

ISSUE # 57 – January 2010

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

For the most current Ag Business information visit the [Ag Business Update Blog](#). You can subscribe to the Blog through an RSS feed or have posts sent right to your mailbox using [Feed My Inbox](#). Cut and paste this link <http://agbusinessupdate.wordpress.com/> to the Feed My Inbox site along with your email address.

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New Publications

[Introduction to Organic Farming](#) (Order No. 09-077) [PDF](#) **NEW**

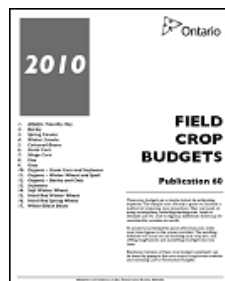
[Starting an Organic Farm](#), (Order No. 09-073) [PDF](#) **NEW**

[Programs and Services for Ontario Farmers](#) (pdf version) Click [here](#) for html version

This factsheet contains a summary of programs and services currently available to Ontario farmers that are funded by the Ontario and/or Canadian governments. Producers should also check with their commodity organizations for additional commodity specific programs that may be available through their associations.

[Field Crop Budgets 2010, \(Publication 60\)](#), [PDF](#) - These crop budgets are a simple format for estimating expenses.

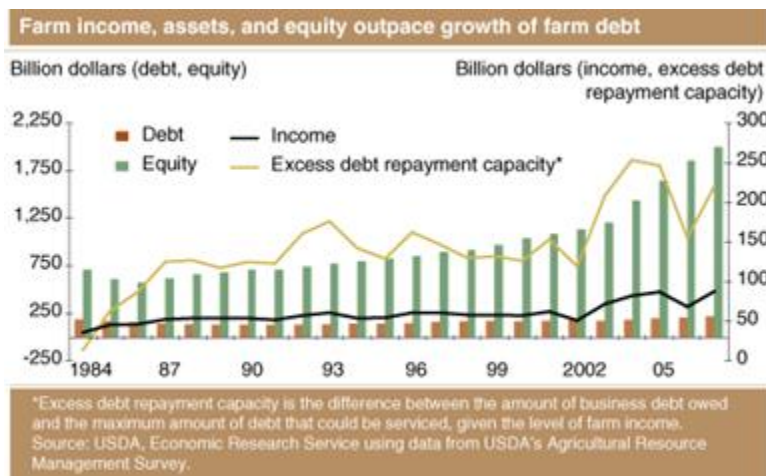
1. Alfalfa-Timothy Hay
2. Barley
3. Spring Canola
4. Winter Canola
5. Coloured Beans
6. Grain Corn
7. Silage Corn
8. Flax
9. Oats
10. Organic – Grain Corn and Soybeans
11. Organic – Winter Wheat and Spelt
12. Organic – Barley and Oats
13. Soybeans
14. Soft Winter Wheat
15. Hard Red Winter Wheat
16. Hard Red Spring Wheat
17. White/Black Beans



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Debt Landscape for U.S. Farms Has Shifted

Fewer farm operators rely on borrowed funds, but farm debt is increasingly concentrated in larger farms.



Source: [Amber Waves](#), USDA

Programs



Business Development for Farm Businesses

The recently launched Business Development for Farm Businesses program incorporates self-assessment and action plan development with a range of cost-share advisory services and skills development opportunities. [Growing Your Farm Profits workshops](#) are the entry point to the Business Development for Farm Business program. A listing of **GYFP workshop dates and locations** can be found [here](#).

The cost share components of the program include:

[Farm Financial Assessment](#)

[Agriculture Skills Development](#)

[Advanced Business Planning](#)

Business Plan Implementation

To get started, visit www.ontariosoilcrop.org and sign up for a Growing Your Farm Profits Workshop in your area today!

Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.



Hog Industry Loan Loss Reserve Program

For the latest information on the Hog Industry Loan Loss reserve Program visit the [Ag Canada website](#). Or visit the [Ontario Pork website](#) for the latest on programs for Ontario pork producers. You can also find a new [factsheet](#) on the program.

National Farm Business Advisor (FBA) Database

As part of the Growing Forward initiative, the [Canadian Farm Business Management Council](#) has created a national online database of farm business advisors and consultants. The [National Farm Business Advisor \(FBA\) Database](#) is now live and accepting registrations!

Career Focus Program

The Career Focus Program is an internship program that will contribute up to \$20,000 in matching funds to projects that employ recent graduates in agriculture, agri-food, agri-food science and veterinary medicine. Organizations that want to sponsor internships must submit project proposals to AAFC, recruit graduates and share the cost of each project. Please note: the Career Focus Program is not a summer employment program.

Eligible employers are organizations who can offer projects that will give employees:

- agriculture career-related work experiences in Canada; and
- skills acquisition through mentoring and coaching.

Eligible Employees must be:

- between the ages of 15 and 30;
- unemployed or under-employed;
- have graduated from
 - an agriculture-related program in a university, college or CEGEP; or
 - a provincial program focusing on biological, agricultural and veterinary science or applied technology; and
- Canadian citizens or have landed immigrant status.

For more program details and a project proposal form visit the Career Focus website at:

www.agr.gc.ca/careerfocus

Taxation

Canada Revenue Agency has released some new Guides and Forms

[RC4060 Farming Income and the AgriStability and AgriInvest Programs Guide](#)

[RC4408 Farming Income and the AgriStability and AgriInvest Programs Harmonized Guide - Joint Forms and Guide](#)

[T1273 Statement A - Harmonized AgriStability and AgriInvest Programs Information and Statement of Farming Activities for Individuals](#)

[T1274 Statement B - Harmonized AgriStability and AgriInvest Programs Information and Statement of Farming Activities for Additional Farming Operations](#)

HST Information

[Proposed Harmonized Sales Tax \(HST\) Benefits for Ontario's Farmers - PDF Version \(162 kb\)](#)

[Information Notice #1 – Single Sales tax](#)

[Information Notice # 2 - Helping Homebuyers and the Housing Industry with an Enhanced New Housing Rebate, a New Rental Housing Rebate and Transitional Rules](#)

[Information Notice #3 : General Transitional Rules for Ontario HST.](#)

[Harmonized Sales Tax Information Notice 4: Additional Information for Homebuyers and the Housing Industry under Ontario HST](#)

Stats Canada

The [Accounting Services Price Index](#) (ASPI, 2000=100), which measures the change over time in the price of services including auditing, tax preparation and bookkeeping, is now available for 2007.

Conferences and Workshops

Canadian Farm Business Management Council (CFBMC) [2010 Managing Excellence in Agriculture Conference](#) – Feb 3-5, 2010, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Visit the [CFBMC website](#) for full details.



Early bird registration for the Growing the Margins and Canadian Farm and Food Biogas conferences ends this Saturday, January 30, 2010.

Registration Information is available on the websites: www.gtmconference.ca or www.biogasconference.ca

[Quest for New Farm Value – Value Plus™ Workshop](#)

Are you looking for or do you have a business idea for your farm? Not sure how to make your idea a reality? Local Stakeholders along with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) are offering up to 10 *Quest for New Farm Value – Value Plus™* workshops throughout the province this winter.

Over 2 days, the participant will identify their specific value-added idea, put their idea into action, evaluate market channels, learn the importance and components of a business plan, explore how to

finance the stages of the business and manage risk. Workshop leaders include Ontario farm business owners, entrepreneurs and advisors who will share lessons learned and best practices.

For workshop details contact: **Dorene Collins** at dorene.collins@ontario.ca or call **1-519-826-3166**
Workshops scheduled to date:

LOCATION	Day # 1	Day # 2
Peterborough	January 30, 2010	February 6, 2010
Haldimand County	January 30, 2010	February 6, 2010
Middlesex County	February 22, 2010	March 1, 2010
West Carleton, Kinburn	February 23, 2010	March 2, 2010
Huron/Perth Counties	February 24, 2010	March 3, 2010
Alfred - French Language	March, 2010	March, 2010

Calendar

For the most recent calendar information drop by the Ag Business Update Blog [Calendar of Events Page](#).

Thanks for reading the OMAFRA Business Update.

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

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