

BACKGROUND

Highlights of the Canada-Saskatchewan *Growing Forward* Bilateral Agreement

The agreement provides for non-Business Risk Management *Growing Forward* programs to be offered in Saskatchewan over the next four years.

Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) (Total investment: \$52.8 million)

Last year's popular program in Southwest Saskatchewan will be expanded province wide to support the development of secure water sources to mitigate the effects of drought. Farmers, ranchers, Rural Municipalities (RM) and Indian Bands across Saskatchewan are eligible for funding towards projects which include:

- Community Wells
- Large diameter and small diameter on-farm wells
- Shallow or deep-buried pipelines
- Dugouts

For approved on-farm projects, the program will cover 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$60,000 per applicant. For approved community well projects, the program will cover two-thirds of eligible costs to a maximum of \$150,000 per RM or Indian Band.

Application forms for the FRWIP program are available at RM offices, Ministry of Agriculture Regional offices, online at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca, or by calling toll-free 1-877-874-5365.

Voluntary Food Safety Systems (Total investment: \$13.2 million)

- **On Farm Food Safety** - This initiative will facilitate the early adoption of government recognized food safety systems by producers through education, awareness and financial incentives.
- **Post Farm Food Safety** - This initiative will provide funding for the implementation and early adoption of government recognized food safety systems by provincial food processors.
- **Biosecurity/Voluntary Traceability Programming**- Funding will be provided to support biosecurity assessments and to increase awareness of traceability practices.

Further details on these initiatives will be announced in the coming weeks.

Environmental Programming
(Total investment: \$32 million)

Saskatchewan is continuing Environmental Farm Planning, Group Planning and the adoption of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) that were introduced under the previous Agricultural Policy Framework. Utilizing workshop instruction on environmental risk assessment, producers prepare individual farm plans which enable them to integrate environmental planning into their operations. Similarly, support will be available for group planning to address a single environmental issue facing a group of producers.

Under *Growing Forward*, farmers can partially offset the costs of implementing BMPs available from the Farm Stewardship Program, such as moving livestock facilities away from streams, rivers and lakes. These initiatives will be delivered by the Provincial Council of Agriculture Development and Diversification Boards for Saskatchewan (PCAB). Application forms and a detailed list of BMPs are available from PCAB at <http://www.saskpcab.com/> or by calling 1-866-298-7222.

Agriculture Innovation and Commercialization
(Total investment: \$50.7 million)

These programs will enhance the industry's capacity and ability to utilize state-of-the-art research and development infrastructure. Funding includes existing provincial research and development spending, plus an additional \$8 million of new funding. Program details will be available this summer.

Farm Business Programming
(Total investment: \$27.3 million)

This programming will assist producers in their business decision making and help them to capture market opportunities. Financial support will be provided on a cost-shared basis up to a maximum of \$4,000 per eligible farmer. Funding will be provided for topics such as financial, production, risk management, marketing, human resources, and succession planning. Funding will also be provided for value-added business development, including product and prototype development, marketing, systems improvements and skills training.

For more information on Farm Business Programming, producers should contact their local Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office or visit the Ministry of Agriculture's website: www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca. Application forms for the value-added business component will be available in late April.

The *Growing Forward* agreement also includes \$40.9 million in funding for initiatives such as extension and youth, water resource protection and various federally administered programs.