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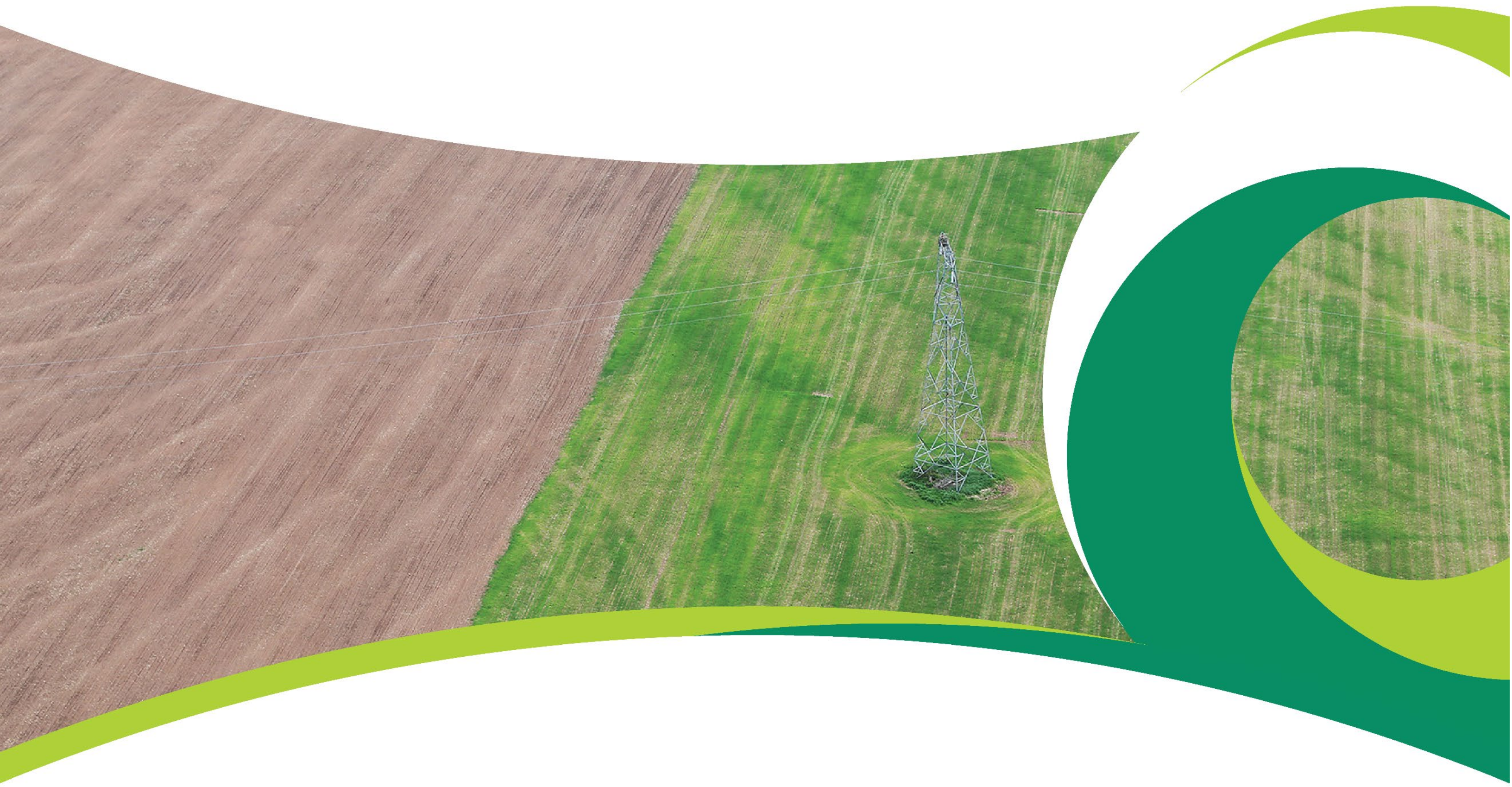
Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

2025 Canada-Nova Scotia Drought Recovery Initiative

2026-2027



NOVA SCOTIA

Canada

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership is a 5-year, $3.5-billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of Canada's agriculture, agri-food, and agri-based products sector. This includes $1 billion in federal programs and activities and a $2.5-billion commitment that is cost-shared 60% federally and 40% provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

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 are also committed to the development of diverse and inclusive industries. We welcome individuals from all underrepresented and underserved communities including but not limited to women, persons with disabilities, Black and African Nova Scotians, Mi'kmaq, Indigenous peoples, 2SLGBTQIA+ and racialized individuals to apply to programming.

Program Objective

The 2025 Canada-Nova Scotia Drought Recovery Initiative supports livestock producers and wild blueberry producers who incurred extraordinary costs due to the extreme drought conditions experienced in Nova Scotia in 2025.

Eligible Applicants

- Livestock Producers (Cattle, Sheep, and Goats)
- Wild Blueberry Producers

Program Criteria

Farms must:

- be currently registered under the *Farm Registration Act*.
- be actively farming in the program year and the applicant must be 19 years of age or older.
- livestock producers must have held a minimum of 10 beef or dairy cattle or 30 sheep or goats on August 1, 2025.
- wild blueberry producers must have actively managed a minimum of 10 acres during the 2025 season.

Financial Assistance

Applicants can apply to receive Program funding up to **70%** of eligible extraordinary expenses, to a **maximum of $500,000**.

No payment will be made for less than $200.

Program funding will be based on the following requirements:

Livestock Producers

Applicants will need to submit Livestock Inventory Records for eligible livestock owned and/or leased on **August 1, 2025**.

Eligible livestock are listed in the table below.

Livestock Type	Livestock Class
Beef Cattle	Bred Cow
	Bred Heifer
	Replacement Heifer
	Bull
Sheep and Goats	Ewe / Replacement Ewe
	Ram
	Doe / Replacement Doe
	Buck
Dairy Cattle	Lactating
	Non-Lactating
	Replacement Heifer
	Calf

August 1, 2024 to May 15, 2025 will be considered the "**Reference Period**". The **Reference Period** is used to establish usual feed and water costs for the farm in a non-drought year. Applicants must provide feed and water costs for the **Reference Period**, as well as financial statements or farm tax returns. These documents will be used to establish the benchmark to calculate eligible costs.

Applicants must also provide invoices/receipts for eligible expenses incurred between **August 1, 2025** and **May 15, 2026**. Eligible expenses include:

- feed costs, including forage, grain, commercially prepared/pelleted ration, and other feed ingredients;
- feed transportation;
- water costs; and/or
- water transportation.

If feed and water were self-hauled, transportation costs will be calculated using the Department of Public Works Gravel Hauling Rates and Transportation Association of Nova Scotia Fuel Surcharges.

Note: A livestock farm that started doing business in 2025 and does not have records for the Reference Period may be considered. Farms in this situation should contact the Programs office.

Programs requires the weight of feed purchased to ensure that feed purchases are proportionate to the number of eligible livestock owned or leased. If the invoice unit is bales, the invoice must specify either the weight or size of each bale. If bale size is specified, Programs will convert bales to a weight measurement using provincial averages. See Worksheet for Livestock Feed Invoices for more information.

Eligible costs will be calculated as follows:

(Total Drought Period costs – Total Reference Period costs)

The payment calculation will be:

(Eligible costs for livestock – (per head threshold x head of eligible livestock)) x 70%

The per head minimum threshold is 15 days' worth of feed and transportation costs:

- beef cattle: $111.00
- dairy cattle: $159.00
- sheep/goats: $17.00

Applicants are responsible for costs below the per head minimum threshold.

Wild Blueberry Producers

The **"Reference Period"** for wild blueberry producers will be **2024**, with the exception of growers with an alternating production cycle (i.e. all fields are in crop year or sprout year in the same year), in which case the **Reference Period** will be the most recent crop year before 2025, being either **2023** or **2024**.

For the **Reference Period**, applicants must provide invoices/receipts for the following, along with farm financial statements or tax returns:

- expenses for purchase and application of fertilizer,
- expenses for purchase and application of pesticides, and
- expenses for pollination.

These documents will be used to establish the benchmark to calculate eligible costs.

Applicants must also provide invoices/receipts for the 2025 and 2026 growing seasons:

- expenses for purchase and application of fertilizer,
- expenses for purchase and application of pesticides, and
- expenses for pollination.

Applicants who purchase and apply their own pest control products, fertilizer, and pollination services may submit product application records in lieu of receipts for the Reference Period, 2025 and 2026. In such cases, product costs will be calculated on a per acre basis.

Note: A wild blueberry farm that started doing business in 2025 and does not have records for the Reference Period may be considered. Farms in this situation should contact the Programs office.

Eligible costs will be calculated as follows:

(2026 expenses – Reference Period expenses) + (2025 expenses – Reference Period expenses)

The payment calculation will be:

((Eligible costs) - (minimum threshold $60/acre x # of managed wild blueberry acres)) x 70%

The minimum threshold is **$60/acre**. Applicants are responsible for costs below the minimum threshold.

Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible expenses are expenses that will not be compensated under this program and include, but are not limited to:

- eligible expenses for which financial assistance was received from any other source,
- travel expenses,
- administrative/general overhead,
- operating expenses/existing staff wages/salaries, and
- HST.

Note: Program funding will only be offered on transactions (invoices) that involve a supplier/service provider that is at arm's length from the applicant, unless it is demonstrated that no reasonable arm's-length supplier/service provider is available within the service area. In such cases, applicants must disclose the relationship and provide evidence that pricing is fair and consistent with market rates. Final eligibility will be determined by Programs.

Application Process

To apply for the 2025 Canada-Nova Scotia Drought Recovery Initiative:

- Submit a complete application by the applicable deadline: August 31, 2026, for livestock and November 30, 2026, for wild blueberries. Only one application per farm will be accepted. Farms with both livestock and wild blueberries may contact Programs before the livestock deadline to indicate that they intend to submit their application in two parts.
- Attach required financial statements, **all** copies of invoices for eligible project costs incurred and proof of payment.

Livestock Application Intake	Activity Period
July 3, 2026 - August 31, 2026	August 1, 2025 - May 15, 2026

Wild Blueberry Application Intake	Activity Period
July 3, 2026 – November 30, 2026	August 15, 2025 - November 30, 2026

Note: Applicants new to Programs since 2023 must complete the Program Funding Registration (PFR) form. Returning applicants 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. If approved, applicants will receive a **Letter of Agreement (LOA)** that identifies the Program funding offered and the terms and conditions under which Program funding is approved.
2. The applicant is responsible for reporting any errors in the LOA, including the program funding amounts provided.
3. The applicant must review, sign and return the LOA to Programs within **30 days** of the date of the LOA or the Program funding will be forfeited.

Note: Payments may be adjusted if total Eligible Costs under the Program exceed the Program's budget.

Leased Land

Eligible projects must be directly applicable to the registered farm qualifying for Program funding on agricultural land owned or leased. A copy of the long-term lease of at least 10 years or rental agreement must accompany the application for all physical projects applicable to the leased/rented land.

Authority

The Department of Agriculture shall have the authority to deny an application if it does not meet the requirements described in the Program Guidelines or there is evidence of misrepresentation of pertinent information.

Termination

The Program may be terminated or amended at any time by Nova Scotia or Canada, without prior notice.

Evaluation and Audit

Evaluation and audit of projects may be carried out by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Canada, or other parties chosen by the Department of Agriculture 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 and/or upon project completion. Applicants may be asked to complete an evaluation survey related to their final claim.

Conflict of Interest

No current or former Federal public servant or public office holders will receive benefits from this funding except in compliance with Conflicts of Interest Act (Canada), the Conflicts of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons, or the Federal “Values and Ethics Code” for the public sector and the Federal “Policy on Conflicts of Interest and Post-Employment”. No Member of Parliament or Senator will be allowed to obtain financial benefit from this funding except in accordance with the Parliament of Canada Act.

Contact Information

Submit all documents to Programs at the address or email below. For more information, contact Programs or your regional office.

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture
Programs Office
74 Research Drive
Bible Hill, Nova Scotia B6L 2R2
Telephone: 902-893-6377
Toll Free: 1-866-844-4276
Email: agrirecovery@novascotia.ca

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Regional Offices		
Western (Covering West Hants, Kings, Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens, and Lunenburg counties)	Yarmouth	902-223-8085
	Digby	902-638-2395
	Kentville	902-679-6021
	Lunenburg	902-634-7575
Eastern (Covering Colchester, Cumberland, East Hants, Halifax - including HRM, Pictou, Antigonish, Guysborough, Richmond, Inverness, Cape Breton, and Victoria counties)	Truro	902-893-6575
	Nappan	782-370-2278
	Antigonish	902-863-7180
	Sydney	902-563-2000