

Programs and Funding Benefiting both New and Existing Producers

(Ontario Sheep News, June 2010)

Whether you are a new or existing producer or are taking over the family farm, you may want to consider programs that are offered through the government in order to enhance your farm business for the years to come.

A financial loan guarantee program or the Canadian Agricultural Loans Act (CALA) program can help give a producer access to credit. This program is open to beginning and existing farmers, farmers taking over the family farm and also to agricultural co-operatives. The maximum loan granted for land and construction or renovation of buildings is \$500,000. For all other purposes the maximum amount is \$350,000. For complete details about this program phone 1-888-346-2511 or visit [http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1177344219813 &l ang=eng](http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1177344219813&l ang=eng)

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) also offers an assortment of different loans for beginning producers. Information on the type of loans offered can be found at http://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/aboutus/profile/loanproduct_e.asp or by calling 1-888-332-3301.

Additional resources which help to focus on management and planning for your farm include Farm Credit Canada Workshops that take place in the fall and winter with registration beginning in the summer. Some of these workshops include; Farm Financial Management, Transferring the Farm, Vision and Goal Setting and Commodity Marketing Management, to name a few. For more information and a list of dates and locations phone 1-888-332-3301 or visit http://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/Learning Centre/workshops_e.asp.

If you are starting a new farm business, a business information bundle for new farmers is available. This includes sections on building skills, business plans, common questions about starting a farm business and resources for new farmers, etc. For more information on this beneficial resource call OMAFRA toll free at 1-877-424-1300 or local at 1-519-826-4047 or visit the website at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/newentrant/newent.htm>.

For a complete list of additional programs and resources go to <http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1270660966855&lang=eng> or phone Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at 613-773-1000 or email info@agr.gc.ca