

## Beekeepers Financial Assistance Program

### Information sheet

The Beekeepers Financial Assistance Program offers help for Ontario beekeepers to cope with unusually high bee losses in 2014. The program doesn't cover bee deaths caused by wildlife, vandalism, intentional death or negligence. The deadline to apply is June 20, 2014.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for the program, you must:

- Have at least 10 hives in Ontario
- Have registered all your hives in accordance with the *Bees Act* (Ontario) for 2014
- Have a Beekeeper Identification Number issued by the provincial apiarist
- Have at least one active Premises Identification Number. If you do not have an active premises identification number, contact the Provincial Premises Registry at 1-855-697-7743 or visit **ontarioppr.com** to apply.
- Submit a completed application by **June 20, 2014**.

If you started beekeeping after March 31, 2014, you are eligible for the season starting April 1, 2014. In that case, you must submit the application within 10 days of registering with the provincial apiarist and before October 31, 2014.

### Save time, apply online

To apply for the program, please complete the application form online at **agricorp.com/bees** no later than **June 20, 2014**. We will review your application and begin processing payments for overwinter losses by the end of June.

We will validate the information on your application form with what you reported under the *Bees Act*. So where it asks for the number of registered bee yards and hives, be sure your numbers match what you reported to the provincial apiarist.

### First things first

#### Do you have a Premises ID?

If not, contact the Provincial Premises Registry at **1-855-697-7743** or visit **ontarioppr.com** to apply as soon as possible.

You need it before you can receive any payments under the Beekeepers Financial Assistance Program.

### How the program works

Once you submit the application form, your losses will be compared to the number of hives you reported to the provincial apiarist. If you have lost more than 40 per cent of your hives, a payment may be made on the difference. For example, if you reported 100 registered, active hives and experienced a loss of 50 hives, you may be eligible for a payment on 10 hives. The payment rate is \$105 per hive.

There are two payment periods: overwinter (January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2014) and in-season (April 1, 2014 to October 31, 2014). The deadline to apply for both is June 20, 2014.

## Covering replacements

The program is designed to cover replacements in addition to initial losses. It covers up to 160 per cent of the original number of hives registered for 2014. So if you lose all your hives over the winter, you can replace them all and know that they're still covered for in-season losses (assuming the losses aren't caused by wildlife, vandalism, intentional death or negligence). You must keep all your records and receipts related to replacing your hives.

For more details, program guidelines are available online through [agricorp.com](http://agricorp.com).

## Lost hives

A lost hive in the **overwinter period** (January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2014) is defined as a colony that is dead or cannot be considered viable for production in the upcoming season. Either all individual bees in the colony are dead or fewer than three active frames remain. A frame is considered active if it is at least 75 per cent covered by live bees on each side.

In the **in-season period** (April 1, 2014 to October 31, 2014), a hive (full sized or nucleus colony) is considered lost if:

1. More than 100 dead and dying bees are documented in the vicinity of the hive and associated with a loss in colony production (bees, brood or honey crop); and/or
2. You've had to replace the queen in an individual colony two or more times (in the current season); and/or
3. At least 30 per cent of the individual bees in the bottom two boxes of the colony have been lost. The bottom two boxes may be two brood chambers or the brood chamber and honey super.

## Reporting in-season losses

Report any in-season losses to Agricorp as soon as you discover damage. Provincial apiary staff, possibly accompanied by Agricorp staff, may inspect your hives to document the damage. We'll send you a Proof of Loss form in the fall. Use this form to report your total in-season losses by **November 21, 2014**. Payments for in-season losses will begin in December.

## Record keeping

Keep all receipts and other records of any purchases and inventory changes of beehives over the year. They may be used to validate any claims you make in the fall.

## Have you considered other programs?

Agricorp delivers other programs that may be helpful to beekeepers. Different programs cover different risks, giving you comprehensive protection.

Program	Compensates for
AgriStability	Large margin declines
Production Insurance for honey	Yield reduction and crop loss
SDRM: Edible Horticulture	Losses or expenses
AgriInvest	Small margin declines
Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program	Wildlife damage

Visit [agricorp.com](http://agricorp.com) to learn more.

## Contact us

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[agricorp.com](http://agricorp.com)

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7 a.m. to 5 p.m.,

Monday to Friday

Version française disponible

If there is any conflict between this information sheet and the provisions set out in the program guidelines, the guidelines take precedence. Program guidelines are available through [agricorp.com](http://agricorp.com).

