

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Program Guidelines

2023-2024

Version 2



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 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. 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 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 Statement of Farming Activities (T2042, T1273 or Schedule 125 - Farm Revenue: detailing sales by commodity revenue code).
- livestock producers must have a Premise ID. To obtain a Nova Scotia Premise ID, please visit: <http://www.nsfa-fane.ca/efp/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Where-to-Find-Your-Land-PID.pdf>

Additional Requirements:

- completed and current (within five years) Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)
- Schedule A and Schedule B of the Environmental Farm Plan (any project 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

Program funding will be allocated according to program theme. See below for maximum funding allocations and Appendix A for detailed eligible expenses.

Program Theme	Maximum Funding
Biodiversity and Habitat	25% assistance to a maximum of \$10,000
Climate Change Adaptation	25% assistance to the lessor of 10% of their gross commodity income, or \$10,000 for the activities listed per year. *Water Supply projects and controlled components ONLY for Tile Drainage will have 60% assistance
Product Management	

Note 1: All program funding is subject to funding availability.

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.

Eligible Expenses

For a full list of eligible Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) see Appendix A.

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 (see intake dates below).
2. Submit a complete Program Funding Registration Form
3. 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
Spring	April 14, 2023 – June 15, 2023	April 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023	August 31, 2023
Fall	August 15, 2023 – September 15, 2023	September 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024	February 29, 2024

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

Approval Process

1. Applications will be reviewed by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture.
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**. Claim deadline is noted in table above.
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 (Final Report if required) to the Programs office by the claim deadline.

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

Final Report

Projects approved for program funding may have mandatory reporting requirements. Applicants will receive the reporting template with their claim form if applicable.

Programs that require a final report will be subject to a 25% holdback on their submitted claim if the final report is not submitted at the same time. Final Reports may be made available publicly on the NSDA website and a follow up review may be conducted after project completion.

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.

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.

Appendix A: Eligible BMPs

Biodiversity and Habitat (25% up to \$10,000)

Livestock Management to Improve Wildlife Habitat

- **BMP 127:** Fencing and/or barriers for off-site watering and to prevent access by livestock to watercourses.
- **BMP 54:** Fencing to manage grazing and improve riparian conditions / function
- **BMP 56:** Improved grazing management on tame and native pasture and rangelands, such as cross-fencing and offsite watering to improve pasture health and wildlife habitat
- **BMP 78:** Extensive wintering site pasture management (portable shelters / fencing, windbreaks, solar)
- **BMP 130:** Mobile water system: summer / winter water systems (solar, wind, pipeline, other)
- **BMP 133:** Remote watering systems to manage livestock away from surface water (gravity fed, pump and pipeline system)
- **BMP 57:** Improved stream crossing (rocking riprap, culverts, bridges)

Equipment to Enhance Wildlife Survival and Protect Species at Risk

- **BMP 59:** Development and relocation of infrastructure to protect wildlife and species at risk, including nest boxes and beaver levelers, other infrastructure or equipment can be reviewed on a case-by-case

Integrated Pest Management

- **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 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)

Climate Change Adaptation (25% up to 10,000)

Water Supply (60% assistance)

- **BMP 124/125:** Wells, dams, spring developments and reservoirs or tie-ins to a multi-use water supply pipeline as part of climate adaptation (pumps, power supply, monitoring devices, pump tests. Hook-up installation and consultant costs, materials and contracted labour costs for spring development – collection well, cutoff trench, or cutoff walls)
- **BMP 139:** Water saving systems and management through cisterns, water use meters, and water level equipment. Including watering sanitation and cleanout systems

Note: Well work must be done by a certified well driller / digger.

Drainage

- **BMP 19:** Control components ONLY for the tile drainage system for quantity and quality control. (e.g. holding back spring runoff, controlling nutrient loads) **See On-Farm Industry Preparedness Program for tile drainage system funding**
- **BMP 29:** Surface and subsurface drainage to remove excess water from active cropland. Includes design, open ditches and land forming for surface drainage. Not intended for the drainage of wetlands or other environmentally sensitive areas.

Note: BMP 19 control components for the tile drainage system will be funded at a 60% assistance

Water Quality

- **BMP 131:** Well Protection (for existing wells only, earthwork, extending well head above ground, pitless adapter, casing seals and connections), Well Abandonment (proper sealing of abandoned well to prevent groundwater contamination),
- **BMP 135:** Reservoir aeration systems for surface water supply
- **BMP 140:** Water Treatment System (including UV light treatment, chlorination, reverse osmosis)
- **BMP 136:** Upstream diversion around farm infrastructure and collection and downstream protection (catch basins, constructed wetlands)
- **BMP 121:** Recycling of wastewater streams from milk houses, fruit and vegetable washing facilities, and greenhouses to recover nutrients

- **BMP 12:** Equipment modifications or adjustments to reduce soil compaction (e.g. soil compaction tester, flotation tires)

Frost Protection

- **BMP 90:** Frost protection measures. Equipment only. Ex: micro-irrigation, fan inverters, blanket covers etc. (Reviewed Case-by-Case)

Weather Stations

- **BMP 92:** Installations of weather stations including equipment and installation costs.

Product Management

Product Management

- **BMP 118:** New or improved measures or equipment to reduce disposal, or increase recycling of non-organic waste materials (case-by-case)
- **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)

Manure Storage

- **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.**

Manure / Waste Handling

- **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

Contact Information

Please submit all documents related to the Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Program to Programs at the address, email, or fax number below. For more information about the Program, please contact Programs or your regional office.

**Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture
Programs Office**

74 Research Drive
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Programs: Telephone: 902-893-6377 Toll Free: 1-866-844-4276		
Western Region Offices	Cornwallis	902-638-2395
	Kentville	902-679-6021
	Lunenburg	902-634-7575
Eastern Region Offices	Truro	902-893-6575
	Antigonish	902-863-7180
	Sydney	902-563-2000