

Important Changes to the *Growing Forward 2 (GF2)* Cost-share Funding Assistance Program Guide for Producers for 2017-18

While you may still have access to a 2016-2017 copy of the Growing Forward 2 Program Guide, 2017-2018 is the final year of *GF2* and there are some important changes to the Program that you should be aware of. The following changes are effective beginning with the February 2017 application intake:

- **Multiple year projects can no longer be supported.**
- **All projects must be complete by December 15, 2017**
- **All claims for approved applications must be submitted by January 15, 2018**
- **A new best management practice (BMP) has been added – see details below.**

For the most up-to-date version of the *GF2* Cost-share Funding Assistance Program Guide for Producers, visit ontariosoilcrop.org.

D9 Preventing access from wildlife, pests and rodents

Projects will focus on modifications to production areas and facilities to prevent introduction and spread of diseases and pests.

To apply, you must

- Have completed a farm-wide self-assessment against the national biosecurity standards, or a commodity-specific health/pest risk assessment completed by a veterinarian or a certified crop advisor¹ (minimum requirements for an assessment can be found at www.ontariosoilcrop.org)
- Have completed an applicable Biosecurity Workshop (For details or to register, go to www.ontariosoilcrop.org)

Eligible activities and expenditures

- Installing or repairing screening, plastic curtains and soffits on barns or production facilities
- Applying gravel around perimeter of barns or production facilities (1m strip, 6 inches deep)
- Installing pest control devices or deterrents, or establishing a pest management program, including establishment of training materials (first time costs)
- Purchase of equipment or construction of facilities for freezing honey bee equipment or processing wax to mitigate the introduction, spread and impact of Small Hive Beetle.
- Baseline and enhanced testing for varroa mites and resistance to control products

Ineligible activities and expenditures

- Repairs to roof, exterior walls and foundation
- Lawn mowers or grounds maintenance services
- New construction of storage sheds or structures
- Ongoing consumables (e.g. bait) or services related to a pest management program
- Modifications or repairs to existing feed or bedding storages.
- Purchase of sealed containers or bins to store bagged or loose feed securely
- Bird netting, noisemakers or bangers for field crops.
- Replacing or repairing doors
- Fencing

Cost-share per cent

- Up to 35 per cent

Maximum available cost-share per project

- \$50,000

Required documentation

- Applicable Focus Area Project Information Form
- Site sketch of planned modifications
- A farm-wide self-assessment against the national biosecurity standards, or a commodity-specific health/pest risk assessment completed by a veterinarian or a certified crop advisor¹ (minimum requirements for an assessment can be found at www.ontariosoilcrop.org)
- Certificate of completion for an applicable biosecurity workshop

Merit-based application evaluation criteria

- Degree of impact in aligning with national biosecurity standards/outcomes
- Veterinarian or certified crop advisor support for the project design
- Impact of project on the risk of pathogen/pest introduction/spread
- Benefit to broader agriculture sector
- Preference will be given to projects that are part of a complete plan developed in conjunction with, and resulting from, an assessment or evaluation performed by a veterinarian or certified crop advisor¹ (i.e., integrated pest management plan)