

# Food Safety Program, for Farms

## Benefits for Beef Farmers

The federal, provincial and territorial governments are investing \$1.3 billion over five years into Growing Forward programs, on a cost-share basis. Growing Forward supports a profitable agriculture sector through increased competitiveness, innovation and risk management.

The Canadian beef industry's Verified Beef Production (VBP) is recognized by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) as the national, Canadian, on-farm food safety program for beef. Beef producers can apply for up to \$2,000 to offset implementation costs and for equipment that supports the VBP program through the Growing Forward Food Safety Program, for Farms.

All Manitoba beef producers are eligible for this program. It provides funds to set up, implement and monitor food safety, biosecurity and traceability systems on farms. It helps farmers and producers identify, reduce and manage risks and anticipate ongoing demands for increased food safety practices.

Applicants to the Food Safety Program, for Farms are eligible for up to 90 per cent of the total cost of eligible equipment. Currently, the program is available for such things as RFID reading equipment and single animal scales, to be used on farms.

For example:

- Up to \$2,000 is available to implement the VBP program. Eligible expenses include first audit costs or the purchase of new equipment for the program (on a 90:10 cost-share basis, with the producer paying 10 per cent). Examples of eligible equipment include single animal scales, electronic thermometers and neck extensions for chute. See the Approved Food Safety Equipment List on [manitoba.ca/agriculture/growingforward](http://manitoba.ca/agriculture/growingforward) under the Food Safety Program, for Farms link.

**Please note:** Beef Herd Food Safety and Biosecurity assessment surveys are available to all beef farmers even if you have not applied to the Food Safety Program, for Farms. Funding is limited and will be applied on a first- come-first-served basis. To participate, contact your local accredited veterinarian directly.

# Food Safety Program, for Farms

## How to apply for Food Safety Program, for Farms

1. Complete an application. Application forms for this program are available at your local Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives Growing Opportunities (GO) Office or online at [manitoba.ca/agriculture/growingforward](http://manitoba.ca/agriculture/growingforward).
2. Submit your application to your local GO Office or mail it to the address on the back of the application form. A Food Safety Program, for Farms approval package, will be sent to you. It includes a checklist of tasks that must be completed before you can make a claim for funds.
3. Attend a Verified Beef Production (VBP) training workshop or complete the online training session. Also complete the first audit for VBP.
4. Buy the items you need or have the work done on your farm.
5. Once you have your certificate for completion of the VBP, you can submit receipts for payment at your local GO Office, or send them to:

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives  
CVO/Food Safety Knowledge Centre  
Food Safety Program, for Farms  
545 University Crescent, Winnipeg, MB R3T 5S6

## Program Timing

Beef farmers' interest/use of the current program will determine the length of time it is available (up to 2013). From the time producers receive their approval letters, they have **15 months** to complete their projects. The Food Safety Program, for Farms' goal is for all Manitoba farmers and producers to have approved, up-to-date food safety systems.

For more information, see the application form which lists the terms and conditions for the program.

For more information about:

- program eligibility or how to apply, contact your local Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives GO Office
- the location of your nearest GO Office, call Manitoba Government Inquiry, toll free, at 1-866-626-4862
- program details, go to [manitoba.ca/agriculture/growingforward](http://manitoba.ca/agriculture/growingforward)