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Canadian Immigration & Refugee Law

ALBERTA ADVANTAGE IMMIGRATION PROGRAM

Farm Stream

Requirements and Process

Client Information Guide

Prepared August 2026

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Farm Stream

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1. Overview

The Farm Stream of the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program (AAIP) nominates experienced farmers for Canadian permanent residence when they establish or purchase a primary production farming business in Alberta. It is assessed jointly with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, and – unusually among Alberta's entrepreneur pathways – there is no Expression of Interest system or points grid: you apply directly, on the strength of your farm management record, your financial capacity, and the quality of your farm business plan.

The financial commitment is the largest of Alberta's streams: a minimum of $500,000 of equity invested in the farming operation, backed by a demonstrated net worth of $500,000 or confirmed access to equivalent funds. In exchange, the stream offers a direct, individualized route for genuine farm operators – the province gives priority to proposals showing the strongest growth opportunity against Alberta's agri-food sector targets.

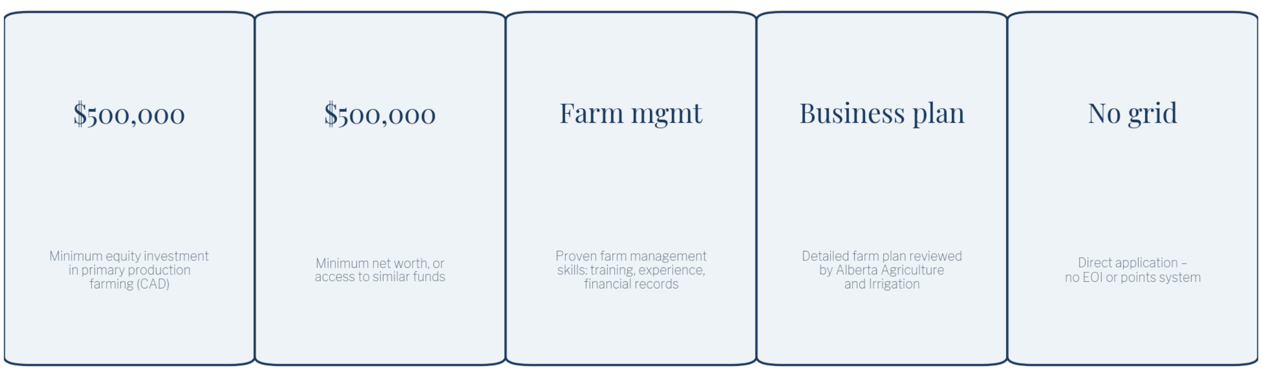

Figure 1: Core requirements at a glance.

2. Eligibility and Requirements

To qualify under the Farm Stream, you must meet all of the following criteria at the time your application is mailed and at the time of assessment:

Requirement	Details
Farm management skills	Proven farm management ability, documented through education and training, work experience, and/or the financial records of an existing farm business you own or operate.

Requirement	Details
Investment	The ability to invest a minimum of CAD $500,000 of equity in a primary production farming business in Alberta. The AAIP may require you to demonstrate the ability to invest more than the minimum.
Net worth	Documents showing a minimum net worth of CAD $500,000, or confirmation of the ability to access a similar amount of funds from other sources – including proof that a Canadian financial institution is willing to finance the proposed operation.
Business plan	A detailed proposed business plan documenting your investment intentions and the farming operation, submitted with the application. The plan is reviewed independently with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation.
Business type	A primary production farming business (crop and/or livestock production). Proposals are prioritized where they show the best opportunity for growth relevant to Alberta's agri-food targets.
Active management	A genuine intention to live in Alberta and directly manage the farming operation on an ongoing basis.
Interview	You may be required to attend an in-person interview with a Government of Alberta representative as part of the eligibility assessment.

The authoritative source is the Farm Stream eligibility page at alberta.ca. Meeting the minimum criteria does not guarantee a nomination, and the stream is subject to the AAIP's overall annual nomination allocation.

2.1 What “farm management skills” means in practice

The AAIP assesses whether you have actually run a farm, not merely invested in one. Strong files document a multi-year operating history: ownership or management of an existing farm, production records, financial statements showing farm income, relevant agricultural education or training, and familiarity with the type of production proposed for Alberta. The closer your existing operation is to the proposed Alberta operation – in commodity, scale, and methods – the more credible the plan.

2.2 The business plan carries the file

With no points grid, the assessment turns substantially on the farm business plan: the proposed commodity and production model, land acquisition or lease plans, capital expenditure schedule, market channels, financial projections, and how the operation contributes to Alberta's agri-food growth targets. Generic or under-researched plans are a common reason for decline. If an application is declined, a Request for Reconsideration may be submitted within 30 calendar days (fee applies), but reconsideration cannot introduce new evidence.

3. Ineligible Businesses

Notable exclusions and ineligibility grounds include:

- Operations that are not primary production farming (value-added processing alone, agri-retail, or passive farmland investment do not qualify)
- Candidates holding an active nomination under another AAIP stream
- Candidates subject to a removal order, refugee claimants, or persons in Canada without valid temporary resident status
- International students studying in Canada, including those on co-op placements
- Candidates previously barred from re-applying to the AAIP for a specified period

4. The Application Process, Step by Step

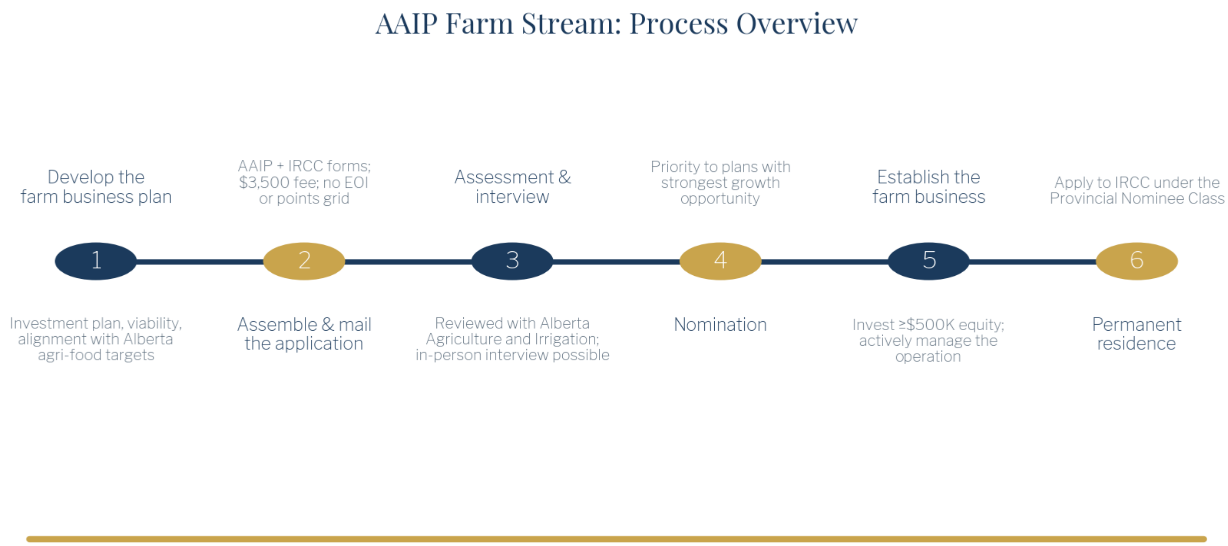

Figure 2: Process overview.

1. **Develop the farm business plan:** Define the proposed operation – commodity, location, land strategy, capital plan, and financial projections – and align it with Alberta's agri-food sector priorities. Assemble evidence of your farm management record and financial capacity.
2. **Assemble and submit the application:** Complete the AAIP and IRCC federal forms, pay the application fee (currently $3,500, paid online through MyAlberta eServices), and mail the complete package to the AAIP. There is no EOI stage; incomplete applications are declined.
3. **Assessment and interview:** The AAIP assesses the application in conjunction with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation and may request further information or require an in-person interview with a Government of Alberta representative.
4. **Nomination:** If the AAIP is satisfied with your farm management skills, financial capacity, and business plan, you are issued a nomination certificate. Priority goes to applications showing the greatest growth opportunity for Alberta's agri-food sector.
5. **Establish the farming operation:** Move to Alberta, complete the qualifying investment of at least $500,000 of equity in the primary production operation, and directly manage the farm.
6. **Permanent residence:** The nomination supports a permanent residence application to IRCC under the Provincial Nominee Class for you and your dependent family members.

5. Fees and Costs

Item	Cost
AAIP application fee	$3,500 CAD, non-refundable
Request for Reconsideration (if applicable)	$250 CAD, refunded only if the decision is overturned

Item	Cost
Business plan preparation, appraisals, translations	Applicant's cost
IRCC fees (permanent residence)	Federal fees apply

Fee amounts reflect the schedule in effect for applications submitted on or after April 1, 2024; confirm current amounts on alberta.ca before paying.

6. How This Compares to Other Farm Immigration Pathways

The Prairie provinces each operate a farm-focused business immigration pathway. The key differences:

Criteria	Alberta Farm Stream	SK Farm Owner/Operator	MB Farm Investor Pathway
Net worth	$500K (or access to funds)	$500K ($300K Young Farmer)	$500K
Investment	$500K equity minimum	No fixed minimum; scaled to the plan	$300K in tangible farm assets
Deposit	None	$75K refundable good-faith deposit	None fixed; BPA terms apply
Selection	Direct application; no grid	Direct application	EOI and BIS ranking
Exploratory visit	Not required	Mandatory, 5+ business days	Mandatory research visit
Language	No formal minimum	No formal minimum	Interview in English or French

7. Practical Considerations

- This is a farmer's stream, not an investor's stream: the assessment centres on whether you have personally managed farm production and will do so in Alberta. Passive capital without an operating record does not fit.
- The $500,000 must go into a real operating farm – land, equipment, livestock, inputs – not a fee or deposit. Budget beyond the minimum: the AAIP may require proof of capacity to invest more, and land prices vary widely by region and commodity.
- Confirmed financing from a Canadian financial institution can substitute in part for cash on hand when demonstrating access to funds – engage a lender early if the capital plan relies on it.
- Because there is no points competition, timing pressure is lower than in EOI streams, but nomination volumes are limited by the AAIP's annual allocation and the province's agri-food priorities – a plan aligned with growth commodities is materially stronger.

- Succession purchases of existing Alberta farms are common in practice; a purchase requires the same management evidence plus sound valuation and due diligence on the target operation.

Important Notice

This guide is provided for general information only and does not constitute legal advice for any specific case. It summarizes the requirements of the AAIP Farm Stream as published by the Government of Alberta (alberta.ca) as of August 2026. Program criteria and fees change from time to time and should be verified against the current program materials before any step is taken. Please contact our office to discuss how these requirements apply to your circumstances.

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