



NEWS RELEASE

BEEF AND PORK FARMERS WELCOME ONTARIO'S RISK MANAGEMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM

New Insurance Program Key to Protecting Livestock Industry and Positioning Farmers for Future Success

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 29, 2011 – Guelph, ON – Today, leaders of Ontario's beef and pork industries welcomed the unveiling of the Ontario government's new permanent, multi-commodity, Risk Management Insurance Program (RMP) for grain and oilseed, cattle, hog, veal, edible horticulture and sheep farmers. The new RMP program was based directly on the insurance based program first contemplated and designed by the farmers themselves to provide the sustainability Ontario's agri-food and livestock industries need to succeed.

Over the next three months, the provincial government announced it will implement the program which will include a number of commodity specific information sessions across the province with the application process to begin in September of this year. It was also announced that the premiums to all participants of the program will be waived for the 2011 year.

"The information sessions will provide farmers with a greater understanding on how the program will work related to their own operation and allow them to make responsible investment decisions in the future," says Wilma Jeffray, Chair, Ontario Pork.

Since the budget announcement in late March, members of both the Ontario Cattlemen's Association and Ontario Pork worked closely and at length with OMAFRA Staff to finalize the details of the insurance-based program. Both organizations thanked the Hon. Carol Mitchell, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs at today's announcement for her leadership in ensuring this program came to fruition.

"We are extremely pleased that the premiums will be waived for the 2011 year," says Curtis Royal, President, Ontario Cattlemen's Association. "I believe this is a long-term solution and a positive step towards the sustainability of Ontario's livestock industry. The fact that the premiums will be waived will ensure all farmers can participate in year one of the program."

To learn more about the program please visit www.cattle.guelph.on.ca or www.ontariopork.on.ca

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