

Participation in the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program for Status Indians

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is working to ensure that agricultural programs are more accessible and responsive to the needs of First Nations farmers.

What is the CAIS program?

CAIS is in place to help producers protect their farm income from both small and large declines caused by circumstances beyond their control such as weather, disease, low market prices, and increases in production costs (e.g. fuel, seed, fertilizer, etc.). CAIS is a whole-farm program available to eligible farmers regardless of the commodities they produce.

How can Status Indians participate in the CAIS program?

Status Indians farming on reserves in Canada are eligible to participate in CAIS. To participate, Status Indians are required to:

- Provide historical information to generate an Options Notice if they are new to the program. This includes information on income and expenses, and historical farming information for each reference year in which they farmed;*
- Select a protection level as outlined in the Options Notice;
- Pay an annual fee;
- Submit the information required to calculate a payment using the *Statement A Corporations/Co-operatives and Special Individuals*. Status Indians farming on a reserve must submit the *Statement A* directly to the CAIS Administration:

Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Administration
P.O. Box 3200
Winnipeg, MB R3C 5R7

*If records are not available, the farm's income history will be estimated based on information for the current year. Participants need to complete a *Productive Capacity Worksheet*. For more details, or a copy of this worksheet, please contact us at the number listed below.

Status Indians farming on a reserve are not required to report farm income, or loss, to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for taxation purposes under Section 87 of the Indian Act. Information provided to the CAIS administration is used solely to calculate program benefits, and is not used or kept by CRA for income tax purposes.

How do I sign-up for 2007 CAIS?

If you participated in CAIS for 2006, you will automatically be enrolled for 2007 at the same protection level you selected for 2006.

If you have never participated in CAIS before, you can request a 2007 New Participant Package prior to April 30, 2007. The package requests the necessary information required to calculate your Options Notice.

Who do I contact if I have questions about CAIS?

For more information, contact the CAIS Administration toll free at **1-866-367-8506** or visit the program Web site at **www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram**.

