

### **Minimum requirements for a farm-wide, commodity-specific health risk assessment required to apply for projects under Animal Health**

Under **Animal Health**, producers can apply to complete eligible projects as listed in the project categories that fall under **Preventing the Introduction and Spread of Disease, Establishing Facilities to Manage Deadstock and Improvements to Animal Housing and Handling**. These project categories require the applicant to provide:

- A farm-wide assessment against the national biosecurity standards **OR** a commodity-specific health risk assessment
  - Assessments can be completed by the applicant or a qualified third-party, such as a licensed veterinarian or a member of the Ontario Beekeepers Association Tech Transfer Team (OBA TTT); **and**
- Proof of completion for an applicable biosecurity workshop.

**In addition**, the following are also required for projects proposing structural modifications or new construction:

- Site sketch for proposed structural modifications or new construction.

Producers can also apply for cost-share funding to have a qualified third-party, such as a licensed veterinarian or OBA TTT, complete the assessment under the project category **Education, Training, Assessment and Planning**.

Under the **Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)** cost-share program for producers, funding is intended to help producers better understand and plan to address health risks to their operation. Projects funded under the Partnership will reduce the introduction and spread of disease onto, within and off farm operations and assist with addressing national or industry standards for biosecurity.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) developed national biosecurity standards in collaboration with producer organizations, provincial/territorial governments, and academia. The standard and associated producer guide are commodity-specific, designed to support the development of on-farm-specific biosecurity protocols. You can find copies of the standards and producer guides on the CFIA's website – <http://inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/biosecurity/standards-and-principles/eng/1344707905203/1344707981478>.

The on-farm biosecurity standards are supplemented by a general producer guide that provides guidance to producers on how the Target Outcomes from the standards may be achieved. If you choose to do a self-assessment, you may use the checklists provided as part of the national biosecurity standard and producer guide specific to your industry. A shortened version of this

checklist is provided to you when taking a free Biosecurity Workshop offered by OSCIA. As part of the process, you may wish to include a detailed action plan of who, what, when, where, why and how to address any gaps identified in the checklist.

If you work with a qualified third-party (e.g., licensed veterinarian, OBA TTT) to complete the assessment, you will receive additional merit for your application. A qualified third-party should be trained and knowledgeable of the relevant disease risks for the commodity being assessed (e.g., livestock, poultry, mink). At a minimum, an assessment provided by a qualified third-party must meet the following:

- Have been completed **and signed** by the third-party qualified to assess your operation (e.g., licensed veterinarian, OBA TTT)
- Review your farm against all of the requirements listed in the self-evaluation checklist provided as part of the national biosecurity standard for your particular commodity, focusing on the target outcomes outlined in the standard.
- If a farm is not meeting a requirement, the individual should provide detail on the implications, if any, for the targeted outcomes.

In addition, an assessment may also:

- Identify which gaps from the self-assessment checklist create the highest risk for introduction of disease.
- Using the producer guide, include a detailed action plan of steps that may be taken on the farm to reduce or eliminate risk associated with the gaps identified, and
- Prioritize actions based on the level of risk reduction.

Not all commodities in Canada have a national biosecurity standard. However, there are some general guidance documents available on the CFIA website (i.e., National Farm-Level Biosecurity Planning Guide) that may be used when a standard does not exist. There are also some commodity-specific health risk assessment programs that may be used, such as the Ontario Johnes's Risk Assessment Management Plan (<http://www.johnes.ca/forms.htm>) or the Canadian Swine Health Board's (CSHB) National Swine Farm-Level Biosecurity Program (<http://www.ontariopork.on.ca/Producers/Herd-Health>).

If you are unsure if a commodity-specific program would meet the requirements, if someone is qualified to complete the assessment, or identifying an applicable biosecurity workshop, contact us at [CAP@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:CAP@ontariosoilcrop.org).