

FARMING MATTERS

Growing Forward 2 Update

Growing Forward 2 is in its second year of the five year funding period. We have had success with several of our clients over the past year – mainly with clients who have partnered with us in larger succession plans or restructuring projects. Assistance has been received for completion of succession plans, completing and updating wills as part of this plan, partnership and shareholders agreements and other restructuring projects. Projects covered under the program are focused under six main categories:

- Environment and Climate Change;
- Assurance Systems (Traceability, Food Safety and Animal Welfare);
- Market Development;
- Animal and Plant Health;
- Labour Productivity Enhancement; and
- Business and Leadership Development.

Each category has two types of projects that can be applied for under Growing Forward 2:

Capacity Building – 50% cost sharing

Projects under capacity building are focused on the development of skills to prepare you for project implementation. These include education, skills development and training, assessments and audits, and planning. Costs covered under capacity building projects include items such as course fees, training programs, assessments and planning performed by professional advisors (in many different areas of focus), marketing plans, business plans, succession plans and much more.

Capacity building projects can be applied for at any time throughout the year and are not merit based. Each project is looked at individually and if it meets the criteria will be approved for funding. Only two applications can be open at any one time and there are specific dates for each program year that submissions must be completed by to be eligible for funding. For the current program year, there are two submission deadlines:

1. If you have already been approved for funding, submissions must be completed by January 15th, 2015.
2. If approved after January 15, 2015 all submissions must be completed by May 15, 2015 with all work complete and invoiced by March 31, 2015.

Implementation – 35% cost sharing (50% for innovative projects)

Projects under implementation are focused on the implementation and completion of projects planned and developed under the capacity building. Unlike previous growing forward applications, there is no requirement to complete the government sponsored workshop to be eligible for implementation funding, but they are looked at favourably when assessing your application. Cost sharing is available for services, supplies, shipping and travel related to the project. Funding is also available for capital expenditures related to an approved project for up to \$100,000 on an individual project basis.

Projects under implementation are accepted during scheduled intake periods during the program year. Approval is merit based and depends on whether the project proposed has a superior score and ranks higher than other applications submitted during the intake period. A producer may only submit one application per intake period. The next intake period for implementation projects is November 10 to December 11, 2014.

If you are looking to do a project on your farm and you think it may fit the program give us a call and we will be happy to assist you with the application process and advise, or guide you to those who can help determine your potential eligibility.

Missed AgriInvest Deposits – Opportunity Lost

In the past few years we have come across many producers that have missed making their AgriInvest deposit by the required deadline. It is very important to ensure that you get your deposit made at your participating financial institution by the deadline on your AgriInvest Deposit Notice or you will miss out on the government matching contribution. The deadline is 90 days from the date on the Deposit Notice.

Most financial institutions now participate in the AgriInvest program, so in most instances there is no need to have to go to a different bank than the one you use currently. Talk to your banker if you are still required to set up an account. Once you have the account established at your financial institution, it is as simple as taking your AgriInvest Deposit Notice to your bank to deposit or transfer the funds across to your AgriInvest account. The bank then forwards this information on to Agriculture and Agri-Food

Canada who transfers the matching funds into your AgrilInvest account. This account is always held at your participating financial institution and earns interest at the rate established by your bank. The government will not match the deposit if it is made after the 90 day deadline.

These funds can then be withdrawn at any time, however note that the government portion will come out of the account first and is taxable in the year it is withdrawn from your account.

Please watch for your AgrilInvest Deposit Notices in the mail and ensure that you make your required deposit before the deadline to get your matchable contribution. We do not like seeing producers miss out on this opportunity to access some of the government funding that is available to them.

If you have any questions on this, please feel free to contact our office on this matter.

Important Deadlines

Deadline Date	Program	Description
September 1, 2014	Production Insurance	Report yield for winter wheat
September 1, 2014	Production Insurance	Report your final planted acreage for summer-seeded new forage
September 15, 2014	Production Insurance	Pay your premium for summer-seeded new forage and edible crops
September 30, 2014	AgrilInvest Program	Submit 2013 Statement A/T1163 without penalty
October 20, 2014	Production Insurance	Last day to cancel coverage for winter wheat
October 31, 2014	Production Insurance	Report your yield for canola, mustard, spring grains and spring wheat
October 31, 2014	Risk Management Program	Report 2014 third quarter livestock sales
November 1, 2014	Production Insurance	Report your final 2014 planted acreage for fall-seed grains and oilseeds
November 1, 2014	Production Insurance	Apply for, or make changes to your 2015 coverage for fall-seeded grains and oilseeds
November 15, 2014	Production Insurance	Pay your 2015 premium for winter wheat
December 11, 2014	Growing Forward 2: Implementation Projects	Next intake period is November 10 to December 11, 2014, must apply within that time frame
December 15, 2014	Production Insurance	Report your 2014 yield for corn, soybeans, etc
December 31, 2014	AgriStability	Apply for a 2014 interim payment
December 31, 2014	AgriStability	Pay your 2014 fee with a 20% late penalty
December 31, 2014	AgrilInvest	Submit 2013 Statement A/T1163 with penalty
January 31, 2015	Risk Management Program	Pay second 2014 semi-annual premium installment for livestock
January 31, 2015	Risk Management Program	Report 2014 fourth quarter livestock sales
February 1, 2015	Self-Directed Risk Management (SDRM)	Final deadline to make deposit for 2014
April 1, 2015	Production Insurance	Last day to cancel coverage for 2015 spring grains and oilseeds, seed corn, forage rainfall, etc
April 30, 2015	AgriStability	Submit 2015 New Applicant application
May 15, 2015	Growing Forward 2: Capacity Building Projects	Apply anytime, final submissions due May 15, 2015
June 15, 2015	AgriStability	Submit 2014 T1163 to Canada Revenue Agency
June 30, 2015	AgriStability	Submit 2014 corporate Statement A to Agricorp
June 30, 2015	AgriStability	Submit 2014 AgriStability Application to Agricorp
September 1, 2015	Production Insurance	Report your yield for 2015 winter wheat