



IAPO Beginning Farmer Program

The Beginning Farmers Program (BFP) is a multiyear program designed to support new beginning First Nations farmers between the ages of 16 and 35 through all stage of farm business start up. BFP will support the creation, development and investment in the new farm businesses.

Eligible farm businesses include: livestock, crop, vegetable, fruit, maple syrup, honey, floriculture and nursery production, mixed farming and aquaculture. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact IAPO if they are unsure whether their new farm business idea qualifies.

The program has two distinct areas of focus:

- Workshops and Training
- Start Up Financing

Beginning in the spring of 2017, program participants will take part in an evaluation to establish current business and skill levels. This information, in conjunction with formal training and support, will be used by the participants in the creation and support of their multi-year business plan.

Workshops & Training

Business Workshops

Workshop 1 : Introduction to Farming

Workshop 2 : Farm Business Management

Participation in all workshops throughout the program is mandatory.

Start up Financing

Eligible participants will be able to access financing and cost share funding to finance their new farm business. Eligible costs include livestock, equipment, machinery, materials, inputs, building costs, storage etc. On approved project, participants are eligible to receive 30% cost share up to a maximum of \$15,000. For projects exceeding a total financing of \$50,000, applicants may be eligible for further support through the Aboriginal Business Start Up and Expansion Program.



Mentoring, Business Advisory and Extension Support

From business planning to implementation, participants will be supported by mentors and IAPO staff regularly providing help and guidance including farm visits.

Applications

Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis. Participation is limited and selection will be based on applications submitted.

Applicant Requirements

Applicants must have Indian Status, be between the age of 16 and 35 years old and reside in Ontario.

Applicants must not have owned or operated a significant farm business previously. Eligible participants include those individuals who have worked on farms owned by family or others, individuals who have small scale farm businesses (less than \$5000 in sales/value of production per year), or individuals who have not previously farmed or owned a farm business.

Applicant must contribute a minimum of 5% equity.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate they have the capability and capacity to start a farm business and participate in all scheduled workshops and meetings conducted in conjunction with the Beginning Farmers Program.

Applicants must be willing to work with IAPO staff, mentors and others as required throughout the program. Mentors are an important source of support for Beginning Farmers Program participants and participants are expected to find a local mentor (with IAPO staff assistance) to work with.

For more Information:

Contact IAPO at 1-800-363-0329 or info@indianag.on.ca

