

Food Safety Program, for Farms

Benefits for Beekeepers

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 Beekeeping Industry's Safety Quality and Traceability Program (CBISQT) is soon expected to be recognized by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) as the national, Canadian, on-farm food safety program for honey. While the CBISQT's safety program is still in the approval process, eligible beekeepers can apply for up to \$1,000 for equipment and good agricultural practices (GAP) through the Growing Forward **Food Safety Program, for Farms**.

All Manitoba producers registered as active beekeepers with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) 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 replacing old equipment and for replacing brood combs.

For example:

- Up to \$1,000 is available to buy new food-grade honey processing equipment (on a 90:10 cost-share basis, with the beekeeper paying 10 per cent). The new equipment must replace similar, old non-food grade equipment and the old equipment must be turned in, to a designated site. It must be obvious that the old equipment has been used recently – old, unused equipment is not eligible.
- Up to \$1,000 is available for exchange of up to 500 dark, undamaged brood combs. Frames with foundation for honey bees can be dropped off at the registered rendering site. A \$2 rebate per comb is available for purchasing new wax or plastic foundation or new frames with foundation.

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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.
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. Drop off the old equipment or the old brood combs to the designated drop off site. **Note: You must contact MacGregor Wax Works at 204-685-3080 to make an appointment.** Equipment must be clean and free of all honey and wax. Producers without an appointment for drop off may be turned away.
4. MacGregor Wax Works will provide a receipt for the brood combs. For equipment rebates, receipts will be sent to you, once the equipment has been verified as eligible by the program co-ordinator.
5. Once you have the receipts, you can submit them 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

Beekeepers' 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.

Once the CBISQT program passes CFIA's lead technical review, this current comb exchange and equipment rebate program will be replaced with the approved CBISQT program. At that time, up to \$2,000 will be available to beekeepers enrolled in CBISQT for program implementation and an additional \$5,000 may be available for future food safety equipment upgrades.

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