

Canada and Ontario Supporting Farmers Affected by Wildlife Damage *New Standardized Compensation Rates Across the Province*

NEWS

November 3, 2016

The federal and provincial governments are helping Ontario's livestock, poultry and bee farmers by ensuring more consistent, transparent and timely appeals processes and compensation when their animals are injured or killed by predatory wildlife.

Effective January 1, 2017, standardized compensation rates for animals, bee colonies and hives will be the same for all farmers across the province. It will be based on the average price a farmer would receive in the open market for an animal with similar characteristics, such as age and weight.

The updated Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program (OWDCP) will clearly define the requirements farmers need to meet to receive compensation. A new, single-stage appeal process will provide clarity for these farmers and help expedite compensation.

Providing accessible, efficient support for farmers and farming operations is part of Ontario's plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

QUOTES

"The Government of Canada is working closely with the province to ensure producers have access to effective business risk management programs. These important program changes will help farmers effectively manage the impact of production losses caused by predatory wildlife."
— Lawrence MacAulay, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

"Our government recognizes that wildlife damage is a serious concern for Ontario producers. That's why we reviewed and modernized the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program to help better support our producers with these unforeseen challenges. The updated valuation, administrative and appeals processes make the program more transparent and consistent, in turn making it easier for producers to get things done in a timely manner and do business in the province of Ontario."
— Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

"OSMA appreciates the opportunity that Ontario gave the industry to provide input on the predation program review. Their willingness to work with the industry speaks to their commitment to ensuring the program works for everyone. We look forward to seeing how the changes are implemented and continuing collaboration on programming that supports Ontario Sheep producers."
—Rob Scott, Chair of the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency

QUICK FACTS

- The OWDCP is part of *Growing Forward 2 (GF2)*, a five-year, \$1.5 billion federal-provincial-territorial funding program launched in 2013. *GF2* supports our agri-food and agri-products sector by encouraging innovation, competitiveness and market development and, offering business risk management assistance.
- The OWDCP provides compensation to farmers when their livestock or poultry are injured or killed by wildlife, or when bee colonies, beehives or beehive equipment are damaged by wildlife.
- A recent review of the OWDCP supported establishing a standardized compensation structure and a streamlined administration and appeals process.
- *Growing Forward 2* was launched in 2013 and is a five-year commitment by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments to support Canada's agri-food and agri-based bioproducts sector.

LEARN MORE

[Growing Forward 2](#) in Ontario

[Preventing Losses to Predators](#)

Christina Crowley-Arklie, Minister's Office, 416-326-3069
Bianca Jamieson, Communications, 519-826-3145
Guy Gallant, Director of Communications,
Office of the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay 613-773-1059

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