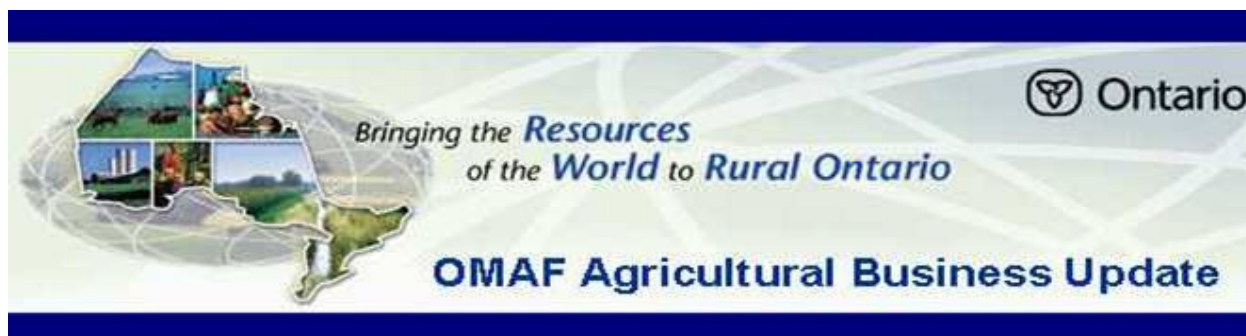




ISSUE # 9 - October 25, 2004

This update is designed to provide you with concise, up to date agricultural business information with links to where you can find the details.

OMAF INFORMATION MEETINGS FOR FARM ADVISORS ON APF BUSINESS PLANNING PROGRAMS

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF) invites you to attend an Information Meeting regarding the new Business Advisory Services funding available to farm businesses as part of the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF).

This half day seminar will be led by OMAF and Agriculture and AgriFood Canada (AAFC) staff discussing two new business planning programs. By attending this seminar you will gain an understanding of the program opportunities, details and requirements for you and your farm clients.

Specialized Business Planning Services (SBPS) provides up to a 50% grant, to a maximum of \$8,000 per individual farmer, to help cover the cost of consulting fees for planning services including the development of succession plans, diversification plans, marketing plans, human resources, and risk management plans. The maximum grant for a group of four or more farmers is \$25,000.

Planning & Assessment for Value-Added Enterprise (PAVE) provides up to a 50% grant, to a maximum of \$10,000 per individual farmer, and a maximum of \$25,000 for a group of three or more. This grant is to help cover consulting fees for planning services related to value-added business opportunities including feasibility analysis.

This program provides Continuing Education credits for Advocis and the Canadian Association of Farm Advisors (CAFA).

Dates and Locations

Guelph Tuesday, November 23
London Wednesday, November 24
Chatham-Kent Tuesday, November 30
Hanover Tuesday, November 30
Lindsay Wednesday December 1
Winchester Thursday, December 2
Belleville Friday, December 3

For seminar times, locations and registration details go online to

<http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/busdev/conference/apf.htm>

or phone the Agricultural Information Contact Centre 1-877-424-1300.

For northern Ontario sessions, please contact Northern Ontario Regional Office at 1-800-461-6132.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

The Nutrient Management Financial Assistance Program (NMFAP) is a \$20 million initiative designed to help farmers pay the costs associated with becoming compliant with the Nutrient Management Act. NMFAP is retroactive to May 18, 2004, and will share the costs of projects completed by the end of 2005. To provide the province's large livestock farmers with additional time to access this funding, the Ontario government has amended the regulation under the act to align compliance dates with the availability of funding.

With these changes, existing large livestock operators are required to submit a Nutrient Management Strategy by July 1, 2005, however, to access the funding, farmers must submit this strategy by March 31, 2005. Nutrient Management Plans have a later deadline of December 31, 2005, at which time large livestock producers must be compliant with the act. OMAF staff will provide technical assistance to producers in the development of their strategies and plans.

The NMFAP will provide eligible farmers with up to 45 per cent of the funds necessary to make the required environmental improvements on their operations. When combined with the financial assistance that will be available from the federal government under the Agricultural Policy Framework, up to 75 per cent of a farmer's total costs could be covered. For more information visit

<http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/nm/facts/nmfap.htm>

Additional program details, including information on how to apply to NMFAP, will be made available at information sessions to be held through November. These sessions, coordinated by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, will be targeted to the 1,200 existing large livestock operators and will help those farmers better understand the regulation and what it means for their individual operations. OMAF staff will also be on hand to provide technical assistance.

Producers with questions around the information sessions should call the OSCIA at 1-519-826-4214. Existing large livestock producers who have questions about the NMA and regulations are reminded to call the nutrient management toll-free line at 1-866-242-4460 or visit the website at <http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/nm/facts/infosessionsnmfap.htm>

BSE REPOSITIONING STRATEGY FOR THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

Ontario is participating in a national strategy - developed through consultation between governments and industry groups - designed to ensure the long-term viability of Canada's beef industry. The overall strategy includes initiatives to:

- Increase slaughter capacity;
- Transition the cattle industry until increased capacity comes on line;
- Find new markets for Canadian meat, and;
- Intensify efforts to re-open the U.S. border.

Sustaining the livestock industry until increased capacity comes on line will be assisted through two set-aside programs. Their purpose is to remove or "set-aside" animals from the market until after slaughter capacity has increased or markets have rebounded.

Fed Cattle Set-Aside Program

The objective of the Fed Cattle Set-Aside program is to set aside market ready cattle from the slaughter market for a period of time in order to reduce the effects of the oversupply of cattle in Canada on the market price. Producers must be willing to hold their cattle for the set-aside period in order to help achieve a market recovery. A reverse auction mechanism will allow producers to submit bids for the price of the per-head per-day assistance for feed that they would be willing to accept to set-aside some of their market-ready cattle.

Feeder Cattle Set-Aside Program

The objective of the Feeder Cattle Set-Aside program is to hold back a portion of the 2004 beef calf crop until January 1, 2006 to reduce the effects of the oversupply of cattle in Canada on the market price. Producers can sign-up for a per head payment to set-aside a percentage of their cattle born in 2004.

For more details on these two new Set-Aside Programs, as well as previous BSE assistance programs, visit the OMAF Web Site at <http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/policy/bserp/index.html>

TWO NEW AGRICULTURE PUBLICATIONS

Offered through the Canadian Farm Business Management Council (CFBMC)

Building Added Value Through Farm Diversification

This book explores the opportunities of value adding by a farm business. It provides examples of successful farm business ventures across Canada and draws on the experience of entrepreneurs as a guide. Building added value through farm diversification can provide additional opportunities for producers who are willing to devote the time and resources necessary for success.

Cultivating Agritourism: Tools and Techniques for Building Success

The information in this publication can help farmers and ranchers evaluate, plan and manage successful agritourism business opportunities. It can also assist community and commercial organizations understand how to benefit from agritourism development in their region. There are practical tools and techniques that can be put to use immediately.

To order these publications please call the CFBMC at 1-888-232-3262 or visit www.farmcentre.com

Thanks for reading the OMAF Business Update. If you have any questions or comments about this email update contact the editor, Rob Gamble at rob.gamble@omaf.gov.on.ca.

Looking for more information? Visit the OMAF website at <http://www.omaf.gov.on.ca> or the Business Development site at <http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAF/english/busdev/agbusdev.html>

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