

# Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

## Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Agriculture Support Program Guidelines

2025-2026



## 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 support the development of diverse and inclusive industries and welcome individuals from underrepresented and underserved communities to apply to programming.

## Program Objective

The objective of the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Agriculture Support Program is to help individuals from underrepresented and underserved communities grow agricultural businesses by offering support for business advisory services, specialized equipment and building improvements.

## Eligible Applicants

- Persons with disabilities
- Black and African Nova Scotians
- Mi'kmaq
- Indigenous peoples
- Other racialized individuals

## Program Criteria

### Individuals must:

- be currently registered under the *Farm Registration Act*. If the applicant is not actively registered under the *Farm Registration Act*, please reach out to the Diversity Programming Specialist to explore available supports.
- be at least 19 years of age.
- belong to an underrepresented or underserved group listed under Eligible Applicants above and be starting a farm business or currently operating a farm business with farm income of less than \$30,000.

### Additional Requirements:

- Schedule A and B of the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is required if Land Improvement projects are requested.

## Financial Assistance

Applicants can apply to receive Program funding up to **80%** of eligible expenses, to a maximum of **\$8,000** per program year.

Applicants can apply to receive additional Program funding up to **80%** of eligible expenses, to a maximum of **\$2,000** over the life of Sustainable CAP for expenses listed under 'Business Advisory Services' in Appendix A.

**Note:** This program is anticipated to be offered again in 2026-27 and 2027-28. However, programs may be modified or discontinued based on budget availability, industry feedback, and government priorities.

## Eligible Expenses

Eligible expenses include farm building improvements and equipment to support farm growth. Refer to **Appendix A** at the end of this document for examples.

### Additional Expense Eligibility Requirements

- Used equipment must be purchased from a recognized dealer and be in good condition. Applicants must identify at time of application if they are purchasing used equipment, and these applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- All food and farm safety plans must include a needs assessment, gap assessment or re-audit assessment.
- Program funding will only be offered on transactions (invoices) that do not involve a supplier/service provider that is associated with the applicant, unless it is proven that an associated supplier/service provider is the only registered company providing that service in the area. In such cases that it is necessary to proceed with an associated supplier/service provider, the applicant must apply for a pre-approval from Programs before proceeding or submitting a claim to ensure that the associated costs will be approved for reimbursement.

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

## Ineligible Expenses

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

- travel expenses
- administrative/general overhead
- buildings/sea containers
- in-kind contributions
- multiple pieces of equipment per applicant with the same function
- purchase of ongoing software licensing costs or fees
- purchase of standard software programs
- operating expenses/existing staff wages/salaries
- HST

## Application Process

To apply for the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Agriculture Support program:

1. Contact one of our Agricultural Representatives or Diversity Programming Specialists to discuss your application form prior to submitting to Programs (see contact information at the end of guidelines).
2. Submit a complete application to [prm@novascotia.ca](mailto:prm@novascotia.ca) by **November 30, 2025**.

Application Intake	Activity Period	Claim Deadline
September 1, 2025 – November 30, 2025	April 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026	February 28, 2026

**Note:** An applicant may only complete one application for this program per year.

**Note 2:** 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. Complete applications will be reviewed by the Department of Agriculture as they are received.
2. 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.
3. The applicant is responsible for reporting any errors in the Program funding amounts provided in the LOA.
4. Review, sign and return the LOA to Programs within **30 days** of the date of the LOA or your Program funding will be forfeited.

**Note:** Approval of applications is subject to availability of Program funding. The total amount of Program funding awarded to each applicant, or to associated applicants, may be limited at the discretion of the Department of Agriculture to ensure opportunities for additional applicants to access Program funding.

## Claiming Process

1. After Programs receives your signed LOA, a **Program Claim Form** will be sent to you.
2. Complete and sign the Program Claim Form by **February 28, 2026**.
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. Submit your claim with the required supporting documentation to the Programs office by February 28, 2026.

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

## 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. It is a condition of approval that the lease be of at least 10 years duration and must last for at least 5 years after the project funding has been received. 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

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

## Evaluation and Audit

Review and evaluation 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 MP or Senator will be allowed to obtain financial benefit from this funding except in accordance with the Parliament of Canada Act.

## Appendix A

Examples of projects:

Category	Project
<b>Field and Farm Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mounted Sprayers</li> <li>• Hoists or Cranes</li> <li>• Tillers</li> <li>• Commercial Irrigation Equipment</li> <li>• Rippers</li> <li>• Grape Hoe Weeder</li> <li>• Power Harrows</li> <li>• Reverse Osmosis Machine</li> <li>• Seeders</li> <li>• Flail and Finishing Mower</li> <li>• Maple Harvesting Equipment</li> <li>• Harvester</li> <li>• Livestock Water System</li> <li>• Bush Hog (attachment to tractor)</li> <li>• UV lights/Rack System/Growing Microgreens</li> <li>• Paper Pot Transplanter System (transplanter/drop seeder/dribbler)</li> <li>• Weeding Equipment/Attachments (commercial grade, PTO attachment)</li> <li>• Frost Free Hydrants</li> <li>• Commercial Grade Trellis System</li> <li>• Commercial Vacuum Pump</li> </ul>
<b>Pest Control/ Mitigation Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bird Bangers</li> <li>• Bird/Insect Netting</li> <li>• Bird Wailers</li> <li>• Fencing (field design required)</li> </ul>
<b>Processing Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial Grade Wash Station Equipment</li> <li>• Commercial Kitchen Equipment (stove, oven, digital scale, stainless steel sinks, etc.)</li> <li>• Commercial Filtering System for Food Products</li> <li>• Maple Processing Equipment</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Control Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial Refrigeration</li> <li>• Commercial Freezer</li> <li>• Walk-in Cooler and Cooling System (no buildings)</li> </ul>
<b>Growing Structures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial Caterpillar Tunnel System</li> <li>• Commercial Greenhouse Kit</li> <li>• Trellis System for Greenhouse Growing</li> </ul>



<b>Farm Building Improvement(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fuel Tank (including pump)</li> <li>• Curtains (heat or ventilation)</li> <li>• Upgrading Electrical System or Adding Electrical Capacity</li> <li>• Livestock Handling System</li> <li>• Adding Water Supply to Farm Buildings for a New Purpose (not new builds)</li> <li>• Generator</li> </ul>
<b>Land Improvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface and Sub-surface Drainage</li> <li>• Tile Drainage (tile drainage plan required)</li> <li>• Farmyard Runoff Management</li> <li>• Water Well</li> </ul>
<b>Food Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enclosed Light Fixtures/Non-breakable Light Fixtures for Food Processing Areas</li> <li>• UV Systems/Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment</li> <li>• Floor Covering to meet Food Safety Requirements (no concrete work)</li> </ul>
<b>Marketing Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website Development and Adding E-commerce to a Website</li> <li>• Farm Signage</li> <li>• Graphic Design for Product Packaging, Logo, Product Labeling</li> <li>• Product Photography and Video</li> </ul>
<b>Business Advisory Services</b> (\$2,000 available over the lifetime of Sustainable CAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Plan</li> <li>• Feasibility Study</li> <li>• Emergency Preparedness Plan</li> <li>• Food Safety Plan</li> <li>• Lean Management</li> <li>• Six Sigma</li> <li>• Development of Farm Safety Plan (e.g. policies, safe work practices and procedures, inspections, record keeping, etc.)</li> <li>• Engineering Certification</li> </ul>

**Note:** If your proposed activity is not listed, please use the “Other items” category on your application

## Contact Information

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

**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: [prm@novascotia.ca](mailto:prm@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
Diversity Programming Specialists	All Counties	902-893-6575 or <a href="mailto:AgEDIAprogram@novascotia.ca">AgEDIAprogram@novascotia.ca</a>