

# Starting a Farm in Manitoba



**Are you brand new to agriculture? This tool lists some considerations and resources to review prior to embarking on your new farm enterprise!**

- 1) **What do you want to produce**, and **what size of operation** will you pursue (e.g. acres, head of cattle)? There are many types of farms, and most have their own respective [commodity association](#). Here are some examples of farm enterprise types and resources to learn more about them:

- [grain and oilseed](#), [fruit](#) or [vegetable](#) crops
- [forages](#), [livestock](#) or [apiary](#)
- [supply managed commodities](#)
- [food business](#) and [direct selling](#)
- homestead or hobby farm

Learn more about each in the [Agriculture in Manitoba sector profile](#) or visit the [Markets and Statistics](#) page.

- 2) What is your **current knowledge** of farming enterprise you wish to start? Do you have agronomic or animal husbandry expertise? Have you worked/volunteered/apprenticed on a farm, or taken additional education (courses, diplomas, degrees) around agriculture? Also, Manitoba has many growing regions with different [agricultural capability](#) – so you should have an awareness about [soil types](#) and limitations, as well as the [local municipal](#) zoning laws and water rights.
- 3) What are your **current skills**? You may be mechanically inclined or be an animal whisperer. Business management skills such as preparing farm financial statements will go a long way. Having a marketing plan and being futures market-savvy will also increase your success.
- 4) What are your current **financial resources**? Significant investment is required months or years before income is received from selling crops or livestock, and both fixed and operating costs should be considered. You may have your **own or family money**, be pursuing **loans/lines of credit** via banks and agricultural lenders (e.g. [Farm Credit Canada](#) or [Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation Bridging Generations Initiative](#)), or be pursuing **project funding** under the [Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership](#). Here are some of the costs to consider:
- Review the [cost of production \(COPs\) calculators](#) for estimated costs of many operation types.
  - [Land](#) can be owned or rented, and rented land could be privately owned or [Crown land](#). Farmland real estate and rental listings may be available online or through local advertising in rural communities.
  - [Infrastructure and Buildings](#) like barns, sheds or fencing, may require capital to build, retrofit or repair.
  - [Farm Machinery](#) can be bought new or used, leased, or you can hire custom operators.
  - **Labour** – Will you need to hire staff? See the [Human Resources Guide for Farm Management](#).
  - **Cash or financing will be required for operating costs** (e.g. seed, pesticides, breeding stock, fuel, etc.)
  - [FarmPlan](#) can help with financial planning.

- 5) What is your intended **business ownership structure**? There are many types of [Farm Business Arrangements](#) including a [sole proprietorship](#), a [partnership](#), a [corporation](#), and more.
- 6) Do you have a **business plan**? Farms do not require a special farm business registration number in Manitoba but may require a business number (BN). Learn more about how [start a business in Manitoba](#) (and register for a BN), and how to [apply for a GST number](#). Develop your long-term plans with help from the [FCC business plan tools](#). It's never too late to start planning the future of your business – see the [Guide to Farm Estate Planning](#) and the [Transition Planning Guide](#).
- 7) Your farm enterprise may require **permits or licenses** as there are several [Acts and Regulations](#) specific to agriculture. Familiarize yourself with requirements and use the [BizPal tool](#) to find required permits and licenses by municipality at the local, provincial, or federal level.
- 8) All owners and operators of **premises in MB with livestock and poultry** must supply basic land information by completing a [Premises Identification \(PID\) application](#).
- 9) Review the **business risk management (BRM)** tools including [AgriStability](#), [AgriInvest](#), [AgriInsurance](#), and [Livestock Price Insurance](#). Visit the [MASC website](#) for all the details on crop and livestock insurance.
- 10) Farming is not a 9-to-5 job, and many farmers work additional **jobs off-farm**. The [Canada Revenue Agency \(CRA\)](#) has specific rules about income and expenses from farming operations. Become familiar with the seasonality associated with your farm enterprise to manage potential off-farm work requirements.
- 11) You cannot be an expert in everything! You need **trusted advisors** (e.g., accountant, lawyer, agronomist, livestock nutritionist, marketing specialist). Check out the [Hiring an Advisor for your Farm](#) resource.
- 12) There are farm **rebates and special rates** which have very specific requirements:
  - a. Farm truck registration may be an option if you live on a farm and farm not less than 720 hours a year. Further details available through [Manitoba Public Insurance](#).
  - b. Details on the [Farmland School Tax Rebate \(FSTR\)](#) are available through MASC.
  - c. The fuel charge exemption for farmers requires a signed [Canada Revenue Agency L402 declaration form](#) be provided to the fuel supplier for bulk fuel deliveries or farm-use cardlock.
- 13) Review these **additional resources** and information for [young and beginning farmers](#).

## Contact us:

- Visit [gov.mb.ca/agriculture/](http://gov.mb.ca/agriculture/) or a [Manitoba Agriculture/MASC office](#)
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