

Beekeepers Financial Assistance Program

Information sheet

The Beekeepers Financial Assistance Program is available again in 2015. Read this information sheet to learn how it works and how to sign up.

How to participate

1. Complete and submit the application form to Agricorp by **January 30, 2015**. There is no cost to participate in the program
2. Call Agricorp to report any overwinter losses as soon as you discover damage. The overwinter coverage period is **November 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015**
3. Complete and submit the Proof of Loss form by **May 15, 2015**. Agricorp mails this form to participants in the spring
4. Call Agricorp to report any in-season losses as soon as you discover damage. The in-season coverage period is **May 1, 2015 to October 31, 2015**
5. Complete and submit the Proof of Loss form to Agricorp by **November 20, 2015**. Agricorp mails this form to participants in the fall.

Save time, apply online

To apply for the program, please complete the application form online at agricorp.com/bees no later than **January 30, 2015**. You can also mail the application form to the address shown on the back of this information sheet.

Eligibility requirements

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 2015
- Have a Beekeeper Identification Number issued by the Provincial Apiarist
- Follow proper beekeeping practices as outlined in this information sheet and in "Best Management Practices for Ontario Beekeepers in Advance of Winter" by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), available at agricorp.com/bees.
- 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.

If you started beekeeping after January 30, 2015, you are still eligible to apply for in-season losses that occur after you are enrolled in the program. Contact Agricorp for an application form or visit agricorp.com.

The program does not cover losses caused by wildlife, vandalism, intentional death or negligence.

How the program works

The program is designed to cover losses up to 160 per cent of your hives registered for 2015, at a payment rate of \$105 per hive. 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.

If you lose 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.

The 40 per cent minimum loss is only applied once across the whole program year. Once the 40 per cent minimum loss is exceeded, it will not be deducted again.

Lost hives

A lost hive in the overwinter period (**November 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015**) 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 (**May 1, 2015 to October 31, 2015**), a hive (full sized or nucleus colony) is considered lost if:

- 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
- You've had to replace the queen in an individual colony two or more times (in the current season); and/or
- 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.

Record keeping

Keep all receipts and other records related to replacing your hives, purchases and inventory changes of beehives over the year. They may be used to validate any claims.

Contact us

Agricorp
1 Stone Rd. W.
Box 3660 Stn. Central
Guelph ON N1H 8M4

1-888-247-4999
TTY: 1-877-275-1380
Fax: 519-826-4118
agricorp.com
contact@agricorp.com
7 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Monday to Friday

Version française disponible

Best management practices

- Provide bees with adequate feed for the winter
- Ensure bees are populous going into winter
- Wrap or insulate bee hives for winter
- Manage Varroa levels in bees
- Maintain written records of the management of bees and management practices
- Regularly monitor pest and disease levels (particularly Varroa levels in late summer/early fall)
- Monitor for new pests and diseases (e.g. Small hive beetle), and report to the Provincial Apiarist when found
- Report atypical losses to the Provincial Apiarist
- Be aware of surrounding crops and agricultural practices and communicate with local growers who may be using pesticides
- Maintain detailed records on colony management (including treatment, movement, purchases, disease monitoring)
- Register all honey bee colonies and apiaries with the Provincial Apiarist

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
AgrInvest	Small margin declines
Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program	Wildlife damage

Visit agricorp.com to learn more.

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.

