



Growing Forward 2

2017-2018

Pollination Expansion Program Guidelines

Version 2

Our mandate is to grow the rural economy of this province and we will do that by investing in agriculture.



A federal-provincial-territorial initiative



For more information please contact:
Department of Agriculture
Programs and Business Risk Management
74 Research Drive
Bible Hill, Nova Scotia B6L 2R2
Tel: 902-893-6377
Toll free: 1-866-844-4276
Fax: 902-893-7579
Email: prm@novascotia.ca
novascotia.ca/programs

Overview

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) entered into a five-year (2013-2018) bilateral agreement to implement *Growing Forward 2*, the policy framework for agriculture.

Under the *Growing Forward 2* bilateral agreement, \$37 million in federal and provincial funding will be invested over five years towards strategic initiative programming. *Growing Forward 2* programs will focus on innovation, competitiveness and market development to ensure Canadian producers and processors have the tools and resources they need to continue to innovate and capitalize on emerging market opportunities. For more information on the *Growing Forward 2* agreement visit <http://www.agr.gc.ca>.

Over the five years *Growing Forward 2* and *Homegrown Success* programs will focus on three thematic areas:

- 1) Innovation
- 2) Competitiveness and Market Development
- 3) Adaptability and Industry Capacity

With the strength of our partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the funding for programming under *Growing Forward 2*, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture is well- positioned to provide assistance for the tools needed to improve profitability and competitiveness in Nova Scotia.

Program Objective

Beekeepers' pollination services are essential to the production of blueberry, apple, cranberry and other crops in Nova Scotia. With increasing acreages of these crops, there is an immediate need for additional pollination services. The Pollination Expansion Program aims to increase the number of honey bee hives available for pollination in the province by assisting registered Nova Scotia beekeepers with expanding their existing operations.

Who Can Apply

Beekeepers are eligible for *Growing Forward 2* funding if they meet the following criteria:

- minimum 5 years' beekeeping experience, **or** employed by an experienced beekeeper for at least one full season **or** completed a Beekeeping course from a recognized post-secondary institution,
- a current registration under the *Bee Industry Act*,
- a current registration under the *Nova Scotia Farm Registration Act*,
- a member in good standing of the Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association,
- must provide pollination services, and
- experienced beekeepers with 10 or more hives must purchase a **minimum** of 5 hives; inexperienced and/or small scale (<10 hives) beekeepers are limited to the **maximum** increases .

Current Hive #s	Eligible # New Hives
2 or 3	1
4 or 5	2
6 or 7	3
8 or 9	4

NOTE: Beekeepers solely dedicated to the production of honey are not eligible.

Eligible Activities

Activities that support hive expansion and hive health are eligible. Examples of eligible activities include:

- purchase of queens, bee packages, new hives, and nucs,
- purchase and/or construction cash costs of honey bee equipment per new colony purchased or split/produced,
- brood comb replacement costs,
- replacement purchase of hygienic/tracheal mite resistant queens, and
- fencing hives for protection.

Eligible Expenses

- cash expenses incurred between January 1, 2017 and March 1, 2018 for:
 - purchase of queens, bee packages, new hives, and nucs.
- cash expenses incurred between April 1, 2017 and March 1, 2018 for:
 - purchase or construction of honey bee equipment for each new colony purchased or split/produced, including two brood boxes, bottom board, inner and outer covers, two supers, queen excluder, feeder, 20 frames with foundation, 10 pounds of sugar, two pollen patties, and one pallet per four hives.
 - fencer/ battery/ solar panel/ up to 16 fence posts, a grounding rod, insulators and 200m of wire
 - commercially available winterization wraps and sleeves.

NOTE: Invoices or receipts for the selling of bees, hives, nucs, and/or eligible equipment between qualifying applicants are not eligible to attract financial assistance. The exception to this would be applicants who are acting as an importer of bees. Importers cannot receive assistance on bees sold to other beekeepers. As well, in-kind costs are not eligible.

Maximum Amounts

The total maximum assistance offered per applicant or operation per year is \$25,000.

Coverage of 75% of costs is offered for pollination expansion to a maximum of:

- \$150 per hive on increased colony purchases over the base number of hives established in 2016.
- \$75 per hive for purchase or construction of equipment per approved hive increase.

Coverage of 50% of costs is offered for brood comb replacement or purchase of hygienic/tracheal mite resistant queens to a maximum of \$5000 per year.

- Maximum eligible number of frames for replacement is limited to four times the number of hives provided for pollination in 2016, to a maximum of \$5000.
- Maximum eligible number of queens for replacement is limited to half the number of hives provided for pollination in 2016.

Coverage of 50% of costs to a maximum of \$600 is also offered for the following components of electric fencing:

- Fencer/ battery/ solar panel, up to 16 fence posts and 200m of wire.

NOTE: The \$600 fencing cap is applicable to all eligible beekeepers for expansion up to the first 25 hives and then applicable or offered only for each additional 25 hive increase/ expansion.

How to Apply

All applicants must submit a summary of their production management practices including disease and pest control and over wintering practices.

Complete the Pollination Expansion Program application form and submit to the Programs and Business Risk Management (PBRM) division of the Department of Agriculture by **February 3, 2017**. Submit a **Bee Health Management Plan** with the application. For more information on preparing the plan, contact Jason Sproule, *Apiculturalist & Pesticide Minor Use Coordinator* with the Department of Agriculture, at 902-890-1565 or jason.sproule@novascotia.ca.

NOTE: The PBRM division of the Department of Agriculture is accepting applications now, but approvals will be conditional until the 2017-18 provincial budget is final.

How to Claim

Complete the Programs Claim form and submit to the PBRM division of the Department of Agriculture with copies of all invoices showing proof of payment (i.e. cancelled cheque, credit card statements, debit slips, or official invoices marked paid and signed by supplier) by March 1, 2018. Also include copies of signed pollination contracts.

Project Evaluation and Audit

Review and evaluation of projects may be carried out by officials of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA) or other parties chosen by the NSDA for the purpose of audit, analysis, evaluation, program development and determining assistance. This review and evaluation process may be conducted prior to project commencement, during work or upon project completion. Applicants may be asked to complete an evaluation survey statement related to their final claim.

Confidentiality

Applicants consent to the release of their name and the amount of support received under the program as public information to be actively disseminated by the Department of Agriculture. Any other information provided, unless disclosed in the manner and for the purposes stated above, will be subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) Act.

Forms and More Information

Forms are available at novascotia.ca/programs. For more information on eligibility or funding, please contact the Department of Agriculture's Programs and Business Risk Management Division toll-free at 1-866-844-4276 or prm@novascotia.ca.