

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

On-Farm Resiliency 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. We welcome individuals from all equity-deserving 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 On-Farm Resiliency Program is to support the ability of farms to prepare for nature-based perils, including extreme weather and wildlife damage to improve industry competitiveness and resiliency.

Eligible Applicants

- Farms
- Community pastures
- Mi'kmaq conducting farming activities in Mi'kmaq 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.

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.
- be a leaseholder in good standing if the community pasture is located on lands owned by the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board.

Financial Assistance

Stream 1: Electrical Preparedness

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

Income Level	Maximum Funding
\$30,000-\$99,999	\$5,000
\$100,000-\$499,999	\$10,000
\$500,000-\$999,999	\$20,000
\$1,000,000 +	\$50,000

Note: Applicants are only eligible to receive Program funding for one generator over the lifetime of CAP and Sustainable CAP.

Stream 2: Wildlife Damage Mitigation

Applicants can apply to receive Program funding up to 50% of eligible expenses to a maximum of \$15,000, depending on Farm Registration income level.

Income Level	Maximum Funding
\$30,000-\$99,999	\$5,000
\$100,000-\$249,999	\$10,000
\$250,000+	\$15,000

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

The following items are eligible under this program:

Stream 1: Electrical Preparedness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> generator battery storage

Stream 2: Wildlife Damage Mitigation

- perimeter permanent fencing for the prevention of crop damage*
 - electric (minimum of 8' in height with minimum of 12 strands spaced no less than 8" between strands)
 - electric – dual perimeter (minimum of 3 strands, spacing distance between outer and inner fencing must be a minimum of 3')
 - page/mesh (minimum of 8' in height)
 - other wildlife deterrent fencing may be considered on a case-by-case basis
 - Contracted/in-kind labour for installation of perimeter permanent fencing

Field fence design and measurements must be submitted for all permanent fencing projects at the time of application and will be a one-time cost share payment per field. This can be completed by a consultant or by the applicant.

All permanent fencing projects require the Parcel Identification Number (PID) for your project location. For help with finding your PID, you can contact your regional office or visit: <http://www.nsfa-fane.ca/efp/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Where-to-Find-Your-Land-PID.pdf>

- portable fencing for bees and the prevention of crop damage
 - electric (minimum of 3' spacing from outer edge of fencing to protected resource)
- crop netting for the prevention of crop damage
- mechanical deterrent devices
 - motion detecting noise devices
 - scare cannon/bangers/wailers
 - scare lights
- livestock guard animals (maximum funding up to \$1,500 over the life of Sustainable CAP)
 - dog (accepted breeds - Akbash, Maremma, Pyrenees)
 - donkey/mule
 - llama
- livestock guard dog animal training (maximum funding up to \$1,500/guard dog)
 - on-farm training conducted by third party certified professional

Additional Expense Eligibility Requirements

- In-kind labour can be used towards site preparation and installation activities on permanent fencing only. A rate of \$26.50/hour (based on the average Nova Scotia living wage) will be used. A maximum of 15% of the total project cost is eligible up to \$2,000 per year.
 - **Example:** An applicant with a \$4,000 total project cost will be eligible for \$600 to go towards in-kind labour.
- 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 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
- operating expenses/existing staff wages/salaries
- small hand tools
- transfer switches and installation (Stream 1: Electrical preparedness)
- blanks/cartridges for mechanical deterrent devices
- HST

Application Process

To apply for the On-Farm Resiliency program:

- Submit a complete application by July 31, 2025.

Application Intake	Activity Period	Claim Deadline
April 24, 2025 – July 31, 2025	April 1, 2025 – October 31, 2025	October 31, 2025

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. Completed applications will be reviewed by the Department of Agriculture as they are received.
2. If approved, applicants will receive an 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 **October 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. Attach in-kind labour documentation ex: spreadsheet identifying the date, task and hours completed (self identified).
6. Submit your claim with the required supporting documentation to the Programs office by October 31, 2025.

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 five 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.

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		
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