

Growing Forward 2: Confined Feeding Operation (CFO) Stewardship Program

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Advancing Innovation

The Confined Feed Operation (CFO) Stewardship program is one of many programs under Growing Forward 2, which is a five year federal-provincial-territorial initiative that helps Alberta livestock operations and commercial manure applicators assess and implement improvements that minimize their impact on water quality and the environment. The program will operate from 2013 to 2018, or if all available program funds have been spent, the program will close prior to 2018.

The Growing Forward 2 – CFO Stewardship Program helps the industry in three key areas:

1. **Less agricultural impact on water quality:** The program funds improved infrastructure that reduces the risk of agricultural contaminants entering water sources. This boosts the economic viability of the industry while responding to public demand for good environmental practices.
2. **Improved business outcomes for livestock producers:** The program enables producers to make informed business decisions that take into account economics and the environment. This ensures that sustainable business decisions can be made that support future efficiency and profitability.
3. **Improved market opportunities:** The program helps producers with CFOs, regardless of age, meet the present day legislated environmental standards. This demonstrates that the livestock industry is adaptive and resilient and can grow in an environmentally responsible manner.

Who can participate?

Individuals or businesses that own and operate a CFO in Alberta can participate in this program. The operation must have completed an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) or a CFO Site Assessment prior to applying for funding. Commercial manure applicators must provide a certificate of completion from the Commercial Manure Applicator Workshop offered by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development.

How are costs shared?

Grant funding cost share of 30 to 70% of eligible expenses is dependent on the project activity code. The program provides a maximum of \$100,000 per applicant, though some categories have project maximums between \$15,000 and \$70,000. For Commercial Manure Applicators, Growing Forward 2 will cover 50% of eligible project expenses to a maximum grant of \$70,000.

A producer that owns multiple CFOs may submit multiple applications for each CFO, and each CFO is eligible for the maximum amounts. However, each CFO that submits an application must be located on different premises with its own separate Premises ID Number.

For More Information on the CFO Stewardship Program, please refer to the Growing Forward 2 website: www.growingforward.alberta.ca or call 310-FARM (3276).