

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

Wildlife Damage Mitigation 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, Mi'kmaq, Indigenous peoples, 2SLGBTQI+ and racialized individuals, to apply to programming.

Program Objectives

The Wildlife Damage Mitigation program seeks to improve industry competitiveness and resilience by helping farms protect crop and livestock from wildlife damage.

Eligible Applicants

- Farm
- Mi'kmaq conducting farming activities in Mi'kmaw Communities

Program Criteria

- currently registered in the correct income category under the Farm Registration Act; or Mi'kmaq conducting farming activities in Mi'kmaw 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.

Financial Assistance

Applicants can apply for a maximum of **50%** assistance to the lesser of 10% gross commodity income, or \$15,000 per year for all projects listed within this program.

For example: a farm with gross apple sales of \$120,000 would be eligible for a maximum of \$12,000 per year.

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 Programs.

Eligible Expenses

Perimeter Permanent Fencing (*requires a field design) – for the prevention of crop damage only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Portable Fencing – for the prevention of crop damage and bees only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric (minimum of 3’ spacing from outer edge of fencing to the protected resource.
Mechanical Deterrent Devices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crop netting • Motion detecting noise devices • Scare cannon/ bangers/ wailers • Scare lights
Livestock Guard Animals (max funding up to \$1500.00/farm for the life of the program)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog (accepted breeds - Akbash, Maremma, Pyrenees) • Donkey / mule • Llama
Livestock Guard Dog Animal Training (max funding \$1500.00/guard dog)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-farm training conducted by third party certified professional

Perimeter Permanent Fencing Projects

- 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>
- Contracted labour and in-kind labour are eligible for the installation of permanent fencing.

Note: In-kind labour can be used towards site preparation and installation activities on permanent fencing only. A rate of \$25/hour (based on the average 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, this works out to 24 hours.

Ineligible Expenses

These include but are not limited to:

- administrative / general overhead
- buildings / building modifications
- small construction tools, batteries
- operating expenses / existing staff salaries
- HST
- travel

Application Process

To apply for the Wildlife Damage Mitigation Program:

1. Submit a complete application with all supporting project quotes by **August 31, 2024**.
2. All permanent fencing projects must include a fence design with measurements and PID numbers.
3. 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 (LOA) from the Programs Office.

Application Intake	Activity Period	Claim Deadline
April 1, 2024 – August 31, 2024	April 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024	December 31, 2024

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 the Programs office 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 **December 31, 2024**.
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 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: 902-893-7579
Email: prm@novascotia.ca

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