



British Columbia Steer and Heifer Market Transition Program FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the Steer and Heifer Transition Program?

The market transition program is a province-only extension of the national BSE Recovery Program. It is based on the same terms and conditions of the BSE Recovery Program. It applies to animals which were on feed May 20, 2003 but were not slaughtered by August 31, 2003.

It will help farmers offset some of the loss due to their inability sell the many pre-BSE animals that are still in feedlots and it will help those farmers who sold slaughter-weight animals since the national program ended on September 1, 2003.

The program applies to cattle and to other ruminants such as bison, caribou, deer, sheep, goats and veal; the same information is required for all animals.

PLEASE NOTE: This program does not apply to cull animals.

2. Why must I register my inventory of cattle on full feed as of May 20, 2003?

Because program funds are provincial only, it is necessary for program administration to confirm the number of cattle left to compensate under the program. Once the total number of eligible animals has been determined, the formula for calculating the payment can be finalized. Applications or registrations received after the deadline for registration will NOT be considered

3. What does “on full feed” mean?

A typical full feed ration is high energy, at least 75 percent grain, designed to fatten the animals for slaughter.

A backgrounder program on the other hand will have animals fed on grass or on high roughage rations to achieve animal growth.

4. What inventory do I need to register?

Registrants will be expected to provide program administration with the number of steers and heifers they owned on May 20, 2003 that were on high energy rations in terminal feedlots. This transition program is not intended to attract animals that were being “backgrounded” as of May 20, 2003, it only applies to animals on full feed.

5. How do I register Feeder Association cattle?

Producers with inventories under contract with Feeders Associations should include those animals in their personal inventories.

6. How do I register custom fed cattle?

If the animals are owned on a shared pen basis, the owner will report his share of the cattle.

If the animals are owned entirely by the owner, the owner will apply.

7. What is the deadline for registering?

Producers are expected to have completed their registration by midnight November 30, 2003.

8. How do I register my May 20, 2003 fat cattle inventory?

Registration forms are available on the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Web site at www.gov.bc.ca/agf or in ministry offices.

Producers must complete the forms and fax them to (250) 260-3025, or mail / drop off to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, 4607-23 Street, Vernon, BC, V1T 4K7.

If you have questions please call toll free 1 888 576 3276 (FARM)

9. What happens if I do not register?

Producers with eligible animals not registered by the deadline will be considered ineligible for compensation under the program. Again, program budget is limited and the number of animals registered by November 30, 2003 will determine the compensation rate.

10. How long will the program run?

The intention of the program is to fully cover the May 20, 2003 fat cattle inventory. Once these registered animals have been sold or slaughtered, it will be terminated. Additional factors may play a role in the termination of the program as will. For example US border opening to live animals less than 30 months of age would result in program termination.

11. Will the steer and heifer program be retroactive to September 1, 2003?

Yes, those animals slaughtered are eligible.

12. What compensation will be provided to cow/calf producers or those with cull cows/bulls?

B.C. is researching options to address the cull cow issue that has resulted from the BSE crisis. We are currently working with the federal government, other provinces and industry to develop assistance a program for affected producers. It is expected that further information on this program will be available shortly.

13. Will I have to fill out another form to get paid?

Yes. The program administration in the ministry will require the same documentation as the original BSE Recovery Program to make a payment

14 When will the money be paid out once all the registrations are in?

Once all registrations are received the ministry will determine the number of animals and formula for payment. This will be communicated to applicants and payment will commence as soon as documentation is received.