

# Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

## Veterinary Student Placement 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 Veterinary Student Placement Program is to give veterinary students applied learning opportunities as well as exposure to rural Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia's agriculture industry while also ensuring the future availability of veterinary services for the Nova Scotia livestock sector. The intent of this two-phase program is to attract and retain new veterinary graduates to the province to address labour shortages, the overall sustainability of the animal agriculture industry, ensure animal health and welfare, and support our rural economies.

### Eligible Applicants

- Post-secondary students
- Farms
- Mi'kmaq conducting farming activities in Mi'kmaq communities
- Veterinary clinics

### Program Criteria

#### Post-secondary students must:

- be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada
- be a resident of Nova Scotia
- be enrolled in an accredited veterinary medicine program
- have an updated and current resume

Students will be required to complete the following training prior to beginning employment. Training is offered through the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and Farm Safety NS:

- Emergency First Aid
- Safe Animal Handling\*
- So Your Client is a Farmer
- WHMIS
- Tractor and Farm Machinery Awareness
- Introduction to Farm Safety

\*If you have received this training through your educational degree, you are not required to take it again.

**Note:** Training course fees will be covered.

**Farms must:**

- be currently registered in the correct income level under the *Farm Registration Act*.
- be actively farming in the program year and 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.
- be able to provide a minimum of 60% of the student workload directly in animal husbandry.
- not have an immediate family or business relationship with the student other than employer
- have Workers' Compensation Board or private workplace injury coverage (**Proof required**).
- have an active Veterinary relationship; and
- complete the following training: "*Guide to Hosting an Intern*" (Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture).

**Veterinary Practices must:**

- participate in the Livestock Health Services program.
- be able to provide a minimum of 60% of student time working with livestock as designated in "*Designation of Livestock for Farming Purposes*".
- cooperate with other practices to meet this requirement if necessary and/or students may participate in external learning experiences to allow for varied experiences with different types of livestock, industry, or different aspects of veterinary practice (ex. Aquaculture veterinary medicine, animal pathology lab, meat inspection).
- have arm's length relationship from the student.
- have Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) or private workplace injury coverage (**Proof required**); and
- complete the following training: "*Guide to Hosting an Intern*" (Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture).

## Financial Assistance

- Employers (farm or veterinary clinic) will receive a wage subsidy of \$5,400 (\$11.25/hr) paid over 2 installments (June 30, 2025, August 15, 2025).
- Students will receive an additional \$2,500 bursary each year upon submission of the final report. (Paid directly to UPEI)

Program funding is limited to 6 applicants in each year of the program.

**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.

**Note 2:** 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.

## Requirements

This is a two-phase program of 14 weeks per year. Students may participate in the first or both years.

- Students should seek out their own place of employment and ensure that the employer also applies to the program. Where this is not possible, the program will seek to match students with employers but does not guarantee matching.
- Students and employers are to have a kick-off meeting prior to the start of work.
- Students and employers are required to create a project plan at the beginning of employment. If this is not the first time the student has worked with their employer, the project plan should identify new learning opportunities.
- Employers must provide 12 weeks at 40 hrs/week of paid employment beginning in early May and ending in mid-August.
- Employers are expected to pay students a minimum of \$15.20/hr (or current Nova Scotia minimum wage rate) for 40hr/week, for 12 weeks. Standard deductions must be made from students' gross wages. WCB or private workplace injury coverage is mandatory.
- Disability and other insurance are the responsibility of the student.
- Students are required to submit **3 reports** on activities over the summer (**June 15, July 15, and program end**). After reports are received, a check-in with the program committee will be completed. The final report must be received before the bursary is awarded.

### Phase 1 / Year 1

- Nova Scotia students who are projected to complete their first year of study at the Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC) in April 2025. If positions are not filled, consideration will be given to Nova Scotia students at other veterinary colleges or AVC students from other provinces.
- Students must volunteer for an additional 2 weeks at a veterinary practice. This can be at any time during the summer with agreement from the farm employer and veterinary practice. Practices must be approved by the program committee.
- Farms are required to submit a final report at the end of the program year and participate in mid-point check-ins with the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

### Phase 2 / Year 2

- Nova Scotia students who have completed Year 1 of the program and are projected to complete their second year of study at the Atlantic Veterinary College in April 2025. If positions are not filled, consideration will be given to NS students at other veterinary colleges or AVC students from other provinces and/or students who have not completed the first year of the program but can demonstrate equivalent experience.
- Students must volunteer for an additional 2 weeks at an external learning experience. This can be at any time during the summer with agreement from the external site and veterinary practice. External experiences must be approved by the program committee.
- Veterinary clinics are required to submit a final report at the end of the program year and participate in any check-ins with the Program committee.

## 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
- operating expenses/existing staff salaries
- Wages paid to the student outside of the stated Activity Period

## Application Process

To apply for the Veterinary Student Placement program:

1. Submit a complete application by February 10, 2025.

Application Intake	Activity Period	Claim Deadline
January 14, 2025 – February 10, 2025	April 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025	September 30, 2025

**Note:** Potential employers meeting the eligibility criteria will be notified as such, and a list will be provided to AVC to allow students to contact potential employers. Employers shall remain on the list in subsequent years unless they notify Programs to withdraw.

**Note 2:** Clients (Farms and Veterinary Clinics) 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. Applications will be reviewed by the Department of Agriculture. Confirmation of student placement will be given by February 28, 2025.
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 Program funding amounts provided in the LOA. 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 LOA, a **Program Claim Form** will be sent to you.
2. Complete and sign Program Claim Form by **September 30, 2025**.
3. **Employers** - Attach Record of Employment to claim form for each student.
4. **Students** – Attach final report on activities to claim form.
5. Submit your claim with the required supporting documentation to the Programs office by September 30, 2025.

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

## Employer's Role (Farm and Veterinary Practices)

The purpose of this program is to showcase Nova Scotia livestock farming and veterinary practice in a positive manner and to demonstrate the range of professional and lifestyle options available in the industry. The intent of this program is to encourage veterinary students to seriously consider livestock animal or mixed animal practice as an attractive career option. As such the expectation is that employers will expose the student to animal agriculture and business including:

- Day-to-day activities of the business
- Commercial aspects of the business
- Client communication
- Animal handling
- Animal welfare
- Production practices/herd health programs
- On-farm food safety programs
- Antimicrobial stewardship
- Recordkeeping
- Biosecurity
- Emergency Preparedness

## Final Report

Projects approved for Program funding have mandatory reporting requirements. Applicants will receive the reporting template with their claim form.

Students will be subject to a **100% holdback** and employers will be subject to a **50% holdback** on their submitted claim if the final report is not submitted at the same time. Final Reports may be made available publicly on the Department of Agriculture website and a follow up review may be conducted after project completion.

## 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 Nova Scotia 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

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: 902-893-7579  
Email: [prm@novascotia.ca](mailto: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