



## Participant Handbook Risk Management Program



## **Risk Management Program (RMP) for livestock includes the following 4 plans:**

- RMP: Cattle
- RMP: Hogs
- RMP: Sheep
- RMP: Veal

Complete details about RMP for livestock plans are available on [agricorp.com](http://agricorp.com) and in the Participant Handbook and accompanying information sheets, described below:

- **Participant Handbook** – This Participant Handbook outlines what you need to know about the RMP for livestock plans, how to enrol and your responsibilities as a participant. The handbook applies to the 2024 program year and will continue to apply for subsequent program years, until it is cancelled, amended or replaced.
- **Rates, Dates and Updates Information Sheet** – This information sheet works as part of your Participant Handbook to provide details specific to the program year, and is updated annually. You can find the information sheet on [agricorp.com](http://agricorp.com) or request a copy by calling Agricorp.
- **Calculating Target and Market Prices Information Sheet** – This information sheet shows how the target and market prices for the RMP for livestock plans are set and is a complementary document to the Participant Handbook. The data is specific to the program year and is updated annually. You can find the information sheet on [agricorp.com](http://agricorp.com) or request a copy by calling Agricorp.

**For full RMP terms and conditions, refer to the following documents, in effect for the current program year:**

- RMP: Cattle Guidelines
- RMP: Hogs Guidelines
- RMP: Sheep Guidelines
- RMP: Veal Guidelines
- Minister's Order 0006/2021, as amended (Ontario Risk Management Program)
- Order-in-Council No. 103/2021, as amended (Business Risk Management Review Committee)

Where there is any conflict between the Participant Handbook, information sheets, and the guidelines, the guidelines take precedence. To obtain copies of the guidelines, please contact the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

## Table of contents

<b>What is RMP? .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>What is RMP for livestock? .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Eligibility.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>How to participate.....</b>	<b>5</b>
New participants.....	5
New farmers .....	5
Existing participants .....	5
Continuous participation .....	5
<b>Your responsibilities .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>How the program works.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Support level.....	6
Market prices.....	6
Premiums .....	6
Premium adjustments.....	7
Paying your premium.....	7
Payments.....	7
Payment schedule.....	7
<b>Link to AgriStability payments.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Payment caps .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Balances owed to the Crown .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Program terms and conditions .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>RMP: Cattle .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Definitions.....</b>	<b>13</b>

## What is RMP?

Ontario's Risk Management Program (RMP) helps producers manage risks beyond their control, like fluctuating costs and market prices. The program is available for the cattle, edible horticulture, grain and oilseed, hog, sheep and veal sectors.

Traditionally, business risk management programs are funded on a 60/40 basis by the federal and provincial governments respectively. RMP is provincially funded only, meaning the Ontario government funds its traditional 40% share. The 40% funding is reflected in payment calculations and premium rates.

RMP complements AgriStability and Production Insurance. AgriStability is designed to stabilize whole farm income and Production Insurance helps mitigate production loss.

## What is RMP for livestock?

RMP for livestock was designed in consultation with representatives of the cattle, hog, sheep and veal industry in Ontario.

RMP for livestock works like insurance to help Ontario producers offset losses caused by fluctuating commodity prices and production costs. Participants pay premiums based on their insured production and their chosen coverage level.

### **Insured production is your anticipated livestock sales for the year.**

There are 4 livestock plans. The cattle plan includes several categories of production as shown below. Participants can enrol in 1 or more plans and can choose single or multiple categories within each plan.

Plan	Categories
<b>Cattle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cow-calf</li><li>• Backgrounder</li><li>• Feedlot</li></ul>
<b>Hogs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Early wean</li><li>• Feeder</li><li>• Grower/finisher</li></ul>
<b>Sheep</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lamb</li></ul>
<b>Veal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Veal cattle</li></ul>

Program payments are made if the market prices for sold livestock fall below your support level, which is based on the industry average cost of producing livestock (target price) and the level of coverage you choose.

Payments reflect available funding. An interim payment rate is used to make sure every producer has equal access to the funding, whether they trigger a payment at the beginning or end of the program year. The interim payment is based on market prices, support levels at the traditional provincial share of 40% and available RMP funding.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for RMP for livestock, you must:

- Produce at least 1 eligible category of livestock in Ontario
- Enrol all of your eligible production within a plan category
- Pay the premium
- Have premises identification (new participants)
- Be able to demonstrate livestock ownership

For program purposes, ownership means the right of possession of a commodity and their associated risks. Agricorp considers legal ownership, price risk (such as fluctuating market prices or input costs) and production risk (such as mortality or health of the animal) in determining eligibility.

To determine whether you are eligible to enrol your livestock, Agricorp will ask for additional details about your business, including any custom feeding or private financing agreements you may have.

**Custom feeding:** There are many different types of custom feeding agreements. If you pay another person (e.g., price per pound of weight gain) to feed and house your livestock, Agricorp will need to confirm that you retain exposure to production and price risk before confirming that you are eligible to enrol the livestock.

**Private financing:** If another person receives legal title of your livestock as collateral for a loan or investment, and you compensate that person through prenegotiated interest charges, commissions, or fees, you may have the price and production risk. Be sure to disclose the details of your agreement so that Agricorp can determine which person is eligible to enrol the livestock.

**Joint venture livestock feeding arrangements:** When a livestock owner and feeder operation share the production and marketing risks of livestock, each party may report their share of eligible sales.

In these arrangements, each party typically shares the cost of death losses and no interest, commissions or fees are charged between parties.

If they participate in AgriStability, each party's eligible sales reported in RMP should correspond with the eligible sales they reported in AgriStability. Each party's share of allowable income should correspond to the share of the allowable expenses they reported in AgriStability.

### **Ownership/financing arrangements and out-of-province weight gain:**

You are required to notify Agricorp by **April 1** if:

- Your ownership arrangements have changed from what is noted on your renewal, including share or lease arrangements, joint ventures or ownerships, or custom feeding arrangements
- You have any financing arrangements for the livestock you are enrolling
- Your production includes out-of-province weight gain, as noted in the "Current insured production" column of Section C of your renewal (only in-province weight gain is eligible for Ontario's Risk Management Program)

To remain eligible for RMP, pay your premium and submit your livestock sales reports by the program deadlines.

Even if you had no sales during a reporting period, you must contact Agricorp and report zero sales. Failure to pay your premium or submit a sales report may result in the cancellation of your coverage.

## **How to participate**

### **New participants**

If you are new to RMP, or if you wish to enrol in a new RMP plan, you need to submit an application to Agricorp.

For greater convenience and timely processing, submit your completed application form online. If not applying online, contact Agricorp and request an application. Paper applications can be submitted by mail. Please only submit your application once.

You can apply as a sole proprietor, unincorporated association, corporation, trust, cooperative, communal organization, partnership, limited partnership or estate. If you are applying online, signatures are not required.

For partnerships and limited partnerships, you should submit only 1 application, signed by all partners.

### **New farmers**

If you are a new farmer – meaning the commodity you want to enrol had zero farm income in the previous year – you can enrol after the application deadline has passed, provided you apply before the end of your first sales reporting period.

### **Existing participants**

If you already participate in RMP for livestock, you will receive a renewal package. You do not need to reapply. All your previous coverage information will be rolled over to the current year.

When you receive your renewal package, review the categories, coverage levels and insured production.

### **Adding a new category**

If you are already enrolled in a livestock plan, you may add new categories at renewal time. For example, if you have calves enrolled in RMP: Cattle, you can also add coverage under the backgrounder and feedlot categories. Similarly, if you have hogs enrolled in the early-wean category, you can also add coverage under the feeder and grower/ finisher categories. To add new categories to your existing plan, simply complete and submit the Policy Change Request form online or call Agricorp.

### **Adding a new plan**

If you wish to enrol in a new plan for another kind of livestock, contact Agricorp first to find out if you are eligible and how to apply. For example, if you are enrolled in RMP: Sheep and you want to enrol in RMP: Cattle, contact Agricorp.

### **Making changes to coverage**

You can make changes by:

- Submitting the online Policy Change Request by signing into [agricorp.com](http://agricorp.com)
- Filling out the Policy Change Request form in your renewal package or download it from [agricorp.com](http://agricorp.com)

### **Continuous participation**

The coverage you select each year will be automatically rolled over to the next program year using your enrolled categories, insured production and your selected coverage levels. You can make changes to your coverage every year when you renew.

Participation in your enrolled categories must be continuous. If after a full year of participation, you cancel or do not renew in an enrolled category, you will be ineligible for enrolling again in that category for the current year plus the next 2 years.

In years when you are not producing a particular livestock category, you can maintain enrolment in that category,

without being cancelled, by simply reporting zero production. After 3 consecutive years of reporting zero production in a category, your enrolment will be cancelled without affecting your eligibility for subsequent program years. If you would like to re-establish your coverage, contact Agricornp.

## Your responsibilities

As with all Agricornp programs, you need to read and understand the RMP details, abide by the applicable terms and conditions, and meet the deadlines, which are published in this Participant Handbook and accompanying information sheets. Other requirements include the following:

- **Report** any changes to your business structure or farming operation, including a significant expansion or decrease, or changes to the name, address or shareholders, as they occur.
- **Notify Agricornp** if you expect your annual sales to change by more than 25%. This means your actual sales for the year will be more than 25% higher or lower than your original enrolled insured production. You need to notify Agricornp of the change prior to the deadline for the next sales reporting period. Otherwise, your coverage may not be adjusted and could be cancelled.
- **Have a valid premises identification number (premises ID).** If you are an existing participant, Agricornp will use the same premises ID you provided last year. If your farm location has changed, please provide Agricornp with the correct premises ID for the new farm location. For new participants, your application can only be processed once your premises ID is provided to us and verified. If you have more than 1 premises ID, provide the ID for your home or main farm location in Ontario.

To obtain your premises ID, contact Agricornp at 1-888-247-4999 or visit [www.ontarioppr.ca](http://www.ontarioppr.ca). You will need to provide the Provincial Premises Registry with your property tax assessment roll number (ARN) from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation.

## How the program works

As with other insurance-like programs, you receive a payment when you incur a loss. RMP payments are made if the Ontario average market price for your sold livestock established by the program falls below your support level during the payment calculation period. Your support level is the target price multiplied by your chosen coverage level for that livestock category. You can choose one of the coverage levels listed in the [Rates, Dates and Updates Information Sheet](#), or on [agricorp.com](http://agricorp.com).

The target price represents the industry average cost of production for each category. For current program year details, see the [Calculating Target and Market Prices](#) information sheet for details on the current program year's calculations of target prices.

## Support level

The support level is determined by multiplying the target price (average cost to produce the animal) by your chosen coverage level. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) calculates the target price for each livestock category using a method developed in consultation with representatives of the livestock industry.

The target price for each livestock plan is based on production costs derived from relevant farm expenses and production data, including livestock purchase costs, feed costs, yardage and labour. For most livestock categories, the target price is updated regularly throughout the year. For cow-calf and sheep, the target price is calculated annually at the beginning of the year.

## Market prices

Market prices for each livestock category are collected weekly and aggregated over the reporting period for each livestock category to determine an average market price for the livestock category's payment period. Additional details about the data and method used for determining market prices are published in the [Calculating Target and Market Prices](#) information sheet, which is available on [agricorp.com](http://agricorp.com) or by contacting Agricornp.

## Premiums

Premium rates are based on the livestock category and your chosen coverage level. Annual premiums for your insured production are calculated at the beginning of each year and can be paid in full or semi-annually when you receive the invoice.

Your annual premium is calculated using 1 of 2 formulas, depending on the livestock category:

*Premium rate × number of head enrolled*

OR

*Premium rate × total eligible weight gain enrolled*

Customers whose annual premium is less than \$200 will automatically be invoiced annually. The premium must be paid before a payment is issued. Failure to pay the premium may result in the cancellation of your coverage.

### Premium adjustments

Your premium is based on your insured production for the program year. If your actual sales differ from your insured production over the course of the year (either an increase or a decrease), your premium may be adjusted as shown in the following table.

If reported sales differ from insured production by:	Premium adjustment
5% or less	No premium adjustments are made.
Over 5% to 25%	Premiums are automatically adjusted by Agricorp at year-end; you will receive either a premium rebate (if your sales decreased) or an invoice (if your sales increased).
More than 25%	Contact Agricorp immediately if you expect your annual sales to increase or decrease by more than 25%.

### Paying your premium

You must pay your premium by the deadline shown on your invoice. See your invoice for details on paying your premium.

## Payments

Payments to participants are triggered when the average market price for sold livestock falls below the support level during the payment calculation period.

Payment rates are based on:

- The difference between the market prices and support levels at the 40% provincial share
- Available funding for RMP – the RMP fund includes premium dollars and government funding

Payments are calculated using an interim rate, so producers who trigger payments at different times during the year have the same access to funding. As the program year progresses, the interim payment rate may be adjusted.

### Payment schedule

Payments are issued semi-annually for cow-calf and sheep producers and 3 times a year for all other livestock categories. Payment adjustments may be made in following quarters.

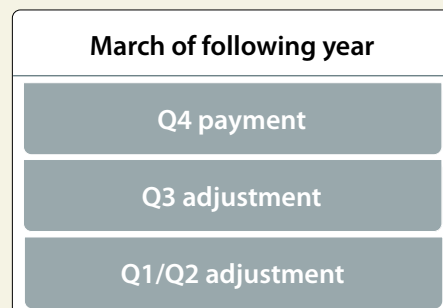
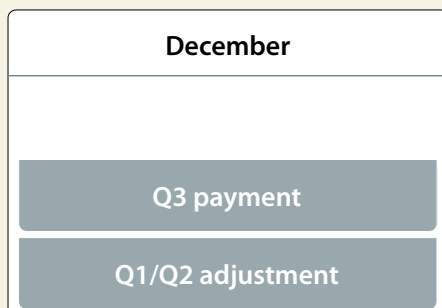
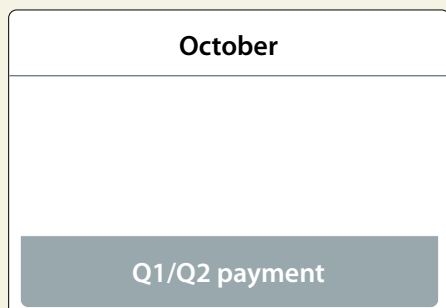
Program payments may not be assigned to a third party.

RMP payments are considered income for income tax purposes. Agricorp issues AGR-1 statements for income tax annually.

OMAFRA and Agricorp have absolute discretion to refuse or withhold any payments to any participant.

The payment schedule below shows the payments and adjustments you may be eligible to receive.

## Payment schedule





## Link to AgriStability payments

AgriStability is an important part of a comprehensive suite of business risk management programs. It protects you from large declines in your farming income caused by production loss, increased costs or market conditions. Visit [agricorp.com](http://agricorp.com) for more information.

For the 2022 AgriStability program year, enhanced coverage is provided with the removal of the Reference Margin Limit and the increased provincial portion of the payment rate. This enhancement is in place for the 2020-2022 AgriStability program years under the *Canadian Agricultural Partnership*.

If you choose to participate in AgriStability, your RMP payment is counted as an advance on the provincial portion of your AgriStability payment for the corresponding program year. You keep the greater of the RMP payment or the provincial portion of the AgriStability payment. Because RMP is provincially funded, it has no impact on the federal portion of AgriStability payments.

If you participate in more than 1 RMP plan, the sum of all RMP payments will be offset against your AgriStability payments.

### Off-calendar year-ends

Depending on your year-end, the AgriStability program year may not coincide with the RMP year, as shown in the example below.

Your farm business year-end	RMP	Corresponding AgriStability year
September 1 – December 31, 2022	2022	2022
January 1 – August 31, 2023	2022	2023 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The program year will be in the next policy framework.

## Payment caps

RMP payments for each livestock category are capped at \$1.2 million per participant, per program year. For example, if you participate in the cow-calf and the feedlot categories under RMP: Cattle and the grower/finisher category under RMP: Hogs, your payment for each of the 3 categories is capped at \$1.2 million.

The RMP cap is applied to each category's total payment for the entire year before calculating any applicable adjustments to AgriStability payments.

In instances where the payment cap for a participant is reached, the participant may be entitled to a partial refund of their premium.

## Balances owed to the Crown

Agricorp is required to recover balances owed to the Crown, including any RMP overpayments. Overpayments may occur as a result of incomplete program applications, processing errors, changes to farm operations and the nature of advance payments to producers in financial distress.

If you have a balance owing, you must repay it, including interest, within 3 years of when you were notified of the debt. You must also submit a repayment plan. Interest is charged on outstanding balances that are owed for more than 30 days.

Agricorp also recovers overpayments from any other programs from which you may be eligible to receive funding. RMP overpayments can be recovered from other programs payments, and other program overpayments may be recovered from your RMP payment.

## Program terms and conditions

### Bankruptcy or death

In the event of the bankruptcy or death of the participant, Agricorp needs to be contacted so program coverage can be properly finalized.

### Farm sale

If you sell your farming operation, your participation in RMP for livestock is cancelled. If you only sell part of your operation, that part of your coverage is cancelled. Contact Agricorp in the event of any farm sale.

### Collecting and protecting your information

Information collected under RMP for livestock is used by Agricorp to administer the program on behalf of OMAFRA. Information collected may be used and disclosed to administer, audit and evaluate the program. This includes sharing information with OMAFRA and any other entity required to administer the program. Agricorp may also use this information to administer or audit other cost-shared and provincially or federally subsidized programs. Social insurance numbers and business numbers are collected and used only to make program payments and are shared with the Canada Revenue Agency to issue tax receipts for payments and, where necessary, for audits and collecting overpayments. If you have questions, please contact Agricorp's Compliance and Freedom of Information – Privacy Specialist at PO Box 3660, Stn. Central, Guelph, Ontario N1H 8M4, 1-888-247-4999.

OMAFRA or Agricorp may disclose any information as obligated under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.F.31, by an order of the court or tribunal, or pursuant to a legal proceeding.



## **Retaining records**

You must retain all invoices, receipts and production records relating to the livestock covered by the program for a period of 6 years. You must make these documents available to Agricorp in the event of an investigation, inspection, audit or other matter related to RMP for livestock.

## **Right of access**

When you enrol in RMP for livestock, you accept that Agricorp has the right to access your production and financial records, as well as records held by third parties, including, but not limited to, commodity boards, associations and organizations, grain elevators and processors.

Agricorp also has the right of reasonable entry to all lands or facilities you use, own or lease, or have other control or direction over, in order to survey, audit, inspect, estimate and examine your:

- Eligible livestock
- Inventory and production
- Other information that is or should be in your records

## **Requesting a review**

If you disagree with a decision about your file, a payment or your eligibility for any RMP for livestock plans, please contact Agricorp. You have 90 calendar days from receiving a payment or notice from Agricorp to raise the issue. Agricorp will then review and assess the issue.

If you are not satisfied with Agricorp's assessment, or wish to not use Agricorp's internal process, you may request a review by the Business Risk Management Review Committee (BRMRC). Your written request to the BRMRC must be submitted within 90 calendar days of receiving the written assessment from Agricorp.

To do so, you will need to provide the Agricultural Information Contact Centre (AICC) of OMAFRA with a written request.

## **AICC Contact information:**

- Phone: 1-877-424-1300 / TTY – 1-855-696-2811
- Email: [ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca](mailto:ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca)
- Mailing Address:  
Agricultural Information Contact Centre  
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
1 Stone Road West, 4th Fl NE  
Guelph, Ontario  
N1G 4Y2

If you request a review, your written request must include the decision you want the BRMRC to review. It should also specify the grounds your request is based on and the information and documentation you will use to support the request for review. When submitting your request, include your contact information in the message and use "Review request to BRMRC" as the subject line.

The BRMRC will make non-binding recommendations to Agricorp regarding your review. Agricorp may accept the recommendations in full or in part, or may decline to follow the recommendations. There is no further right of review process of Agricorp's final decision through the program.

An Agricorp representative can assist you in making a request to the BRMRC. For more information about requesting a review, refer to Order-In-Council No. 103/2021 and Minister's Order 0006/2021, as amended, as well as the program guidelines.

## **Consequences of non-compliance and misconduct**

If you do not meet the requirements of the program, your coverage will be cancelled. You will also have to repay any or all payments you received under the program that are not in accordance with the eligibility requirements set out in the application material, the guidelines, this Participant Handbook and/or the laws of Ontario and Canada.

Repayments are due within 30 calendar days of the date of Agricorp's notice to you. Failure to make repayment creates a debt to the Crown that can be recovered against any money the Crown owes you.

## **Coverage can be cancelled if you in any way:**

- Give false or misleading information
- Fail to meet program requirements
- Commit fraud

If your coverage is cancelled for any reason, you are not eligible to apply again for the current year, plus the following 2 years.

## RMP: Cattle

### Selecting coverage

Each year, you may choose to enrol in 1 or more of the following categories of cattle:

- Cow-calf
- Backgrounder
- Feedlot

RMP: Cattle covers the eligible cattle that you sell during the current program year. To receive full coverage for all of your cattle production, you must:

- Enrol all the cattle you expect to sell throughout the program year. Your expected sale date must fall between January 1 and December 31 of the current program year. Do not simply enrol your entire inventory.
- Enrol in all the categories that apply to the cattle you will sell.

For example, if you have a cow-calf to feedlot operation, you may choose all 3 categories in order to be paid for all the eligible weight gain from birth to slaughter.

If you sell only heifer calves up to 500 pounds, then choose the cow-calf category and enrol the number of calves you expect to sell.

By selecting a category for coverage, you are required to enrol, pay the premium and report all your eligible cattle sales within that category. You will be eligible for payment only under your chosen categories.

You can apply for RMP: Cattle as a new or existing participant.

- If you are enrolling in the RMP plan for cattle for the first time, you must fill out an application form.
- If you already participate in RMP: Cattle, you will automatically receive a renewal form. Review the categories, coverage levels and insured production and make coverage changes if necessary.

### New participants

When completing the application, follow these steps:

- 1. Select plan:** Select RMP: Cattle on your application.
- 2. Select category:** Select the specific cattle categories you want to enrol in. Consider the animals you typically sell, their average sale weights, and how much of that weight you produced. If you typically sell at 1,500 pounds and raise them from birth, you may enrol in all 3 categories. If you usually sell at 1,500 pounds but purchase them at 900 pounds, you would enrol in the feedlot category only.

**3. Select your coverage level:** You may choose a different coverage level for each category. Your support level is the target price for the livestock category multiplied by your chosen coverage level.

**4. Record your projected sales:** Complete the projected sales chart by entering your anticipated cattle sales for the year for each of your chosen categories. To determine average sale weight for each category, take the total weight for all cattle you expect to sell and divide by the number of head. The average sale weight should closely correspond to the weight ranges shown below.

### Eligible cattle

Cattle that meet all of the following requirements are eligible:

- Must be sold in the current program year <sup>1</sup>
- Must be produced and owned by you in Ontario for a minimum of 120 consecutive days (this 120-day period can span multiple categories) <sup>2</sup>
- Must be 30 months of age or less
- Cannot be used for breeding purposes (restriction for the backgrounder and feedlot categories only) <sup>3</sup>
- Cannot be enrolled and have sales reported under RMP: Veal

<sup>1</sup> Breeding stock enrolled in the cow-calf category may qualify for a cow-calf payment without being sold. See the "Requests for payment without sale" section for more information.

<sup>2</sup> Agricornp considers ownership, price risk and production risk in determining eligibility for program purposes.

<sup>3</sup> For the cow-calf category, calves may be sold or retained for future breeding purposes and still be eligible. In other words, breeding stock are eligible for payment under the cow-calf category only.

The 3 cattle categories span production from birth to feedlot in the weight ranges shown below. Use these weight ranges to help you determine the categories you should enrol in. Payments are made on weight gain within these ranges.

Cattle production	Steer production (live weight)	Heifer production (live weight)
Cow-calf	Up to 550 lb	Up to 500 lb
Backgrounder	Over 550–900 lb	Over 500–850 lb
Feedlot	Over 900–1,500 lb	Over 850–1,400 lb

Cattle sold beyond the maximum feedlot weight may still be enrolled; however, payments are based only on the weight ranges listed above. For cow-calf and backgrounder categories, any additional weight gain beyond the maximum will be covered in the next weight category, if you're enrolled.

For example, a heifer calf weighing 600 pounds will be paid for weight gain up to 500 pounds in the cow-calf category and can be paid for 100 pounds if enrolled in the backgrounder category as well. A feedlot steer weighing 1,650 pounds will only be paid for weight gain up to 1,500 pounds.

### **Cow-calf category**

- Calves must weigh more than 350 pounds at time of sale.
- Calves must be raised from birth under the cow-calf category. Calves that have been purchased are not eligible for payment under the cow-calf category, but may be eligible under the other 2 categories.
- Dairy calves are not eligible for enrolment in the cow-calf category.

## **Payments**

RMP payments are issued for your sold cattle when the average market price falls below your support level during a payment calculation period. Payments are based on the difference between the support level and the average market price. In each category, the average market price, support level and payments are calculated separately. Payment schedules also differ by category.

### **Cow-calf category**

- Payments are calculated twice per year after each sales reporting period.
- The support level remains constant for the program year.
- Market prices are calculated twice per year, from January 1 to June 30 and from July 1 to December 31 of the current program year.
- Steer and heifer payment rates are blended (50/50) to form a common payment rate.
- While coverage for calves is provided on a per-head basis, those weighing less than the maximum weight (500 pounds for heifers and 550 pounds for steers) will have payments prorated based on their actual weight. Calves sold at less than 350 pounds are not eligible for payment.

### **Backgrounder and feedlot categories**

- Payments are calculated every week and compiled after each sales reporting period.
- Both the support levels and the market prices are calculated every week, and will vary from week to week depending on fluctuating commodity prices. The support level and market price are based on the reported date of sale. If you are enrolled in multiple categories, the support levels and market prices are calculated back the appropriate number of weeks to match the production period of your enrolled program categories.

- Steer and heifer payment rates are blended (64/36) to form a common payment rate.
- Coverage is provided on a per-pound basis. Payments are calculated up to the maximum live weight in each category. Any reported weight above the maximum is not eligible for payment in that category.

Additional details on the support level (target price multiplied by your coverage level) and market prices are published in the [Calculating Target and Market Prices](#) information sheet which is available on [agricorp.com](http://agricorp.com) or by contacting Agricornp.

### **Conversion from rail weight to live weight**

Agricornp will convert sales reported as rail weight to live weight as follows:

For domestic sales:

- For heifers, rail weight is calculated as 58.5% of live weight
- For steers, rail weight is calculated as 60% of live weight

For all other sales:

- For heifers, rail weight is calculated as 61.5% of live weight
- For steers, rail weight is calculated as 63% of live weight

*Note: Report the weights as either "live" or "rail" – as they appear on your receipt. Do not convert the weights yourself.*

## **Coverage in multiple categories**

Payments are calculated based on the category or categories you are enrolled in at the time of sale.

For example, if you raise calves from birth and sell them at 800 pounds, your payment calculation will cover the weight gain within both the cow-calf and the backgrounder categories, provided you have enrolled in both categories.

If you raise calves from birth and sell them at 1,500 pounds, your payment calculation will cover the weight gain under all 3 categories – cow-calf, backgrounder and feedlot, provided you have enrolled in all 3 categories.

Payment calculations for all eligible categories are triggered when the animal is sold. In limited circumstances, calves in the cow-calf category may be eligible for a payment without being sold (see Requests for payment without sale).

If you are enrolled in multiple categories, the support levels and market prices are calculated by counting back the number of weeks corresponding to each category production period.

### Requests for payment without sale

Calves enrolled in the cow-calf category that are not being sold may qualify for a payment if they are being kept for breeding purposes.

You may request a payment without sale calculation for these calves when they reach the maximum eligible weight in the cow-calf category (500 pounds for heifers and 550 pounds for bulls). To request payment, you must submit a *Payment without Sale* form to Agricorp. This form is included with your sales report and is also available on [agricorp.com](http://agricorp.com).

Animals submitted for payment without sale are not eligible for coverage under the backgrounder or feedlot categories.

### Reporting your information

Submit your sales report to Agricorp by the deadline. To remain eligible for all the categories, you must submit a sales report even if you have zero sales for that reporting period. Report the actual sale weight as shown on the sales/slaughter receipt. Report each animal only once, at the final sale weight. If the animal is enrolled in multiple categories, the program will automatically calculate all category payments based on the final sale weight.

#### Receipts

Copies of sales/slaughter and purchase receipts must be available upon request to help Agricorp verify program payments.

When sales receipts are requested, they must clearly show the following:

- Weight (live or carcass) by certified scale (if a certified scale weight is not available, the receipt must show the estimated weight and be signed by both the buyer and the seller)
- Number of head
- Date of sale
- Name of seller and buyer
- Transaction value

### Cow-calf category – Sales reporting schedule

Sales reporting period	Deadline to report	Information to report each period
January 1 to June 30	July 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of steer calves sold, their average sale weight, and the primary point of sale</li><li>• Number of heifer calves sold, their average sale weight, and the primary point of sale</li><li>• Date of sale</li><li>• If applicable, the <i>Payment without Sale</i> form for calves retained for breeding purposes</li></ul>
July 1 to December 31	January 31 of the next year	

### Backgrounder and feedlot categories – Sales reporting schedule

Sales reporting period	Deadline to report	Information to report each period
January 1 to March 31	April 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of steers or heifers sold, their average sale weight, and the primary point of sale</li><li>• Origin of all sold animals (e.g., the number raised from birth, the number purchased and, if purchased, average purchase weight and purchase date)</li><li>• Date of sale/slaughter</li></ul>
April 1 to June 30	July 31	
July 1 to September 30	October 31	
October 1 to December 31	January 31 of the next year	

▶ For the current program year's premium rates and deadlines, see the RMP for livestock [Rates, Dates and Updates](#) information sheet, available on [agricorp.com](http://agricorp.com) or by contacting Agricorp.

## Definitions

These terms are used in this Participant Handbook, in the information sheets or in both.

### **AgriStability**

A program delivered by Agricorp in Ontario that protects whole farms against large margin declines caused by any combination of production losses, adverse market conditions or increased costs.

### **BFO**

Beef Farmers of Ontario

### **BRMRC**

The Business Risk Management Review Committee reviews decisions by Agricorp for producers who request them.

Producers must provide valid grounds and information to warrant reviews.

### **Cattle**

A bovine of a beef-type breed raised primarily for meat and produced in Ontario for at least 120 consecutive days; includes calves, steers and heifers.

### **Coverage level**

The percentage of the target price that will be covered for a livestock category, which determines the support level. Participants may choose a coverage level for each category.

### **Dressed weight**

**Cattle:** The carcass or rail weight of a slaughtered steer or heifer. For heifers, dressed weight is 58.5% of live weight; for steers, dressed weight is 60% of live weight.

**Hogs:** The carcass weight of a slaughtered hog. Dressed weight is 80% of the live weight with the head on, and 74% of live weight with the head off.

**Sheep:** The carcass weight of a slaughtered lamb. Dressed weight is 56% of the live weight with the head on, and 53% of the live weight with the head off.

**Veal cattle:** The carcass or rail weight of slaughtered veal cattle. Dressed weight is 54.5% of the live weight.

### **Eligible production**

The production or weight gain of Ontario-grown livestock within the allowable weight ranges of a category, and covered by the program.

### **Eligible sale**

A commercial transaction in which possession of an animal is transferred. Sales must take place within the current program year. Eligible sales do not include the transfer of condemned animals or dead stock. Transfer of title (legal ownership) for the purpose of security of interest is not considered an eligible sale.

### **Insured production**

An estimate of the total eligible production per category that the participant plans to sell during the program year.

### **Live weight**

The actual weight of an animal not yet slaughtered (before any deductions are applied) or the converted weight of a carcass after program dressed weight percentages are applied. Participants must report actual carcass weights or live weights - whichever is shown on the sales receipt.

### **Market price**

The average sale price for an animal within a livestock category. These are gathered over the production or sales period and compared to the support level to calculate any eligible program payments. Additional details on the market prices are published in the *Calculating Target and Market Prices* information sheet, which is available on [agricorp.com](http://agricorp.com) or by contacting Agricorp.

### **New participant**

A producer who is not currently participating in any of the RMP for livestock plans.

### **Ontario Pork**

Ontario Pork Producers' Marketing Board

### **OSF**

Ontario Sheep Farmers

### **VFO**

Veal Farmers of Ontario

**Ownership**

The right of possession of livestock and their associated risks. Agricorp considers ownership, price risk and production risk in determining eligibility for program purposes. Possession of title for the sole purpose of security of interest is not sufficient for program eligibility.

**Payment without sale**

Calves enrolled in the cow-calf category and lambs enrolled in the sheep plan that are not being sold may qualify for a payment without sale if they are kept for breeding purposes. The date of eligibility must occur within the current program year.

**Premises Identification**

A program offered by the Provincial Premises Registry that assigns a unique identifying number to a parcel of land associated with agricultural activities. Premises ID numbers are required for coverage under all RMP for livestock plans.

**Premium**

The amount of money a producer is required to pay for coverage of their livestock.

**Production period**

The maximum time in which the target price is calculated and applied within a category. These vary by the type of livestock and category.

**Program year**

The calendar year from January 1 to December 31.

**Raised from birth**

Livestock having been weaned in a cow-calf, farrow, or lambing production system.

**Reporting period**

The timelines when actual livestock sales must be reported in order to calculate payments.

**Support level**

The target price for a livestock category multiplied by the participant's chosen level of coverage.

**Target price**

The industry average cost of producing livestock within a production period as determined by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, formerly known as cost of production. Additional details on the current year's target prices are published in the *Calculating Target and Market Prices* information sheet, which is available on [agricorp.com](http://agricorp.com) or by contacting Agricorp.





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