

Report Prepared for Peace River Agricultural Development Fund

Title of Project: Farm Business Risk Management Communication 2007
Report Title: Annual Report
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Objectives:

The objective of this project is to be actively involved in the development and improvement of risk management programs, listen to producers' comments, voicing concerns and reporting back to the producer membership.

Accomplishments:

During the past year we have continued to participate in several provincial and national meetings. To be more specific, we have representatives on the Provincial Safety Nets Advisory Committee (PSNAC), a Production Insurance sub-committee of PSNAC, BC Production Insurance Committee, however the National Safety Nets Advisory Committee (NSNAC) was cancelled early in the year. Through these committees we will continue to identify the shortcomings of the current suite of programs for the Grains and Oilseeds industry.

The Business Risk Management Committee has been involved in discussions regarding signing onto the next generation of the Agriculture Policy Framework (APF) as the current APF is completed. Specifically, they have focused on improving the farm safety net system, which has resulted in the phasing out of the existing CAIS program and seeing it replaced with a new generation program that will consist of a suite of four programs: margin based program (MBP), production insurance (PI), disaster relief framework (DRF) and producer savings account (PSA). The committee continues to participate in discussions regarding the development of this program.

This new margin based program (MBP) will remain linked to the provincial production insurance (PI) programs already in place. The producer savings account (PSA) will not be linked and does not require being enrolled in the MBP. Allowable Net Sales (ANS) is likely to be used for PSA instead of reference margin or eligible net sales.

This past year the committee has participated in:

- Provincial Safety Nets Advisory committee meetings & conference calls
- Meeting with the federal Minister of agriculture re: formation of a national grains & oilseed strategy.
- Crop Insurance Advisory Meeting
- BCAC Meetings & multi day Grain Growers of Canada
- Other meetings in conjunction with Safety Net Involvements
- A letter on Grains and Oilseed Payment Program (GOPP) re: reference margin issue and treatment of ad hoc funding for program purposes
- Meeting with Ontario/Quebec safety net coalition
- Presentation to Standing Committee on Ag re: farm income issues

The BCGPA representative has put in countless hours in consultations and meetings; read endless reports and analytical work, and has actively contributed towards the development of new risk management program options available to farmers.

Tasks in progress:

As the new suite of safety nets is implemented, ongoing evaluation is crucial to determine whether the new system will meet the needs of the producer. Financial institutions are to hold the producer accounts, however this system will not be ready until late 2008 with government to set up and hold accounts until then with no interest bonuses. Ongoing liaison with provincial Production Insurance advisory committee will be necessary.

Association with BC Agriculture Council:

We continue to maintain membership in the BCAC, through this association and regarding safety nets, our director participates with BCAC at the Provincial Safety Nets Advisory Committee.

Affiliations with Grain Growers of Canada:

We continue to maintain direct affiliation and communication with the GGC and specific to safety nets, participate on the Farm Income Working Group. Our association with the GGC allows the BCGPA directors to have input into submissions to the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Select Standing Committees on Agriculture, the BRM Technical Working Group and consultations on any part of transition funding, as well as assisting in information workshops to introduce new Risk Management program as well as Renewal component of APF to producers.

Accomplishments:

There is a new slate of Business Risk Management programs running as of April 1, 2008; "Growing Forward" Agri-Invest, Agri-Stability, Agri-Insurance. More work needs to be done on Agri-Recovery and we are part of that process now.

Extension and demonstration:

Circulation of information as it becomes available to BCGPA directors, via e-mail or faxes
Relevant information posted on our website, reports or news releases by other sources as they become available.

Participate in provincial stakeholder info sessions, consultation of industry
Interviews with media (paper\radio) to update on Safety Nets Developments

Finances:	Budget	Actual
Income	\$19,400.00	\$6,448.16
Expenses	\$19,400.00	\$6,448.16

Variances from original work plan schedule or budget:

No meetings for the National Safety Nets Advisory Committee were attended due to this committee's cancellation.

Summary comments, conclusions:

We are pleased to have had a very dedicated chair on this committee and to have input into the development of new era Safety Nets & Business Risk Management strategies for the grain farmer under the new Agriculture Policy Framework.

Attachments: Budget vs. Actual Financial statement attached
Meeting Summary for "in Kind" contribution