

Wine & Grape Industry
Development Program
2023 – 2024



PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The objective of this program is to support the environmental, economic and social sustainability of Nova Scotia’s wine industry by providing grape growers and wineries support to prepare for climate change and improve production processes.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Nova Scotia registered farms with grape commodity income on their farm registration and a contract for sale of grapes to a Nova Scotia certified farm winery;
- Nova Scotia Certified Farm Wineries and Small Farm Wineries;
- Mi’kmaq conducting commercial grape growing in a Nova Scotia Mi’kmaw community

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Applicants can apply for a maximum of 70% of the project cost up to \$50,000 per year dependent on grape acreage.

Certification Status or Acres of wine grapes in production	Maximum \$ of funding / year
Certified Small Farm Wineries or Grape Growers with 2 - <10 acres	\$25,000
Certified Farm Wineries or Grape Growers with 10 acres or more	\$50,000

Note: Funding for the program is limited and the final decision to support will be determined by Programs.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Climate Change Adaptation and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

Alternative / Efficient Energy Installations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low carbon fuel switching technologies (e.g. electrification, replacing oil systems with high efficiency low carbon options) • Energy efficiency opportunities identified • Installation of 3-Phase power • Battery Storage • LED Lighting • Energy Monitoring Systems • Backup generators
Climate Adaptation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment for frost protection • Winter vine covers • Predator deterrents – bangers, wailers, canons • Sustainable pest control technology (e.g. efficient sprayer technology, alternative weed management equipment)

Equipment for Process Improvement

Equipment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Commercial grade equipment (including used equipment*) to improve the efficiency of grape production or wine productionModifications to existing equipment or technology for optimization or to enable installation of automation and labour-saving equipmentOne-time purchase of specialized software systems related to upgrading and acquiring new equipment / technology
Professional fees
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contracted labour / consultants / professional fees / training related to equipment adoption
In-kind labour
<ul style="list-style-type: none">In-kind labour* associated with site preparation for equipment installation (if applicable)

Note 1: Used equipment must be purchased from a recognized dealer and be in good condition. Clients must identify at the time of application if they are purchasing used equipment and these applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Note 2: A rate of \$22/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 \$10,000 total project cost will be eligible for \$1,500 to go towards in-kind labour, this works out to 68 hours.

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Administrative / general overhead
- New buildings / building modifications or purchases not related to the installation of new equipment
- Ongoing software licensing costs or fees
- Operating expenses / existing staff salaries
- Tools (e.g. drills, saws)
- Travel
- HST

Note: Previously funded projects (2023-2024) under Sustainable CAP and Agriculture Clean Technology for Nova Scotia Program will not be funded under the 2023-2024 Wine and Grape Industry Development Program.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply for the Wine and Grape Industry Development Program:

1. Submit a complete application by March 15, 2024.
2. Submit a complete Program Funding Registration Form
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 from the Programs Office.

Application Intake	Activity Period	Claim Deadline
February 2, 2024 – March 15, 2024	April 1, 2023 – March 28, 2024	March 28, 2024

Note: Clients new to Programs since 2023 must complete the Program Funding Registration form (PFR). 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

Applications are assessed based on the information and supporting documentation. If an application requires further assessment or information, Programs staff will follow up with the applicant.

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 the 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 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 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	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