



Rates, Dates and Updates

2019 Information Sheet

Complete your registration today

To register your farm business,* follow these steps:

- **Choose an AFO** – Each year, you can direct your Farm Business Registration (FBR) to one of three accredited farm organizations (AFOs) and apply for membership in that organization.
- **Pay invoice by March 1** – You will receive an invoice from Agricorp annually. It's important to pay by the deadline in order to complete your registration and confirm membership. Paying after the deadline may also impact your eligibility for other provincial government programs.

About your registration

When you register your farm business, you:

- ✓ May qualify for the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program, which provides a reduction in municipal taxes to eligible farm land. Farmland is typically taxed 25% of your residential tax
- ✓ Are eligible for other government programs, including the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program and *Canadian Agricultural Partnership* initiatives
- ✓ Can obtain a membership in one of three AFOs

How to pay

The process for paying is different depending on whether you keep the same AFO as last year or choose a different one.

- ▶ If you **choose a different AFO**, simply call Agricorp at 1-866-327-3678 or see the back of your FBR invoice for details.
- ▶ If you **choose the same AFO** as the previous year, you can pay through your financial institution.

Updates from AFOs

In 2016, Ontario's accredited farm organizations asked the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) to increase the annual FBR amount. This increase represented the first increase in over seven years. Farm organizations engaged and secured support from their members for this increase.

This change provides farm organizations with a predictable and stable income, helping them continue to support and represent farmers and advocate on behalf of the industry, all of which helps support the continued growth of Ontario's agri-food sector. The annual increase will be phased in over a four-year period with the Farm Business Registration being:

- \$225 plus HST, effective January 1, **2018**
- \$240 plus HST, effective January 1, **2020**
- \$255 plus HST, effective January 1, **2022**

Pay the right account

You can pay through your financial institution: online, by telephone or in person.

When paying through your financial institution, be sure to direct your payment to the right Agricorp bank account. Agricorp has different accounts for different programs and different AFOs. It's important to pay to the right account to ensure there are no delays in processing your registration.

Each time you make a payment, check your payee for these three things:

1. Agricorp's name
2. The name of the AFO you'd like membership with
3. The FBR program name

See your invoice for more payment details.

* All farm businesses in Ontario that gross \$7,000 or more annually are required by law to register their farm business with Agricorp. If your gross farm income falls below \$7,000, contact Agricorp to discuss your eligibility.

Which AFO is right for you?

Each year, you can direct your FBR to one of the following AFOs and apply for membership with that organization. To find out more, read the following descriptions provided by each of the AFOs.



Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO)

The CFFO is a professional organization for families called to the vocation of farming. The CFFO values family farm enterprise, profitability, and responsible stewardship of resources. CFFO policy promotes economically, socially and environmentally sustainable farming, advocating that farmers receive fair return for their production and stewardship efforts. For more information contact the CFFO directly at 1-855-800-0306, or visit www.christianfarmers.org. HST#108077041 RT0001.



National Farmers Union – Ontario (NFU-O)

The NFU-O is a strong and growing organization of family farmers; together we build successful, sustainable farms and vibrant rural communities. Our members develop farmer-friendly policy through our grassroots, democratic approach, and we advocate boldly for that policy at all levels of government: locally, provincially, and nationally. Choose the NFU-O on your FBR form, call us at 1-888-832-9638, or visit www.nfuontario.ca. HST #: 865259626 RT0001.



Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)

Together Ontario farmers have a voice. OFA Membership means contributing to and supporting agriculture's voice. It enables you to share your knowledge and advice; network with your fellow members to develop and deliver agriculture's message; access OFA staff assistance on farm-related concerns; and enjoy purchasing power with OFA Member Benefit partners. To join your 37,000 fellow farmers and become an OFA member, please visit www.ofa.on.ca or call 1-800-668-3276. HST #: 107797730 RT0001

Qualifying for FBR

To qualify, you must gross at least \$7,000 in eligible farm income annually. If your gross farm income has dropped below \$7,000 or if a tenant farms part of your property, you may still qualify for the Farm Property Class Tax Rate. Contact Agricorp to discuss your eligibility.

Applying for an exemption from FBR

If you object to participating in FBR or paying due to religious beliefs, you may request an exemption by contacting the Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Appeal Tribunal at 1-888-466-2372 ext. 519-826-3433. You may be eligible to receive an exemption letter.

Requesting a refund on your AFO membership

All farm businesses that gross \$7,000 or more annually are required by law to register their farming businesses and pay a selected AFO. However, the *Farm Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act, 1993* states that you can request a refund. If you do not wish to receive the benefits of an AFO, contact the AFO that you made your payment to in writing by May 30, 2019.

Obtaining new farm plates

Effective January 1, 2015, applicants for new farm plates will be required to demonstrate that they have a farm business. You can use your AFO membership card as proof. If you have any questions, visit a Service Ontario location, call 1-800-387-3445 or visit <https://www.ontario.ca/serviceontario>.

► Services for French-speaking producers

For French-speaking producers in Ontario, services are also provided by the Union des cultivateurs franco-ontariens (UCFO), regardless of AFO membership. The UCFO promotes the economic and social-cultural interests of French-speaking Ontario farmers and publishes the *Agricom* newspaper. Producers can access their services without changing their AFO membership. For more information, contact the UCFO at 1-877-425-8366.

Contact us

1-866-327-3678

Fax: 519-826-4118

TTY: 1-877-275-1380

Accessible formats available

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

Version française disponible

Errors and omissions excepted.

Agricorp reserves the right to make corrections if there are any errors or omissions on this information sheet.