

Cattle and Sheep Industry Development
Guidelines
2022-2023



PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The Cattle and Sheep Industry Development program seeks to improve industry competitiveness and resilience by providing funding assistance which gives producers the opportunity to make investments that increase livestock numbers.

The program helps to address tight cash flow when livestock numbers are increasing. Cattle and sheep development projects often do not see increased income for up to 2 years from the time of investment.

How the program works:

Applicants obtain a deferred payment loan product with a commercial lending institution.

Program funds assist by offsetting interest charges for the first 2 years after the loan is taken.

Applicants will provide a statement from their financial institution showing the projected interest charges for 2 years.

Funding representing the first 2 years of interest will be released to the applicant.

Applicant will pay the interest charges to the financial institution.

This provides a 2-year window without principal or interest payments.

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*;
- Generates annual eligible gross commodity income of \$30,000 or greater. The eligible commodity income will be based on the most recent Statement of Farming Activities (T2042, T1273 or Schedule 125 - Farm Revenue: detailing sales by commodity revenue code);
- At the time of application, applicant is in good standing with the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers ("NSCP") Licensing and Levy requirements under the *Natural Products Act* and/or currently in good standing with Sheep Producers Association of Nova Scotia ("SPANS"), designated under the *Agriculture and Marketing Act*;
- Applicant must be enrolled in a herd/flock health program and provide a letter from his/her veterinarian confirming participation in an approved vaccination program;
- Applicant must have completed a recognized humane handling course. To register for Perennia's *Safe Handling and Transport of Sheep and Cattle* course, please visit <https://www.perennia.ca/learning/safe-handling-and-transport-of-sheep-and-cattle-course/> ; and
- Applicant must have a Premise Identification. To obtain a Nova Scotia Premise ID, please visit: <http://www.novascotia.ca/agri/pid> ;

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Applicants can apply for a maximum assistance of 10% of their cattle and sheep commodity sales. For example, a farm with gross sales of \$80,000 in cattle and \$30,000 in gross sales for sheep would be eligible for a maximum of \$8,000 for cattle projects and \$3,000 for sheep projects.

Project	Cost Share	Maximum Assistance
Investments that are deemed to increase the size of the cattle herd/ sheep flock and/or investments that will lower operating expenses sufficiently.	100% of interest costs for 2 years to the maximum calculated from sales	10% of annual cattle and sheep commodity sales

Note 1: Cattle and sheep commodity sales are calculated by adjusting livestock purchases.

Note 2: Funding for the program is limited and the final decision to support will be determined by Programs.

Note 3: No more than 100% of non-repayable funding can be received for any eligible project cost incurred and paid for by the applicant, regardless of source. Applicants are required to disclose all funding sources.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The loan may be obtained from any financial institution providing a 2-year deferred term loan product.

Applicant must provide a copy of the loan offer that includes the following:

- loan amount and purpose
- date of first payment
- loan amortization period; and
- fixed interest rate.

Application and Repayment Agreement forms must be received within 3 months of loan approval.

INELIGIBLE

- Operating Lines of Credit
- Refinancing Loans
- Variable Interest Rate Loans
- Projects connected to increasing milk production
- Farm machinery/equipment

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply for the Cattle and Sheep Industry Development Program, complete and submit the program application along with your deferred term loan offer within 3 months of loan approval. Eligible loans will be recognized within the activity period stated in the below table. Loans incurred prior to the date will not be covered. Late applications will not be accepted.

Application Intake Period
April 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

Note: Clients new to 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

Applications are assessed based on the submitted information and supporting documentation. If an application requires further assessment or information, Programs staff will follow up with the applicant.

If approved, applicants will receive a Letter of Agreement (LOA) which identifies the eligible assistance offered, and the terms and conditions under which assistance is approved.

Review, sign and return the LOA to Programs office within 30 days of the date of the letter or your funding will be forfeited.

REPAYMENT AGREEMENT

The recipient will be required to repay the amount of benefit received through this program if the farm, farmland or assets relating to the eligible loan are sold, or if the farming operation is discontinued for any reason within a **five-year** period from the date of loan/approval.

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 NSDA, Government of Canada or other parties chosen by NSDA for the purpose of audit, analysis, evaluation, program development and determining funding. 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.

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 Cattle and Sheep Industry Development Program to Programs office at the address, email or fax number below. For more information about the program, please contact your regional office.

Western Region Offices	Cornwallis	902-638-2395
	Kentville	902-679-6021
	Lunenburg	902-634-7575
Eastern Region Offices	Truro	902-893-6575
	Antigonish	902-863-7180
	Sydney	902-563-2000

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