

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

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

Under **Plant Health**, producers can apply to complete eligible projects as listed in the project categories that fall under **Preventing the Spread and Introduction of Plant Pests and Enhancing Plant Health** .. 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 certified crop advisor (CCA) or professional agronomist (P.Ag.); **and**
- Proof of completion for a Crop 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 may also be required to provide an action plan based on their biosecurity risk assessment that identifies places of highest pest/disease risk with regards to workflow/sanitation/ability to isolate material; and describe how the project addresses the highest risks and adequately reduces them in a measurable or proven way.

New producers can apply for cost-share funding to have a qualified third-party, such as a CCA or P.Ag. complete the assessment under the project category **Education, Training, Assessment and Planning (PHAP-PD-I)**.

How to Complete Your Assessment and Plan

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://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plant-pests-invasive-species/biosecurity/eng/1323475203667/1323475279124>

Self Assessments

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. This plan may be required for some categories (e.g., PHIM-PD-D).

Working with a Third Party

If you work with a qualified third-party (e.g., CCA or P.Ag.) to complete the assessment, you will receive additional merit for your application. A qualified third-party should be trained and knowledgeable of the relevant pest risks for the commodity being assessed (e.g., grains and oilseeds, potatoes, greenhouse/floriculture). 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., CCA or P.Ag.)
- Review your operation against all of the requirements listed in the self-evaluation checklist provided as part of the national biosecurity standard for your specific commodity, focusing on the target outcomes outlined in the standard.
- If an operation is not meeting a requirement, the individual should provide detail on the implications, if any, for the targeted outcomes.

Other Important Notes

In addition, an assessment and associated action plan should also:

- Identify which gaps from the self-assessment checklist create the highest risk for introduction of pests.
- 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.

Other Commodities

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 may also be commodity-specific plant health risk assessments. If you are unsure if a commodity-specific program would meet the requirements, or if someone is qualified to complete the assessment, contact us at CAP@ontariosoilcrop.org.