

AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES SERVICES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



- **I AM A FARMER, CAN I GO TO MY FARM WITH THE EMERGENCY MEASURES IN PLACE?**

Yes. Farmers can go to their farms between 6:00 am – 1:00 pm.

- **IS THERE HELP FOR LAND CLEARING AND PREPARATION FOR AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION?**

Yes, the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources is prepared to assist farmers in clearing and preparing their land for agriculture production. In Grand Bahama and Abaco there is a temporary waiver on the 50% co-payment by the farmer towards the cost.

- **IS ROADSIDE SELLING OF AGRICULTURE OR FISHERIES PRODUCTS ALLOWED?**

No. Selling of agriculture or fisheries products on the side of the road is prohibited. Agriculture vendors will be accommodated at the Farmers Market at Gladstone Road on Saturday. Fishers must sell their catch to wholesale fish houses.

- **HOW DO I APPLY FOR PERMITS TO IMPORT AGRICULTURAL ITEMS?**

Persons can apply for permits from the Department of Agriculture Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Social distancing measures will be in place.

- **I AM A FISHER, CAN I STILL FISH WITH THE EMERGENCY MEASURES IN PLACE?**

Yes. Subsistence fishing by one person or two persons from the immediate family during daylight and 8:00 pm. The catch must be for personal consumption. Commercial fishing for domestic consumption only which must be sold to a processing plant, wholesale distributor or grocery store. Social distancing while at sea must be observed.

- **IS THE PRODUCE EXCHANGE OPEN?**

The Produce Exchange located at BAIC Old Trail Road, opposite the Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute (BTVI) is open Monday to Saturday from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. The telephone contact is (242) 376-1503. Social distancing practices are in place. Only 12 persons will be allowed at one time. Senior citizens will be accommodated between 8:00 am and 11:00 am.

- **IS THE FARMERS MARKET STILL OPEN?**

The Farmers Market at Gladstone Road will be opened to the general public on **FRIDAYS** from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. The market will open on **SATURDAYS** at 8:00 am to 3:00 pm for **ESSENTIAL WORKERS ONLY**. The public is advised to present a government issued identification (Passport, Voter's Card, NIB Smart Card or Driver's License). Sanitation and social distancing will be strictly observed.

- **WHEN ARE THE PLANT NURSERIES OPEN?**

The Plant Nurseries on New Providence can operate on Monday and Thursdays only between 6:00 am and 12:00 noon.

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- **IS THE FEED MILL OPEN TO ALLOW LIVESTOCK FARMERS TO PURCHASE FEED?**

The Feed Mill is open Monday to Friday from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm. The telephone contact is 424-3658. Social distancing measures are in place.

- **WHAT DO I DO IF MY ANIMAL IS ILL?**

Persons are encouraged to call (242) 397-7450 to schedule an appointment.

- **CAN I STILL PURCHASE FEEDER PIGS?**

Yes, feeder pigs are can be purchased based on availability from the Gladstone Road Agricultural Centre (GRAC).

- **CAN I APPLY FOR A FARMER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE?**

The Department of Agriculture will provide temporary Farmer Registration Certificates. Farmers are reminded that Farmer Registration Certificates are valid until June 30, 2020.

- **IS THE ABATTOIR STILL OPEN?**

The Public Abattoir is currently closed. The public will be updated on the new opening times.

- **ARE THE PACKING HOUSES STILL OPERATING?**

The Packing Houses will continue to accept produce. There are no changes to the way Packing House payments will be made.

- **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Persons in need of services including import and duty-free permits can contact the Department of Agriculture at telephone (242) 397-7450 from Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 11:00 am or email: agricustomerservice@bahamas.gov.bs.

- **DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**

Fishers and processors in need of permits and licenses can apply at the Department of Marine Resources Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Persons requiring inspections and other services are asked to contact the Department of Marine Resources at telephone: (242) 393-1777, (242) 393-1014/5 or email: dofcustomerservice@bahamas.gov.bs.

- **BAHAMAS AGRICULTURAL AND MARINE SCIENCE INSTITUTE (BAMSI)**

Courses at BAMSI will be conducted online for the rest of this semester. Persons can complete applications online for short term courses and register for the Summer and Fall Semester at admissions@bamsibahamas.edu.bs and visit the website: www.bamsibahamas.edu.bs. Specific information requests can be emailed to info@bamsibahamas.edu.bs.

- **BAHAMAS AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION (BAIC)**

Persons who have questions or enquires concerning services provided by BAIC can visit the website at www.baic.gov.bs or send an email to agribusiness@baic.gov.bs.

- **BAHAMAS AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY (BAHFSA)**

Persons who have questions or enquires concerning services provided by BAHFSA can call (242) 604-7000, (242) 470-2868 or send an email to bahfsa@bahamas.gov.bs