

ISSUE # 62 – August 2010

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Program Updates

[Risk Management Pilot Program Extended](#) – July 30, 2010 News Release

The province is supporting its grain and oilseed producers by temporarily extending the sectors' Risk Management Program (RMP) pilot for the 2010 crop year.

The program helps farmers offset losses caused by low grain and oilseed commodity prices. In 2010, prices for grain and oilseed have dropped more than 25 per cent - significantly below the cost of production. Participation in the extended program is open to farmers who received assistance in 2008 and/or in 2009, as well as those who began farming on or after January 1, 2008.

[Career Focus Program - Investing in the future of agriculture](#)

The Career Focus Program provides employers with up to \$20,000 in matching funds to create internship opportunities for recent graduates from agriculture-related programs.

For employers, the program offers an economical way to attract new talent and helps provide new graduates with a valuable first job that will help pave the way to a career in the ever-changing agriculture and agri-food industry.

Eligible employers:

Must offer projects that will give graduates meaningful agriculture career-related work experiences in Canada and skills acquisition through mentoring and coaching

Could include organizations such as farm businesses, industry, not-for-profit organizations, provincial and municipal governments, associations, boards, councils, colleges and universities

Eligible employees:

Must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant

Must be 30 years old or younger

Must have graduated from a university, college, CEGEP or provincial institution within the last three years, specializing in biology, agriculture, veterinary sciences or applied technology

Currently the delivery for Career Focus for the Ontario Region is being handled out of Winnipeg by Jürgen Kohler. His direct phone number is 204-983-0575 and his email address is Jurgen.Kohler@agr.gc.ca.

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

www.agr.gc.ca/careerfocus

Hog Farm Transition Program

[Residual HFTP funds allocation underway](#)

The process of allocating residual funds of the Hog Farm Transition Program to producers who bid in the fourth tender but were unsuccessful continues.

Any residual funds and funds previously allocated to producers who have since decided not to participate in the program is being used to honour bids next in line from the results of the fourth tender.

Results of Hog Farm Transition Program

[Cumulative successful bid summary by region \(July 12, 2010\)](#)

Green Energy Information

microFIT Program Update – July 2, 2010

[New Price Category Proposed for microFIT Ground-Mounted Solar PV Projects](#)

[Archive: July 6, 2010 - microFIT Program Update Webcast PDF](#)

[Archive: July 8, 2010 - microFIT Program Update Webcast](#)

The Ontario Power Authority held webinars on July 6 and July 8, 2010 to discuss the introduction of this proposed new price category and answer questions.

[Canada Revenue Agency](#)

[Ontario's FIT/microFIT Programs](#)

Frequently Asked Questions - FIT/microFIT Programs

1. [Does a Participant who enters into a Contract earn income for income tax purposes?](#)
2. [What amount will the Participant include in income in a particular taxation year?](#)
3. [Is a Participant allowed to deduct expenses against the income earned under the Contract?](#)
4. [Will a Participant who uses a portion of the electricity generated from the renewable energy property for personal home consumption be allowed to deduct any amount paid to his or her local electricity distributor for such personal home consumption?](#)
5. [Can a Participant deduct any costs associated with the purchase and installation of the renewable energy property?](#)
6. [What is the CCA rate for Class 43.1 and Class 43.2?](#)
7. [What are the CCA deduction limitations with respect to renewable energy property?](#)
8. [Are there any exceptions to the CCA deduction limitation?](#)
9. [Where a Participant that is a homeowner acquires a solar pv system and enters into a Contract, will the homeowner be subject to the CCA deduction limitation?](#)
10. [Can the renewable energy property qualify for inclusion in any other CCA class \(e.g. Class 8\)? If so, can a Participant choose to include the property in either Class?](#)
11. [Does the purchase and installation of a solar pv system on a principal residence qualify for the Home Renovation Tax Credit \(HRTC\)?](#)
12. [Will a Participant who installs a solar pv system on the roof of his or her residential home and enters into a Contract continue to maintain the home as a principal residence?](#)
13. [If a Participant sells his or her residential home, which includes a renewable energy property, are there any income tax consequences?](#)

[Natural Resources Canada – Office of Energy Efficiency \(OEE\)](#)

[Tax Incentives for Industry](#)

[Bill 150, Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009](#)

An Act to enact the Green Energy Act, 2009 and to build a green economy, to repeal the Energy Conservation Leadership Act, 2006 and the Energy Efficiency Act and to amend other statutes.

[Ontario Green Energy Act Alliance](#)

The Alliance's vision is to make Ontario a global leader in green energy development through the use of renewable energy, distributed energy and conservation, creating thousands of jobs, economic prosperity, and energy security, while ensuring climate protection.

Statistics and Market Information

[Statistics Canada - Farm business cash flows](#)

Data on farm business cash flows are now available for 2009. The cash flow account is a summary of cash flow in and out of farm businesses over the calendar year.

[Statistics Canada - Balance Sheet of the Agricultural Sector](#)

Data on the balance sheet of the agricultural sector, at December 31, are now available for 2009. Assets and liabilities in the agriculture sector's balance sheet include those of farm businesses and non-operator landlords (for farm real estate assets leased to farm operators and the corresponding liabilities) and exclude the personal portion of farm households. This most closely reflects the assets and liabilities used in the production of agricultural products.

[Ontario Commodity reports](#)

The Daily Commodity Report is available through Grain Farmers Ontario's automatic email service. There is no subscription charge, and you can subscribe or unsubscribe at any time.

[Market intelligence - UNDERSTANDING THE COMMODITY REPORTS AVAILABLE CAN HELP BOOST YOUR BOTTOM LINE](#)

[STRUCTURE AND FINANCES OF U.S. FARMS: FAMILY FARM REPORT, 2010 EDITION](#) - Released Monday, July 26, 2010

Most U.S. farms—98 percent in 2007—are family operations, and even the largest farms are predominantly family run. Large-scale family farms and nonfamily farms account for 12 percent of U.S. farms but 84 percent of the value of production. In contrast, small family farms make up most of the U.S. farm count but produce a modest share of farm output. Small farms are less profitable than large-scale farms, on average, and their operator households tend to rely on off-farm income for their livelihood. Generally speaking, farm operator households cannot be characterized as low-income when both farm and off-farm income are considered. Nevertheless, limited-resource farms still exist and account for 3 to 12 percent of family farms, depending on how “limited-resource” is defined.

Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence

Ontario's rural communities are growing innovative ideas that drive the local economy and advance Ontario's agri-food industry. These ideas were celebrated at ceremonies throughout Ontario honouring regional winners of the Premier's Awards for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence.

[Innovative Ideas Thrive In Algoma and Sudbury Districts](#) – July 9, 2010

Conferences and Workshops



[Goats: Farming's New Frontier](#) August 10 – 12, 2010 Stratford, Ontario

Make plans to attend the International Goat Symposium being held at the Rotary Complex in Stratford, Ontario on August 10th to 12th.

The International Goat Symposium 2010 is the goat industry's must attend event. Check out the [exciting program](#) and line up of some of the world's foremost experts in goat production. You will not want to miss out.



The [2010 Ag HR Roundtable](#), being held August 2-4 in Minnetonka, MN, will explore recruitment and retention issues within the agriculture and food industries.

This 2-day conference is open to all human resource professionals, career services staff and relevant association representatives within the agriculture, food science, natural resources and biotechnology industries and is an excellent networking opportunity. Plan to attend this informative meeting addressing topics and areas of high interest that you'll find nowhere else.



August 18-19 [Hastings County Plowing Match and Farm Show](#) at Robinson Farm, Blessington Road, Tyendinaga Township. For more information contact: 613-395-5177 or visit: www.hastingsfarmshow.ca



Thanks for reading the OMAFRA Business Update.

Questions or Comments: contact the editor, John Molenhuis at john.molenhuis@ontario.ca.

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