
News Release

For immediate release

PROGRAMS ARE CONTINUING FOR ONTARIO PRODUCERS

OTTAWA, Ontario, April 1, 2008 – The federal and provincial governments are working to deliver new programs for Ontario farmers through the *Growing Forward* initiative, but while that progress continues, existing programs under the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) will be extended for up to one year, starting April 1, 2008.

The Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, and the Honourable Leona Dombrowsky, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, today announced details about the continuation of programs under the APF.

“*Growing Forward* is delivering real results for Canadian agriculture and this Government is working with the provinces and territories to give farm families stability while we develop important new initiatives,” said Minister Ritz. “Providing this stability while delivering progress on *Growing Forward* is another example of this Government’s commitment to put farmers first.”

“Ontario producers need ongoing access to programs that can help them achieve a prosperous and profitable future,” said Minister Dombrowsky. “Managing the smooth transition from APF to *Growing Forward* will provide certainty for our farmers and all our partners.”

Consultations will continue so that *Growing Forward* programs are developed with the needs of the sector in mind. “This gives us the time we need to ensure farmers have the voice they deserve in program design,” said Minister Ritz.

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