

Food Safety Program, for Farms

Benefits for Fruit and Vegetable Growers

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 horticulture industry has developed an on-farm food safety (OFFS) program – CanadaGAP. It includes six crop-specific manuals: *Combined Vegetables; Small Fruit; Potato; Leafy Vegetables and Cruciferae; Greenhouses; and Tree and Vine*. These HACCP-based manuals are designed for growers, packers and storage intermediaries. CanadaGAP is a nationally recognized program by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and is administered and maintained by the Canadian Horticulture Council (CHC).

Fruit and vegetable producers can apply for up to \$2,000 to offset implementation costs and for equipment that supports the program; and up to \$5,000 for good agricultural practices (GAPs) through the Growing Forward **Food Safety Program, for Farms**. Examples of GAPs include upgrading washing equipment to minimize the biological, chemical, and physical hazards, and improving traceability.

Applicants to the Food Safety Program, for Farms are eligible for up to 90 per cent of the total costs incurred. Costs are not retroactive, and capital expenses are not eligible.

For example:

- Up to \$2,000 is available to implement the CanadaGAP 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). Equipment examples include specialty lighting, hand-washing stations, pressure washers and hygiene equipment. 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 to implement good agricultural practices (GAPs). Fruit and vegetable producers must minimize biological, chemical, and physical contamination of food by demonstrating improvements in washing, handling, cleaning and sorting produce. Implementing upgraded washing or handling equipment must be accompanied with a final potable rinse.

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. 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. Buy the items you need or have the work done on your farm.
4. 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

Fruit and vegetable producers' 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