



# **Program Guidebook Special Beekeepers Fund in Ontario Program June 2007**

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# Program Guidebook

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## Special Beekeepers Fund in Ontario Program (SBF)

### Introduction

The purpose of the SBF is to help alleviate the financial pressures faced by Ontario's beekeepers as a result of the higher than normal mortality rate of Ontario honey bees in the 2006 - 2007 winter season due to extraordinary winter conditions.

The Ontario government recognizes that the beekeeping industry contributes extensively to the health and vitality of the province's agricultural sector. The government is committed to assisting Ontario registered honey beekeepers with the financial pressures they are facing as a direct result of the extraordinary winter conditions.

The government has allocated funding of \$2.4 million to assist affected honey beekeepers. An additional \$600,000 has also been allocated for the research and technology transfer related to the honey bee industry.

Eligible beekeepers in Ontario must submit an application for funding by the application deadline of **5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time (EST) on August 8, 2007**.

### Who is eligible for SBF funding?

In order to access this one-time funding through the SBF, beekeepers must meet three criteria:

- Be registered with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), as required under the *Bees Act (R.S.O. 1990 Chapter B.6)*;
- Have experienced bee colony losses greater than fifteen per cent (15%) as a direct result of the extraordinary winter conditions from November 1, 2006 to April 30, 2007, inclusive; and
- Submit an application by the deadline of 5:00 pm EST on August 8, 2007.

### Is the SBF a competitive process?

The SBF is an entitlement-based program, not a competitive process. Any beekeepers in Ontario who meet the eligibility requirements listed in the previous section are eligible to apply for SBF funding.

### How will SBF funding be allocated?

Individual funding allocations under the SBF will be determined in accordance with entitlement. The available \$2.4 million in total SBF funding will be evenly distributed across the number of colonies of bees lost as a direct result of the extraordinary winter conditions between November 1, 2006 and April 30, 2007.

The industry standard loss of 15 per cent over a typical winter will be incorporated into the funding calculation. Each applicant will receive a funding amount determined by the number of lost colonies identified in their submitted applications net of the 15 per cent assumed provincial average industry standard loss.

Funding per colony of bees lost will be determined by program uptake after the application deadline. Hence, the specific amount of funding that each beekeeper will receive cannot be determined until then.

Although the level of provincial funding to each beekeeper cannot be determined until after the program application deadline closes and the level of uptake is assessed, eligible beekeepers will receive no greater than \$225 per colony of lost bees.

### How do I apply for SBF funding?

Eligible beekeepers in Ontario wishing to participate in the SBF should do so by completing their application by the application deadline. SBF applications submitted after the application deadline closes will be ineligible and will not be processed for payment.

The application package can be obtained through several channels:

- OMAFRA is sending out a package to all beekeepers in Ontario who are currently registered with the Ministry. Included in the package are the guidebook, a Frequently Asked Questions (FQA) as well as an application form to be completed and submitted by the application deadline.
- Eligible beekeepers who do not receive a package from the Ministry can contact OMAFRA's Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300 for an application package to be sent to them.
- The application can also be downloaded from the OMAFRA's website at the following web address: [www.omafra.gov.on.ca](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca)

Completed applications should be post-marked on or before the application deadline of **5:00 pm EST on August 8, 2007** and submitted to the following address:

Special Beekeepers Fund  
Rural Community Development Branch  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1 Stone Road West  
Guelph, Ontario  
N1G 4Y2

## Should I reduce my claimed losses by the provincial average industry standard loss?

In the application, applicants need not deduct the number of colonies of bees they are claiming as lost by the industry standard loss of 15 per cent.

When completing the SBF program application form, applicants should provide the total number of colonies of bees lost in the period from November 1, 2006 to April 30, 2007 as a direct result of the extraordinary winter conditions.

As part of OMAFRA's application review and approval process, the Ministry will deduct the 15 per cent from the number of colonies of bees claimed. The net loss will then be used for the calculation of the funding amount.

## When will I receive the SBF payments?

After the SBF application deadline of 5:00 pm EST on August 8, 2007 closes, Ministry staff will undertake a thorough review of all applications that are submitted before the deadline to ensure SBF eligibility.

The one-time payments will be sent out to eligible Ontario beekeepers approximately five (5) weeks after the application deadline closes.

## Will my SBF payment count towards any Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) funding I may receive?

Payments made to eligible Ontario beekeepers who are also registered with the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) funding will be included in income calculations generated by CAIS.

Eligible beekeepers receiving SBF funding will receive either an AGR-1 or income statement, depending on if the payments are made to a corporation or individuals, from the Ministry for income tax purposes.

## Confidentiality

Applications submitted under the SBF will be subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Ontario).

Inquiries about confidentiality should be directed to the Contact Center as specified below.

## Additional Information

For additional information about the Special Beekeepers Fund, please contact OMAFRA's Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday, or by email at [ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca](mailto:ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca).