



Emergency Flood Forage Program

The program supports commercial livestock businesses in the **response** stage i.e., as they respond to the impacts of the Atmospheric River event (“the Event”) and transition to a revised operational strategy. The program provides immediate emergency forage support to facilitate those transitions and/or to continue to respond flooding impacts.

The program provides hay for commercial livestock businesses that, due to the Atmospheric River event and related activities:

- a) cannot access their normal forage and hay supply, and
- b) have lost their operation’s hay and forage which are required for animal welfare.

The flood forage program does:

- Provide farm businesses with relief during an approved timeframe, allowing businesses time to find alternative forage options and supporting immediate livestock health and welfare
- Provide hay for eligible livestock based upon standard animal consumption levels
- Encourages businesses to begin transition planning as soon as possible
- Require that the feeding and forage storage locations are safe, feed transportation can be done in a safe manner and livestock caregivers are secure.

The flood forage program does NOT:

- Allow the supplied hay to be stockpiled for use outside of the approved, immediate timeframe
- Supersede other response strategies, such as farm/ranch emergency plans or the livestock relocation program
- Provide reimbursement for field, storage, or other losses
- Address drought conditions or other events that have occurred in 2021

Eligibility Requirements:

- The current forage or hay resources have been deemed unsafe, forage is not able to be accessed, or was completely destroyed due to flooding event and, no alternative forage resources are available.
- Businesses must also meet the following criteria:



- The livestock operation must be a commercial livestock-based farm business. Farm business operations are defined by the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* as business operations where there is a reasonable expectation of income based on sales of commercial livestock (and/or their products).
- The livestock operation must be prepared to provide proof of filing a 2020 income tax as a farm operation or provide proof of a recent purchase of a farm operation.

First Nation Communities and community members must also meet the following criteria:

- Livestock must be essential for food security in these communities.
 - a. Eligible animals would include horses.
- Eligible applicants must be able to demonstrate they are directly impacted by the Event and have an immediate need for forage. To determine eligibility for this program, First Nations operators are encouraged to apply for an assessment of eligibility.

Be aware that being located within an evacuation alert or order area does not automatically make you eligible for the program.

Non-eligibility and duplicate emergency support:

- Non-commercial farm businesses (i.e., hobby farms that do not file an income tax return as a farm) are ineligible.
- Commercial livestock operations that have forage options to provide an immediate source for their livestock are ineligible.
- This program is distinct from the Livestock Relocation Program, therefore livestock engaged in one program cannot also receive duplicate support from the other program. Each application will be adjudicated based on each situation.

How to apply:

Farm businesses can access the program by requesting assistance through program service providers. Businesses will need to agree to the program conditions, provide and validate necessary information, and participate in ongoing communication with program staff.

Program service providers:

- Eligible livestock producers in BC's **Interior** can email hay@cattlemen.bc.ca
- Eligible livestock producers in BC's **Lower Mainland** can email hay@bcforagecouncil.com

If you have questions about eligibility, please reach out to the service providers.