

2021 Canada - BC Wildfire & Drought Recovery Initiative

- The Federal and the BC Provincial Governments have allocated \$20 million for an AgriRecovery initiative for agriculture producers who have been impacted by the recent wildfires and drought in BC.
- AgriRecovery is a federal-provincial-territorial disaster relief framework under Canadian Agricultural Partnership;
- It is intended to work together with the core BRM programs to assist agricultural producers to recover from natural disasters.
- The other core programs include: AgriInsurance, (Production Insurance) AgriStability and AgriInvest.

- Main objective is to assist BC's agricultural producers recover from the 2021 BC wildfires by providing financial assistance for the ***extraordinary costs*** necessary for recovery.
- ***Extraordinary costs*** are those which producers would not incur under normal circumstances, but which are necessary to:
 - Mitigate the impacts of the disaster; and/or
 - Resume farming operations as quickly as possible following a disaster.

Main Highlights of the Recovery Initiative

- AgriRecovery **does not** cover production or revenue declines, including those resulting from disasters.
- Private insurance and the core BRM programs, (AgriInsurance, AgriStability and AgriInvest), are available to help producers who are faced with production and revenue declines.
- AgriRecovery is not designed to cover damages and losses when private insurance is available.

Main Highlights of the Recovery Initiative

- The AgriRecovery response will provide adequate compensation for **extraordinary expenses** necessary for recovery and to enable farms and ranches to return to production without undermining the role of commercial insurance or BRMB income programs
- It will **not** cover income losses such as lost crops, mortality on market cattle, poor conception rates or reduced weight gain.
- The intention is to bring producers to a minimum level to enable the containment, feeding, watering and management of livestock through the winter of 2021/22.

Wildfire Recovery Initiative components include:

- Feed assistance of up to \$157.50 per ton in all British Columbia except the Peace Region where feed assistance is up to \$101.50 per ton, for animals.
- 70% of transportation costs for owned feed transport assistance for animals.
- \$3.50 per animal for pregnancy checking.
- Up to \$20 per animal for labor costs to cleanup fire damages.
- Up to \$60 per eligible animal for establishment of safe livestock handling facilities lost to fire.
- 70% of livestock mustering and transportation costs, for livestock.
- 70% of veterinary costs to treat livestock affected by fires.
- Up to \$3,500 per breeding livestock for mortality caused due to fire.
- \$6.72 per meter for labor to replace destroyed fencing caused due to fires.

Wildfire Recovery Initiative components include:

- 70% of the costs associated with need to rent specialized facilities due to fires.
- 70% of irrigation system repair costs damaged by fires.
- Up to \$119 per acre to replant fire damaged perennial forage destroyed by fire.
- 70% of receipts for incremental grazing costs incurred after June 1, 2022.
- \$215 for extraordinary costs for return to production for livestock.

Drought Recovery Initiative components include:

- Feed assistance of up to \$157.50 per ton in all British Columbia except the Peace Region where feed assistance is up to \$101.50 per ton, for animals affected by drought.
- 70% of transportation costs for owned feed transport assistance for animals affected by drought.
- \$3.50 per animal affected by drought for pregnancy checking.
- \$215 for extraordinary costs for return to production for livestock affected by drought.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Program, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- Must file farm income tax
- Be an individual or entity that incurred Extraordinary Expenses, due to 2021 Wildfires or drought
- Must intend to resume farming operations
- Must own or lease land or livestock impacted by wildfire or drought
- Has not applied or received duplicate compensation from other commercial, private or public insurance programs

Application Process

- Eligible Applicants will be required to sign and submit a completed Application Form and supporting documentation.
- If applicable, the application will include a copy of documentation on the breakdown and total compensation paid under commercial insurance and;
- If claiming eligible expenses copies of invoices and other supporting documents to the claim.

Next Steps

- The Province will continue to work with industry and producers to ensure that it meets clients needs, while being delivered in a simple and timely manner.
- BRMB will provide overall coordination on administering the response initiative.
- Dedicated staff and contractors are in place to assist producers with the application and eligibility processes as well as assessing damage, losses and the administration of payments.

For More Information Contact Us

Contact details:

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Or visit the website below:

- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/2021-wildfire-and-drought-agrirecovery-initiative>