



Bee Biosecurity Program Guidelines

2019-2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Programs and Business Risk Management (PBRM)

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 Website: <http://novascotia.ca/programs>

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

Canada and Nova Scotia recognize that continued bee health monitoring is a considerable component for the longevity of the Nova Scotia bee industry. With the considerable growth in Nova Scotia's bee industry, maintaining a healthy hive is vital to provincial sustainability.

The Bee Biosecurity program was developed to assist Nova Scotia beekeepers with the costs associated with Best Management Practices (BMP) that will improve honey bee health through pest monitoring and elimination of accumulated pathogens and pesticide residues in wax combs. This will be obtained by encouraging producers to replace aging brood combs and purchase pest monitoring tools such as beetle traps and mite shakers.

ELIGIBILITY

An eligible applicant is a Nova Scotia beekeeper that:

- is currently and properly registered in the correct income category under the *Farm Registration Act*;
- is currently registered under the *Bee Industry Act*;
- has a minimum of 10 hives registered in 2018;
- is a Nova Scotia resident at least 19 years of age and actively farming in the program year.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Applicants can apply for the projects listed below. Expenses must have been incurred between April 1, 2019 and October 31, 2019. Each activity has a maximum allowable per application with the total of all activities not exceeding \$9,500. There are two categories of funding within this program to target hive health and pest monitoring. The table below outlines the items eligible, maximum funding levels, and quantities allowable per applicant.

Note: Materials to be claimed must be purchased by the applicant. Group purchases are not eligible.

Hive Health
<p>Replacement of Wooden or Plastic Frames and Foundations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% of cost for replacement of brood frames to a maximum assistance of \$3 per assembled frame. Applicants can apply for up to four times the number of hives registered in the preceding year.
Pest Monitoring
<p>Small Hive Beetle Traps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% of cost for small hive beetle traps to a maximum assistance of \$2.25 per trap. Applicants can apply for up to two times the number of hives registered in the preceding year. <p>Varroa Mite Shakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% of cost for varroa mite shakers to a maximum assistance of \$18 per shaker. 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"> 75% of cost for Vita Brand Foulbrood Diagnostic Kits up to \$15 per trap. Applicants can apply for up to 2 test kits per 25 hives registered in the preceding year.

Note: No more than 75% funding can be received for any project cost incurred and paid by the applicant, regardless of source. Applicants are required to disclose their funding sources.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted by October 1, 2019. Late applications will not be accepted. To apply for the Bee Biosecurity program, applicants are asked to complete the following steps:

1. Complete the ***Bee Biosecurity Program Application***.
2. Verify you are currently registered under the *Bee Industry Act*.

Note:

- Clients new to programs since 2019 must complete the Program Funding Registration form.
- Returning clients, please refer to the Program Funding Registration form and update the form with any changes to:
 - contact information
 - business information including structure, commodities, environmental farm plan and Premise ID

Submit all documents to:
Programs and Business Risk Management (PBRM)
74 Research Drive
Bible Hill, Nova Scotia B6L 2R2
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Email: prm@novascotia.ca

APPROVAL PROCESS

1. Applications are assessed based on the information and supporting documentation provided. If an application requires further assessment or information, Programs staff will follow up with the applicant.
2. If approved, applicants will receive a Letter of Agreement (LOA) that identifies the eligible project activities, assistance offered, and the terms and conditions under which assistance is approved.
3. Sign and return the LOA to the Programs office within 60 days of the date of the letter to secure your funding. Late agreements will forfeit any assistance offered.

You must review and return the signed copy of the Letter of Agreement to the PBRM office within 60 days or you will forfeit the funding.

CLAIMING PROCESS

1. Complete your Bee Biosecurity projects prior to the completion deadline of October 31, 2019.
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. Eligible purchases are **only** those made and paid for by the applicant. **Group purchases are not eligible.**
4. Attach proof of payment for each invoice – debit slips, cancelled cheques, or credit card statements.

Note: receipted invoices marked paid and signed by the supplier are not accepted as a proof of payment. No payment will be made for claims under \$20.00.

5. Include a picture of all destroyed brood frames.
6. Submit your claim with the required supporting documentation to the PBRM office by **November 30, 2019**. Submit as project is completed, or by the deadline noted. Multiple claims can be submitted prior to the deadline. Claims will only be accepted if an application was approved and projects were noted on your LOA.

CLAIM VERIFICATION

Verification of culled brood frames will be required before payment can be processed. The frames are to be destroyed beyond salvage to ensure they can no longer be used. Frames can be sawed or cracked in half. The verification process will be triggered by the receipt of your claim.

ARM'S LENGTH TRANSACTIONS

Financial assistance will only be offered on transactions (invoices) that involve a supplier/service provider with an arms-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.

PROJECT EVALUATION AND AUDIT

Review and evaluation of projects may be carried out by officials of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (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 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To find out more information about the Bee Biosecurity program, please contact Programs at 902-893-6377, toll free 1-866-844-4276, or your regional office at the following locations:

Central Region	Truro office	902-893-6575
Valley Region	Kentville office	902-679-6021
Western Region	Cornwallis office	902-638-2395
Eastern Region	Antigonish office	902-863-7180
Cape Breton Region	Sydney office	902-563-2000