

Backgrounder: Agricultural Crown Land Sale Program Extended

The Agricultural Crown Land Sale Program is designed to encourage lessees to purchase their leased agricultural Crown lands.

Two changes are being introduced to the program:

1. The 10% purchase price discount, that was to be available from Nov. 15, 2008, to Dec. 31, 2009, has been extended by one year to Dec. 31, 2010. This will result in the overall program being extended by one year, to Dec. 31, 2014.

Depending on the year in which agricultural Crown land lessees apply to purchase their leased land, they will receive purchase price discounts as follows:

2009 = 10% discount
2010 = 10% discount
2011 = 8% discount
2012 = 6% discount
2013 = 4% discount
2014 = 2% discount

2. The purchase price discount is now applied based on the date the lessees application to purchase is received by the Ministry, rather than the date of sale. This will ensure lessees will get the higher discount in the event the sale is not concluded until the following year.

Some agricultural Crown land may not be eligible for sale because it is reserved for other public purposes.

Factors that may preclude the sale of agricultural Crown land include the following:

- the land may be reserved under the authority of *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*; or may be environmentally sensitive;
- the land may contain sand and gravel; may be under active oil and gas exploration; or may have commercially harvestable timber land;
- the land may fragment other Crown holdings; may create limited access if sold; or may be situated along a major water body; or
- the land may have significant heritage value; may currently be subject to public use; or may be of value to the Province for the public interest.