

Information and Counseling Resources Available for Farm Families Managing Financial Pressures

Compiled by OMAFRA Staff
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A farm business can experience financial pressures when market prices decline, a market ceases to exist, a disease reduces production, unexpected cost increases, or business arrangements fall apart. Dealing with these pressures is a challenge! The following resources are available to assist people to assess a farm business, examine alternatives, deal with issues, and make decisions.

Canadian Farm Business Advisory Services (CFBAS)

Tel: 1-866-452-5558

Website: www.agr.gc.ca/renewal

The CFBAS provides a range of advisory services to help producers set goals for their business and develop plans to meet their goals. One of these services is a **Farm Business Assessment**. It will provide eligible producers with up to five days' worth of consultation services. This includes a financial assessment and action plan services. The producer pays a nominal fee of \$100.

The Farm Line Support Service – Need Someone to Talk to?

Tel: 1-888-451-2903 (Mon to Fri – 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Website: www.thefarmline.ca

The Farm Line is a confidential telephone emotional support and referral service provided to farmers and farm families in the province of Ontario. Trained telephone peer support staff talk to the caller, identify resources in the caller's area and help the caller determine the steps to follow to address the caller's needs. Callers can speak to the peer support worker regarding a wide range of topics, including financial difficulties, stress, grief, family problems, serious accidents and traumatic events.

Farm Debt Mediation Service

Tel: 1-866-452-5556

Website: www.agr.gc.ca/fdms

The Farm Debt Mediation Service provides insolvent farmers and their creditors with mediation services, pursuant to the federal Farm Debt Mediation Act and Regulations, to help them arrive at a mutually satisfactory arrangement. The service is a private, confidential and economical alternative to the often costly, public and drawn-out process of resolving insolvency disputes in the courts.

Advance Payments Program (APP) & Commodity Loan Program (CLP)

Tel: 1-888-278-8807

Website: www.accfarmersfinancial.ca

Both programs are a source of financing administered by the ACC Farmers' Financial (ACC). The APP is available for eligible crops and livestock and the CLP is available for eligible crops only.

Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS)

Tel: 1-877-830-0200

Website: www.ontario.ca/cass

CASS provides eligible farmers and their spouses with opportunities to access skills assessment and training with the goal of improving their farm profitability and net family income.

OMAFRA Factsheets

Tel: 1-877-424-1300

Website: www.ontario.ca/omafra

Some of the OMFARA factsheets available that provide information for farm families managing financial pressures are listed below.

- Programs and Services for Ontario Farmers
- Diagnosing and Managing Cash Flow Problems
- Options for Farmers Dealing with Financial Difficulties
- Taxation on the Sale of Farm Business Assets
- Identifying and Managing Stress: A Business Owner's Guide
- A Guide to Agricultural Security Agreements
- Resolving Conflict

These are available by contacting the Agricultural Information Contact Centre (number listed above), on the OMAFRA website (see above), or at a local OMAFRA Resource Centre.

As well, the AICC is available to answer questions, provide information to help farm and agribusiness managers make decisions, and if needed, put them in touch with one of the ministry's provincial specialists or your local OMAFRA Resource Centre.

The OMAFRA Resource Centres can provide the factsheets plus contacts for local resources that are available. They are located in Ridgeway, London, Clinton, Stratford, Woodstock, Lindsay, Brighton, Kemptonville, Alfred, Fergus, Vineland, Simcoe, and Verner.

OMAFRA Computer Tools

Website: www.ontario.ca/omafra

There are several computer programs available on the OMAFRA website to assist producers in the planning and decision making process.

- Loan Calculator - Includes: Payment Schedule, Loan Comparisons, Loan Prepayment Schedule, Refinancing Schedule plus other Schedules.
- Ontario Farm Management Analysis Project (OFMAP) Swine Farrow to Finish – Input farm financial and production information to generate accrual income statement, balance sheet, financial ratios, and costs of production for the swine and crop enterprises.
- The Farm Financial Analysis and Planning Workbook - Produce a complete set of financial statements including a cashflow, debt servicing worksheet, and current and projected income statements.
- Crop and Livestock Budgets – The enterprise budgets assess the potential economic impact of production and marketing decisions and risk management factors and strategies.
- Swine Budget – Monthly budgets are available online or in the Pork News & Views in the Better Pork magazine.

The challenge and opportunity is to use the available resources and information best suited for the planning and management of your farm business goals. Recognize the current situation, develop solutions, seek assistance, and keep the communications open with everyone involved.

Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program (CAIS)

Tel: 1-877-838-5144

Website: <http://www.agricorp.com/>

Participants in the CAIS program who can demonstrate severe financial distress are encouraged to contact Agricorp to request that Agricorp process their 2006 CAIS files on a priority basis and apply for an interim CAIS payment for the 2007 program year. Applications and information are available on the Agricorp website.

Agricultural Information Contact Centre:

1-877-424-1300

E-mail: ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca

Northern Ontario Regional Office:

1-800-461-6132

www.ontario.ca/omafra