



Soil and Water Sustainability Program Guidelines

2021-2022

Version 2

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Programs and Business Risk Management (PBRM)

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CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP (CAP)

The governments of Canada and Nova Scotia are committed to ensuring farmers and processors have the tools they need to innovate, grow and prosper. The *Canadian Agricultural Partnership* agreement is part of a commitment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to promote productivity and profitability for the sector. The programs are designed to help the industry position itself to respond to future opportunities and to realize its full potential as a significant contributor to the economy. Programs are also tailored with the flexibility to meet diverse regional requirements.

The partnership is a five-year, \$3-billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments that aims to strengthen the agriculture and agri-food sector and ensure continued innovation, growth and prosperity. The partnership includes \$1 billion for federal activities and programs, and \$2 billion in cost-shared programs delivered by provinces and territories on a 60-40 basis. In Nova Scotia, \$37 million will be invested through provincially delivered programs focusing on Markets and Trade; Science, Research and Innovation; Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change; Risk Management; Value Added Agriculture and Agri-Food Processing; and Public Trust.

In addition to cost-shared strategic initiatives, the partnership includes several business risk-management programs to help farmers manage risks that threaten the viability of their farms.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Canada and Nova Scotia recognize that agriculture relies on healthy soil, water, and biodiversity profiles for its long-term sustainable productivity. They also value the important role the industry plays in sustaining and replenishing our natural environment. This program assists farmers to mitigate on-farm environmental risk for soil and water as identified in their individual Environmental Farm Plans that accelerate environmental farm stewardship in Nova Scotia.

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.

ELIGIBILITY

Farm:

- currently and properly registered in the correct income category under the *Farm Registration Act*;
- 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); and
- livestock producers must have a Premise ID. To obtain a Nova Scotia Premise ID, please visit: <http://www.novascotia.ca/agri/pid>

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.nsfa-fane.ca/efp/resources/factsheets/>

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Funding assistance will be allocated according to stream. See eligible expenses below.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

STREAM 1: Applicants can apply for a maximum of **60%** assistance for the activities listed to a maximum of **\$10,000** per year.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE WATER SUPPLY

The objectives of the Sustainable Agriculture Water Supply section include:

- improving the efficiency and quality of on-farm water
- decreasing risk of contamination to ground and surface water

Water Wells

W46 Construction of water well (includes pump, power supply, monitoring devices and one test well, pump tests). Well system could include installation of cistern for water storage.

Ponds (must have fencing to restrict livestock access)

W51 New pond construction

W52 Expansion of an existing reservoir/pond and/or liner

Hookup to Existing Pipeline for On-Farm Use

W64 Installation and consultant costs for individual hook-up into an existing municipal pipeline (must be buried below the frost line).

Spring Development

W68 Materials and contracted labour costs for the development of a spring to use as a water source for agricultural use (includes collection well, cutoff trench or cutoff walls that direct it into a gravity pipeline or pump). Project may require approval from the Nova Scotia Department of Environment.

IMPROVED WATER PRACTICES AND EFFICIENCIES

The objectives of the Improved Water Practices and Efficiencies section include:

- improving the efficiency and quality of on-farm water
- decreasing risk of contamination to ground and surface water

Remote Livestock Watering

W33 Includes the purchase and installation of troughs, stock tanks, pumps, piping and single-phase power supply as part of a long-term remote water system. This section is to provide an alternative water source for livestock in remote locations, therefore, livestock **must** be fenced from existing water supply (i.e., pond or watercourse).

Water Treatment (water analysis from an accredited lab is required before installation to support application)

W38 Water treatment system for agricultural activities that require potable water (e.g., water conditioner, UV light and filter, reverse osmosis system) and to remove hardness (>121mg/L) and other fouling agents. Systems for household use are not eligible.

ENHANCING RIPARIAN* AND AGRO-ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

The objectives of Enhancing Riparian and Agro-Ecosystem Health section include:

- protection of aquatic life
- maintaining the quality of the surface water supply
- ensuring the riparian areas serve as islands and corridors for biodiversity
- providing extensive upland ecosystems

***Riparian area pertains to the area along the edges of a river, stream, or other watercourse.**

Buffer Establishment

W15 Includes the purchase and installation of trees, shrubs, and riparian fencing for livestock along a riparian zone (buffer must be a minimum of 5m from the watercourse). Permits and approvals from the Department of Environment, Navigable Waters Protection Program, and / or Department of Fisheries and Oceans when applicable. Permits are deemed to be an eligible cost for projects.

STREAM 2: Applicants can apply for a maximum of **25%** assistance to the lessor of 10% of their gross commodity income, or **\$15,000** for the activities listed per year. For example, a farm with gross apple sales of \$120,000 would be eligible for a maximum of \$12,000 per year.

WATER WELL MANAGEMENT

The objectives of the Water Well Management section include:

- reducing the risk of groundwater contamination
- preventing surface water from contaminating aquifers
- preventing cross-contamination between aquifers

Well Protection (existing wells only)

W7 Earthwork at well head for run off diversion, extending well head above ground with pitless adapter, casing seals and connections to prevent seepage.

Well Abandonment

W11 Proper sealing of abandoned well to prevent groundwater contamination (must be completed by a licensed well professional).

Note: Nova Scotia Department of Environment regulations apply

FUEL AND CHEMICAL STORAGE

The objectives of the Fuel and Chemical Storage section include:

- decreasing the risks of contamination to nearby soil and water

Fuel Storage

P1 Improvements to stationary gas/diesel storage for use of farm vehicles or barn/greenhouse heating. Includes all or any component of CSA tanks, cement pads, electric pumps with automatic shut off, installation and tank protection. All fuel storage must be constructed independently and not a component of any other structure. The design for listed projects should reflect Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Plan recommendations/ factsheets at <http://www.nsf-fane.ca/efp/resources/factsheets/>. **Enclosures are not eligible.**

Note: concrete pads for tanks can be no bigger than 1m from the perimeter of the tank(s).

Chemical Storage

P7 Chemical storage is a one-time cost share only. Chemical storages are those that will contain pesticides or liquid fertilizer only. All chemical storage must be constructed independently and not a component of any other structure. The design for listed projects should reflect Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Plan recommendations/factsheets at <http://www.nsf-fane.ca/efp/resources/factsheets/>. Size must reflect the needs of the farm (e.g., facilities for short-term storage not eligible).

IMPROVED MANURE STORAGE, COMPOSTING AND HANDLING

The objectives of the Improved Manure Storage, Composting and Handling section include:

- improving protection of ground and surface water
- allowing for proper storage of nutrients for land application
- decreasing runoff from handling manure

Manure Storage

M1 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. Professional engineer stamped assessment and detailed drawings based on current herd size are required for manure storage by claim deadline (details in Appendix A). Manure storage projects are for existing farm businesses only. New site development is not eligible for assistance. Solid manure storage facilities may have retaining walls up to a maximum of 1.25m in height. **A completely enclosed solid manure storage is ineligible through this program.** Storage must be used for its intended purpose for a minimum of 5 years.

Manure Transfer

M8 Includes the costs for stationary transfer pump and pipe to move manure from limited storage to a location of increased storage on main farm.

Manure Monitoring

M9 Installation of shallow observation wells or piezometers for existing or new manure storage as identified by a professional engineer's assessment.

Manure Application

M21 Liquid manure injection system modifications for existing spreaders.

WINTER PASTURING MANAGEMENT

The objectives of the Winter Pasturing Management section include:

- increasing the length of time available for feeding animals that are located away from the barn yard (e.g., in pasture) to potentially improve herd health
- minimizing damage to soils in pasture

Concrete Pads in Pasture

S2 Concrete pads in pasture to reduce damage to usable land where livestock feed and/or watering sites are located (includes costs associated with engineer design if desired).

FARMYARD RUNOFF

The objectives of the Farmyard Runoff section include:

- improvement to water quality by decreasing the amount of sediment, pathogens, and contaminants that threaten the surface water
- decreasing the amount of clean water entering a livestock facility or yard and redirect away from potential contaminants
- preventing soil erosion

Water Diversion

W2 Project could include the installation of berms, culverts and eave troughs on farm buildings used for the redirection of runoff water away from potential contaminants to a disposal system.

Wetlands

W3 Construction of wetlands for the treatment of farmyard runoff (engineer design required).

Runoff Flow Controls

W4 Installation of catch basins, channels/piping and vegetated filter strips to impede water velocity from runoff.

Farmyard Runoff Flow Management

W5 Costs associated with earthwork and materials in the farmyard to direct water away from contaminants (eligible materials: fill, gravel, geotextiles required for drainage systems).

Livestock Feeding Areas

W6 Construction of impermeable concrete base for minimizing runoff from livestock feeding areas only. Engineer design required. This project cannot be used for a future barn or storage facility. This project is a one-time cost share only.

Retention Structures

W71 Installation of retention structures for controlled flow of farmyard runoff water. Structure must be designed by a qualified engineer to meet project objectives.

FIELD WATER MANAGEMENT

The objectives of the Field Water Management section include:

- preventing soil erosion
- managing erosion on agriculture land

Ditching

W39 Field surface ditching and leveling of ditch spoil. (Installation of culverts, gravel or French drains are not eligible).

Land Forming

W40 Costs associated with land forming on incorporated dykeland for improved drainage. Project includes the shaping of the land only.

Dykeland Culvert

W41 Purchase and installation of culverts for incorporated dykelands only.

Tile Drainage

W42 Installation of a subsurface tile drainage system on farm fields yielding a crop. Tile drainage projects must be installed according to a tile drainage plan. The drainage plan must be submitted prior to claiming.

EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES

The objective of the Erosion Control Structures section is:

- Minimizing erosion in critical areas associated with riparian* and non-riparian areas due to runoff from agricultural lands

*Riparian area pertains to the area along the edges of a river, stream, or other watercourse.

Contour Terraces

S5 Construction of contour terraces to detain sediment that is susceptible to movement by water. Engineered assessment and design is required for contour terraces and grassed waterways.

Field Stabilization

S7 Gully stabilization/grassed waterways for critical areas of erosion where agricultural production is present. (eligible expenses include earthwork, outlet structures, geotextiles, etc.).

Bank Stabilization

S8 Bank stabilization in riparian areas prone to soil erosion (bank shaping, gabions, riprap, crib walls, and blanketing). The design for listed projects should reflect Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Plan recommendations/factsheets at <http://www.nsfa-fane.ca/efp/resources/factsheets/>.

Stream Crossing

S13 Stream crossing (natural waterways only) for new structures and repair of existing ones. (e.g., rocking, riprap, culverts, bridges). Farm ditches are not eligible for crossing projects. Permits and approvals from the Department of Environment, Navigable Waters Protection Program, and / or Department of Fisheries and Oceans when applicable. Permits are deemed to be an eligible cost for projects.

Shelterbelt Establishment

S19 Shelterbelt establishment along riparian areas and in fields for soil protection and biodiversity. The design for listed projects should reflect Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Plan recommendations/factsheets at <http://www.nsfa-fane.ca/efp/resources/factsheets/>.

Note 1: Funding for the program is limited and the final decision to support will be determined by PBRM. Projects will be assessed and rated for their ability to minimize the environmental risk to soil and water.

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, regardless of source. Applicants are required to disclose all funding sources.

Note 3: An applicant may only submit one application per intake period.

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

In addition to any items specified above, the following are also ineligible:

- administrative / general overhead;
- buildings / building modifications;
- HST;
- fencing;
- in-kind contributions;
- operating expenses / existing staff salaries; and
- tools

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application Intake		Activity Period	Claim Deadline
Spring	April 1, 2021 - May 31, 2021	April 1, 2021 - August 31, 2021	August 31, 2021
Fall	August 15, 2021 - October 15, 2021	September 1, 2021 - January 31, 2022	January 31, 2022

To apply for the Soil and Water Sustainability Program, complete and submit the Application by the application intake deadlines noted in the above table. Late applications will not be accepted. Eligible project expenses will be recognized within the activity period stated in the above table, however, expenses incurred prior to the date of project approval, are at the applicant's risk.

Note: Clients new to PBRM programs since 2018 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. Applications are assessed based on the information and supporting documentation. If an application requires further assessment or information, PBRM staff will follow up with the applicant.
2. If approved, applicants will receive a **Letter of Agreement (LOA)** which identifies the eligible project activities, assistance offered, and the terms and conditions under which assistance is approved.
3. Review, sign and return the LOA to PBRM within **30 days** of the date of the letter or your funding will be forfeited.

CLAIMING PROCESS

1. Claim deadline is noted in table above (page 9), in Application Process.
2. Complete and sign the **Program Claim Form** that you received with your LOA.
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 – debit slips, cancelled cheques, or credit card statements. (receipted invoices marked paid and signed by the supplier are not accepted)
5. Submit your claim with the required supporting documentation to PBRM 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 the 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).

ARM'S LENGTH TRANSACTIONS

Financial assistance will only be offered on transactions (invoices) that involve a supplier/service provider with an arm's-length relationship to the applicant for approved projects. For the purposes of Programs, arm's length is defined as individuals who are NOT connected by blood relationship, marriage, common-law partnership, or adoption.

AUTHORITY

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please submit all documents related to the Soil and Water Sustainability Program to PBRM at the address, email or fax number below. For more information about the Program, please contact PBRM or your regional office.

Programs and Business Risk Management (PBRM)
 74 Research Drive
 Bible Hill, Nova Scotia B6L 2R2
 Fax: 902-893-7579
 Email: prm@novascotia.ca

PBRM: 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

APPENDIX A

Professional Engineer Assessment

The following is required in the Professional Engineer Assessment for a manure storage:

- Farm business name, contact and address;
- Date of visit, proposed project start and end dates;
- Type and size (number of animal units) of current operation, type of existing manure storage facility and capacity, soil type;
- Environmental risk;
- Proposed work – type of storage, materials (use of recommended materials) and capacity. If it is to be an earthen manure storage, the assessment must include clay content, subsoil texture, average depth to groundwater, location of springs, and depth to shale or bedrock;
- Separation distances based on existing construction guidelines (well, water courses, property lines, etc.);
- Recommendations / issues;
- Land base available to utilize manure; and
- Stamped professional detailed drawings.