

Food Safety Program, for Farms

Benefits for Dairy 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 dairy industry's Canadian Quality Milk (CQM) designation is recognized by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) as the national, Canadian, on-farm food safety program for milk. Dairy producers can apply for up to \$2,000 for implementation and/or equipment that supports the CQM program; and up to \$5,000 for good agricultural practices (GAP), through Growing Forward **Food Safety Program, for Farms**.

All Manitoba producers registered as active dairy farmers 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 plate coolers and pasteurizers, to be used on farms.

For example:

- Up to \$2,000 is available to implement the COA 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). Eligible equipment includes approved time/temperature recorders, plate coolers and safety switches. See the Approved Food Safety Equipment List on manitoba.ca/agriculture/growingforward under the Food Safety Program, for Farms link.
- Up to \$5,000 is available for good agricultural practices (GAP). You have a choice of three GAPs. Two of these require a veterinarian to perform a Johne's disease risk assessment on-farm before your application can be approved. The results of the risk assessment will be used in the approval of your application. If the findings reveal biosecurity risks in your milk-house area, the Food Safety program, for Farms would support funding to upgrade this area.

Please note: Johne's disease risk assessment surveys are available to all dairy 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.
2. For GAP applications that require a Johne's risk assessment, contact a local accredited veterinarian of your choice. Food Safety Program, for Farms will pay the veterinarian directly for this service.
3. 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.
4. Buy the items you need or have the work done on your farm.
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

Dairy 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 has 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