

We would like to send you a few updates regarding COVID-19 and ask you to share this information in your networks. Please continue to consult the [AAFC website](#) regularly for updates.

**1) CFIA Notice – Extension of Flexibility of the Labelling of Food Service products**

Beginning April 6, 2020, CFIA provided flexibility regarding certain labelling requirements for foodservice products that have no impact on food safety during the COVID-19 pandemic for a period of 90 days. This flexibility would have ended July 6, 2020 but **an extension of 60 days has been approved based on the feedback received from industry**. The flexibility allows for foodservice products to be sold at retail if certain requirements, including food safety, are met. CFIA will be sending a notice to industry on this topic and details on the extension will be found here [CFIA's information for industry webpage](#).

**2) Agriculture and Agri-food Canada Research Centres - Next phase of re-starting research activities**

Agriculture and agri-food research centres are entering [the](#) next phase of re-starting their research activities. Despite the challenges of making sure their research and operations can be conducted in a safe manner, AAFC is continuing to make every effort to advance all science objectives.

Most field-related projects have resumed and activities have been prioritized to maximize results within the current operating environment. AAFC is systematically analyzing research projects to determine which ones can resume. The resumption of research projects will be based on local conditions and that the health and safety of their employees continues to be the priority in all decision making. AAFC will have in place shortly a framework to evaluate and prioritize the remaining projects.

The next phase of integration is more complex as it involves projects that depend on staff working in confined spaces such as in labs, greenhouses and barns or involved very complex research. The re-opening of these facilities will be gradual.

**3) Canada-United States (U.S.) border restrictions**

Following up on questions raised on the industry conference calls with regard to travel between Canada and the U.S.: the current restrictions at all Canadian international border crossings remain in place until at least July 21. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) continues to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation in the U.S. The Government of Canada will take a cautious approach to reducing measures related to international travel, including travel across the Canada-U.S. border. A decision to ease current Canada-U.S border measures will be made in consultation with provinces, territories and the U.S. government, and will be based on science and an assessment of the current public health situation in both countries. Public health remains the top priority in any border re-opening plans.

Please send any specific information on whether any stakeholders have expressed views on the current border measures in place, and their impact on the agriculture industry to this [address](#).

**4) Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF)**

Following up on the questions raised on this week's calls with regard to broad Government of Canada programming: the \$962 million RRRF fund is intended to target businesses who have not been able to access emergency funding through other Government of Canada programs and will help to:

- mitigate the financial pressure experienced by businesses and organizations to allow them to continue their operations, including paying their employees;
- support projects by businesses, organizations and communities to prepare now for a successful recovery.

The RRRF is implemented by the six regional development agencies (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions (CEDQ), Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev), Federal Economic Development Initiative in Northern Ontario (FedNor), Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD), Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor)). Additional information and links to the application pages can be found [here](#).

Thank you,

**Industry Engagement Division**  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Government of Canada