proposals will be evaluated based on various criteria, including the following:

- Eligibility of the applicant and project activities
- The applicant's experience
- Applicant's financial contribution to the project
- Applicant's ability to obtain required financing and/or investment
- The commercial viability of the project and agribusiness
- The identified need of the project
- And the expected impact, reach and results of the project.

At the discretion of the Implementation Committee, applicants may be eligible for program funding above the established limits, based upon the identified need, reach and benefit to the provincial agrifoods industry and other criteria listed above.

Note: Both Environment chapter programs and federal programs under the Renewal chapter are subject to different program funding levels as outlined in the applicable program descriptions.

3.0 New Entrants

Individuals, partnerships, cooperatives or corporations that are establishing a new agribusiness are considered to be new entrants for the purpose of this program, if the following conditions apply:

- They have been in operation for less than six years and have established or are intending to establish a commercial agribusiness;

OR

- At the discretion of the Implementation Committee, applicants such as producers of perennial crops (raspberries, Christmas trees, etc.) who do not meet the above condition may be considered a new entrant for the purpose of the APF.

Funding commitments will only be made to those new entrants who have obtained agricultural training/education, received on-farm work experience, demonstrated commercial farm viability, and have made a significant financial investment in their farm business.

4.0 Project Proposal

All Renewal, Food Safety, Food Quality and Science and Innovation applicants must submit a project proposal. This proposal must be consistent with the format outlined in the APF Program Guidelines for Submitting Project Proposals available at the Agriculture Branch office in Whitehorse or contained in this package. **Business Risk Management and Environment Program applicants will be required to apply through specific chapter application processes outlined in that chapter.**

5.0 Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)

All farms applying for farm stewardship program funding must have a reviewed environmental farm plan. Stewardship funding application forms are available from the Agriculture Branch and are provided to producers who have completed environmental farm plans. For more information go to to Canada-Yukon Environment Farm Plan and Farm Stewardship Programs guide.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all federal, territorial and municipal regulations have been adhered to, and all required permits have been obtained.

6.0 Application Process

All Yukon Renewal, Food Safety, Food Quality, and Science and Innovation applicants must submit applications to the Agriculture Branch.

Environment, National Renewal and Business Risk Management Program applicants will be required to apply through application processes outlined in those chapters.

A representative will review the project proposal and supporting documentation and provide comments on the proposed project. The proposal may require further assessment by a departmental specialist. The proposal is then sent to an APF Project Evaluation Committee for review.

Incomplete applications will be rejected and returned to the applicant for further information.

7.0 Application Deadline

Applicants must submit their proposals and all additional documentation for Yukon Renewal, Food Safety, Food Quality, and Science and Innovation Programs to the Agriculture Branch by the first of each month.

8.0 Payment Conditions

Once the project is complete, the applicant must prepare the Project Claim Form (attached to their Contribution Agreement) and submit it as per the program requirements outlined in each chapter. Please note that payment for Environment, National Renewal and Business Risk Management Programs will be administered by these chapters and not by the Agriculture Branch. Claims will not be processed for payment without the completed Project Claim Form.

In addition, all projects must be supported by invoices for purchased goods and services, and cancelled cheques for third party labour.

All payment documents must be submitted within 30 days of project completion as specified in the applicant's contribution agreement. Invoices for projects with a March 31 completion date must be received on or before April 14. Invoices received after the deadline specified in the applicant's contribution agreement will not be processed for payment.

If the applicant is required to submit a project report, it must be submitted with the invoices and project claim form. Program managers have the right to withhold payment until the report is submitted and all other project requirements are met.

On-site inspections of completed activities may be required prior to payment of invoices. In addition, all projects funded under these APF programs are subject to compliance audits to verify that project requirements have been met.

Costs related to normal business operations or project costs incurred prior to approval by the APF Implementation Committee will not be eligible for reimbursement.

For additional APF information, please contact the Agriculture Branch at:

Room 320 – 300 Main Street,
Elijah Smith Building,
Whitehorse, Y.T.
Tel: 867-667-5838
Fax: 867-393-6222
Email: agriculture@gov.yk.ca

Web sites:

Please note that the program information on the following web sites will continually be updated as information is available and programs are finalized.

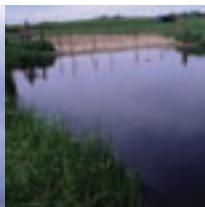
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada web site: www.agr.gc.ca/puttingcanadafirst

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources web site: www.emr.gov.yk.ca/agriculture

Canada/Yukon Agricultural Policy Framework

Canada-Yukon Environmental Farm Plan and Farm Stewardship Programs

April 2003 – March 2008



The Environment Chapter of the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) provides support to implement initiatives aimed at stewardship of soil, air, biodiversity and water in and around farm land in the Yukon. One of these initiatives, the Canada-Yukon Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program provides assistance to the Yukon to encourage agricultural producers to complete a voluntary EFP for their farm.

The completion of an EFP allows a producer to gain a better understanding of the agri-environmental risks that may be associated with their farm operation. A completed **EFP remains the property of the producer and is not provided to either the federal or territorial governments.**

To address risks identified in the **EFP, incentive funding is available under the Canada-Yukon Farm Stewardship Program** for targeted on-farm actions or Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs). The producer will have to provide proof of a completed and reviewed EFP (e.g. a copy of the EFP completion certificate issued by the Yukon Agriculture Branch and co-signed by a Planning Advisor) to be eligible to apply to this program.

The public demands high quality food that is produced in a clean environment. As in other industries, agricultural production practices are under scrutiny and the public is having a greater say in how the agriculture industry produces food. Though agricultural producers are making great efforts in environmental stewardship, governments and industry are facing increasing pressures to protect the environment. A comprehensive environmental program is required to ensure continued public confidence in the industry's environmental stewardship.

The first step in the comprehensive Yukon Territory environmental program is a territorial scan. This scan was completed in May 2004 and identifies environmental risks associated with soil, water, air and biodiversity. The next step is the completion of individual, voluntary, and confidential EFP which identify on-farm risks.

Canada-Yukon Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program

The Agriculture Branch will be the primary contact for producers who wish to participate in the EFP program. The Agriculture Branch will coordinate the "matching up" of planning advisors with producers interested in participating in the program. The Agriculture Branch and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) will contract an independent BC certified planning advisor. Agriculture Branch and AAFC staff will also be available to provide technical assistance to individual producers who are completing farm plans.

Participation by producers in the EFP process is voluntary and completed EFPs remain the property of the producer. At no time in the EFP process are copies of completed farm plans provided to the federal or territorial government. Planning advisors, other non government persons and any others involved in the program sign confidentiality agreements that prevent them from sharing any information regarding individual farm plans.

Program Design and Delivery – THREE STEPS

The Canada-Yukon Environmental Farm Plan program will involve three steps:

1. A trained and certified planning advisor **meets with a producer** and helps the producer complete an EFP:
 - identify their natural risk - the soil and site characteristics of their operations;
 - understand and assess their management practices; and
 - develop an action plan to address the identified risks.

The planning advisor will tour the producer's operation and guide them through the workbook on a chapter-by-chapter basis, and where applicable, on a page-by-page basis. The planning advisor will highlight significant risks and identify alternative solutions to deal with those risks. The producer will sketch out a draft farm plan that addresses the most significant environmental risks while the planning advisor is on the farm. The producer will then complete the EFP on his/her own time and is free to consult with the planning advisor or other technical specialists (the planner will provide the producer with names of Agriculture Branch and AAFC specialists in different risk areas). When ready, the producer will contact the planning advisor to arrange for a review of their EFP.

2. If judged to be suitable by the planning advisor, the producer will be eligible to receive a farm gate sign and an accompanying **EFP Statement of Completion Certificate**, acknowledging their completion of a reviewed farm plan. At this point, producers will also be eligible for cash incentives to implement BMPs, available through the Canada-Yukon Farm Stewardship Program or through other agencies.

If you would like to have a planning advisor contact you to begin the environmental farm planning process, please contact the Agriculture Branch at:

Room 320 – 300 Main Street,
Elijah Smith Building,
Whitehorse, Y.T.
Tel: (867) 667-5838
Fax: (867) 393-6222
E-mail: agriculture@gov.yk.ca

3. **Implementation of the Environmental Farm Plan** – The producer applies to the Canada-Yukon Farm Stewardship Program for incentive funding to implement BMPs to address risks identified in their EFP. The producer will have to include a copy of the EFP Statement of Completion Certificate to be eligible to apply to this program.

Program requirements are contained in the application form and accompanying application guide. **No work under this program may proceed until environmental reviews are completed and approval letters are received by applicants.** Work carried out prior to project approval is not eligible for program funding.

The environmental farm plan binder and information package - All producers participating in the farm planning process will receive a copy of the Canada-Yukon EFP binder and information package. The binder contains comprehensive information on natural and management-based risks and forms the main reference for producers in the completion of their farm plans.

Canada-Yukon Farm Stewardship Program

The objectives of the Canada-Yukon Farm Stewardship Program (CYFSP) are to remediate risks identified in the EFP, build awareness about environmental problems in and around farmland, and act as a preemptory mechanism to reduce potential agri-environmental risks. Access to stewardship funding is unlocked once a farm plan has been completed by the producer, and reviewed and “deemed appropriate” by the planning advisor.

The incentive dollars available from the CYFSP include the Critical Areas component of the Greencover Canada program, as well as the beneficial management practices portion of Greencover’s shelterbelt component.

The Agriculture Branch and EFP Planning Advisors will be the initial point of contact for producers wanting to access funding and provide information on the program including eligibility requirements. The Agriculture Branch will coordinate the distribution of applications to eligible producers and verify that a plan is reviewed, deemed appropriate, and eligible for the program.

Eligible applicants for the CYFSP include agricultural producers, partnerships, corporations, and cooperatives, and non-profits.

The following BMP categories are eligible for funding under the CYFSP:

A. Product and Waste Management

Objectives

To improve on-farm storage, handling and disposal of fertilizers, petroleum products and pesticides.

Eligible Activities

- Modification or construction of environmentally safe fertilizer, pesticide or petroleum product storage facilities. New or modified facilities must meet technical and regulatory requirements such as impermeable base, floor, wall and roof materials, and containment provisions.

Eligible Costs

- Improved on-farm storage and handling of fertilizers, petroleum products and pesticides. Cost share 30% up to a \$3,000 cap per farm.

B. Irrigation Management

Objectives

To promote the efficient use of water in irrigation systems.

Eligible Activities

- Adoption of a new irrigation system/practice which incorporates increased water efficiency. Funding will be provided to assist a producer to change to a more water use efficient irrigation system. Funding will not be provided for establishing a new irrigation system that involves increased irrigation acres.

Eligible Costs

- Irrigation equipment modification/improvement to increase water use efficiency (low pressure low clearance sprinkler system components, trickle or drip system components, irrigation monitoring equipment)
Cost share 30% up to a \$5,000 per farm.

C. Irrigation Management Planning

Objectives

To promote the efficient use of water in irrigation systems.

Eligible Activities

Planning activities that increase water use efficiency and minimize adverse environmental impacts.

Eligible Costs

- Consultant fees to conduct irrigation management planning and produce a report for the producer. Planning and decision support tools (software, aerial photos) are also eligible.
Cost share 50% up to a \$2,000 cap per farm.

D. Invasive Alien Species Control

Objectives

To use accepted plant control techniques for species that are both invasive and alien and are located in and around farmland. A technical review committee will identify the highest priority invasive alien plant species suitable for CYFSP incentive funding.

Eligible Activities

- Cultural control, planting of perennial forages that withstand competition from invasive species;
- Mechanical control, physical removal of plants; and
- Integrated weed management.

Eligible Costs

- Cultural control, mechanical control and integrated weed management for control of invasive plant species. Cost share 50% up to a \$2,000 cap per farm.

E. Nutrient Management Planning

Objective

To ensure a balance between the application of nutrients to meet production needs and the protection of soil, air and water resources. This initiative provides financial incentives to develop nutrient management plans.

Eligible Activities

- Planning activities specifically aimed at action items identified in a farm plan that pose or may pose a risk to the environment.

Eligible Costs

- Consultant fees to conduct nutrient management planning and produce a report for the producer. Planning and decision support tools (software and aerial photos). Cost share 50% up to a \$2,000 cap per farm.

F. Preventing Wildlife Damage

Objective

To provide financial, technical and logistical support to producers affected by nuisance wildlife. Incentive funding will be available to landowners to help prevent wildlife damage, especially for practices or infrastructure which provide long-term solutions. Incentive funding will help counter practices which remove or alter habitats, thus benefiting many species of wildlife.

Eligible Activities

- Fencing of feed storage areas; and
- Forage buffer strips.

Eligible Costs

- Strategic fencing to prevent wildlife damage to stored feed;
- Forage buffer strips. Convert cropland to forage around wetland/dugouts where waterfowl cause recurring damage (note this BMP is unlikely to work for ungulate damage); and
- Cost share 30% up to a \$7,000 cap per farm.

G. Riparian Area Management (Greencover Critical Areas Component)

Objective

Managing agricultural land near water. Agricultural beneficial management practices allow a producer to maintain economic productivity, while at the same time enhancing the condition and function of riparian areas.

Eligible Activities

- Buffer establishment along water bodies; and
- Fencing along water bodies to manage grazing.

Eligible Costs

- Buffer establishment: forages, shrubs, trees – planting, weed control and mulch. Fencing to manage grazing and improve riparian condition/function.
Cost share 50% up to a \$5,000 cap per farm.

The amount of program funding received by a single farm over the term of the program shall not exceed \$15,000.

General Information:

There is a separate application form for the Canada–Yukon Farm Stewardship Program, included with this program guide. Applications are also available at the Agriculture Branch office.

Mail completed and signed applications to:

National Farm Stewardship Program (NFSP)
408 – 1800 Hamilton Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 4L2

Applicants should retain a copy of their application for their records.

Financial Assistance under the CYFSP is paid directly from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Claims procedures and directions with regards to submission of invoices will be forwarded to applicants along with the approval letters.

No work under this program may proceed until environmental reviews are completed and approval letters are received by applicants. Applicants should allow 4 to 6 weeks (more in some cases) for approvals to occur. Work carried out prior to project approval is not eligible for program funding.

For assistance in completing the application, please call: 1-800-667-8567.

Funding under Greencover Canada programs

A. Land Conversion

Objective

To provide advice and financial incentives to convert environmentally sensitive land to perennial cover.

Eligible Activities

- Converting environmentally sensitive land to perennial cover.

Eligible Costs

- \$20 per acre for seeding or planting tame forage or trees and signing a Contribution and Land-Use Agreement, or \$75 per acre for seeding native species and signing a Contribution and Land-Use Agreement; and
- \$25 per acre after you establish the perennial cover, and after Greencover Canada advisors/planners inspects it and issues a Certificate of Stand Establishment (Greencover Canada will adjust this payment to account for any seeding overpayment).

Contact the Agriculture Branch or Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for additional information on these Greencover Canada programs

Web sites:

Please note that the program information on the following web sites will continually be updated as information is available and programs are finalized.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada web site: www.agr.gc.ca/puttingcanadafirst

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources web site: www.emr.gov.yk.ca/agriculture

Canada/Yukon Agricultural Policy Framework

Food Safety and Quality Program

April 2003 – March 2008



This program is designed to provide support to develop and implement initiatives that identify and/or minimize food safety risks or otherwise increase the safety of food produced in this territory, including the safety of people working in the industry that might be exposed to various risks inherent in the industry.

The objectives of the Canada-Yukon Food Safety and Quality Program are:

- To create, implement and to partner with industry and processors to develop food safety strategies;
- To develop and implement traceability systems that are complimentary to the National Traceability Policy;
- To implement regulatory compliance for food and health issues associated with farm business activities; and
- To create, implement and to partner with industry to increase utilization of standardized processing facilities.

Food Safety Strategies Initiative

This initiative encourages the creation, implementation and partnership in the development of food safety strategies for all agri-food commodities in the territory. These strategies will allow standardized creation, development and implementation of the HACCP or HACCAP-based systems on the farm and in the processing sector.

Eligible Activities:

May include, but not limited to, activities that support and create in partnership with government and National Producer Organizations the development of food safety strategies. More specifically, the initial program will provide support to access recognized Food Safe Level I and II training courses.

Eligible Applicants:

Agricultural producers, processors, cooperatives, governments and not-for-profit organizations.

Eligible Costs:

May include, but not limited to, professional, technical, analytical support and training.

Maximum Funding Levels:

Assistance may be provided up to 100% of actual costs.

Regulatory Compliance of Food Safety Initiative

This initiative contributes to the regulatory compliance of food safety and food quality, health and safety issues associated with agribusiness activities. The focus is on food safety and food quality legislation that producers and processors require in emerging sectors. The initial undertaking will be a regulatory review of existing legislation within the Territory and how food safe legislation is dealt with in other areas of Canada. Following this initial step, the focus will shift to identifying emerging areas of Agriculture in the Yukon that require legislative support for it to advance.

Eligible Activities:

May include, but not limited to, providing regulatory support for food safety and food quality activities in support of HACCP or HACCP-based requirements: or other food safety and quality measures as they arise.

Eligible Applicants:

Agricultural producers, processors, partnerships, corporations, cooperatives, governments and not-for-profit organizations.

Eligible Costs:

May include, but not limited to, professional, technical and analytical support.

Maximum Funding Levels:

Assistance may be provided up to 50% of actual costs for individual agriculture producers, processors, partnerships, or corporations; up to 75% of actual costs for cooperatives or farm groups representing three or more agribusinesses; and up to 100% of actual costs for government and not-for-profit organizations.

Traceability Initiative

This initiative contributes to the implementation of federal/provincial/territorial traceability systems which will establish a framework for data sharing, management and integration throughout the agrifoods sector. As a result, national food safety and quality linkages will be formed. Territorially, the program will focus on continuing the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) monitoring program and support for participation in the national livestock identification program.

Eligible Activities:

May include, but not limited to, activities that support the development and implementation of traceability systems based on national standards with linkages to national food safety and quality linkages.

Eligible Applicants:

Agricultural producers, processors, partnerships, corporations, cooperatives, governments and not-for-profit organizations.

Eligible Costs:

May include, but not limited to, equipment, technical and analytical support.

Maximum Funding Levels:

Assistance may be provided up to 50% of actual costs for individual agricultural producers, processors, partnerships, or corporations; up to 75% of actual costs for cooperatives or farm groups representing three or more agribusinesses; and up to 100% of actual costs for government and not-for-profit organizations.

Food Safety Processing Utilization Initiative

This initiative encourages the creation, implementation and partnership in developing incentives to increase use of standardized processing facilities.

Eligible Activities:

May include, but not limited to, activities that support the broad based use of facilities that provide standardized food safe outcomes.

Eligible Applicants:

Agricultural producers, processors, partnerships, cooperatives and not-for-profit organizations.

Eligible Costs:

May include, but not limited to support for the usage of standardized processing facilities.

Maximum Funding Levels:

Assistance may be provided up to 100% of actual costs.

National Food Safety and Quality Programs

On-Farm Implementation

This program is designed to:

- Facilitate implementation at the farm level of national commodity specific Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)-based on-farm food systems including underlying traceability system.
- Provide tools to assist those producers who require or wish to implement a HACCP-based program on their operations to meet or exceed market demand or improve upon their good production practices.

Eligible Participants

- National Producer Organizations (NPOs) on behalf of producers across Canada. To be eligible for funding a NPO must have completed the Canadian Food Inspection Agency technical review. Currently the chicken, egg and dairy producer organizations have completed the technical review.

Eligible Activities

1. Producer Workshops

- Workshops delivered by NPOs to ensure consistency of information and service to producers on implementation of food safety, quality and traceability systems.
- One-time benefit of \$100/producer to subsidize the cost of attending food safety or traceability workshops paid through NPOs.

2. On-farm Support

- Up to \$750/producer will be available which can be used for technical support and/or the purchase of specialized equipment, where necessary for food safety systems.

a) Technical Support:

- One-on-one technical advice at the farm level with a NPO designated specialist to adapt and implement generic national food safety, traceability and quality systems to the specific operation.
- Visits by technical specialists will encompass plan development, review of implementation strategy and pre-audit.

b) Specialized Equipment:

- Purchase of specialized equipment which has been identified under the Canadian On-Farm Food Safety Recognition technical review and included in the producer manual.

Program Delivery

- National Producer Organizations will administer the program and will be supported through contribution agreements with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.
- See Program Guidelines for project application requirements.

Yukon Government Agriculture Branch:

Located at:

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources
Elijah Smith Building
Room 320–300 Main Street
Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 2B5

Mailing Address:

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 2C6

Tel: (867) 667-5838

Fax: (867) 393-6222

E-mail: agriculture@gov.yk.ca

Canada/Yukon Agricultural Policy Framework

Yukon Renewal Program

April 2003 – March 2008



There are six Yukon renewal programs available to Yukon producers in addition to the national renewal initiatives.

For more information and to apply for any of the six Yukon renewal programs contact the Agriculture Branch at Tel: (867) 667-5838 or e-mail: agriculture@gov.yk.ca.

Human Resource Development Initiative

This initiative will provide learning opportunities and resources for farm managers, farm families, farm workers and service providers to enhance the management abilities, improve the skills and knowledge required to evaluate new business opportunities. Emphasis will be placed on, but not limited to, training opportunities related to renewal, science and innovation, on-farm food safety and food quality, and environmental stewardship.

Eligible Activities:

May include, but not limited to, courses, seminars, workshops, travel and exchanges and any other activity that will develop the human resource capabilities of the agrifoods industry. In addition, education and training courses identified through a demonstrated needs assessment to help diversify or add value to an existing agri-business. Communications tools such as web sites and newsletters that provide access to agricultural information and develop educational resources are also eligible.

Eligible Applicants:

Agricultural producers, processors, partnerships, corporations, cooperatives, governments and non-profit organizations.

Eligible Costs:

May include, but not limited to, transportation, accommodations, meals, registration fees, course materials and speaker fees. Reimbursement for travel costs must be consistent with Government of Yukon travel expense guidelines.

Maximum Funding Levels:

Assistance may be provided up to 50% of actual costs for individual agricultural producers, processors, partnerships and corporations; up to 75% of actual costs for farm groups or cooperatives representing three or more agribusinesses; and up to 100% of actual costs for government and non-profit organizations.

New Entrants Development Initiative

This program provides opportunities for new farmers to enter into an agricultural internship program or have access to industry mentors. Other initiatives provide information or services specifically designed to encourage new entrants in agriculture.

Eligible Activities:

May include, but not limited to, providing up to a 50% subsidy of intern wages to a maximum of \$5,000 per year to learn a trade in Yukon agri-food production or processing. Assistance in securing a Yukon agriculture industry mentor will be available to beginning farmers by providing honorariums for mentoring services. Mentors will be selected in conjunction with training identified in a beginning farmer's business plan and training needs.

Other activities may include, but not limited to, Agriculture in the Classroom; agricultural youth development and leadership programs such as the Yukon 4-H Program and other activities that encourage new entrants to the agriculture industry.

Eligible Applicants:

Individuals who meet the definition of new entrant under this program; individuals or groups who wish to establish youth agricultural programs; governments and non-profit organizations.

Eligible Costs:

Assistance may be provided up to 50% of wage costs to intern employers to a maximum of \$5,000 per year. Honorariums provided in the mentorship program will be set according to Yukon government policy guidelines for services required. Other costs incurred by individuals groups establishing youth agricultural programs will be reviewed by the APF implementation committee prior to being deemed eligible.

Maximum Funding Levels:

Assistance may be provided up to 50% of actual costs for individual agricultural producers, processors, farm groups, cooperatives and governments for intern wages and industry mentors. Other activities under the program can be funded at up to 75% of actual costs for cooperatives; and up to 100% of actual costs for government and non-profit organizations.

Market Development Initiative

This initiative provides resources to investigate and capture new market opportunities and enhance the competitive capability of the industry.

Eligible Activities:

May include, but not limited to, cooperative marketing activities; secondary processing and value-added initiatives; product development activities; market development strategies; participation in marketing events; and support for marketing organizations including farmers markets and agri-tourism ventures. Industry organizations and governments may also be eligible for sector specific promotional activities and agriculture awareness activities.

Eligible Applicants:

Agricultural producers, processors, partnerships, corporations, cooperatives, governments and non-profit organizations.

Eligible Costs:

May include, but not limited to, consultant fees; development and design of brochures, logos, labels, signage and packaging; cooperative farm market venues; travel costs and participation fees at marketing events; and other costs associated with market development strategies and agriculture awareness activities.

Maximum Funding Levels:

Assistance may be provided up to 50% of actual costs for individual agriculture producers, processors, partnerships or corporations; up to 75% of actual costs for cooperatives or farm groups representing three or more agri-businesses; and up to 100% of actual costs for government and non-profit organizations.

Agriculture Development Initiative:

This initiative provides funding to develop agriculture projects that enhance regional economic development and contribute to sustainability in rural communities. Proposals will be accepted that support the commercial development of agriculture, introduce new technologies and processes and further develop regional agricultural and country food opportunities in rural Yukon.

Eligible Activities:

May include, but not limited to, community gardens, farmers markets, cooperative agriculture infrastructure, such as cold storage or grain storage facilities, community kitchens and activities that encourage the commercialization of native country foods.

Eligible Applicants:

Cooperatives or farm groups representing three or more agribusinesses, governments and non-profit organizations.

Eligible Costs:

May include, but not limited to, equipment, facilities, third party labour, and professional, technical and analytical support. Only equipment and facilities that support agriculture or country food development will be considered.

Maximum Funding Levels:

Up to 75% of actual costs for cooperatives or farm groups representing three or more agribusinesses; and up to 100% of actual costs for governments and non-profit organizations.

Diversification and Value Added Initiative

This initiative provides assistance to producers that diversify their operations to take advantage of market opportunities that will increase profitability of the farm. This program also provides assistance to further process or develop products that add value to primary agriculture products. The program encourages partnerships and alliances that improve the competitiveness and commercialization of the agrifoods sector.

Eligible Activities:

May include, but not limited to, activities that diversify an agribusiness and introduce new local agrifoods products and activities that add value to local agriculture products through processing.

Eligible Applicants:

Agricultural producers, processors, partnerships, cooperatives, corporations, governments and non-profit organizations.

Eligible Costs:

May include, but not limited to, equipment, facilities, third party labour, and professional, technical and analytical support. Only equipment and facilities that support diversification and secondary processing will be considered.

Maximum Funding Levels:

Assistance may be provided up to 50% of actual costs for individual agriculture producers, processors, partnerships or corporations; up to 75% of actual costs for cooperatives or farm groups representing three or more agribusinesses; and up to 100% of actual costs for government and non-profit businesses.

Note: Farmers interested in feasibility study or business planning services leading to value added products or diversification of production must apply through the national renewal programs listed in the National Renewal Programs.

Land Enhancement Initiative

This initiative is designed to improve the utilization of existing, titled farm land that was previously developed for agricultural use and has not been used for agriculture for several years. Applicants will have to provide a development plan that describes how the activity will contribute to an increase in agricultural land use and production.

Eligible Activities:

May include, but not limited to, removal of tree and shrub re-growth, rocks, and roots, minor drainage and land levelling, disking and rototilling, seed bed preparation, fertilizer and seed.

Eligible Applicants:

Agriculture producers, partnerships and corporations that hold title to agriculture land in the Yukon.

Eligible Costs:

May include, but not limited to, equipment rental, third party labour, contractor services, fertilizer and seed.

Maximum Funding Levels:

Assistance may be provided up to 50% of actual costs for individual agricultural producers, partnerships or corporations to a maximum of \$250 per hectare.

Funding will not be provided for land enhancement activities for land that was previously improved with assistance from other federal or territorial programs.

- 1) See Program Guidelines for submitting project proposals.
- 2) For additional APF info contact:

Yukon Government Agriculture Branch:

Located at:

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources
Elijah Smith Building
Room 320–300 Main Street
Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 2B5

Mailing Address:

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 2C6

Tel: (867) 667-5838

Fax: (867) 393-6222

E-mail: agriculture@gov.yk.ca

National Renewal Programs

The following national renewal initiatives are available to agriculture and agri-food producers in the Yukon:

Please note:

Program delivery will vary by province or territory. More information on all National Renewal initiatives can be obtained from the web site at www.agr.gc.ca/renewal or by calling 1-866-452-5558.

Canadian Farm Business Advisory Services

Initial Consultation

All producers must address different needs to ensure success. To determine those needs, and which of the Canadian Farm Business Advisory Services might benefit individual producers most, an officer will discuss the various options available, either by telephone or in person, in order to ensure maximum benefit. This discussion should be the first step for producers. There will be no cost for this consultation.

Farm Business Assessment (FBA)

This component will provide eligible producers with up to five days worth of consultation services. There are two parts to this service:

1) Farm Financial Assessment

A consultant will review past records, the current situation, discuss objectives, and help producers determine their current options in meeting their profitability goals. This service will give producers up to three days worth of consulting and will result in each producer receiving a business profile, a statement of assets and liabilities, a farm business ratio analysis, an income and expenses statement for the previous two years, and other information related to the business.

2) Action Plan

Following the Farm Financial Assessment, producers will have access to two days worth of consultation services to help them assess their options for increasing profitability. This service will result in a financial plan (including cash-flow plan), projections of options and a written report.

The cost of consultant services is valued at \$2,000. The producer pays a nominal fee of \$100.

Follow-up

A consultant will follow up with producers who use CFBAS-FBA to discuss how they are progressing with their plan and to offer further advice, if needed. There will be no cost for this service.

Eligibility

CFBAS is available to Yukon producers as part of the agreement between Canada and Yukon under the Agricultural Policy Framework.

You are eligible to participate if:

- as an established producer, you have a minimum of \$10,000 in annual gross farm sales; or
- as the owner/operator of a new farm business (someone who will establish a farm or has been operating a farm for less than six years), you can demonstrate that you will have \$10,000 in annual gross sales.

Note

While groups are eligible to apply, if there is more than one eligible applicant, each applicant must be a distinct and separate farming business or operation (they cannot be related persons as defined by the *Income Tax Act*).

Specialized Business Planning Services

As part of the CFBAS, Specialized Business Planning Services (SBPS) are available to producers who are seeking targeted business or succession planning.

Through SBPS, producers can access funds to help pay for consultants to assist them in preparing detailed business plans for their farm operations. These plans can cover areas such as diversification, marketing, human resources, expansion, risk management or succession.

Eligibility

You are eligible to participate if:

- as an established producer, you have a minimum of \$10,000 in annual gross farm sales; or;
- you intend to establish a farm business or as the owner/operator of a new farm business (you have been in operation for less than six years), you can demonstrate that you will have \$10,000 in annual gross sales.

Note

Groups are eligible to apply for SBPS funding. A “group application” refers to one application made under SBPS by two or more individuals or entities. Each person or entity in the group must represent a distinct or separate farming business or operation.

Eligible participants will receive:

Funding up to 50% of the consultant’s costs for preparing a business plan or succession plan up to a maximum of:

- \$8,000 per project for one participant;
- \$16,000 per project for two participants;
- \$24,000 per project for three participants; and,
- \$25,000 per project for four or more participants.

Note

Total government (federal/provincial/territorial/municipal) assistance will not exceed 75% of eligible expenditures. Funding from more than one Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada source is not permitted.

Planning and Assessment for Value-Added Enterprises

The Planning and Assessment for Value-Added Enterprises (PAVE) program is available to producers who are considering establishing or expanding a value-added enterprise. Under this program, eligible producers can access funds to help pay for the services of a business planning professional to develop feasibility assessments and comprehensive business plans for specific value-added enterprises. This program will make it easier for producers to make an informed decision on whether or not to pursue the opportunity.

What is a value-added enterprise?

A value-added enterprise includes:

- a project that can clearly demonstrate it adds value to the primary product;
- agricultural product manufacturing, including projects that require the value to be added to primary products through mechanical manipulation, including separating, grading, cleaning, and packaging product;
- food processing (such as the addition of a canning or pickling operation to a farm business); and,
- non-food activities (such as using hemp or straw to develop fibreboard, composted manure and ethanol).

Activities related to eligible projects can take place on or off the farm.

Eligibility

You are eligible to participate if:

- as an established producer (i.e., you have been in operation for six or more years), you have a minimum of \$10,000 in annual gross farm sales; or,
- as the owner/operator of a new farm business (i.e. you have been in operation for less than six years), you can demonstrate that you will have \$10,000 in annual gross sales.

Note

Groups are eligible to apply for PAVE funding. A “group application” refers to one application made under the PAVE program by two or more individuals or entities. Each individual or entity in the group must represent a distinct or separate farming business or operation.

Eligible participants will receive:

Funding for up to 50% of the consultant’s costs for preparing a feasibility assessment and/or business plan, with a maximum per project of up to:

- \$10,000 for one participant;
- \$20,000 for two participants;
- \$25,000 for three or more participants.

Note

Non-farmers, such as capital suppliers and processors, can also be members of a project. However, non-farmers are not eligible for PAVE funding. Total government (federal/provincial/territorial/municipal) assistance will not exceed 75% of eligible expenditures. Funding for more than one Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada source is permitted.

Canadian Agricultural Skills Services (CASS)

The objective of the Canadian Agricultural Skills Services is to help farmers and their spouses increase their family income through improved farm practices or through increased off-farm income.

Eligible Activities:

- Assistance will be provided to access training in areas such as business management, accounting, finance, human resource management, training for other employment; or training to acquire skills for starting a new business. Financial support such as tuition fees for courses, textbooks and travel while attending training away from home will be provided for eligible clients with an approved Individual Learning Plan (ILP) who are pursuing new skills to capture new opportunities.

Eligible Applicants:

- Farm families with a net family income of \$45,000 or less are eligible to apply for the CASS.
- Beginning farmers, regardless of their family income, will receive a skills assessment and an ILP. A beginning farmer is someone who plans to establish a farm or who already owns or operates a farm for at least six years and can demonstrate the operations will generate annual farm sales of \$10,000 or more, regardless of family income, receive a skills assessment and an ILP.

Eligible Costs/Maximum Funding Levels:

- An Assessment and an Individual Learning Plan (ILP), valued at \$2,000, will be developed for all eligible participants.
- The maximum benefit amounts include training and related costs or the duration of an ILP or the program (family income based on a three-year average) will be:
 - less than \$35,000 - eligible for benefits up to \$16,000;
 - \$35,001 to \$40,000 - eligible for benefits up to \$12,000;
 - \$40,001 to \$45,000 - eligible for benefits up to \$8,000.

When Will The Program Be Available?

- Please check back in the near future for additional information and the start-up date.

Canada/Yukon Agricultural Policy Framework

Yukon Science and Innovation Programs

April 2003 – March 2008



Circumpolar Education & Exchange Initiative

This initiative is to provide learning opportunities for farm managers, workers, youth and service providers to participate in information exchange with other circumpolar agricultural regions. The primary function of this initiative will be to sponsor participation at the Circumpolar Agriculture Conference in 2004 and 2007. Emphasis will be placed on information exchange that provides for the sustainability of circumpolar agriculture.

Eligible Activities

May include, but not limited to, preparations, travel and exchanges for oral or poster presentations, information gathering, network development, youth development or other activities that contribute to the development of circumpolar agriculture. Proposals for attendance should contain an outline of benefits to Yukon agriculture and contain an information dissemination plan outlining how you plan to share the knowledge with other members of the agriculture industry.

Eligible Applicants

Agriculture producers, processors, youth and students, service providers, governments and non-profit organizations.

Eligible Costs

May include, but not limited to, presentation preparation costs, transportation, accommodations, meals and conference registration fees. Reimbursement for travel costs must be consistent with Government of Yukon travel expense guidelines.

Maximum Funding Levels

Assistance may be provided up to 100% of actual costs for conference attendance and presentation preparation costs.

Circumpolar Research & Demonstration

This initiative is to provide the opportunity to share and/or carry out applied research with other circumpolar jurisdictions. There may be opportunities to obtain research results and information which could be applied in the Yukon. In addition, collaborative research and demonstrations may be possible to be carried out between circumpolar regions. For example, the Yukon may not be able to perform a certain experimental trial in the territory but could perhaps fund it in another similar climate and jurisdiction.

Eligible Activities

May include, but not limited to research and demonstration trials, research field trips, research literature reviews, specific research seminars and conferences.

Eligible Applicants

Agriculture producers, researchers, governments and non-profit organizations.

Eligible Costs

May include, but not limited to materials, supplies, transportation, communications and possibly travel costs.

Maximum Funding Levels

Assistance may be provided up to 100% of actual costs for materials and supplies but only 50% for travel and transportation costs.

Yukon Research & Demonstration

This initiative is to compliment and advance current research and demonstration programs in the territory. Currently most research and development projects are carried out by the Yukon government's Agriculture Branch.

Eligible Activities

May include, but not limited to supplies, research initiatives, field preparation and maintenance, project design etc.

Eligible Applicants

Government, non-profit organizations, research groups and foundations, and established agriculture producers.

Eligible Costs

May include, but not limited to, materials, supplies, labour, project design and research, operating costs (irrigation) etc.

Maximum Funding Levels

Assistance may be provided up to 100% of actual costs of materials, supplies, and project design. Assistance may be provided up to 50% of actual costs for labour and equipment.

Circumpolar Ambassador

This initiative is to establish and foster a better working relationship with the Canadian Circumpolar Ambassador. Communicating and working in closer cooperation with this office may open up additional educational, research and funding opportunities.

Eligible Activities

May include, but not limited to communication activities, travel, network development or other activities that contribute to development of circumpolar agriculture.

Eligible Applicants

Primarily governments, non-profit organizations, agriculture producers, agri-business and rural youth.

Eligible Costs

May include, but not limited to travel, communication links, presentations, and accommodation and meals.

Maximum Funding Levels

Assistance may be provided up to 100% of actual costs.

See Program Guidelines for project application requirements.

For more APF info contact the Yukon government Agriculture Branch:

Physical Address:

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources
Elijah Smith Building
Room 320–300 Main Street
Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 2B5

Mailing Address:

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 2C6

Tel: (867) 667-5838

Fax: (867) 393-6222

E-mail: agriculture@gov.yk.ca

Strategic Development for Science and Innovation

Governments and industry will be working together to accelerate the adoption of science and technology to create new value-added opportunities for agricultural processors, producers and rural communities, and new life science and industrial products for consumers. The national Science and Innovation initiatives are:

- **Broker Program**

The program will provide funding to a number of “broker” organizations working between industry, government and universities to accelerate the adoption of innovation in agriculture.

- **Agri-innovation Program**

This program will provide funding for projects that accelerate adoption of innovation and commercialization in the agri-food sector.

Eligible activities:

The programs will fund 10-15 large projects such as: Flax 2015 and Soy 2020 that help create national or multi-regional opportunities for agriculture.

Eligible applicants:

Eligible recipients include: companies, commodity organizations, non-profit NGOs, provincial or municipal governments.

For more information on these programs, please contact:

Dr. Brian Freeze, Research Coordinator and Bio-economist, Science Bureau
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Sir John Carling Building
Room 773, 930 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario. K1A 0C5
Tel: (613) 759-7864 Fax: (613) 759-7770 E-mail: freeze@agr.gc.ca

Canada/Yukon Agricultural Policy Framework

Business Risk Management

April 2003 – March 2008



Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program

The Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program has been established to provide income protection and disaster assistance to Canadian farmers. The program is designed to provide affordable levels of coverage that producers could tailor to their particular circumstances.

The CAIS program is based on a farm's production margin, or farm revenue minus expenses. Only expenses directly related to a commodities production – such as fuel, fertilizer and feed costs – will be deducted, the remaining income becomes the farms production (reference) margin. Payments are triggered when the current year's margin falls below the establish reference margin, which is calculated by taking the margins of the previous five years, removing the worst and best years, and then determining the average of the remaining three.

To participate, the farmer must make a deposit at a bank or other participating financial institution. The refundable deposit is not a premium. It belongs to the farmer. In the event of a margin decline, the farmer would make a withdrawal from the deposit, triggering a government payout to help boost his or her income back toward the reference margin. If no margin decline occurred, the deposit could be rolled over for coverage the following year, or adjusted if the farmer wanted a different level of coverage.

CAIS program handbooks are available at the Agriculture Branch to assist farmers in determining program eligibility and benefits. For additional information on CAIS please contact Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada:

- Toll free 1-866-367-8506
- By fax 1-204-983-3947

Or visit the CAIS web site at: www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram

