

## **News Item - SBA no longer administering the APP**

The Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association (SBA), at their last telephone conference call, voted in favour of directing the membership to have their Advance Program Payment (APP) processed through the Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA) for 2016 and onwards. This change will bring stability to this program for all Saskatchewan beekeepers. It will provide assured access to the APP in a timely manner with minimal delays.

The CCGA administers the APP for 45 farm commodities and manages a portfolio valued at approximately 1.5 billion dollars. The size of this portfolio enables them to offer their services to applicants at a reduced rate. Saskatchewan Beekeepers accessing the APP program through CCGA will have \$150.00 deducted from their first advance program payment cheque as their administration fee. This is down from the \$375.00 admin fee paid to the SBA in 2015.

The CCGA application forms are well explained on page 1-6 of their application form. The CCGA form also provides a check list for applicants as well as a help line for applicants to aid them in filling out their applications.

What is new for Saskatchewan Beekeepers?

Applicants will have the opportunity to apply for more than the \$100,000.00 non- interest bearing portion of the APP, provided they have sufficient AgriStability numbers or Crop Insurance numbers to support a larger advance. Through CCGA, qualifying beekeepers may apply for any amount up to the full \$400,000.00, cumulative APP maximum allowable amount. Applicants must remember, however, that only the first \$100,000.00 of the APP, in any program year, is interest free.

**Applicants will have three opportunities to apply for an advance with the CCGA and applicants applying in April will have a total of three application/reporting periods.**

The spring advance, available from April 1-June 20 is called the “**Intended Honey Production Advance**”. This is found on pages 8&9 of the form. When filling out these pages you will be asked to contact CCGA at 1-866-745-2256. They will ask how much honey you intend to produce in 2016 .They will also ask you to send them:

- a copy of your 2016 AgriStability Enrolment/Fee Notice
- your complete AgriStability Calculation of Benefits Package for 2014.
- your “Facility Storage Insurance” information.

With this information, CCGA will calculate your AgriStability adjusted rate for 2016. This will be the maximum advance that you can apply for on line 1 of the Intended Honey Production Advance. Your eligible advance will be 60 % of this number.

**Note: if you only want to receive the \$100,000.00 non- interest bearing portion of the APP you must apply for no more than \$166,666.66, on line 1 entitled” Intended Honey Advance Requested by Producer.”** (even if the number they give you would allow you to apply for more). If you apply for more than the \$166,666.66, your spring Eligible Advance will be 60% of the amount you apply for, but only the first \$100,000.00 will be interest free, the balance of the money you receive will be interest bearing.

New to Saskatchewan Beekeepers is the second application /reporting period called the “**Anticipated Honey Production Advance**”. **All producers who have applied for the spring “Intended Honey Production Advance” must transfer this advance to an “Anticipated Honey**

**Production Advance” by July 31, 2016. Any producer failing to transfer their Intended Advance to an Anticipated Advance will be asked to pay back their spring advance in full by July 31. Reminder forms will be sent out by CCGA.** This advance is also available to applicants who have not received the spring “Intended Honey Production Advance”.

With this Anticipated Honey Production Advance, **due July 31<sup>st</sup>**, applicants **may** apply for the balance of their eligible advance. This is a benefit to producers not eligible to receive their full \$100,000.00 in the “Intended Honey Production Advance.” due to the 60% rule. If their AgriStability numbers will support it, applicants may apply for the balance of their eligible advance in this second reporting period. Applicants must remember that only the first \$100,000.00 of their total advance is interest free. **If you do not wish to receive any more advance money in this second reporting period you must check the box stating that no additional funds are requested.**

Note: The Anticipated production form says that **"If using AgriStability as security on the grain portion of this application, the producer must have the portion below signed by a Commissioner of Oaths"(p.11). This applies to Honey as well.**

The final application/reporting period is the **Actual Production Advance**. This application/report is **due Dec 31/2016** and must be filled out by all “Anticipated Honey Production Advance holders” as well as any new applicants. This application transfers the “Anticipated Honey Production Advance to an Actual Honey Production Advance. **Anyone failing to fill out this application report by Dec 31 will be asked to repay their full advance immediately. Reminder forms will be sent out by CCGA.**

Also new to Saskatchewan Beekeepers is the **Priority Agreement for Agricultural Suppliers**, page 14 of the application. Producers must have this form filled out by whomever is their input supplier, (whoever you purchase your bee feed and medications from).

CCGA does not require proof of identity, or photo ID. If you are applying as a Corporation you will need to submit your Legal Share Structure, indicating the Shareholders in the Corporation. You must also send in a copy of your Certificate of Incorporation.

#### **Repayment of the 2016 advance:**

The CCGA has an agreement with the honey cooperative such that if the honey producer sells honey through the honey cooperative and the honey cooperative receives a letter from the Producer to authorize it, the honey cooperative will withhold funds to repay the CCGA the advance.

If honey producers sell their honey other than through the honey cooperative, ("otherwise sell") the producer has 30 days from receipt of payment or 60 days from delivery to the buyer whichever is earlier, to pay back the administrator the advance received on the honey sold with proof of sale.

#### **Repayment of the 2015 advance:**

Repayment of the 2015 advance remains payable to the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association. Payment with proof of sale for your 2015 crop is due 30 days from receipt of payment or within 60 days of delivery to the buyer. Repayment without proof of sale is subject to interest on the amount of the advance from the time the advance was issued, as per the 2015 APP contract. All Terms and Conditions of the 2015 APP contract administered by the SBA remain in effect for all outstanding 2015 APP advances.

Applications for the 2016 CCGA APP may be found at [www.ccca.ca](http://www.ccca.ca) . Applications may be submitted by email to [applications@ccga.ca](mailto:applications@ccga.ca) . Applications may also be sent to the CCGA. See the last page of the Application form for the full Address details.