

Insuring Your Tomorrow

Agricorp connects producers with programs. We partner to develop risk management programs that are flexible to the changing needs of agriculture.



Connecting producers with programs
Établir un lien entre producteurs et programmes

Orchards and Vineyards Transition Program

The Canada-Ontario Orchards and Vineyards Transition Program (OVTP) is a joint federal and provincial program to help grape, apple, and tender fruit producers adapt to industry pressures and changing markets. Under the program, eligible participants will receive \$1,618.74 per eligible acre towards their orchard and/or vineyard stock removal and disposal costs, up to a maximum of \$800,000 over the lifetime of the program. A producer may submit an application form at any time before March 31, 2010.

Qualifying Crops

The following crops are eligible under the program: apples (all), grapes (all), nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, apricots, and cherries (sour and sweet).

Qualifying Orchards and Vineyards

To qualify under the program:

Applicants must:

- Be producers or landlords with a farmed area of at least 1.236 acres of qualifying crops.
- Operate a commercial enterprise located in Ontario.
- Grow eligible crops for harvest in the current growing season or
- Have harvested eligible crops in the growing season prior to the plant removal (except in cases where producers experienced documented crop failures beyond their control).
- Commit to keep the land in agriculture or available for agriculture for a period of five years.

Orchard and/or vineyard stock must:

- Be located in Ontario and used for the production of an eligible crop.

Plant removal projects must:

- Have a block or part block size of at least 0.25 acres in one farm location.

Past Removals

Orchard and/or vineyard stock removed on or after October 25, 2007 may be eligible for payments if all other program requirements are met. Agricorp will require proof of the date that removal work was started, and proof of the area of the plant removal project. Such proof could include custom work receipts, Production Insurance records, photographs, and other documentary or physical evidence. Agricorp will determine acceptable forms of proof.

Growing Area

Payments will be made according to the size of the orchard or vineyard block or part block. The growing area will be determined by Agricorp's GPS database and/or by Agricorp representatives taking GPS measurements as part of the application approval process.

Application Process

Interested producers must complete and submit an application form to Agricorp. Agricorp will determine if the application meets program criteria. A site visit by an Agricorp representative and GPS mapping of the qualifying sites may be required. Agricorp will notify producers in writing of the status of their application.

Applicants should not proceed with vine or tree cutting until they receive written notice of acceptance from Agricorp. The written notice of acceptance will indicate the deadline to complete the accepted plant removal project. To maintain eligibility, a producer or landlord must finish their plant removal project by the deadline on their notice of acceptance. If the removal project is not finished by the date stipulated, a new application form will be required to participate in the program.

For Leased or Rented Land

If an orchard and/or vineyard is leased or rented, the existence of the lease or tenancy must be disclosed on the application form. The tenant and the landlord will both need to sign the application form. As well, the tenant and the landlord must designate on the application form who should receive the payment.



Our vision: to be the recognized providers of agricultural risk management products.

Priority List

Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis subject to the annual availability of funds. If the available funding for a given year is reached, Agricornp will place qualifying applicants on a priority list for the next program year.

Participant Responsibilities

Participants must:

- Remove all subject trees and/or vines within the growing area.
- Remove and destroy all stumps and as much of the plant root system as possible.
- Dispose of all plant material and unsalvageable trellising systems according to all federal, provincial, and local laws, by-laws and regulations.
- Contact Agricornp for a final verification inspection to confirm the plant removal project is complete.
- Ensure that the participating growing area remains in agriculture or available to agriculture for at least five years following the completion of an approved plant removal project.
- Ensure that Agricornp can access the land for monitoring purposes for five years after the completion of the accepted plant removal project.

Existing Buyer or Processor Contracts

Producers are responsible for managing their existing contractual relationships with processors, packers and other buyers. The program will not assist producers with the costs of terminating existing contracts.

Other Sources of Funding

Producers and landlords must disclose all funding from municipal, provincial, federal, or other government sources that provide any reimbursement towards removing their vineyards and/or orchards. This includes production insurance payments for tree or vine loss.

Payments may be denied or pro-rated if a producer is receiving more than 80 per cent of the applicable removal costs through other government funding.

Payments

Payments will only be issued upon the completion and inspection of an accepted plant removal project to the satisfaction of Agricornp. Agricornp may recover debts to the governments of Canada or Ontario from payments to be made under the OVTP.

Compliance

The signatories on the application form will be responsible for complying with the terms and conditions of the program as well as with applicable laws and regulations. In the event of non-compliance, including providing false or misleading information, payments received under the program may be recovered from all signatories, separately or together. Agricornp will seek to recover any program payments made to which a recipient was not entitled.

Review Process

Agricornp will make final decisions regarding program eligibility. A written review process will be available for the resolution of any disputes regarding the administration of the program.

This brochure describes key features of the Orchards and Vineyards Transition Program (OVTP). Please refer to the Canada-Ontario OVTP Program Guidelines – Plant Removal for a complete description of the requirements, obligations, and entitlements under the program. Program Guidelines can be found at www.agricorp.com, and are also attached to the application form.

The program will be administered by Agricornp. For further information, application forms, Program Guidelines, Canadian Environmental Assessment Act guidelines, or a copy of the OVTP review process, please contact the Agricornp call centre. These guidelines are subject to change.

Contact Us

Agricornp

1 Stone Road West
Box 3660 Stn. Central
Guelph ON N1H 8M4
www.agricorp.com
Email: contact@agricorp.com

Inquiries

Phone: 1-888-247-4999
Fax: 519-826-4118

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