

Important Notice on 2010-2011 Cost-Share Availability

FEBRUARY 8, 2010 - All cost-share funds for program year two (2010-11) of the Canada-Ontario Farm Stewardship Program (COFSP) under the Growing Forward Environment and Climate Change initiative have now been fully committed. As a result, the provincial delivery agent for COFSP, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA), is no longer accepting 2010 Project Proposal Application (PPA) forms. 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.

It is expected that cost-share funds for the 2010 program year associated with the Lake Simcoe Farm Stewardship Program (LSFSP), the Greenbelt Green Energy Program for Agriculture (GGEPA) and the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP), will continue to be available through OSCIA for a short time. Cost-share funding from LSFSP, GGEPA and the ODWSP will be awarded to eligible projects, but as COFSP funds for 2010 are exhausted no Growing Forward cost share will be allocated now or in the future towards these projects. The project claim submission deadline date is January 15, 2011. Please check the applicable program brochure for more specific details on each program.

The next round of cost-share funding for new projects in COFSP will be available in Growing Forward program year three (2011-2012). New PPA forms for 2011 will be available from OSCIA Program Representatives beginning September 15, 2010. The eligible invoice date for program year three projects is September 15, 2010 and beyond. Costs invested and invoices dated prior to this date will not be eligible for cost-share in program year three. 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 2011.