

BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food Updates – BCBA AGM Oct 2022

Funding Programs

1. Extreme Weather Preparedness for Agriculture program – intake deadline extended to Nov 15, 2022

B.C. farmers and ranchers can reduce the risks from extreme weather by accessing funding for risk assessments and infrastructure upgrades.

- Eligible applicants can access up to \$35K in cost-shared funding.
- Interested producers can view eligibility and application information requirements at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/extreme-weather-preparedness>
- All Projects for the second intake must still be completed, and all required documentation must be submitted, by February 15th, 2023 to be eligible for reimbursement under this Program.
- All inquiries about the program timeline or application process can be directed to the program email: extreme.weather.preparedness@gov.bc.ca

2. Livestock Tag Reader Rebate Program – taking applications (no end date, likely to end of Dec 2022)

This program provides cost-share funding for the implementation of livestock tag readers (hand-held or panel readers), reader installation, related software and related equipment training

- For more information, list of eligible tag readers and to submit an application: www.bctraceability.ca

3. Beneficial Management Practices Program (delivered by IAF) – application window extended to Nov 3, 2022

- Applications will be accepted **to November 3, 2022** for BMP projects that help meet the goals of CleanBC and the Climate Preparedness Adaptation Strategy (CPAS).
- For 2022, eligible farm or ranch operations will be able to submit up to three project or equipment related applications per year per eligible farm enterprise. The existing lifetime cap of \$70,000 for BMP projects will not apply for the CleanBC and CPAS funding. **Applicants must have an approved and valid Environmental Farm Plan.**
- To learn more and apply for the program, visit www.iafbc.ca/bmp

Resources

1. Drought Resources

Prolonged periods of dry weather can cause crop damage and shortages in the water supply for livestock. The BC Ministry of Agriculture put together a quick guide to help producers to prepare and manage drought https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/water/drought/2022_quick_guide_to_drought_resources.pdf

2. Emergency Preparedness-Is your farm prepared?

With a fall that is proving dangerous for wildfires, take a moment to think of what your plan would be if you needed to evacuate your farm

- Industry-specific guides and templates
- Is your farm insurance up to date? **A new checklist is available** to help you prepare to meet with your insurance provider.

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/programs/checklist_-_preparing_to_meet_your_private_insurance_provider.pdf

- Toolkits with worksheets to help producers prepare for and recover from **flooding** and **on-demand workshop videos to help farmers and ranchers prepare for wildfire** are available from the Climate Change Adaptation Program.
<https://bcclimatechangeadaptation.ca/resource-items/farm-flood-readiness-toolkit>
<https://bcclimatechangeadaptation.ca/resource-items/wildfire-preparedness-for-producer>
- **Flooding and Wildfire resources from AgSafe** can also help producers build an emergency response plan for agriculture operations in BC. <https://agsafebc.ca/tools/emergency-planning-resources>
- Get the official BC Wildfire Service mobile app for free to get the latest updates and notifications on wildfires in BC. The App is available for download from the **App store** or **Google Play**

3. **Mental Health Literacy Program** developed for Canadian farmers and the agricultural community from **AgSafeBC**
In the KNOW webinars: <https://agsafebc.ca/mental-wellness/>

This program is designed to support farmers in identifying, understanding, and coping with mental health challenges that they face in their day-to-day work, have discussions about mental health, and seek support when it is needed. In the Know was created by Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton and Briana Hagen at the Ontario Veterinary College (University of Guelph), in collaboration with farmers and mental health professionals. Program facilitators have experience in agriculture and understand the challenges of farming.

Outcomes for participants include developing the tools to:

- Describe stress, anxiety, depression, acute trauma, substance abuse, and suicide
- Recognize signs and symptoms of mental distress
- Use active listening and empathy to have a safe conversation about mental health with someone who may be struggling
- Identify where to direct people for help / support for their mental health