

ONTARIO SHEEP

Funding Programs

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Canada Plan Service

Farm Start Program

Farmstead Planning

Growing Forward Program

Programs and Funding Benefitting New and Existing Products

Canada Plan Service

Canada Plan Service (CPS) is a nationwide network of agricultural engineers and livestock specialists concerned with the planning, design and construction of modern farm buildings. Their goal is to gather ideas from across Canada and then develop construction and management recommendations. In this way, up-to-date building technology and farmstead management practices are available to all Canadian farmers. Ten technical committees, with membership drawn from each province, develop the Canada Plan Service publications. Publications take the form of detailed construction plans or management and construction leaflets. Each province distributes the plans and leaflets according to its needs. (See their website (www.cps.gov.on.ca) or contact OMAFRA (1-519-826-3100) for information on how to order building plans).

The CPS Information Resource focuses on the following areas:

1. Farm Structures and their Environments
2. Waste Handling and Storage
3. Animal Care and Comfort
4. Crop Handling, Storage, Processing and Conditioning
5. Rural Environment
6. Systems Engineering

A few of the plans available specifically for sheep housing and handling include:

- Pole frame sheep shed
- Slotted floor sheep barn
- Sheep drylot unit
- Shearing floor and fleece-sorting table
- 6-sided sheep feeder
- Adjustable feed bunk
- Mineral boxes
- Lamb creep feeders
- Feed rack
- Fence line and walk through feeders
- Sheep corral fencing and gates
- Loading chute



The purpose of the FarmStart Program is to encourage and support new farmers to develop ecological and locally based farm businesses. Goals of FarmStart include, helping to promote sustainable business models, developing effective land tenure and stewardship arrangements, coordinating and communicating innovative, new and local market research. FarmStart also helps to develop farm facilities, resources and linkages important for new and young farmers.

FarmStart helps these new farmers to gain experience and eliminates expensive start-up costs by offering access to both land and equipment at reasonable rates. New farmers taking advantage of the FarmStart program can farm at their facilities for up to five years.

FarmStart aims to work with different groups of new farmers including:

- Young people from farm backgrounds
- Young people who are new to farming
- Second career farmers
- New Canadian farmers

Currently a New Farms Incubator Program is in place to support new farm businesses. This program offers new producers access to infrastructure, equipment and land at reasonable prices. The program also offers technical training, experience with ecological and emerging farm methods, mentorship and business planning support.

The New Farms Incubator Program operates as a tiered system which includes Start-Up Farms followed by Enterprise Farms and Mentor Farms. Enterprises receive more support in the early stages of development and less support during the later stages as the enterprise is established.

FarmStart offers a variety of workshops and courses which can be helpful to new farmers. For upcoming workshops, courses, and information about the program please visit <http://www.farmstart.ca/> or phone (519) 836-7046.

Farmstead Planning

When planning a new building or adding to an existing farmstead, you must consider such things as:

- Site drainage
- Services (lanes, power, water supply, waste disposal:
- Security
- Separation distances for snow and wind control, ventilation and disease control
- Distance separation from residences for control of noise and odours
- Municipal Regulations

Office of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs can provide many Factsheets and other publications pertaining to the planning of farm buildings, manure storage, etc. Check with your local municipality and OMAFRA early in the planning stage. The construction of livestock facilities is usually only permitted in agricultural zones. In addition, the location of the facilities is often restricted by setback distances from roads, lot lines, neighbouring houses and land uses. Usually these setback distances are based on the Agricultural Code of Practice and take into account:

- Number of animals on the site.
- Type of livestock
- Management system
- Degree of expansion
- Manure storage



Participating in the Growing Forward Business Development for Farm Businesses Program can help achieve business goals in such areas as Food Safety and Traceability, Business Development, Environment and Climate Change, and Biosecurity. By taking part in this program, a producer may be eligible to receive up to 50% cost share funding towards travel, tuition and textbooks. In order to participate in this program a producer must attend a Growing Your Farm Profits (GYFP) Workshop. This free two-day workshop will help a producer develop an action plan, review farm management practices, help organize goals for the future, identify resources and build on business strengths.

Once a producer has completed his or her action plan; they could choose to hire a professional Farm Financial Advisor. The Growing Forward Program may cover up to \$2,400 in costs to hire such an advisor and the producer would be required to pay \$100. A Farm Financial Advisor can evaluate past financial performance, review the current farm business situation, perform a ratio analysis and assessment of profitability, liquidity, etc. The advisor can also provide options to meet the farm business profitability goals.

If a specific skill requirement is included in the action plan, then an eligible farm business could receive cost share funding of up to 50 percent or a maximum of \$3000. Farm-related courses include Sheep Shearing School, Succession Planning for the Successor, Nutrient Management Act: Regulation and Protocols and Understanding Sustainable Agriculture: Principles and Practices, to name a few. A complete list of training opportunities and skills are available at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/gfwdasdeligiblelist.htm>.

Advanced Business Planning can also be accounted for in the action plan; this involves working with an Advanced Planning Consultant to focus on areas such as expansion, marketing, diversification, succession and feasibility plans. An eligible farm business could receive up to 50 percent in funding or up to a maximum of \$8000 which is required to be stated in the action plan.

To implement components of an Advanced Business Plan, a farm business could receive cost-share funding for one-time capital costs to carry out projects such as business agreements, specialized contracts, licensing agreements, certification, etc.

The first step in participating in this program is to attend a GYFP workshop; details about the program can be found at www.ontario.ca/growingforward or call OMAFRA at 1-888-479-3931. For a list of workshops please refer to the table below. A complete schedule of workshops can be found at www.ontariosoilcrop.org/en/Programs/GYFP091.htm or contact your local Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association for one near you.

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