

Organic Certification Rebate Program Guidelines

2025-2026

Program Objective

The objective of the Organic Certification Rebate program is to encourage more Nova Scotian farms to become certified organic, as well as to support those who have already made the changes needed to be a certified organic farm in the province.

Eligible Applicants

- Farms
- Mi'kmaq conducting farming activities in Mi'kmaq communities

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 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 and a resident of Nova Scotia.
- be certified organic in Nova Scotia at the time of application OR currently transitioning to certified organic.

Financial Assistance

Applicants can apply to receive Program funding up to 50% of eligible expenses, to a maximum of \$750 for the following expenses:

- organic certification fees for current certified organic farms
- organic certification fees for up to three transition years

Certification must be done through a third-party certification body.

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.

Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible expenses are expenses that will not be compensated under this program and include but are not limited to, the following expenses:

- implementation of organic certification
- on-farm processing organic certification fees
- administrative/general overhead
- in-kind contributions
- operating expenses/existing staff wages/salaries
- HST

Application Process

To apply for the Organic Certification Rebate program:

- Submit a complete application by March 15, 2026.
- Attach copies of all invoices for eligible project costs incurred and paid for by the applicant.
- 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).

Application Intake	Activity Period
April 24, 2025 – March 15, 2026	April 1, 2025 – March 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. Completed applications will be reviewed by the Department of Agriculture as they are received.
2. If approved, applicants will receive a Statement of Compensation that identifies Program funding granted.
3. The applicant is responsible for reporting any errors in the Program funding amounts provided in the Statement of Compensation.

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.

Note 2: 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		
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