



Cayman Islands Agricultural Business Information System

Farmers' Identification and Registration Programme (FIRP)



Policy Framework

Benefits, Obligations, and Procedures

Preamble:

The Farmers' Identification and Registration Programme (FIRP) is a part of the Cayman Islands Agricultural Business Information System (CI-ABIS) which will be underpinned by the pending Agriculture Act and will replace the existing Farmers Identification programme.

This ministry-led initiative has the consensus of the Cayman Islands Agricultural Society (CIAS) and the Department of Agriculture (DoA). Representatives from the aforementioned formed a committee tasked with the job of recommending criteria for farmers' identification and registration. The committee reviewed historic documentation, key stakeholder representation, and current international best practices. This enabled them to develop new criteria for the identification and registration of agricultural producers in the Cayman Islands. (See Appendix 1 Grand Cayman & Appendix 2 Sisters Islands).

The FIRP objectives are to:

1. Identify and register all agricultural producers in the country to assist with the formulation of agricultural policies and plans.
2. Collect and collate agricultural production data
3. Enhance the provision of benefits and incentives to the farming community.
4. Restructure the allocation of benefits and incentives to the farming sector

Categories of Agricultural Producers:

For all benefits assigned to the various categories below please see Appendix 3

I. Un-registered Agricultural Producers (walk-in)

An individual or company that is not registered as commercial or non-commercial but utilizes outputs delivered by the DOA most of which are heavily subsidized by the Cayman Islands Government.

Requirements:

- None

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II. Non-Commercial Agricultural Producer/Farmer (Backyard Farmer)

Open to any person interested or involved in the agriculture sector, particularly those individuals involved in 'backyard' production for personal consumption and/or supplementing household income through the sale of surplus production.

Requirements:

- ID Card and payment of an Annual fee of CI \$ 50.00 or \$ 75.00 for 2 years
- A Non-Commercial Agricultural Producer/Farmer may at any time apply to become a commercial farmer. This could be if the individual approaches the DoA after an expansion of an existing operation or a referral by the DoA inspector. The applicant would be expected to pay the difference between the Non-commercial Agricultural Producer/Farmer and the commercial Agricultural Producer/Farmer registration fee.

III. Commercial Agricultural Producer/Farmer (1)

Open to those individuals or registered companies actively involved in commercial/agri-business enterprises. That is any individual or company involved in the 'agri-business' and as such, this person or company undertakes the agricultural enterprise with a reasonable expectation of profit. (Also available to individuals or companies that are planning to establish a commercial/agri-business enterprise upon submission of a business plan.)

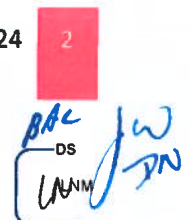
Requirements:

- ID Card and payment of an Annual fee of CI \$ 100.00 or CI \$ 150.00 for 2 years
- Verification that the agricultural enterprise meets and complies with the standards set for that particular enterprise, including:
 - Ownership and suitability of assets and resources.
 - Regulatory compliance (compliance with regulations and laws applicable to that enterprise).
- Verification of active involvement in the agricultural enterprise for which membership is sought.

Obligations/procedures:

Commercial Agricultural Producer/Farmer (1)

- All agricultural producers are required to apply to the DoA using the approved FIRP application form.
- The required fee is to be paid upon approval and before receipt of the FIRP Card.





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- All registered agricultural producers are to maintain their application status annually and will be required to provide their production data bi-annually. This can be provided electronically or in person to the DoA.
- The Agricultural Producer/Farmer identification and registration card will be valid for 1 year or a maximum of 2 years. This will depend on the applicant's preference. The applicant is required to reapply for a new card upon expiration.
- Where a company or individual is approved as an identified and registered commercial producer, the registration will be the name of said company/individual and the card will be issued to the registered individual or one proprietor of the company. A maximum of two (2) additional cards can be issued to any other person as recommended by the registered individual or proprietor. All additional cards issued will be at CI\$ 25.00
- A FIRP Card must be presented for all transactions at the Agricultural Commercial Centre and for all agricultural services provided by the DoA.
- Access to general services and agricultural inputs offered by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute.
- All CIAS registered members who are registered agricultural producers will receive preferential access to CIG grants and other benefits
- All CIAS registered members will receive a 25% discount on approved Farmers' Identification and Registration application fees.
- All FIRP cards to be replaced/reprinted shall attract a cost of CI\$25.00.
- All registered producers/farmers/companies under the FIRP should be in good financial standing according to the Public Finance Management Act. Failure to do so may result in said person or entity being disqualified from accessing any incentives or other benefits provided by the CIG to the farming community.

Provisional Commercial Agricultural Producer/Farmer

Individuals or companies seeking to establish a commercial agricultural business enterprise shall apply for a provisional Commercial Agricultural Producer/Farmer and Identification and Registration card. This will be valid for 6 months. Such an individual or company will be required to provide a copy of their farm operation plan and have received verification of the suitability of the resources and assets for their proposed operation. The operation should be commenced within 6 months of the application date to become a full-fledged Commercial Agricultural Producer.

A fee of CI\$ 100 which is non-refundable will be paid for the initial provisional commercial agricultural producer application. An additional fee of CI \$ 50 will be required to grant full-fledged Commercial Agricultural Producer registration. PCAP can apply for an additional 6-month extension. Approval will be at the discretion of the Director or his designate.

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Commercial Agricultural Producer/Farmer (2)

Open to those individual farmers who were previously registered as a commercial farmer under the previous policy and would not meet the new criteria for Commercial Agricultural Producers.

Requirements:

- ID Card and payment of an Annual fee of CI \$ 100.00 or \$ 150.00 for 2 Years
- Verification that the agricultural enterprise meets and complies with the standards set previously for that particular enterprise under the old Farmer's ID system, including:
 - Ownership and suitability of assets and resources.
 - Regulatory compliance (compliance with regulations and laws applicable to that enterprise).
- Verification of active involvement in the agricultural enterprise for which membership is sought.
- Applicants would need to submit their application by 1, September 2024 - 31, December 2024 to qualify under this category.
- No new applicants will be accepted for this category, this applies only to existing Farmer's or Companies affected by the new FIRP Policy.

Department of Agriculture Commitment

- The DoA shall process all completed applications (inclusive of all required documentation) received. This will include a verification process to determine if the information provided by the applicant is valid.
- The verification process will be completed by an officer of the DoA within 20 working days after a completed application form with all supporting documentation is received and the applicant is available to facilitate the verification process.
- An official notice should be given to all applicants once the processing of the application has commenced and the date of the farm visit for the verification process agreed upon.
- Once the verification process is completed the card should be issued in 10 working days upon payment of the required annual fee.

The FIRP card is valid from the date of approval until its expiration date. If the card expires, the farmer must renew it and pay the required fee to access the allotted benefits for agricultural purchases. Where an applicant holds a one-year registration the card can be renewed without inspection. All registered producers/farmers must be re-inspected every two (2) years in order to maintain their registration status.

All benefits will be suspended until a new card is purchased. Registered producers/companies with arrears (debts) exceeding 30 days, as outlined in the Public Finance Management Act, shall ONLY access inputs/services through the DoA Agricultural Commercial Centre at wholesale cost. All arrears must be cleared before a new card is issued.



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If a cardholder ceases to be actively involved in the agricultural enterprise or fails to meet their requirements and obligations under this policy, these actions SHALL result in the **suspension** or **cancellation** of cardholder benefits and privileges enjoyed under this programme. Said requirements and obligations included submission of the required bi-annual data, settling arrears (i.e. outstanding debt with the DoA), and compliance with all applicable Acts and Regulations. Where a person intentionally and repeatedly violates applicable Acts and Regulations shall not be able to access certain services incentives or benefits provided by the CIG through the DoA.

General Requirements/Criteria/provisions

Services offered by the Department of Agriculture:

General

- Crop and Livestock Extension, technical advisory, and training services
- Sale plants and planting material such as seeds, seedlings, and other propagated plant parts
- Sale of subsidized agricultural inputs such as livestock feed, fertilizer
- Abattoir services
- Veterinary services

Special Services

These services are provided on the basis that the applicants are approved based on being in good standing and accordance with established criteria/requirements set forth by the Department of Agriculture.

- Land clearing and preparation services
- Tree Crop Husbandry services
- Livestock genetic improvement services

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Monitoring, Evaluation, and Review

The Ministry will have oversight of the policy and the DoA tasked with its implementation. The DoA will provide an annual progress report on the FIRP to the Ministry. The Ministry will evaluate the success of the policy at the end of each budget cycle. The policy shall be reviewed every four years. However, any party that is a signatory to the policy (i.e. the Ministry, the DoA, and the CIAS can trigger an interim review.

Signed by: 

Mr. Eric Bush J.P.,

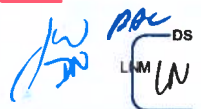
Chief Officer – Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure



Hon. Johany "Jay" Ebanks

Minister of Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure

August , 2024

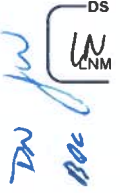


Appendix I:

**Cayman Islands Agricultural Business Information System
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Policy Framework
Benefits scheme**

| Category of Farmers | LIST OF INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|----------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| | Access goods and services at wholesale price | Access goods and services at cost | Maximum discount prices on agricultural supplies and inputs | Access to feed at a special discount rate | Access to general supplies to promote farming | Access to general services | Preferential access to agricultural technical advisory services | Advance notification of agricultural training opportunities | Access to post-disaster recovery programmes | Support for access to duty-free concession on agricultural imports | Support for work permits for farm labor | Support letters for annual gun licenses fee waivers | Priority access to technical advisory services & other services at the DOA & CARDI |
| Un-registered Agricultural Producers | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | |
| Non-Commercial Agricultural Producer | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Commercial Agricultural Producer (1) | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

CAYMAN ISLAND FARMERS' IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION PROGRAMME



Appendix 2



Ministry of Planning,
Agriculture, Housing,
& Infrastructure
Cayman Islands Government

Farmers' Identification and Registration Criteria Grand Cayman

Category/ Classification of Agricultural Producers.

Farmers shall be categorized as outlined under the headings below:

Livestock Agricultural Producer (I)

Should produce a minimum of the following at each annual census conducted by the Department of Agriculture (DoA).

| Livestock | Type | Quantity | Unit |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|-------|
| Cattle | General (Bull, cow, calves) | 15 | Head |
| Pigs (any one of the types) | Sow | 7 | Head |
| | Fatteners | 30 | |
| Poultry (any one of the types) | Layer | 200 | Birds |
| | Broiler | 300 | |
| Goats | Any breed/type | 30 | Head |
| Other Livestock | Dealt with on a case by basis | | |

Crops Agricultural Producer (I)

| Crops | Typesize | Quantity | Unit |
|-------------|-----------------------------|----------|-------|
| Fruit trees | Any type, including coconut | 70 | Trees |

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|--|--------------------------------------|---|------|
| Field Crop | Any Traditional Field crop | 1 | acre |
| | Vegetables | 1/2 | acre |
| <u>Control Environment Agriculture (1)</u> | | | |
| Container Farmers | Single or mix of crops | 525 | sqft |
| Shade house/green | Single or mix of crops | 525 | sqft |
| Grow box- equivalent | Single or mix of crops | 1/2 | acre |
| <u>Agro-Processing</u> | | | |
| Agro-Processing | Mixed or single value added products | Using primary local ingredients this will be assessed on a case-to-case basis | |
| <u>Livestock/crops - Mixed Agricultural Producer/Mixed Farmer (1)</u> | | | |
| <p>i. Livestock Producers can also qualify by meeting ½ of each of any two livestock categories</p> <p>ii. Crops Producers can also qualify by meeting ½ of each of any two crop categories</p> <p>iii. Mixed Producers can also qualify by meeting ½ of each of any one (1) crops and (1) livestock category</p> | | | |
| Please note the following : | | | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All other categories of livestock or crops will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. 2. Farmers are only required to meet one of the criteria above. 3. All farmers to MAINTAIN qualification for the respective categories outlined above, should produce the minimum quantity at each annual census conducted by the Department of Agriculture (DoA). 4. All farmers previously registered as commercial farmers under the previous policy and would not meet the new criteria for Commercial Agricultural Producers (1) shall be allowed to register as Agriculture Commercial producer/farmer 2 as outlined under the approved FIRP category benefits and obligations | | | |

Category/ Classification of Agricultural Producers (2).

All existing criteria remain the same as under the previous Farmers Identification System. Which is outlined below:



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Livestock

- i. Cattle – 5 head and 2.5 acres of land
- ii. Goats & Sheep - 10 head and ½ acre of land
- iii. Pigs - 2 Sows or 10 pigs (finishers)
- iv. Poultry - 100 broilers or 50 layers
- v. Other Livestock - Case by case evaluation

Crops

- i. Tree Crops - 35 productive fruit trees – equivalent to ½ acre at commercial spacing
- ii. Traditional crops - 1 acre or 1000 holes
- iii. Vegetables - ½ acre
- iv. Controlled Environment Production - Minimum of 1,800 sq ft under production
- v. Agri-processing -
- vi. Verification of agri-processing enterprise using locally produced agricultural products as the primary ingredient.

NB: This category is only for the existing commercial farmers who have been affected by the new policy and would not be able to meet the new criteria due to constraints such as limited acreage.



Farmers' Identification and Registration Criteria

Sister Islands

Category/ Classification of Agricultural Producers

Farmers shall be categorized as outlined under the headings below:

Livestock Commercial Agricultural Producer/Farmer

Should produce a minimum of the following at each annual census conducted by the Department of Agriculture (DoA).

| Livestock | Type | Quantity | Unit |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|-------|
| Cattle | General (Bull, cow, calves) | 10 | Head |
| Pigs (any one of the types) | Sow | 5 | Head |
| | Fatteners | 20 | |
| Poultry (any one of the types) | Layer | 100 | Birds |
| | Broiler | 200 | |
| Goats | Any breed/type | 20 | Head |
| Other Livestock | Dealt with on a case by basis | | |

Crops Agricultural Producer (I)

| Crops | Type/size | Quantity | Unit |
|-------------|-------------------------------|----------|-------|
| Fruit trees | Any type of including coconut | 50 | Trees |
| Field Crop | Any Traditional Field crop | .50 | acre |

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| | | | |
|--|--|--|------|
| | Vegetables | .25 | acre |
| Control Environment Agriculture (I) | | | |
| Container Farmers | Single or mix of crops | 525 | sqft |
| Shade house/green | Single or mix of crops | 525 | sqft |
| Grow box- equivalent | Single or mix of crops | .25 | acre |
| Agro-Processing | | | |
| Agro-Processing | Mixed or single value-added products | Using primary local ingredients will be assessed on a case-to-case basis | |
| | | | |
| Livestock/crops - Mixed Commercial Agricultural Producer/Farmer (I) | | | |
| iv. | Livestock Producers can also qualify by meeting 1/2 of each of any two livestock categories | | |
| v. | Crops Producers can also qualify by meeting 1/2 of each of any two crop categories | | |
| vi. | Mixed Producers can also qualify by meeting 1/2 of each of any one (I) crops and (I) livestock category | | |
| Please note the following : | | | |
| <p>5. All other categories of livestock or crops will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>6. Farmers are only required to meet one of the criteria above.</p> <p>7. All farmers to MAINTAIN qualification for the respective categories outlined above, should produce the minimum quantity at each annual census conducted by the Department of Agriculture (DoA).</p> <p>8. All farmers previously registered as commercial farmers under the previous policy and would not meet the new criteria for Commercial Agricultural Producers (I) shall be allowed to register as Agriculture Commercial producer/farmer 2 as outlined under the approved FIRP category benefits and obligations</p> | | | |

Category/ Classification of Agricultural Producers (2).

All existing criteria remain the same as under the previous Farmers Identification System. Which is outlined below:



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Livestock

- vi. Cattle – 5 head and 2.5 acres of land
- vii. Goats & Sheep - 10 head and ½ acre of land
- viii. Pigs - 2 Sows or 10 pigs (finishers)
- ix. Poultry - 100 broilers or 50 layers
- x. Other Livestock - Case by case evaluation

Crops

- vii. Tree Crops - 35 productive fruit trees – equivalent to ½ acre at commercial spacing
- viii. Traditional crops -1 acre or 1000 holes
- ix. Vegetables - ½ acre
- x. Controlled Environment Production - Minimum of 1,800 sqft under production
- xi. Agro-processing -
- xii. Verification of agro-processing enterprise using locally produced agricultural products as the primary ingredient.

NB: This category is only for the existing commercial farmers who have been affected by the new policy and would not be able to meet the new criteria due to constraints such as limited acreage.

Other General Criteria agreed.

- Land tenure – Applicants must provide proof of ownership or lease or written authorization to use the land for the period appropriate to the productive/economic cycle of the enterprise.
- Compliance - the responsibility will reside with the farmer to demonstrate compliance with planning, animal welfare, Public health, environmental, and/or any other national standard established by an Act, Regulation, or government policy applicable to that farm operation.
- Provide a biannual report on farming operation/enterprise as outlined in the Agricultural Bill/(Act*)

** Act being established*

- Exception - Where the farm is located in a residential area, pesticide application services will only be provided based on an assessment to determine Practicability and safety.



- Honor ALL financial obligations or Shall be disallowed from accessing incentives and benefits that are provided by the Cayman Islands Government through the DoA Commercial Centre

Signed by Committee Members.

DocuSigned by:
Leyda Nicholson-Makasare – DCO - M-PAHI
Leyda Nicholson-Makasare
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Demoy Nash – Deputy Director (Acting) – DOA

[Signature] 12.08.24

Brian Crichlow – Director (Acting) – DOA

[Signature] 12.8.24

Justin Woods - President - CIAS

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