



Rates, Dates and Updates Farm Business Registration

2016 Information Sheet

Complete your registration today

To register your farm business, follow these steps:

- **Pay invoice by March 1** – You will receive an invoice from Agricorp annually. It's important to pay your fee by the deadline in order to complete your registration and confirm membership with an accredited farm organization (AFO).
- **Choose an AFO** – Each year, you can direct your Farm Business Registration (FBR) fee to one of the AFOs and apply for membership in that organization. You can keep the same AFO or change it from year to year.

Easiest way to pay your fee

The process for paying your fee is different depending on whether you keep the same AFO or choose a different one. Refer to your invoice for full details.

If you choose the same AFO as the previous year, you can quickly and easily pay your FBR fee through your financial institution.

- ▶ When paying with your financial institution (online, telephone or in person) remember to request the right Agricorp account to be paid. Agricorp has different accounts for different programs.

It's important to pay the right account to ensure there are no delays in processing your registration. You have three different accounts to choose from for FBR:

- Agricorp – CFFO – Farm Bus. Reg.
- Agricorp – NFU-O – Farm Bus. Reg.
- Agricorp – OFA – Farm Bus. Reg.

If you choose a different AFO from the previous year you must pay your fee by cheque. Make your cheque payable to your new accredited farm organization and mail your cheque and invoice stub to Agricorp.

About your registration

When you register your farm business you:

- ✓ May qualify to pay 25 per cent of the municipal residential property tax rate on your agricultural land.
- ✓ Are eligible for other government programs including the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program and Growing Forward 2 initiatives.
- ✓ Can obtain a membership in one of three AFOs.

Accredited farm organizations (AFO)

Each year you can direct your FBR fee to one of the following AFOs and apply for membership with that organization:

Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO)

The CFFO is a professional organization for farming families that value family enterprise, profitability and responsible stewardship of resources. The CFFO focuses on strengthening sustainable family farm businesses and improving the quality of life for today's farming families. For more information, contact the CFFO directly at: 1-855-800-0306. HST #: 108077041 RT0001.

National Farmers Union – Ontario (NFU-O)

The NFU-O believes agriculture should be environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. On local, provincial, national and international levels, the NFU-O, alongside like-minded organizations, advocates for alternative structures and government policies that resist corporate control of food. The NFU-O promotes vibrant rural communities, the production of safe, wholesome food and biodiverse natural ecosystems. For more information, contact the NFU-O directly at: 1-888-832-9638. HST #: 865259626 RT0001.

Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)

The OFA serves Ontario farmers by working with 52 county and regional federations to provide direct member service, research, education, member benefits, and farm advocacy services to members. In addition, the OFA is supported by 32 Ontario farm commodity organizations and other farm interest groups. To 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 have grossed 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 the FBR annual fee 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 an AFO membership

All farm businesses that gross \$7,000 are required to register their farm business and pay a fee to a selected AFO, but if you don't want a membership with an AFO, you can request a fee refund. Contact the AFO that you made your payment to in writing by **May 30** of the current program year.

What you need to obtain new farm plates

Effective January 1, 2015, applicants for new farm plates are 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 directly 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