

OMAFRA Agricultural Business Update

Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs



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

Programs

AgrilInvest Kickstart

Reminder: Respond to AgrilInvest Kickstart Letters by June 30, 2008

Farmers are reminded to respond to their AgrilInvest Kickstart letters by the June 30, 2008 deadline. Reminder letters are being mailed to farmers who have not yet responded. Those who don't respond by the deadline will not be eligible for benefits.

In spring 2007, the Government of Canada announced \$600 million to kick start producer accounts under AgrilInvest. Most farmers received a letter explaining their benefits.

To receive Kickstart funds, farmers must respond to their letter by returning the tear-off section indicating whether they want to withdraw the funds or leave them in a government-held account. The response letter must be postmarked no later than **June 30, 2008**. If a farmer misses this deadline, they will not be eligible for Kickstart funds. For more information about AgrilInvest Kickstart, farmers can visit the AgrilInvest website at www.agr.gc.ca/agriinvest or contact the federal administration toll free at **1-866-367-8506**.

Cull Breeding Swine Program – Applications Now Available

Canadian hog producers can now apply for compensation under the Cull Breeding Swine Program. Funds available for Program Payments are limited to \$46,000,000 and applications under the program will be ranked based on the "date sent" by the eligible producer. Qualifying producers, subject to application approval, will receive \$225 per breeding swine culled after April 14th. Reimbursement will be made for costs of slaughter and carcass disposal. A payment of \$225 per breeding swine less the selling price will be available for approved producers that sold animals from November 1, 2007 until April 13th, 2008 (receipts and supporting documents required).

To participate in the program, approved producers must:

- not sell potentially eligible breeding stock through commercial channels after April 14th,
- agree to depopulate an entire breeding barn and
- commit to not housing swine breeding stock in the same barn for three years.

For further details and program applications for the Cull Breeding Swine Program are available on the Canadian Pork Council website at http://www.cpc-ccp.com/industry/CSBP_e.cfm. Producers can also contact their provincial pork producer association for copies of the application. Producers can also call 1-877-655-2567 if they have questions about the application process.

Agricultural Taxation Information

Ministry Of Revenue - RST Guide for Farmers – New Version

The Ministry of Revenue has updated their RST Guide for Farmers. The guide explains how Retail Sales Tax (RST) applies to items purchased by farmers. This replaces the previous version dated February 2006. Visit <http://www.rev.gov.on.ca/english/guides/rst/807.html> for more details.

Ministry Of Revenue Notice: Corporations Tax Returns

The Ministry of Revenue has indicated that they will not be issuing distinct 2008 versions of the CT23 Corporations Tax and Annual Return (CT23), CT23 Short Form Corporations Tax and Annual Return (CT23 Short-Form) and the Corporations Tax Return for insurance corporations (CT8). The 2007 CT23, 2006 CT23 Short-Form and the 2006 CT8 are available for use for the 2008 taxation year.

For further information on this release visit <http://www.rev.gov.on.ca/english/notices/ct/6028.html>

OMAFRA Information Bulletin: Making Sense of Your Farm Property Tax Bill

This info bulletin helps explain the components of your property tax bill. It covers:

1. Property Assessment Valuation;
2. Property Class; and
3. Municipal tax rates.

It can be found at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/policy/ftaxinfo.htm>

For detailed information on the **Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program** go to <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/policy/ftaxfaq.html>

New Publications

OMAFRA has a new newsletter – “ON Organic”. As the title suggests it is on Organic issues that are relevant to the Ontario organic sector. The newsletter will cover production, processing, marketing, certification, sources of information, programs, and events to assist you with your organic production and marketing needs.

You can find “ON Organic” at: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/organic/news/news-organic.html>

Calendar

June 18-19, 2008 – 35th Annual Ontario Pork Congress. Details available at <http://www.porkcongress.on.ca/>

July 3 & 4, 2008 – Farm\$mart, Elora Research Station. July 3rd is farmer and ag industry day; July 4th - 4-H and rural youth day. Watch www.uoguelph.ca/farmsmart for details.

July 6 – 13, 2008 – 2008 American Quarter Horse Youth World Cup, Western Fair, London. Visit <http://www.aqhayouthworldcup.com/> for details.

August 12, 13 & 14, 2008 – Third Annual International Goat Symposium & Caprine Classic, Stratford Rotary Complex. Watch for details at <http://www.goatsymposium.com/>

August 18 – 21, 2008 – Innovative Farmers Association of Ontario, 2008 Bus Trip. For further details or to download a brochure, visit <http://www.ifao.com/>

September 9 – 11, 2008 – Outdoor Farm Show.

September 16 – 20, 2008 – International Plowing Match. Details available online at <http://www.plowingmatch.org/>

Thanks for reading the OMAFRA Business Update.

Questions or Comments: contact the editor, Rob Gamble at rob.gamble@ontario.ca

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