



Growing Forward Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is Growing Forward?**
 - Growing Forward is an agreement between the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to collaboratively work together to address common issues, discuss concerns, and provide programs and initiatives to Canada's agriculture industry.
 - [The vision for Growing Forward](#) is the realization of a profitable, innovative, competitive, market-oriented agriculture, agri-foods and agri-based products industry.
 - The Growing Forward vision will be attained by meeting the three national strategic outcomes:
 - Focusing on building a competitive and innovative sector;
 - Ensuring the sector contributes to society's priorities; and
 - Being proactive in managing risks.
 - In Alberta there are 24 government / industry cost-shared programs focused on the areas of:
 - Bio-Security
 - Business Management Skills and Tools
 - Energy Efficiency
 - Entrepreneur Development
 - Food Safety
 - Leadership
 - Lean Manufacturing and Automation
 - Livestock Welfare
 - Product and Market Development
 - Stewardship Plans
 - Traceability
 - Water Management
 - A common theme across programs is the need to plan, and work with an Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) Industry Development Officer or a Program Specialist to enable you to assess your risks within your operation. Developing a plan to mitigate your environmental and production risks is a best management practice for operations supported by Growing Forward.
 - For most programs, a grant agreement must be in place before expenditures are incurred and then eligible expenses are reimbursed after the costs have been incurred by the grant recipient. As each program varies, please contact the specific program for further details.



- **What is the Growing Forward Registration process?**
 - To participate in Growing Forward Programming, a Growing Forward number is required.
 - A Growing Forward number is requested by completing a Registration Form which is available on the GF website. <http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/>
 - You only need to register once for Growing Forward even if you are applying to multiple programs.
 - Once your registration is received and processed, you will be assigned an unique Growing Forward registration number.
 - The **Registration Form is not an application form**; it is the first step to access all the benefits of Growing Forward.
 - Upon receiving your Growing Forward registration number, you may proceed with your application to individual programs.
- **What is the Growing Forward Registration Letter from the Growing Forward Secretariat?**
 - The Growing Forward Registration letter from the Secretariat lets you know that you have been registered with Growing Forward and are now able to pursue application with any of the Growing Forward programs that may be of interest to you.
 - The Growing Forward Registration Letter is not an approval letter.
 - We recommend you follow up with specific program areas for specific program eligibility criteria and requirements.
- **Is Growing Forward different than an Environmental Farm Plan?**
 - The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is a component of the Growing Forward Stewardship Program. The (EFP) is designed to be an awareness and educational resource for producers that assists them in understanding the factors that contribute to environmental risk on their entire operation and provides guidance to the type of actions, management practices or operational changes that could be adopted to reduce environmental risk.
 - The Growing Forward Stewardship Program is an incentive program that assists producers with the adoption of practices and technologies that reduce agri-environmental risk. The process used to apply for the Stewardship Program involves the producer first completing an EFP, and then a Risk Screening Tool (which prioritizes their environmental risks), followed by a work plan for the management issue that the producer is intending to address. The Stewardship Program is separated into three management areas to which a producer can apply for funding:
 - Integrated Crop Management – Open until August 25, 2011
 - Grazing and Winter Feeding Management
 - Manure Management
- **How were programs developed?**
 - The programs and services offered in Alberta through Growing Forward were designed with industry in mind. As part of the development, input from Alberta's industry was gathered through a series of consultations that were held in late 2007, early 2008.



- **My program application was not approved, what can I do?**
 - Please review the correspondence you receive from the program area regarding your application. If you have further questions, you are encouraged to contact the program area to further discuss.

- **What happens when a program is oversubscribed?**
 - Once a program is fully subscribed it is closed and applications are no longer accepted.
 - ARD encourages applicants to continue working with an ARD Industry Development Officer or a Program Specialist to complete the risk assessment and planning associated with the program. Industry Development Officers and Program Specialists are great resources for you to continue to work with as they may be able to identify other resources, tools, and programs that could assist you in your operations.

- **Why is more money not being provided to the program if it is already fully subscribed?**
 - Under the Growing Forward agreement, the Federal and Provincial governments each contribute a set amount annually for programs.
 - ARD continues to monitor program uptake on a continual basis. Occasionally there is an opportunity to reallocate funds from lower interest programs to programs with a higher level of interest.

- **How can I find out about a program re-opening?**
 - For the most current information on Growing Forward programs, clients are encouraged to check the Growing Forward website, www.growingforward.alberta.ca or to call 310-FARM.

- **What happens when Growing Forward is over?**
 - Alberta's 5-year Growing Forward agreement with the Federal government expires on March 31, 2013. The framework for the next Growing Forward Agreement, called Growing Forward 2 (GF2), is starting to emerge and will build on the foundation of Growing Forward. Alberta is currently negotiating the proposed national policy directions at the federal-provincial-territorial level.
 - For more information on the national policy objectives for GF2 go to, www.agr.gc.ca/GrowingForward2.
 - For more information on what Alberta is doing as it relates to the development of GF2, go to the Alberta Growing Forward website www.growingforward.alberta.ca/GrowingForward2.