

# Technical Information Circulars for AgriStability New or Returning Participants

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## New or Returning Participants

For AgriStability purposes, new participants are those who have not participated in the program before or those who have not participated in the AgriStability Program in any of the four years immediately prior to the current program year.

Ensure contact with SCIC before the Enrolment/Fee Deadline of April 30<sup>th</sup> in the program year you wish to participate in.

For example, for a request to participate in the 2022 program, contact SCIC by April 30, 2022.

An Enrolment Fee Notice will be issued based on your intended production. It is your responsibility to ensure you have met all the eligibility requirements to have your current program year application processed.

### Simplified Participation

New or returning producers, or those who have not participated in the AgriStability Program in any of the four years immediately prior to the current program year, may apply as simplified participant by submitting only the previous three years of Farming income and expense, and Supplementary information, known as historical information. The three years of historical information will be averaged to create the reference margin.

New producers, or those who have not participated in the AgriStability Program in any of the four years immediately prior to the current program year, also have the option of submitting five years of historical information. The historical information for five years will use the Olympic average, dropping the high and low year, to create the reference margin.

The producer who is new or returning to the program will need to ensure to submit their historical information by the program year's final deadline.

For example, for the 2022 program year deadline to submit program information is September 30, 2023, or December 31, 2023, with penalty.

### Beginning Farmer or Rancher

Beginning farmers or ranchers, for AgriStability purposes, are those that have farmed less than three years. To be eligible to participate as a beginning farmer, you are to have six consecutive months of farming activity and have completed a production cycle in the

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program year. These requirements may be waived by SCIC if you were unable to complete them due to reasons beyond your control, such as disaster circumstances like flooding or drought.

### Program Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the AgriStability Program, you must derive income from the primary production of agricultural commodities, provided in the program year you have:

- carried on the business of farming in Canada and reported farming income (or loss) for income tax purposes;
- completed a minimum of six consecutive months of farming activity;
- completed a production cycle; and
- submitted the required information by the deadlines.

A production cycle includes one or more of the following activities:

- the growing and harvesting of a crop;
- the process of rearing livestock; and/or
- The purchase and sale of livestock within a program year for feeding and finishing enterprises.

You must have filed farming income tax to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for tax purposes for the program year by the program deadlines, and for all reference years to be eligible for AgriStability.

Status Indians who carry on business on a reserve in Canada, who are exempt from filing income tax returns, are eligible to participate provided they submit the information they would have otherwise reported for tax purposes by the program year deadlines.

If you were unable to complete the minimum requirement of six consecutive months of farming activity due to reasons beyond your control (such as a disaster circumstance like flooding or drought), the conditions may be waived.