

Herd Management Drought Assistance Program Frequently Asked Questions



What is the purpose of the Herd Management Drought Assistance program?

This program assists livestock producers in offsetting the cost of replacing breeding animals, when culling is above normal because of winter feed shortages. If you are a producer, you may be eligible to apply for assistance to:

- purchase replacement breeding females
- retain replacement females from their existing herd or flock

The replacement animals will help you return your inventory of breeding females to pre-drought levels.

Who can apply for the Herd Management Drought Assistance program?

You are eligible if you are a primary producer, who owned eligible animals that were located in Manitoba, and you were responsible for their feeding expenses as of Mar. 16, 2021. If you are an elk producer, you must have a Game Farm Production Licence, and only elk that were farmed under that licence are eligible. You must own a minimum of 10 animals (by animal type) to apply for the program.

What animals are eligible?

The program provides assistance to replace breeding female beef cattle, bison, sheep, goats and elk that the applicant owned and had located in Manitoba as of Mar. 16, 2021. Breeding females are mature females (cows, ewes, does, bred heifers, bred ewe lambs and bred does) that have previously calved, lambled or been exposed to breeding.

Is feed assistance provided for breeding animals that were culled?

Feed assistance is not available under this program for breeding animals that were culled. Assistance to purchase feed for breeding animals kept over the winter is available from the Livestock Feed and Transportation Drought Assistance program. You can receive both herd management and feed assistance for your herds or flocks. However, you cannot be paid twice (herd management and feed assistance) for the same animals.

Does it matter when breeding females were culled?

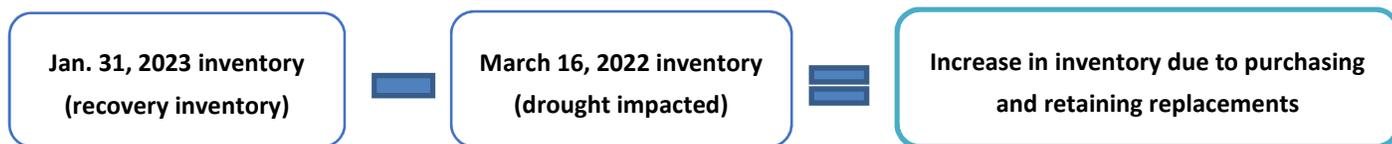
The program provides assistance to replace breeding females culled from Mar. 16, 2021 to Mar. 15, 2022. The decline in a producer's inventory of breeding females over this period is one of the criteria being used to determine the program payments.

Which herd inventories need to be declared?

The program uses the following dates to assess the impact of drought and recovery on an applicant's inventory of breeding females:

- Mar. 16, 2021
- Mar. 16, 2022
- Jan. 31, 2023

The difference between the Mar. 16, 2022 (drought impacted) inventory and the Jan. 31, 2023 (recovery) inventory indicates the effect that purchasing and retaining replacement females has on drought recovery.

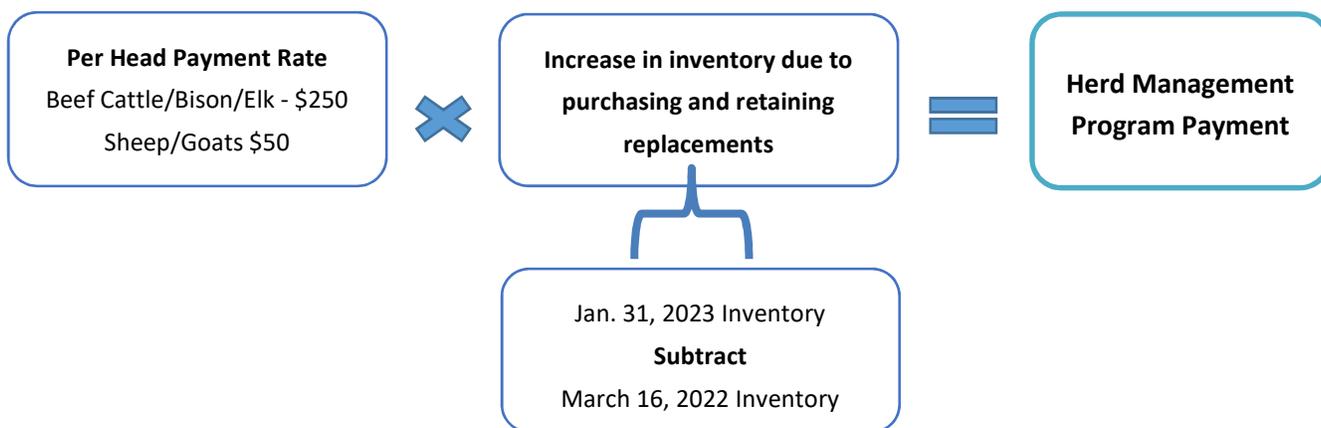


What are the payment rates for this program?

Payments per head for each animal type are listed in the table below. Payments are made for breeding females that are purchased or retained.

Animal Type(s)	Payment (\$) per head
Beef Cattle, Bison and Elk	\$250
Sheep and Goats	\$50

Payments are based on the increase in the breeding female inventory between Mar. 16, 2022 and Jan. 31, 2023. The payments are calculated as follows:



Is there a payment cap?

Payments are capped once inventory is restored to pre-drought levels. No payment will be made for increases in inventory beyond the pre-drought level.

Why are payments made after breeding females are replaced?

The program is designed to assist producers in restoring their herds after the drought. The program does not pay producers to downsize their herd. Breeding animals that have been culled must be replaced to be eligible.

What animals are not included in the breeding female inventory declared for this program?

The following animals should not be included in the declared inventories of breeding females:

- animals sold before being exposed to breeding for the first time
- market livestock intended for slaughter or purposes other than breeding
- animals sold after Mar. 15, 2022
- animals leased by the applicant
- animals not located in Manitoba as of Mar. 16, 2021 (pre-drought) or Jan. 31, 2023 (when recovery complete)

When is an adjustment required for the Mar. 16, 2022 inventory of breeding females?

Breeding females that gave birth between Jan. 1, 2022 and Mar. 15, 2022 and were sold in the same time period must be included in the Mar. 16, 2022 inventory declaration for the number of head. These females most likely have not been culled because of drought and are not eligible for assistance.

Does the program provide assistance for culling immature replacement females?

If immature females intended to breed are culled, a payment will be triggered if it causes the Mar. 16, 2022 inventory of mature and bred females to decline. However, the decision to cull mature females can impact this payment.

- For example, if heifers intended to breed in the summer of 2021 are culled, the March 2022 inventory of breeding females may decrease because the herd has fewer bred heifers than normal. However, if the number of cows normally culled is reduced, the lower number of bred heifers may be partially or totally offset.

How do I apply for the Herd Management Program?

The application package will be available as of **Jan. 10, 2022**

- on the Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development website (www.manitoba.ca/agriculture)
- in-person at Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development and Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation Service Centres
- by calling 1-844-769-6224 to receive a copy in the mail

If you are applying, you will need to fully complete and submit your application, as part of a two-step process. This process includes filling out:

- 1) application form to declare:
 - a. Mar. 16, 2021 inventory of eligible breeding females owned
 - b. Mar. 16, 2022 inventory of eligible breeding females owned
- 2) claim form to declare :
 - a. Jan. 31, 2023 inventory of eligible breeding females

Do we need to send in receipts, invoices or other records with our applications or claims?

No, you do not have to submit invoices, receipts or proof of payment with your application or claim forms. However, you are expected to keep these documents for all breeding animals you have sold or purchased. You may be asked to submit them as part of a review or audit of your application or claim. In a limited number of cases, an on-farm visit or pregnancy check may also be requested to verify declarations.

What is the earliest date the application and claim form can be submitted?

Applications can be submitted starting in Jan. 2022 when they are available, if you know the number of breeding females you will own as of Mar. 16, 2022. Similarly, you can submit claim forms starting in December 2022, if you know the number of breeding females you will own as of Jan. 31, 2023

What are the program timelines and deadlines?

- **Jan. 10, 2022** - Applications will be available.
- **April 15, 2022, 11:59 p.m.** – This is the deadline for applications declaring Mar. 16, 2021 and Mar. 16, 2022 inventories.
- **December 1, 2022** – Claim forms will be available.
- **Feb. 17, 2023, 11:59 p.m.** – This is the deadline for claim forms declaring the Jan. 31, 2023 inventory.

For more information, contact:

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