

2015 Agri-Québec Plus

The Agri-Québec Plus program offers additional financial assistance to farming operations that are eligible and participate in the AgriStability program in Québec. This assistance is specifically for products that are not covered or not associated with the Farm Income Stabilization Insurance Program (ASRA) or supply management.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Farming operations that are eligible and participate in the AgriStability program in Québec for a given participation year are automatically enrolled in Agri-Québec Plus for this same year when they meet this program's eligibility conditions. Unlike AgriStability, Agri-Québec Plus is only offered to Québec residents and only covers products produced in Québec. Moreover, participation in the program is linked to the respect of environmental requirements.

Agri-Québec Plus complements AgriStability by offering a coverage level of 85% of the reference margin rather than 70%, irrespective of the planned limit to the reference margin for AgriStability. The payment may be limited depending on the net income calculated for the farming operation.

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

In addition to being eligible and participating in the AgriStabilité program in Québec for the same participation year, the farming operation must also meet the following conditions:

- Be domiciled in Québec (individual) or have its head office and main place of business in Québec (corporation, cooperative and trust).
- In the case of a joint-stock company, it must hold share capital of which at least 50% of the voting rights are held by one or more shareholders domiciled in Québec or who have their head office and main place of business in Québec.
- In the case of a partnership or not-for-profit organization, be composed, for at least half of its members, of persons domiciled in Québec or who have their head office and main place of business in Québec and who have at least 50% of the shares of the partnership.
- In the case of a cooperative or trust, be composed, for at least half of its members (cooperative) or its beneficiaries (trust), of persons domiciled in Québec or who have their head office and main place of business in Québec.
- Submit a valid phosphorus report as stipulated under the Agricultural Operations Regulation (cross compliance measures).

Note

The provisions related to the phosphorus report concern all the raising or spreading sites owned, leased or on which the operation custom produces. It targets all the operation's productions, whether or not they are covered by a program at La Financière agricole.

If participants do not submit a valid phosphorus report, any payment to which they are entitled is reduced by 25% for the participation year in default (reduction limited to a maximum of \$50,000). This year is the fiscal period that ends between July 1 of the year in default and June 30 of the following year. However, participants who fail to submit a report for a second year in a row will not be entitled to any payment for this second year.

ALLOWABLE PRODUCTS

Allowable products are those not covered or not associated with the ASRA program or supply management (see appendix).

CONTRIBUTION

No contribution and no administrative fees are due for participating in the Agri-Québec Plus program.

TRANSMISSION OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Financial information sent for the AgriStability program is also used for the Agri-Québec Plus program.

PROGRAM PAYMENT

Benefits are calculated when the final payment for AgriStability is calculated. There are no interim payments with Agri-Québec Plus.

The payment for a given participation year corresponds to the difference between the AgriStability payment, before reduction for a late declaration, and the amount of a similar payment, but calculated when assistance is triggered as soon as the year's margin drops more than 15% in relation to the reference margin, irrespective of the reference margin limit. This difference is multiplied by an average ratio established for the reference years after structural adjustment. This ratio corresponds to the income from allowable products under the Agri-Québec Plus program over the income of allowable products under the AgriStability program.

Agri-Québec Plus does not kick in when the net income calculated for the purpose of the program exceeds \$50,000. The program payment is therefore limited to the amount required to make up the difference between the net income and \$50,000. The total payout from the AgriStability and Agri-Québec Plus programs, for a same participation year, cannot exceed \$3 million. Payments of less than \$75 will not be made.

REQUEST FOR A REVIEW

Any request for a review of a final decision rendered regarding a participant's files must be made in writing, explaining the motives behind the request, and sent to the service centre in charge of the participant's files or delivered in person to a representative of La Financière agricole within 90 days following the date the decision is received. However, program conditions and parameters or program premises may not be subject to a request for a review.

DEADLINES FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE AGRIS-QUÉBEC PLUS PROGRAM

Deadlines are the same as those for participating in the AgriStability program.

OTHER INFORMATION

Payments from the Agri-Québec Plus program are not taken into account when calculating ASRA program compensation.

This summary, valid for 2015, in no way takes precedence over the provisions of the Agri-Québec Plus program or one of La Financière agricole's policies. Moreover, the terms and conditions in the summary are subject to possible amendments to the program during the participation year.