

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

Apiculture Sustainable Growth and Health Program Guidelines

2023-2024

Version 2



Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) is a five-year (2023-2028), \$3.5-billion investment by federal-provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and \$2.5 billion in cost-shared programs and activities by federal, provincial, and territorial governments.

In Nova Scotia, \$46 million will be invested through a federal-provincial partnership that is linked to five program streams: 1) Building Sector Capacity, Growth and Competitiveness; 2) Climate Change and Environment; 3) Market Development and Trade; 4) Science, Research, and Innovation; and 5) Resiliency and Public Trust.

We support the development of diverse and inclusive industries. We welcome individuals from all equity-deserving communities including but not limited to women, persons with disabilities, Black and African Nova Scotians, Mi'kmaq, Indigenous peoples, 2SLGBTQI+ and racialized individuals, to apply to programming.

Program Objectives

The Apiculture Sustainability Growth and Health Program is to promote hive health, pollination expansion and adoption of efficient technologies to help with labour shortages.

Eligible Applicants

- Nova Scotia Beekeeper
- Mi'kmaq conducting farming activities in Mi'kmaw Communities

Program Criteria

- currently registered in the correct income category under the Farm Registration Act or you are a Mi'kmaq conducting farming activities in Mi'kmaw Communities
- currently registered under the Bee Industry Act
- minimum of 10 hives registered in 2022
- member in good standing with the Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association
- is a Nova Scotia resident
- is at least 19 years of age and actively farming in the program year

Financial Assistance

Stream 1: Pollination Expansion

Commodity Income	Expansion Allowance	Maximum Funding	In-Kind Labour Maximum
Under \$30,000	10 Hives (used for pollination)	\$100/Hive = \$1,000	15% of project costs up to \$150
Above \$30,000	25% increase based on hives used for pollination in 2022	\$100/Hive to a maximum of \$15,000	15% of project costs up to \$2,000

Note 1: 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)

Note 2: In-Kind Labour will be additional funding on top of the per/hive maximum. A rate of \$22/hour (based on the average Living Wage of NS) will be used.

Example: An applicant above \$30,000 in commodity income with a \$5,000 total project cost will be eligible for \$750 to go towards in-kind labour, this works out to 34 hours.

Stream 2: Hive Health

Activity	Eligible Item	Maximum Funding
Pest Monitoring	Small Hive Beetle Traps	\$3 per Beetle Trap ¹
	Varroa Mite Shakers	\$25 per Mite Shaker ¹
Disease Monitoring	VITA Field Diagnostic Kits	\$25 per kit ¹
	Laboratory Diagnostic Fees	50% cost share
Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) Establishment	Costs associated with establishing VCPR	Up to \$200 per applicant

¹ See Eligible Expenses section for more details on the number of items each applicant is eligible to apply for.

Stream 3: Production Efficiency Equipment (Appendix A)

Commodity Income	Cost Share	Maximum Funding
Under \$30,000	50%	\$2,000
Above \$30,000	50%	\$10,000

Note 1: All program funding is subject to funding availability.

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.

Note 3: Quotes are required and must be provided with the application.

Eligible Expenses

Pest Monitoring
<p>Small Hive Beetle Traps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants can apply for up to 2 times the # of hives registered in the preceding year <p>Varroa Mite Shakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants can apply for up to 1 varroa mite shaker per 20 hives registered in the preceding year
Disease Monitoring
<p>VITA American Foulbrood Diagnostic Test Kit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants can apply for up to 2 test kits per 25 hives registered in the preceding year

Production Efficiency Equipment

For a full list of eligible production efficiency equipment see Appendix A.

Ineligible Expenses

These include but are not limited to:

- administrative / general overhead
- buildings / building modifications
- small construction tools
- multiple pieces of equipment with the same function (e.g. two specialized sprayers);
- operating expenses / existing staff salaries
- HST
- travel

Application Process

To apply for the Apiculture Sustainable Growth and Health Program:

1. Submit a complete application and supporting project quotes plan by **July 31, 2023**.
2. Submit a complete Program Funding Registration Form
3. Eligible project expenses will be recognized within the Activity Period stated in the table below. Please refrain from making purchases before receiving a Letter of Agreement from the Programs office.

Application Intake	Activity Period	Claim Deadline
April 21, 2023 – July 31, 2023	April 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024	February 29, 2024

Note: An applicant may only complete one application per year.

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, program funding offered and the terms and conditions under which program funding is approved.
3. Review, sign, and return the LOA to Programs office within **30 days** of the date of the letter or your program funding will be forfeited.

Claiming Process

1. After Programs receives your signed Letter of Agreement, a **Program Claim Form** will be sent to you.
2. Complete and sign the Program Claim Form by **February 29, 2024**.
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 – e-transfer confirmation, debit slips, cleared cheques, or credit card/bank statements. (Invoices marked paid and signed by the supplier are not accepted)
5. Attach in-kind labour documentation ex: spreadsheet identifying the date, task and hours completed (self identified)
6. Submit your claim with the required supporting documentation (Final Report if required) to the Programs office by the claim deadline.

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

Final Report

Projects approved for program funding may have mandatory reporting requirements. Applicants will receive the reporting template with their claim form if applicable.

Programs that require a final report will be subject to a 25% holdback on their submitted claim if the final report is not submitted at the same time. Final Reports may be made available publicly on the NSDA website and a follow up review may be conducted after project completion.

Leased Land

Eligible projects must be directly applicable to the registered farm qualifying for assistance on agricultural land owned or leased. A copy of the long-term lease (10 years) or rental agreement must accompany the Application for all physical projects applicable to the leased/rented land. It is a condition of approval that the lease be of at least 10 years duration. You must advise us immediately, in writing, if the lease is terminated, if the term of the lease changes or if the identity of the lessor changes in any way (for example, if the lessor assigns the lease or if the lease changes in composition).

Authority

NSDA shall have the authority to deny an application if there is evidence of misrepresentation of pertinent information or if 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.

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.

Appendix A

Stream 3 Eligible Project List (Production Efficiency Equipment)

Honey Processing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refractometer • Cream Pal Machine / Pump / Tank • Honey Bottling System • Automated Honey Processing Line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honey Clarifier • Honey Pump • Pressure Filter • Settling Tank • Pail / Barrel Warmer
Facility Equipment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pallet Forks and Bracket • 45 Gallon Barrel Grabber Attachment • Mini Forklift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irregular Sump Tank • 2 Way Pallet System • Storage Tanks

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scissor Pallet Lift • Sugar Tank / Pad • Liquid Sugar Storage / Metered Pump / Pad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot Water Pressure Washer • Pallet and Drum Scale
Queen Production	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell Incubator • Excluders • Pens • Matting Boxes • Poly Mating Nucs • Wooden Mating Nucs • Cloak Boards • Breeder Queens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial Insemination Tools • Queen Cups • Grafting Frames • Queen Battery Boxes • Queen Cages • Confinement Kit • Mated Queens
Overwintering	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Winter Wraps • Poly Brood Chambers, Bottom Boards and covers • Indoor Wintering – ventilation equipment, HVAC, Controllers, Timers. 	
Feeding	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sucrose Pumping System • Hive Feeders • Tank Agitators 	
Hive Relocation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hive Strapping • Pallet Racking • Pollination Roll-Off Platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truck Boom Lift (Attachment) • Truck Tailgate Lift (Attachment)

Honey Harvesting / Extraction	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honey Super Lifter Attachment • Frame Extractor / Capping's Spinner / Pumps • Honey Extractor Line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automatic Uncapper with Capping's Press • Capping's Spinner
Portable Protection Equipment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hive Protection Cages • Portable Electric Fencing 	

Contact Information

Please submit all documents related to the Apiculture Sustainability Growth and Health Program to Programs at the address, email, or fax number below. For more information about the Program, please contact Programs or your regional office.

**Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture
Programs Office**

74 Research Drive
Bible Hill, Nova Scotia B6L 2R2
Fax: 902-893-7579
Email: prm@novascotia.ca

Programs: Telephone: 902-893-6377 Toll Free: 1-866-844-4276		
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