

Important Notice on 2009 Cost-Share Availability

AUGUST 12, 2009. All cost-share funds for program year one (2009) of the Canada-Ontario Farm Stewardship Program (COFSP) under the Growing Forward Environment and Climate Change initiative will be fully committed within a couple days. Once that point is reached, the provincial delivery agent for COFSP, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, will no longer be allocating program year one Growing Forward funding to proposed projects, and OSCIA Program Representatives will be instructed not to accept any more 2009 Project Proposal Applications (PPA) seeking COFSP cost-share. The PPA received to date are currently being reviewed and notification of the status of each application is being forwarded to the participating farm businesses. Cost-share funds are allocated for each year of the program on a first come, first served basis. Once the annual program funds are fully committed, PPA can no longer be accepted for cost-share funding.

Similarly, all available provincial cost-share funds contributed towards the 2009 Lake Simcoe Farm Stewardship Program (LSFSP) have been allocated. After August 14, 2009 OSCIA Guelph will not accept any more PPA from producers seeking LSFSP cost-share in 2009 program year.

It is expected that cost-share funds for 2009 program year associated with the Species At Risk Farm Incentive Program (SARFIP) will continue to be available through OSCIA for a short time. Cost-share funding from SARFIP will be awarded to eligible projects, but once the COFSP funds for 2009 are exhausted no Growing Forward cost share will be allocated now or in the future towards these projects. The project claim submission deadline date remains at January 15, 2010. Please check the program brochure for more detail.

The next round of cost-share funding for new projects in COFSP and LSFSP will be available in Growing Forward program year two (2010). New PPA forms for 2010 will be available from OSCIA Program Representatives beginning September 15, 2009. The eligible invoice date for program year two projects is September 15, 2009 and beyond. Costs invested and invoices dated prior to this date will not be eligible for cost-share in program year two. Applicants are encouraged to review the COFSP Project Eligibility Policy and Procedures document and program brochures before submitting their completed PPA form to the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association for projects proposed for 2010.