



 **CANADIAN  
AGRICULTURAL  
PARTNERSHIP**  
Innovate. Grow. Prosper.

# ASSURANCE SYSTEMS PROGRAM

PROGRAM GUIDELINES



Agriculture  
and Land



# ASSURANCE SYSTEMS PROGRAM

**Program Policy:** *Supporting the Sector to coordinate and integrate prevention, preparedness and recovery activities, which will improve the anticipation, mitigation and response to risks.*

**CAP Outcome:** Improve the anticipation, mitigation and response to risks.

**CAP Priority Area:** Risk Management

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Assurance Systems Program is designed to improve the anticipation, mitigation and response to risks by providing assistance to address risks related to humans, animals and plants through project-driven and other outcome-based approaches.

### Leasing Equipment

Note: If equipment is planned to be leased, rather than purchased, additional funding guidelines will apply. Please discuss with program administrator before submitting an application.

The Assurance Systems Program is composed of three sub-programs:

- I. The ***On-Farm Assurance Sub-Program*** will provide assistance for various activities that lead to the on-farm implementation of recognized assurance systems. This project-driven sub-program will be primarily directed at agricultural industry groups. Industry will set their priorities and lead producer adoption of systems that benefit the sector as a whole or benefit a large portion of the sector's producers. Submissions from individuals may be considered based on merit and potential benefit to the industry.

On-Farm Assurance Sub-Program systems include, but are not limited to the following:

- On-farm food safety programs;
- Biosecurity protocols and/or standards;
- Sector traceability implementation plans;
- Development of multi-commodity premises identification system;
- Animal welfare codes of practice;
- Surveillance systems;
- Other assurance systems that support market-pull attributes; and
- Development of assurance systems that provide verifiable claims to buyers domestically and internationally.

- II. The ***Post-Farm Assurance Sub-Program*** will provide assistance for the implementation of recognized assurance systems in food processing enterprises, and/or post-farm agri-food enterprises. This project-driven sub-program will target post-farm enterprises that market or modify raw agricultural products.

Post-Farm Assurance Sub-Program systems include, but are not limited to the following:

- Food safety control programs, including nationally developed sector HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) programs and GFSI (Global Food Safety Initiative) recognized programs;
- Traceability implementation plans;
- Humane treatment of animals;
- Surveillance systems; and

- Other assurance systems that support market-pull attributes.

III. The *Surveillance and Emergency Management Initiative Sub-Program* will provide support for livestock surveillance and emergency management plans.

## I. ON-FARM ASSURANCE SUB-PROGRAM

<b>Eligible Applicants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mi'kmaq First Nations and other Indigenous Organizations;</li> <li>• Agricultural producers;</li> <li>• Agriculture industry organizations, clubs, and associations;</li> <li>• Public and Private Institutions;</li> <li>• Small to Medium Sized Agri-Businesses; and</li> <li>• Provincial/Territorial Governments.</li> </ul>
<b>Eligible Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness/outreach;</li> <li>• Training/education;</li> <li>• Technical assistance;</li> <li>• Pre-audit/first audit assistance;</li> <li>• Maintenance and enhancement of provincial premises identification system and databases;</li> <li>• Premises identification program management.</li> </ul>
<b>Eligible Expenses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation costs, such as equipment and/or infrastructure; and</li> <li>• Consultancy fees.</li> </ul>
<b>Ineligible Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities related to companion animals.</li> </ul>
<b>Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding will be cost shared, between eligible recipient and the Department. The level of support and total contribution will be determined by the Assurance Systems Program Review Committee.</li> </ul>

## II. POST-FARM ASSURANCE SUB-PROGRAM

<b>Eligible Applicants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mi'kmaq First Nations and other Indigenous Organizations;</li> <li>• Agricultural producers;</li> <li>• Agriculture industry organizations, clubs, and associations;</li> <li>• Public and Private Institutions;</li> <li>• Small to Medium Sized Agri-Businesses; and</li> <li>• Provincial/Territorial Governments.</li> </ul>
<b>Eligible Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness/outreach;</li> <li>• Training/education;</li> <li>• Technical assistance;</li> <li>• Support for maintenance and enhancement of provincial premises identification system and databases;</li> <li>• Premises identification program management; and</li> <li>• Pre-audit/first audit assistance.</li> </ul>

<b>Eligible Expenses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation costs, such as equipment and/or infrastructure; and</li> <li>• Consultancy fees.</li> </ul>
<b>Ineligible Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities related to companion animals.</li> </ul>
<b>Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding will be cost shared, between eligible recipient and the Department. The level of support and total contribution will be determined by the Assurance Systems Program Review Committee.</li> </ul>

### III. SURVEILLANCE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE SUB-PROGRAM

<b>Eligible Applicants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mi'kmaq First Nations and other Indigenous Organizations;</li> <li>• Agricultural producers;</li> <li>• Agriculture industry organizations, clubs, and associations;</li> <li>• Public and Private Institutions;</li> <li>• Small to Medium Sized Agri-Businesses; and</li> <li>• Provincial/Territorial Governments.</li> </ul>
<b>Eligible Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness/Outreach;</li> <li>• Training/Education;</li> <li>• Technical assistance;</li> <li>• Pre-audit/first audit assistance;</li> <li>• Support for maintenance and enhancement of provincial premises identification system and databases;</li> <li>• Consultancy work;</li> <li>• Emergency management, mitigation and preparedness;</li> <li>• Surveillance initiatives; and</li> <li>• Premises identification program management.</li> </ul>
<b>Ineligible Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities related to companion animals.</li> </ul>
<b>Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding will be cost shared, between eligible recipient and the Department. The level of support and total contribution will be determined by the Assurance Systems Program Review Committee.</li> </ul>

### CAP INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Business Risk Management-type activities (e.g. activities which are covered by AgriStability, AgriInvest, AgriInsurance, AgriRecovery and AgriRisk);
- Purchase and/or implementation of items which are considered normal or on-going farm operating expenses, except as otherwise specified;
- Purchase of common items that can be used for multiple purposes (e.g. digital cameras, GPS, smartphones, etc.), except as otherwise specified;
- Activities which do not provide a direct benefit to the Sector;

- Activities related to aquaponics food production, and to aquaculture, seaweed, fish and seafood production and processing;
- Tax credits or rebates; and
- Development and/or enforcement of regulations.

## **PUBLIC TRUST**

Projects approved for funding under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership which have demonstrable links to increasing public trust may be eligible for additional project funding.

## **EVALUATION AND CONTROL**

A complete evaluation of this program is planned to ensure that the objectives and results are achieved and to assess the relevance of its renewal. Program metrics are collected and reported on an on-going basis.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLE**

CAP programs are available to all Canadians who are eligible to participate in those programs. Wherever possible, the needs of under-represented groups, including Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and persons with disabilities, were considered during program development.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Completed applications may be submitted to the attention of the Assurance Systems Program Officer via regular mail or email.

### **E-Mail Applications:**

Applications may be submitted via email at [assurance@gov.pe.ca](mailto:assurance@gov.pe.ca)  
Please include the program name in the subject line.

### **Regular Mail Applications:**

Applications may be submitted via regular mail at:  
PEI Department of Agriculture and Land  
11 Kent Street  
PO Box 2000  
Charlottetown, PE  
C1A 7N8  
(902) 368-4880 (telephone)  
(902) 368-4857 (facsimile)

## DEFINITIONS

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### **Biosecurity**

Any action or practice involving precautions to reduce the risk of introducing diseases and pests to a farm site or region where they do not already exist (CAP Finance and Performance Measurement Working Group).

### **Commercial Animal**

Means any of the following animals: alpacas, bison, cattle, chinchilla raised for fur production, deer, donkeys, horses, elk, foxes raised for fur production, goats, llamas, mink raised for fur production, mules, poultry, rabbits raised for fur production or as a source of food, sheep, swine, vicunas, wildlife that is not the property of Her Majesty in right of the province, any other animal prescribed as a commercial animal (PEI *Animal Welfare Act*).

### **Companion Animal**

Any animal that is not a commercial animal (PEI *Animal Welfare Act*).

### **Food safety**

Scientific discipline describing handling, preparation, and storage of food in ways that prevent food-borne illness (CAP Finance and Performance Measurement Working Group).

### **Livestock**

Means horses, cattle, sheep, swine, goats, poultry, fox, mink, chinchilla kept for agricultural purposes, and rabbits kept for agricultural purposes (PEI *Animal Health Act*).

### **Post-Farm**

The activities taking place after the cultivated products leave the farm (CAP Finance and Performance Measurement Working Group).

### **Priority Areas**

The six broad agriculture and agri-food priority areas set out in the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Multilateral Framework Agreement.

### **Quality Assurance**

The maintenance of a desired level of quality in a service or product, especially by means of attention to every stage of the process of delivery or production (CAP Finance and Performance Measurement Working Group).