



# Blueberry Pollination Expansion Program Guidelines

2021-2022

Version 2

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

Programs and Business Risk Management (PBRM)

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## CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP (CAP)

The governments of Canada and Nova Scotia are committed to ensuring farmers and processors have the tools they need to innovate, grow and prosper. The *Canadian Agricultural Partnership* agreement is part of a commitment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to promote productivity and profitability for the sector. The programs are designed to help the industry position itself to respond to future opportunities and to realize its full potential as a significant contributor to the economy. Programs are also tailored with the flexibility to meet diverse regional requirements.

The partnership is a five-year, \$3-billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments that aims to strengthen the agriculture and agri-food sector and ensure continued innovation, growth and prosperity. The partnership includes \$1 billion for federal activities and programs, and \$2 billion in cost-shared programs delivered by provinces and territories on a 60-40 basis. In Nova Scotia, \$37 million will be invested through provincially delivered programs focusing on Markets and Trade; Science, Research and Innovation; Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change; Risk Management; Value Added Agriculture and Agri-Food Processing; and Public Trust.

In addition to cost-shared strategic initiatives, the partnership includes several business risk-management programs to help farmers manage risks that threaten the viability of their farms.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Beekeepers' pollination services are essential to the production of blueberry crops in Nova Scotia. With the increase in demand from the blueberry sector, there is an immediate need for additional pollination service. The Blueberry Pollination Expansion program aims to increase the number of honeybee hives available for blueberry pollination in the province by assisting registered Nova Scotia beekeepers with expanding their existing operations.

## ELIGIBILITY

### Farm:

- applicant is at least 19 years of age and actively farming in the program year;
- currently and properly registered in the correct income category under the *Farm Registration Act*; and
- generates an annual eligible bee related gross commodity income of \$30,000. The eligible income will be based on the Statement of Farming Activities (T2042, T1273 or Schedule 125 - Farm Revenue: detailing sales by commodity revenue code).
- a current registration under the Bee Industry Act,
- a member in good standing of the Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Funding assistance will be allocated according to stream. See eligible expenses below.

### ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

#### STREAM 1: Increase hives for pollination

Applicants are eligible for **\$100/hive** for \*new hives used to pollinate Nova Scotia blueberry crops to a maximum of 25% increase in hives used for pollination in 2020. Maximum funding in this stream is \$50,000. All eligible hives must meet the minimum standard for pollination strength from the Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association website: [New Beekeepers \(nsbeekeepers.ca\)](http://nsbeekeepers.ca)

*\*New hive numbers are calculated based on the 2020 registration renewal to the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture. Producers who have not submitted the registration renewal by February 15, 2021 will need to provide validation of pollination numbers.*

#### STREAM 2: Sale of Nova Scotia produced queens within Nova Scotia

Applicants are eligible for \$20/mated queen produced within your operations and sold in Nova Scotia.

#### STREAM 3\*: Efficiency improvements- 50% Cost Share (25% of bee related gross commodity income to a maximum funding of \$50,000)

Applicants are eligible for expenses incurred between April 1, 2021 and February 28, 2022 for items that will improve productivity and efficiency in their bee and/or honey production:

### ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- direct project costs;
- contracted labour / consultants / professional fees / training;
- materials / supplies / rentals;
- Modifications to existing equipment or technology for optimization or to enable installation of automation and labour-saving equipment / technology;
- One-time software systems related to upgrading and acquiring new equipment / technology;
- specialized equipment & shipping;

### INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

#### These include but are not limited to:

- administrative / general overhead;
- buildings / building modifications;
- in-kind contributions;
- multiple pieces of equipment with the same function (e.g., two specialized sprayers);
- ongoing software licensing costs or fees;
- operating expenses / existing staff salaries;
- tools; and
- travel.

\*Projects from Stream 3 cannot apply to Technologies for Value Added Agriculture or Advancing Innovative Technologies programs.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply for the Blueberry Pollination Expansion Program, complete and submit the Application. Late applications will not be accepted. Eligible project expenses will be recognized within the activity period stated in the below table, however, expenses incurred prior to the date of project approval are at the applicant's risk.

Application Intake		Activity Period	Claim Deadline
April 1 – September 1, 2021	Stream 1 & 2	April 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021	December 31, 2021
April 1 – September 1, 2021	Stream 3	April 1, 2021 – February 28, 2022	March 1, 2022

**Note:** Clients new to PBRM programs since 2018 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.

## APPROVAL PROCESS

1. Applications will be reviewed by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA).
2. If approved, applicants will receive a **Letter of Agreement (LOA)** which identifies the eligible project activities, assistance offered, and the terms and conditions under which assistance is approved.
3. Review, sign and return the LOA to PBRM within **30 days** of the date of the letter or your funding will be forfeited.

## CLAIMING PROCESS

1. Claim deadline is noted in table above (page 5), in Application Process.
2. Complete and sign the **Program Claim Form** that you received with your LOA.
3. Attach copies of all invoices for eligible project costs incurred and paid for by the applicant.
4. Attach proof of payment for each invoice – debit slips, cancelled cheques, or credit card statements. (receipted invoices marked paid and signed by the supplier are not accepted)
5. Submit your claim with the required supporting documentation to PBRM by the claim deadline.

**Note 1:** No payment will be made for claims under \$20.00.

**Note 2:** Invoice and proof of sale of queens to Nova Scotia beekeepers.

**Note 3:** Invoice and proof of payment received from Nova Scotia blueberry producer.

## ARM'S LENGTH TRANSACTIONS

Financial assistance will only be offered on transactions (invoices) that involve a supplier/service provider with an arm's-length relationship to the applicant for approved projects. For the purposes of Programs, arm's length is defined as individuals who are NOT connected by blood relationship, marriage, common-law partnership, or adoption.

## AUTHORITY

The Department shall have the authority to deny an application if there is evidence of misrepresentation of pertinent information, or if the Department 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 officials of (NSDA), Government of Canada 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. 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 (FOIPOP) Act.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please submit all documents related to the Wild Blueberry Pollination Expansion Program to PBRM at the address, email or fax number below. For more information about the Program, please contact PBRM or your regional office.

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	Kentville	902-679-6021
	Lunenburg	902-634-7575
Eastern Region Offices	Truro	902-893-6575
	Antigonish	902-863-7180
	Sydney	902-563-2000