

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

On-Farm Water Management 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 On-Farm Water Management Program will support primary producers to improve and adapt to impacts of climate change on water implications, including activities to conserve and enhance natural resources for water management. This program will support 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.nsfa-fane.ca/efp/resources/factsheets/>

Financial Assistance

Program funding will be allocated according to program theme. Maximum funding the lesser of \$15,000 per year or 10% of applicant's gross commodity income.

Tile drainage funding only a maximum of \$45,000 over the life of Sustainable CAP or the lesser of 10% of applicant's gross commodity income.

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

For example: Tile Drainage only, a farm with gross apple sales of \$30,000 would be eligible for \$15,000 over the life of SCAP.

Livestock Management to Improve Wildlife Habitat (30% assistance)

- **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 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)

Drainage (30% assistance)

- **TILE DRAINAGE:** Installation of a subsurface tile drainage system on farm fields yielding crop (a tile drainage plan must be completed by a qualified consultant or contractor and submitted at time of claim).
- **BMP 19:** Control components for the tile drainage system (i.e: stop logs, risers, gates and valves)
- **BMP 29:** Surface and subsurface drainage to remove excess water from active cropland. Includes design, open ditches and land forming for surface drainage. (Not tile drainage). Not intended for the drainage of wetlands or other environmentally sensitive areas.

Irrigation (30% assistance)

- **BMP 16:** Irrigation water and/or nutrient-use efficiency (Investment in purchase, modification and improvement of irrigation equipment to increase water, and/or nutrient use efficiency (e.g. variable rate irrigation systems, weather stations, soil moisture sensors)
- **BMP 128:** Improved infiltration galleries and irrigation intake systems
- **BMP 134:** Renovation and upgrading of existing irrigation water supply infrastructure to reduce water loss, improve water use and or energy efficiency, and secure supplies.
- **BMP 137:** Utilization of drainage water by recycling onto drained field to meet crop demand during dry period: irrigation and sub-irrigation equipment; engineering designs and written plans for implemented practices.

Water Supply (60% assistance)

- **BMP 124/BMP 125:** Wells, ponds, 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 - for **NEW** development **ONLY**)
- **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.

Water Quality (30% assistance)

- **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

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 On-Farm Water Management Program:

1. Submit a complete application with all supporting documentaion by **May 31, 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 – May 31, 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: 902-893-75797
Email: prm@novascotia.ca

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