



ISSUE # 24 – May 12, 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.

Farm Improvement Loan Guarantees Program to Continue

The Farm Improvement and Marketing Cooperatives Loans Act (FIMCLA) program will continue as part of the federal government's ongoing commitment to Canadian agricultural producers.

The program was set to end on March 31, 2006 but will now remain in place as government officials consult with stakeholders about how it can better meet their needs. Issues under review include how the program can best support beginning farmers and agricultural cooperatives.

Under the existing FIMCLA program, producers can more easily access credit to improve farm assets, strengthen production, and improve the financial viability of their farms. Loans up to \$250,000 for producers and \$3 million for cooperatives that are owned by active producers are guaranteed by the federal government.

For more details on the program visit the website at <http://www.agr.gc.ca/misb/nmp/fimcla/> or for information on the consultation contact:

Jeff Howard, Press Secretary, Minister Strahl's Office at **(613) 759-1059** or **Media Relations**, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at **(613) 759-7972** or **1-866-345-7972**

Canadian Association of Farm Advisors CAFA Guelph Conference

The **Canadian Association of Farm Advisors (CAFA)** are holding an Ontario Conference on Wednesday, May 31st, 7:00- 10:00 PM at the Winchester Arms in Guelph and Thursday, June 1st 8:00-4:00 PM at the Holiday Inn, Guelph, Ontario. The theme of the conference is **“Knowledge Networks and Best management Practices: Effecting Positive Change in Agribusiness”**. The program includes

- Michael Hughes, networking guru on tools and strategies to grow your business by motivating your clients, colleagues and contacts to act as advocates for your business
- John Core CEO and Chair of the Canadian Dairy Commission on the Future of Supply Management in Canada
- Sweet potato Ethanol plant proposal Berry Murray CEO Sand Plains Energy Corp and CEO Canadian Sweet Potato Alliance
- New communication technologies opportunities – webcasting, video conferencing , live text chat and podcasting
- Hallmarks of a well managed farm business

For complete conference information and registration details visit the CAFA website at <http://www.cafanet.com/conferences> then select the Guelph conference.

The Cropline – 1 888-449-0937

Even if you are not a cropper the Cropline is an interesting and entertaining listen! The Cropline is a province-wide, toll-free phone service on crop management tips, herbicide recommendations and pest alerts. In addition to receiving information on current issues, callers are provided the opportunity to leave a question for OMAFRA's field crop specialists to address on the next update. **NEW:** The Cropline is now available in podcast. You can listen to the Cropline updates right on your home computer. Call OMAFRA's **Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300** for details on accessing the podcast version of the Cropline.

New Publications

06-037: Growing and Selling Organic Food – Resources for Ontario's Organic Sector
06-017: Typical Beef Feedlot and Background Diets

Other Internet Resources

Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) - information is available on the OMAFRA website in the Farm Labour section at
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/farmlabour.html>

Cost of Production Budgets – available on OMAFRA website at
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/cost.html>

Grower Pesticide Safety Courses – Course dates and locations for the 2006 training season are currently being confirmed. For the most up-to-date schedule, check the Ontario Pesticide Education Program's website at www.ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca/o pep/

Avian Influenza Information on OMAFRA website:
A hot button on the OMAFRA web site has been established to give the latest information on the Avian Influenza <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/index.html>

Agricultural Management Institute (AMI)
A program to help fund projects designed to develop and increase the use of business management tools, products, information, resources and training for farm families, farm managers and farm business advisors. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada launched the **Agricultural Management Institute (AMI)** program to encourage and support enhanced business management practices in Ontario. Details are available at the AAC website www.adaptcouncil.org

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>