

# 2023 Season Response Guidelines

2023 – 2024

Version 2



# PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2023 SEASON RESPONSE PROGRAM

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The objective of the 2023 Season Response Program is to assist Nova Scotia Farmers to recover from crop production and financial losses due to the extreme weather conditions experienced in the 2023 production season. The program will provide financial assistance in consideration of other Business Risk Management programs and disaster assistance support available to producers.

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Fruit, Vegetable and Berry Farms
- Farms that produce forage, including livestock farms
- Mi'kmaq conducting farming activities in a Mi'kmaq community and other under-represented communities, including African Nova Scotians

## PROGRAM CRITERIA

Applicants are required to be:

- Currently registered in the correct income category under the Farm Registration Act
- At least 19 years of age and actively farming in the program year.
- Generating an annual eligible gross commodity income of \$10,000 or more.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Program Funding will be based on:

- Damage and loss occurred through 2023 production season through flood, excessive precipitation or wildfires (April 1, 2023 to November 1, 2023)
- Availability of crop insurance or other emergency funding
- Enrollment level of crop insurance and agri-stability
- Farm income level

**Note 1:** Levels of support will be determined on a discretionary basis according to program funding availability. Payments will not exceed \$150,000.

**Note 2:** No more than 100% of non-repayable funding can be received for any eligible project cost incurred and paid for by the applicant. This applies to all Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Programs.

## ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Crop losses: reduced yields and/or reduced quality
- Additional farm losses (such as farm infrastructure, and the cost of re-establishing fields) incurred as a direct result of flooding, excess precipitation and wildfire damage will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

# PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2023 SEASON RESPONSE PROGRAM

## INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

These include but are not limited to:

- Administrative / general overhead
- In-kind contributions
- Operating expenses/existing staff salaries
- Losses from value added or secondary processing are not eligible for compensation under this program.
- Travel
- HST

**Note:** Previously funded activities under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) or Business Risk Management (BRM) Programs will not be covered under the 2023 Season Response Program.

## APPLICATION / APPROVAL PROCESS

To apply for the 2023 Season Response Program:

1. Complete and submit the application by the application deadline.
2. Eligible project expenses will be recognized within the Activity Period stated in the table below.
3. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA).

Application Intake Period	Activity Period
February 21, 2024 – March 13, 2024	April 1, 2023 – November 1, 2023

**Note 1:** Clients new to Programs since 2023 must complete the Program Funding Registration form. Returning clients, must update the form as needed with any changes to business information including contact information, structure, commodities, environmental farm plan and Premise ID.

## AUTHORITY

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA) shall have the authority to deny an application if there is evidence of misrepresentation of pertinent information, or if the NSDA believes that an application does not conform to the spirit of the program.

## EVALUATION AND AUDIT

Review and evaluation of projects may be carried out by NSDA, Government of Canada or other parties chosen by NSDA for the purpose of audit, analysis, evaluation, program development and determining financial 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 related to their final claim.

# PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2023 SEASON RESPONSE PROGRAM

## CONFIDENTIALITY

Applicants consent to the release of their name and the amount of support received under the program. This specific information is deemed to be public information, to be actively disseminated by NSDA. NSDA may provide any information from an applicant to another public body or a law-enforcement agency in Canada to assist in an investigation, undertaken with a view to a law-enforcement proceeding or from which a law-enforcement proceeding is likely to result. Any other information provided, unless disclosed in the manner and for the purposes stated above, will be subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please submit all documents to Programs at the address, email or fax number below. For more information, please contact Programs or your regional office.

<b>Programs</b> 74 Research Drive Bible Hill, Nova Scotia B6L 2R2 Fax: 902-893-7579 Telephone: 902-893-6377 Toll Free: 1-866-844-4276 Email: <a href="mailto:prm@novascotia.ca">prm@novascotia.ca</a>		
Western Region Offices	Yarmouth	902-223-8085
	Digby	902-638-2395
	Kentville	902-679-6021
	Lunenburg	902-634-7575
Eastern Region Offices	Truro	902-893-6575
	Nappan	782-370-2278
	Antigonish	902-863-7180
	Sydney	902-563-2000