

British Columbia Other Ruminant Industry Transitional Program Questions and Answers

Eligibility Criteria

1. How does the 2005 Other Ruminant Industry Transitional Program work?
The Other Ruminants Industry Transition Program will apply to 80% of eligible animals owned as of September 1, 2004, as follows:

- **Sheep and goats:** breeding females over 12 months old or which have had offspring;
- **Reindeer and fallow deer:** breeding females over 24 months old or which have had offspring, and males over 24 months old; and
- **Bison:** breeding females over 30 months old or which have had offspring, and males over 30 months old.

2. Who is eligible to apply under the program?

(a) Applicants must:

- i) Be British Columbia taxpayers and Canadian residents,
- ii) Be at least 18 years of age,
- iii) Have filed or will file an income tax return respecting farm income in British Columbia in the year (2004) or in the year preceding the year (2003) for which an application is made,
- iv) have owned the eligible livestock as of September 1, 2004; or

(b) In the case of a co-operative, communal organization, or corporation that is registered to carry out business in British Columbia and that filed or will file an income tax return respecting farm income in British Columbia in the year (2004) or in the year preceding the year (2003) for which an application is made; or

(c) An Indian band whose reserve land is in British Columbia

3. What animals are eligible to be enrolled in the program?

Eligible livestock are bison, reindeer, fallow deer, sheep and goats. The applicant must have been the owner of the eligible livestock as of September 1, 2004 in order to apply for the program.

4. What about leased livestock?

The owner of the eligible livestock is eligible to apply.

5. Can a producer sell animals that have been enrolled in the program?

Yes, there is no restriction on sale but all eligible livestock must have been owned as of September 1, 2004. Applicants may be selected for audit. If you are audited you must provide all requested documentations.

Miscellaneous

1. What are the payments under the program?

The provincial portion of payments under the Other Ruminants Industry Transitional Program are as follows:

Bison	80% of your eligible herd*	\$40 per head
Reindeer & Fallow deer	80% of your eligible herd*	\$10 per head
Sheep	80% of your eligible herd*	\$8 per head
Goats	80% of your eligible herd*	\$8 per head

***as of September 1, 2004**

Payments will be issued based on your program application information. The program administration will be conducting spot audits to verify application information. Your payment will equal your eligible livestock number times 80% times the per head amount.

The minimum payment under the program is \$80. **Application forms for payments less than \$80 will not be processed.**

2. Do my eligible livestock have to stay in British Columbia in order to be eligible?

Eligible Livestock do not have to be in British Columbia nor do they need to stay in British Columbia in order to be eligible for the program, as long as the owner of the eligible livestock is a British Columbia taxpayer.

3. Do I include my cull animals when I provide my livestock inventory?

Yes, all animals over the minimum age requirement as of September 1, 2004 should be listed as part of your eligible inventory – as your September 1, 2004 eligible inventory will be used to calculate your program payment.

4. Will the border opening effect this program?

No. This program will enable bison, sheep, goat, reindeer, and fallow deer producers to maintain critical industry infrastructure and herd or flock size until increased slaughter capacity is developed and marketing programs are in place.

Application Process

1. When and where will application forms be available?

Licensed operators of bison, reindeer and fallow deer game farms will be mailed their application forms. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Fisheries had requested the sheep and goat producers' organizations for mailing address so that the Ministry can send you an application form and relevant information on the program. If you haven't received an application form in the mail, the form as well as program information is available on the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Fisheries website at www.agf.gov.bc.ca and through district agricultural offices in British Columbia.

When must I have my application submitted by?

Producers must submit their application by March 7, 2005 to qualify for the program.

When do payments start?

Processing of your application will start as soon as your completed information is received.

4. Who can producers contact for additional information on the Other Ruminant Industry Transitional Program?

Producers can visit the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Fisheries website at www.agf.gov.bc.ca or they can call 1-888-221-7141 if it absolutely necessary to speak with someone.