

Limestone Trucking Assistance Program Guidelines

2026-2027

Program Objective

The objective of the Limestone Trucking Assistance Program is to help farms to improve production efficiencies and neutralize the acidity of the soil on agricultural land by defraying the cost of trucking limestone.

Eligible Applicants

- Registered Farms
- Mi'kmaq conducting farming activities in Mi'kmaq communities
- Agricultural industry associations including Community Pastures

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 Criteria

Farms must:

- be currently registered under the *Farm Registration Act*.
- be actively farming in the program year and applicant must be 19 years of age or older.
- provide a soil analysis lab report or Nutrient Management Plan supporting a requirement for the application of limestone.

Agricultural industry associations must:

- demonstrate not-for-profit status by providing documentation.
- represent identifiable Nova Scotia agriculture and agri-food products (see note below).
- provide a soil analysis lab report or Nutrient Management Plan supporting a requirement for the application of limestone.

Note: Soil analysis or Nutrient Management Plan (within **three** calendar years).

Note 2: Identifiable agriculture and agri-food products are products supporting economic growth using Nova Scotia primary agricultural ingredients.

Financial Assistance

Applicants can apply to receive Program funding up to **80%** of eligible expenses, to a maximum of **\$32,000**.

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.

Eligible Expenses

The following items are eligible in the program:

- transportation costs of dolomitic and calcitic limestone

Option 1: Limestone delivered by a trucking company

- Applicants can have limestone delivered by a trucking company and be paid on the lesser of the total trucking costs or an amount calculated based on the Department of Public Works gravel rate, which may include a diesel surcharge up to 60% based on the date of limestone delivery.

Option 2: Self-haul of limestone

- Applicants can self-haul limestone and be paid based on the Department of Public Works gravel rates, which may include a diesel surcharge up to 60%, based on the date of limestone purchase.

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 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:

- purchase of limestone
- administrative/general overhead
- operating expenses/existing staff wages/salaries
- small hand tools
- HST

Application Process

To apply for the Limestone Trucking Assistance program:

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

| Application Intake | Activity Period | Claim Deadline |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| April 1, 2026 – July 31, 2025 | April 1, 2026 – October 15, 2026 | October 15, 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 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 LOA, including in 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 your Program funding will be forfeited.

Note: Approval of applications is subject to the 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.
 - **If delivered by a trucking company:** attach copies of all trucking invoices and limestone invoices for eligible project costs incurred and paid for by the applicant. Please include:
 - the kilometers travelled
 - the tonnes of limestone hauled
 - the cost per tonne for hauling
 - **If you are self-hauling limestone:** attach copies of all limestone invoices and state the kilometres traveled one-way, date of haul, and the start and end locations.
3. Attach proof of payment for trucking invoices – e-transfer confirmation, debit slips, cleared cheques, or credit card/bank statements (Invoices marked paid and signed by the supplier are not accepted).
4. Attach invoices for purchase of limestone. Please include the proof of payment for limestone.
5. Submit your claim with the required supporting documentation to the Programs office by **October 15, 2026**.

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

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, 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.

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</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(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 |