



ISSUE # 22 – March 10, 2006

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

Ontario Announces Financial Assistance to Farmers

Ontario Grain and Oilseed Program

The Ontario Government announced on March 6, 2006 that it will deliver \$125 million in immediate financial assistance to farmers. In mid-April 2006, farmers will receive immediate assistance under the **Ontario Grain and Oilseed Program** and the **Ontario Edible Horticulture Crop Payment**. Agricorp will deliver these programs on behalf of the Government of Ontario. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' \$125 million financial assistance strategy will provide:

- \$80 million for grain and oilseed producers to offset their losses on the 2005 crop.
- \$35 million for producers of edible horticultural crops to offset past losses.
- \$10 million for an Ontario livestock and poultry traceability system to assist the province's agri-food industry to strengthen emergency management and market opportunities.

Eligibility

The Ontario Grain and Oilseed Program will compensate Ontario grain and oilseed producers for losses experienced on their 2005 crop. Producers who planted and harvested eligible grain and oilseed crops in 2005 are eligible for this benefit.

Application Deadlines

Producers enrolled in the Market Revenue Insurance Program for the 2004 crop year and who:

- Have reported 2005 eligible crop acreage to Agricorp, including Production Insurance, will automatically receive this benefit.
- Have not reported 2005 eligible crop acreage to Agricorp, must contact Agricorp at **1-888-247-4999** to provide acreage and yield information by **May 1, 2006**.

Producers **not enrolled**, including new farmers in 2005, must complete an application form.

- The application form must be submitted to Agricorp by **May 1, 2006**. Applications are available by calling Agricorp at 1-888-247-4999 or visiting Agricorp's website at <http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/news/index.asp?documentid=1080> to download the application form.

Payment Information

Payments are based on a producer's 2005 acreage and their historical average farm yield. The payment rates are based on the difference between the support price and the market price, pro-

rated for the dollars available. The support prices were determined using 90 percent of the 15-year indexed Ontario average price.

Receiving Payment:

There is a \$500,000 cap on payments under the Ontario Grain and Oilseed Program. The cap applies to both individuals and corporations.

Benefits under the Ontario Grain and Oilseed Program should be in the mail in mid-April.

Ontario Edible Horticulture Crop Payment

Eligibility

The **Ontario Edible Horticulture Crop Payment** will compensate Ontario producers of edible horticulture crops for losses experienced on their 2005 crop. Producers who farmed eligible edible horticulture crops in 2005 are eligible for this benefit.

Eligible Crops

All edible horticulture crops that were eligible under the previous edible horticulture top-up program are eligible.

Application Deadlines

Producers enrolled in the **Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program** for the **2004** program year:

- Do not need to contact Agricorp. Producers will automatically receive a benefit.

Producers who did not enroll in the **CAIS Program** for the **2004** crop year:

- Must submit an application form and copy of their 2004 T2024 or T1163 (as submitted to the Canada Revenue Agency) to Agricorp by **June 30, 2006**. Applications will be available on March 13, 2006 by calling Agricorp at 1-877-838-5144 or visiting Agricorp's website at www.agricorp.com to download the application form.

Payment Information

Producers will receive 2.6 percent of their eligible net sales for the 2004 crops eligible for the Ontario Edible Horticulture Crop Payment (2005 crops for new farmers). If there are funds remaining after all applicants have been paid, a final payment will be made to all eligible producers.

For further information please contact:

Agricorp

-Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Phone: 1-888-247- 4999

Fax: 519-826-4118

Website - www.agricorp.com

Brochures are available on line at:

<http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/news/index.asp?documentid=1079>

Federal Grains and Oilseeds Payment Program

Cheques for the **Federal Grains and Oilseeds Payment Program** are now being sent to producers, but there is still time to apply. Participation in CAIS is not required to receive a payment. All producers with net sales of eligible grains and oilseeds qualify for this payment.

Grains and Oilseeds producers **need to apply if:**

- they did not submit a 2004 Statement A (T1163 or equivalent corporate form)
- they started farming in 2005

Grains and Oilseeds producers **do not need to apply and will automatically receive a payment if:**

- they are a 2004 CAIS participant
- they filed a 2004 Statement A (T1163 or equivalent corporate form)
- they submitted a 2004 T1163, but their CAIS application was deemed ineligible or could not be processed

The administration will use the information from the 2004 T1163 to calculate the GOPP payment.

Applications are available on the Federal Grains and Oilseeds Payment Program Web site at www.agr.gc.ca/gopp or by calling **1-866-367-8506**.

The deadline for GOPP applications is **May 31, 2006**.

2006 CAIS Interim Payments Now Available

2006 CAIS Interim Payment Applications are now available to CAIS participants who wish to receive 2006 program year assistance early.

To be eligible for an interim payment you must:

- have submitted your completed 2005 CAIS forms along with a copy of your 2005 T1163 (for individuals) or 2005 Statement A (for corporations) (if applicable);
- have completed a minimum of six consecutive months of farming activity;
- have completed a production cycle;
- be farming in Canada; and
- report farming income (or loss) to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for your 2006 fiscal year.

To apply, CAIS participants must submit the completed 2006 CAIS Interim Payment Application forms to Agricorp by the end of their fiscal period or by **December 31, 2006**, whichever is earlier.

For more information the website at <http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/news/index.asp?documentid=1068>

Are you looking for CAIS Program Forms?

You can find them at <http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/brm/forms/cais/2005/#8>

Do you know someone who's made a difference in the field of farm business management?

The Canadian Farm Business Management Council (CFBMC) is seeking to honour such people with the Wilson Loree Award 2006. The award will recognize individuals or groups who have made an extraordinary contribution to developing and promoting new and positive change in agricultural business management practices and expertise in Canada.

For more information or to nominate someone visit the website, no later than May 5th 2006, at: http://www.farmcentre.com/english/innovation/loree_award.htm

Cover Your Assets – Managing Your Organization's Risk

A Seminar For Directors And Members Of Community Organizations

Insurance costs, risk, funding, responsibilities and liabilities are all concerns that community not-for-profit organizations are managing today. Members need to be knowledgeable about their role as directors to ensure their organizations are accountable, transparent and managing the risks of their events and volunteers. Cover Your Assets- Managing Your Organizations Risk seminars are being held in 6 locations in April 2006. The seminar will increase your knowledge, give you practical tools to use in your organization and give you a chance to discuss the issues and your questions.

To be held in 6 more locations across Ontario

Ancaster (Hamilton area)	Thurs. April 6, 2006	3 pm – 9:15 pm
Blackstock (Oshawa area)	Wed. April 12, 2006	9:15 am – 3:30 pm
Dundalk (Owen Sound area)	Wed. April 19, 2006	11.45 am – 6 pm
Sowerby - Iron Bridge (Sault Ste Marie area)	Sat. April 22, 2006	9:15 am – 3:30 pm
Matheson (Timmins area)	Mon. April 24, 2006	11.45 am – 6 pm
Sundridge (North Bay area)	Wed. April 26, 2006	11.45 am – 6 pm

Registration is \$45 /person OR 3 registrations from the same organization for \$100 (includes resource materials, lunch or light supper, breaks and informative speakers)

Visit the conference website for agenda, directions and to download registration forms -

www.omafra.gov.on.ca

Go to the UP FRONT section and click on "Cover Your Assets Seminar Series"

For more information contact the **Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300**

Growing Your Opportunities Workshops

The focus of these workshops is to advance the agricultural and food sector by exploring industry trends, farm business success stories, new marketing ideas and strategies to adapt to today's changing agriculture and consumer markets.

This one day workshop will provide farmers, farm business advisors, local economic development, municipal staff, local food processors and retailers with ideas, examples and resources to help accomplish their business goals.

For agendas and registration information please visit:
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/conference/index.html>

or contact the **Agricultural Information Contact Centre 1-877-424-1300** or the following Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) staff:

Dorene Collins Tel: 519-826-3166 or email: dorene.collins@omafra.gov.on.ca
Carl Fletcher Tel: 519-826-3235 or email: carl.fletcher@omafra.gov.on.ca

Locations and Dates:

Huron/Perth (Seaforth)	March 21
Elgin/Middlesex Oxford (London)	March 30
Greater Napanee Area	March 15,16
North Bay	April 8

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

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