

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Program Guidelines

2024-2025



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 priority areas: 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, First Nations, Indigenous peoples, 2SLGBTQI+ and racialized individuals, to apply to programming.

Program Objectives

The Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Program will 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 to accelerate the adoption of priority Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) subject to completion of an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP).

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.

Eligible Applicants

- Farm
- Mi'kmaq conducting farming activities in Mi'kmaq Communities

Program Criteria

- currently registered in the correct income category under the Farm Registration Act; or Mi'kmaq conducting farming activities in Mi'kmaq Communities
- applicant is at least 19 years of age and actively farming in the program year;
- generates an annual eligible gross commodity income of \$30,000. The eligible commodity income will be based on the Farm Registration annual income.

Additional Requirements:

- 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)

- Parcel Identification Number (PID) for your project location. For help with finding your PID, you can contact your regional office or visit: <http://www.nsfafane.ca/efp/resources/factsheets/>

Financial Assistance

Applicants can apply for a maximum 30% funding the lesser of \$10,000 or 10% of gross commodity income per year for all projects listed within this program.

For example: a farm with gross apple sales of \$50,000 would be eligible for a maximum of \$5,000 per year.

Integrated Pest Management

Description

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.

The objective of the Integrated Pest Management stream includes:

- Enhanced ecosystem services (pollination, healthy soils, biodiversity)
- Reduced pesticide residues
- Reduced production costs
- Increased farm productivity

Eligible Expenses

- **BMP 105:** Acquisition and instillation 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)

Soil and Crop Management

Description

Unpredictable weather conditions can impact soil and crop management. This stream includes practices that improve resiliency on farms. The objective of the Soil and Crop management Stream include:

- Increased farm productivity
- Improved Climate resiliency
- Improved soil health

Eligible Expenses

- **BMP 12:** Equipment modifications or adjustments to reduce soil compaction (e.g. soil compaction tester, flotation tires)
- **BMP 90:** Frost protection measures. Equipment only. Ex: micro-irrigation, fan inverters, blanket covers etc. (Reviewed Case-by-Case)
- **BMP 92:** Installations of weather stations including equipment and installation costs

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 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 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 116:** Improve silage storage to reduce plastics use and handling of silage leachate. Funding for Concrete/Cement **base only** of structures
- **BMP 72:** Dewatering systems, recycling, nutrient recovery systems, solid/liquid separators without methane capture
- **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 120:** New or improved on-farm storage, handling, and disposal of agricultural waste (e.g. livestock mortalities, fruit and vegetable cull piles, wood waste, waste water) excluding manure.
- **BMP 81:** Solid-liquid separation systems for manure or digestate
- **BMP 67:** Acidification of liquid dairy or liquid swine manure
- **BMP 73:** Impermeable Negative Air Manure Storage Covers with methane or biogas capture

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)

Note 1: This program is anticipated to be offered again in 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28. However, programs may be modified or discontinued based on budget availability, industry feedback, and government priorities.

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 (NSDA) Programs.

Ineligible Expenses

These include but are not limited to:

- administrative / general overhead
- buildings / building modifications
- in-kind labour
- small construction tools
- operating expenses / existing staff salaries
- HST
- travel

Application Process

To apply for the Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Program:

1. Submit a complete application with all supporting documentation by **June 30, 2024**.
2. 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 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024	April 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025	January 31, 2025

Note 1: An applicant may only complete one application per year.

Note 2: Clients new to Programs since 2023 must complete the Program Funding Registration form. Returning clients, 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. Completed applications will be reviewed by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA) as they are received.
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 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 **January 31, 2025**.
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 the claim deadline.

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 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.

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.

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.

Contact Information

Please submit all documents to Programs at the address, email or fax number below. For more information, please 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
Fax: 902-893-7579
Email: prm@novascotia.ca

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Regional Offices		
Western	Yarmouth	902-223-8085
	Digby	902-638-2395
	Kentville	902-679-6021
	Lunenburg	902-634-7575
Eastern	Truro	902-893-6575
	Nappan	782-370-2278
	Antigonish	902-863-7180
	Sydney	902-563-2000