



## **Notice to Seed Growers: Changes to CFIA Inspection Billing for 2026**

Thank you for your continued commitment to producing high-quality pedigreed seed. As part of our ongoing efforts to improve service transparency and align the service delivery with inspection costs, the CFIA is updating their billing approach for inspections conducted by CFIA inspectors beginning in the 2026 crop year. This change applies only for fields and plots for which CFIA has been chosen as the inspection service. As a follow-up to information in the CFIA's letter to seed growers sent out last month, below is additional information.

### **How was I billed previously?**

Growers were billed for CFIA crop inspections at the time of application using a formula based on number of inspections, crop type and acreage.

### **How will I be billed in 2026?**

Starting in 2026, pedigreed seed crop inspections conducted by the CFIA will be billed, after the completion of the inspection, based on the **actual hours required to complete each field inspection**, charged at an hourly rate. The hourly rate will be charged for preparing for, conducting and reporting inspections. For 2026, the rate is \$228/hr. Travel time is not billed and is instead incorporated into this hourly rate. In this way, it will even out costs for growers regardless of where they are located.

### **How much will my inspection cost?**

This change is designed to more accurately represent the inspection time required for the inspection. The exact cost of each inspection will be determined after the inspection is complete based on the time required to complete the inspection. There are many factors that influence inspection time, such as

- accuracy of grower map provided,
- size and shape of field,
- quantity and nature of impurities,
- access, condition and distance of the isolations
- condition of the field (weediness, lodging, etc.)

We appreciate your cooperation as we make this transition and remain committed to supporting your success in pedigreed seed production. Questions about the billing change for 2026 can be sent to CFIA Seed Section at [SeedSemence@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:SeedSemence@inspection.gc.ca). Questions about a specific field or invoice amount can go to the inspector who completed the inspection.

The following examples are included to help show how the new billing system for 2026 will be applied in practice. The scenarios are only examples as exact times are variable and dependent on field specific conditions.

**Scenario 1:** 2.5 acres Clover Breeder Plot

Preparation, inspection and reporting time = 2.0 hours  
Total travel time (includes to and from field) = 3 hours

Total time billed = 2.0 hours  
Total amount billed to grower = 2.0 hours x \$228 per hour = \$456

**Scenario 2:** 20 acres Foundation Soybean Field

Preparation, inspection and reporting time = 2.25 hours  
Total travel time (includes to and from field) = 2 hours

Total time billed = 2.25 hours  
Total amount billed to grower = 2.25 hours x \$228 per hour = \$513

**Scenario 3:** 160 acres Certified Mustard Field

Preparation, inspection and reporting time = 2.5 hours  
Total travel time (includes to and from field) = 5 hours

Total time billed = 2.5 hours  
Total amount billed = 2.5 hours x \$228 per hour = \$570

**Scenario 4:** 25 acres hybrid corn field with multiple inspection visits

Preparation, inspection and reporting time (for all inspections) = 4.25 hours  
Total travel time (includes to and from field for multiple inspections) = 8 hour

Total time billed = 4.25 hours  
Total amount billed to grower (for all inspection visits) = 4.25 hours x \$228 per hour = \$969

**Scenario 5:** 0.03 acres Certified Tobacco Field

Preparation, inspection and reporting time = 1.75 hours  
Total travel time = 1.5 hour

Total time billed = 1.75 hours  
Total amount billed to grower = 1.75 hours x \$228 per hour = \$399