

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Program Guidelines

2026-2027



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, 2SLGBTQI+ and racialized individuals to apply to programming.

Program Objective

The objective of the Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Program is to support the agricultural sector to reduce environmental risk and enhance environmental benefits, as well as reduce GHG emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. This program will support primary producers in accelerating adoption of priority Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) subject to completion of an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP).

Eligible Applicants

- Registered Farms
- Community Pastures
- Mi'kmaq conducting farming activities in Mi'kmaw communities

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.
- generate an annual eligible gross farming income of \$30,000 or more. The eligible farming income will be based on the Farm Registration income level.
- have a completed and current (within five years) Environmental Farm Plan (EFP).
 - Schedule A and Schedule B of the Environmental Farm Plan (certain projects applied for must be listed on these)
- indicate their Parcel Identification Number (PID) for their project location. For help with finding your PID, you can contact your regional office or visit: <https://nsfa-fane.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Where-to-Find-Your-Land-PID.pdf>

Community pastures must:

- be registered with the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stocks.
- have a bank account established for financial activities of the community pasture.
- if the community pasture is located on lands owned by the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board, be a leaseholder in good standing.

Note: The Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Plan website at <http://www.nsfa-fane.ca/efp/> contains a number of tools, factsheets, and other resources to assist producers in incorporating these and other environmental considerations into their everyday business decisions.

Financial Assistance

Applicants can apply to receive Program funding up to **50%** of eligible expenses, to a maximum of **\$20,000**, depending on Farm Registration income level.

Program funding will be based on 3 levels:

Income Level	Maximum Funding/Year
\$30,000 - \$99,999	\$10,000
\$100,000 - \$249,999	\$15,000
\$250,000+	\$20,000

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

Evaluation Criteria

Projects will be assessed and rated on their ability to reduce environmental risks to soil and water, improve habitat, and adapt to climate change, with consideration given to local environmental conditions and risk levels.

Eligible Expenses

The following items are eligible in this program:

Soil and Crop Management
<p>Description</p> <p>Unpredictable weather conditions can impact soil and crop management. This stream includes practices that improve resiliency on farms.</p> <p>The objective of the soil and crop management stream include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased farm productivity • improved climate resiliency • improved soil health <p>Eligible Expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMP 12: Equipment modifications or adjustments to reduce soil compaction (e.g. soil compaction tester, flotation tires) • BMP 90: Frost protection measures reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Equipment only (e.g.: micro-irrigation, fan inverters, etc.). • BMP 92: Installations of weather stations including equipment and installation costs
Integrated Pest Management
<p>Description</p> <p>Integrated pest management is an ecosystem approach to crop production and protection that combines different management strategies and practices to grow healthy crops and minimize the use of pesticides.</p> <p>The objective of the integrated pest management stream includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhanced ecosystem services (pollination, healthy soils, biodiversity) • reduced pesticide residues • reduced production costs • increased farm productivity <p>Eligible Expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMP 105: Acquisition and installation of physical anti-insect barriers • BMP 106: Acquisition or modification of mechanical or physical weeding equipment (weeders, pyro weeders, weeding robots) • BMP 107: Implementation of biosecurity measures to prevent the introduction of pests: installation of a hand and foot cleaning station, equipment cleaning or disinfection station, coating of buildings to facilitate cleaning and/or disinfection

- **BMP 110:** In crop non-chemical weeding and cultural control practices such as eco-weeders, multi-row weeder
- **BMP 111:** Water mobile tanks for spray applications
- **BMP 112:** Insect and disease monitoring equipment (lab analysis, pheromone traps, contractor fees for improved decision making)

Grazing Management

Description

This stream includes practices that improve wildlife habitat through proper grazing management.

The objective of the grazing management stream includes:

- enhanced ecosystem services (wildlife habitat, reduced greenhouse gas emissions)
- improved water quality
- improved pasture health
- increased productivity
- improved climate resiliency

Eligible Expenses

- **BMP 78:** Extensive wintering site pasture management (portable shelters/fencing, windbreaks, solar)

Product Handling and Waste Management

Description

Environmental risk can be reduced through proper product management. This stream includes fuel and chemical storage, manure storage and handling, composting, and waste management.

The objective of the product management stream include:

- improved water quality
- improved soil health
- reduced environmental risk
- reduced greenhouse gas emissions

Eligible Expenses

- **BMP 67:** Acidification of liquid dairy or liquid swine manure
- **BMP 68:** Anaerobic digestion of liquid manure with off-farm organics, conversion of biogas into electricity, heat or renewable natural gas.
- **BMP 69:** Composting of manure and deadstock, including windrow turners, windrow covers and cover lifters
- **BMP 70:** Construction of impermeable base and roof for minimizing runoff from livestock pen areas and confinement areas
- **BMP 71:** Manure storage (impermeable concrete base construction required for storage of liquid and solid manure, manure composting and livestock mortality composting. This can include all or any component of engineer design, permits, site

preparation, concrete pads, concrete walls installed for containment and contracted labour). **A completely enclosed solid manure storage is ineligible through this program.**

- **BMP 72:** Dewatering systems, recycling, nutrient recovery systems, solid/liquid separators without methane capture
- **BMP 73:** Impermeable negative air manure storage covers with methane or biogas capture
- **BMP 81:** Solid-liquid separation systems for manure or digestate
- **BMP 116:** Improve silage storage to reduce plastics use and handling of silage leachate. Funding for concrete/cement **base only** of structures
- **BMP 119:** New or improved on-farm closed transfer system for pesticide storage and handling
- **BMP 119a:** Fuel storage (improvements to stationary gas/diesel storage for use of farm vehicles or barn/greenhouse heating. CSA tanks, cement pads, electric pumps with automatic shut off, installations)
- **BMP 119b:** Chemical storage (one-time cost share, those that contain pesticides or liquid fertilizer only)
- **BMP 120:** New or improved on-farm storage, handling, and disposal of agricultural waste (e.g. livestock mortalities, fruit and vegetable cull piles, wood waste, wastewater) excluding manure.

Miscellaneous

Eligible Expenses

- **BMP 59:** Development and relocation of infrastructure to protect species at risk (e.g. nesting habitat for barn swallows).
- **BMP 86:** Adapting livestock buildings to limit thermal stress on animals: install livestock misters (sprinklers/sprayers) to cool livestock and reduce heat stress. Fans/ventilation are not eligible.

Additional Expense Eligibility Requirements

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.

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/building modifications/sea containers
- in-kind contributions
- operating expenses/existing staff wages/salaries
- small hand tools
- HST

Application Process

To apply for the Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change program:

- Submit a complete application by **May 31, 2026**.

Application Intake	Activity Period	Claim Deadline
April 1, 2026 – May 31, 2026	April 1, 2026 – November 30, 2026	November 30, 2026

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

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. Applications will be reviewed by the Department of Agriculture and shared with a review committee that will score the applications against the stated evaluation criteria.
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 LOA, including the program funding amounts provided.
4. 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: 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

A **Program Claim Form** will be sent to the applicant after the signed LOA is received.

To submit a claim, applicants must:

1. Complete and sign the Program Claim Form.
2. Attach copies of all invoices for eligible project costs which they have incurred and paid for.
3. Attach proof of payment for each invoice – e.g. e-transfer confirmation, debit slips, cleared cheques, or credit card/bank statements. (Invoices marked paid and signed by the supplier are not accepted).
4. Submit the claim with the required supporting documentation to the Programs office by **November 30, 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 it does not meet the requirements described in the Program Guidelines or there is evidence of misrepresentation of pertinent information.

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: prm@novascotia.ca

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