

FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVES UNDER GROWING FORWARD 2 ANNOUNCED

BY: MAUREEN COUSINS

On October 9, the Growing Assurance – Food Safety initiatives under Growing Forward 2 were announced by the federal and provincial governments.

The on farm stream provides funds to producers to adopt assurance systems and BMPs related to food safety issues like storage and sanitation, biosecurity, plant and animal health, traceability and animal welfare. Programming will also support surveillance and emergency preparedness systems.

For example, beef producers participating in the Verified Beef Production (VBP) Program may be eligible for financial assistance related to the purchase of RFID reading equipment and software, on farm food safety or traceability software, neck extension for chutes, scale or calibration device for medicating feed or water, sharps containers, and electric thermometers. There may also be assistance toward the first audit for the VBP program.

Producers implementing biosecurity measures may also be eligible for funding. This could include the purchase of isolation or quarantine pens for sick or incoming animals, cleaning or disinfection stations for fomites, and a veterinary beef biosecurity herd assessment.

A combined total of \$2,000 is available for the first audit Verified Beef Production (VBP) and approved safety equipment for audited producers. A combined total of \$5,000 is available for the beef biosecurity herd assessment and biosecurity GAP measures.

For complete details and application forms visit:

www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/growing-forward-2/strategic-initiatives/index.html and scroll down to the sections dealing with food safety, or contact the nearest Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) GO office.

Applications will be approved on a first come, first served basis until the program is fully subscribed. It is important to note that you must receive an approval letter from the program before you start your project.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MBP DISTRICT MEETINGS

View the full District Meeting Schedule [here](#).

Oct. 28: District 11
Director: Caron Clarke
6 p.m., Ashern Royal
Canadian Legion
3 Main St. E, Ashern
(Beef on a Bun served)

Oct. 29: District 2
Director: Dave Koslowsky
6 p.m., Cartwright-Mather
Merry Makers Club
600 Broadway St., Cartwright
(Beef on a Bun served)

Oct. 30: District 8
Director: Glen Campbell
7 p.m., Gladstone District
Community Centre
75 5th St., Gladstone
(Coffee Break)

DISASTER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DEADLINES APPROACHING

BY: MAUREEN COUSINS

Deadlines are fast approaching for people seeking Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) for two weather-related events in Manitoba earlier this summer.

The deadline to apply for assistance related to the June 21-25 heavy rains event in is **November 1, 2013**. These rains affected parts of southern and central Manitoba.

The deadline to apply for the July 6-7 heavy rains event is **November 12**. This event affected the Village of Winnipegosis and the RM of Mossey River.

Complete DFA program details and application forms are available online at www.gov.mb.ca/emo/index.html

The DFA program can also be toll free by calling 1-888-267-8298 or by email at dfa@gov.mb.ca.

NEWS FROM BEEF CATTLE RESEARCH COUNCIL

WWW.BEEFRESEARCH.CA



BCRC Editor's note: Markets appear favorable for retained ownership of calves this year. By retaining ownership, producers can reap the benefits of a genetic selection program and other investments made in calves, such as the use of [low-stress weaning techniques](#). Risk management is advised to producers that retain ownership.

Read on for details of the economics in an article written by Brian Perillat, [Canfax](#) Manager/Senior Analyst, which originally appeared in the October 4, 2013 issue of the [Canfax Weekly Market Outlook and Analysis](#) (available to [Canfax subscribers](#)). It is reprinted with permission.

Although calf and feeder prices have been quite strong so far this fall, generally \$5-\$15/cwt stronger than a year ago, a bullish tone in the cattle futures markets and a bearish tone in the feed market has producers looking at the opportunity to background or retain ownership of their calves.

With any venture of feeding calves, whether they are bought or raised, the potential rewards must be weighed against the risks, while keeping in mind that strategies exist to reduce overall risk exposure.

View the full article at www.beefresearch.ca/blog/retained-ownership

IN THE NEWS

NEW! The latest issue of Cattle Country [is here](#).



[U.S. Cattlemen's Association To Launch COOL Defense Fundraiser](#)

[Consumer food choices not usually grounded in science](#)

[Farmers Should Focus on Food When Communicating with Public](#)

[Livestock Insurance To Be Rolled Out By February](#)

SAVE THE DATES!
FEBRUARY 4-5, 2014

MBP AGM & PRESIDENT'S BANQUET