

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

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Apple Industry Development Program





Program Description/ Objectives

- To capitalize on apple development opportunities and to improve the profitability of New Brunswick apple producers.
- To advance the apple sector in New Brunswick through the establishment of more productive orchards (new trees and support systems).
- To increase the value of apples and apple products through the adoption of technologies that will improve apple storage systems, fruit quality assurance and orchard establishment.



General Eligibility Criteria:

- Activities must be carried out within the province of New Brunswick.
- Must be the current owner of the land where the orchard (trees and support system) will be established and until the project claim is paid.
- A member in good standing of the Apple Growers of New Brunswick (AGNB) as prescribed under the New Brunswick *Natural Products Act*.
- A new entrant may apply if their ultimate goal is commercial-scale apple production and approval is received from the AGNB.

No current or former public office holder, public servant, Member of the Legislative Assembly or Member of the House of Commons who is not in compliance with applicable conflict of interest guidelines and legislation shall derive any benefit from this program.

ELEMENT A:

New Orchard Trees and Support Systems

Objective: To advance the apple sector through the planting of new orchard trees (improved rootstock and higher value apple varieties) and installation of more productive orchard systems. This will generate better fruit quality and yields as well as increase grower competitiveness and profitability.

Eligibility Criteria:

- The applicant must describe the orchard planting site and indicate its suitability for apple production which includes the following information: a history of the site and what crops were grown previously; a list of soil improvements; a current description of soil texture, nutrients and drainage; a list of treatments for soil replant disease if apple trees were grown on the site. Refer to NBDAAF factsheet: **“Site Selection for Productive Apple Orchards”**.
- A 5 year planting plan that includes a description of the new varieties of apples, rootstocks and trellis support system; sources of new apple trees; a short description that indicates how the fruit will be sold (retail/wholesale).
- Effective wildlife deterrents must be installed in the year of planting at orchard locations with known or potential wildlife damage. Exclusionary fencing must comply with industry standards. Refer to: NBDAAF factsheet **“Fencing Options to Mitigate Wildlife Damage”**.

- The applicant must indicate the potential annual value or revenue that the new orchards and support systems will contribute to the growth or sustainability of the farm operation once they are established. Indicate what specific areas this value is coming from (e.g. increased volume, increased price, increased quality, access to new markets, development of a new value-added product or other items).
- Only new orchard trees and support systems installed in the current funding year and that meet all quality requirements will be eligible.
- Replacement trees for missing or dead trees that received funding through previous programs are not eligible for funding.
- Orchard plantings or purchases prior to April 1, 2024 are not eligible for funding.
- The applicant must be the current owner of the land where the orchard (trees and support system) will be established and provide proof of ownership.

Eligible Items:

a. New Orchard Trees and Support Systems

b. Top Grafted Trees

The applicant should consult with the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (NBDAAF) regarding all components of the orchard development plans and eligibility criteria.

Level of Assistance:

Prorating the eligible amount per tree and support system:

All applications for Element A will be reviewed after the application deadline (August 1). If the total number of eligible trees and support systems requested in approved projects exceeds the annual funding allotment for the program, funding will be prorated. The eligible amount per tree will be prorated according to the total funds available and the number of trees approved for funding per level of assistance category - permanent support stake, trellis supported, top grafted.

a. New Orchard Trees and Support Systems: Proof of payment will be required.

Up to \$11.00 per supported tree (with a permanent support stake) and up to \$15.00 per trellis supported tree; the tree and support system must meet the following quality requirements:

Quality Requirements:

Trees must be planted in the permanent orchard location and have all support system components installed at the time of inspection. Trees must be healthy and vigorous and at least 120 cm (4 ft) in height with a trunk caliper at least 1.25 cm (1/2 in.) measured at 5.0 cm (2 in.) above the graft union at the time of inspection. The support system must include a 3.0 m (10 ft.) permanent support stake or a complete trellis system. The trellis system must include 3.7-4.3 meter (12-14 ft.) pressure treated support posts (or product of industry recognized, improved longevity) spaced at a maximum 10 m (33 ft.) apart, a minimum of 3 horizontal high tensile wire strands and a 3.0 m (10 ft.) stake/conduit (or industry recognized support material) attached to the trellis and to each tree. Refer to Perennia publication on **“Building Better Trellis Systems for N.S. Orchards”** for additional information. Trees and support system that do not meet quality requirements as described above may be ineligible or subject to reduced funding.

b. Top Grafted Trees:

Up to \$5.00 per tree; trees must have a permanent support stake and meet the following quality requirements:

Quality Requirements:

Top-grafted trees must be top grafted onto the central leader of a semi-dwarf or dwarf tree rootstock. At least one grafted scion must be at least 60 cm (2 feet) in height and with a stem caliper that is at least 10 mm (3/8 in.) measured at 50 mm (2 inches) above the graft union at the time of inspection and is secured with a support stake. Grafted trees that do not meet quality requirements as described above may be ineligible or subject to reduced funding.

Application deadline: August 1, 2024

ELEMENT B:

Apple Storage Systems, Fruit Quality Assurance Technologies and Orchard Establishment Improvements (soil fumigation and in-field irrigation systems).

Objectives:

- To increase the value of apple production through the adoption of technologies that will improve apple cold and controlled atmosphere (CA) storage systems and provide fruit quality assurance.
- To improve the establishment of new orchards using soil fumigation and in-field irrigation systems.

Eligibility Criteria:

When funding is requested for Element B items, the applicant must submit a written description of how these items will improve farm productivity, fruit quality and orchard establishment. The applicant must also indicate where the increased potential value or revenue will come from e.g. increased volume, increased price, increased quality, increased savings/efficiencies, access to new markets, development of a new value-added product or other item(s).

Eligible Items:

- Storage room monitoring and regulating equipment, calibration gas and canisters and specialized equipment required to improve fruit quality; other storage equipment and technologies e.g. bulk bins and bin trailers may be considered where significant benefit is demonstrated that these items will improve apple storage systems and fruit quality assurance.
- Soil fumigation and in-field irrigation systems.
- Items not eligible: building infrastructure, refrigeration systems and computer hardware.

Level of Assistance: Proof of payment will be required.

Fifty (50%) of the eligible costs to a maximum of \$10,000 per applicant.

Note: On-farm constructed wooden bins (16-20 bushel bulk fruit storage bins) will be funded at a flat rate of \$30 per bin.

All bins must be verified for identification purposes by the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (NBDAAF) and have a clearly visible, permanent date stamp that identifies the year constructed and applicant / farm name.

Costs incurred prior to project approval are not eligible for assistance under Element B.

Application deadline: December 1, 2024. Applications will be reviewed as they are received beginning May 1, 2024. Applications will continue to be reviewed until December 1, 2024 or until funding is exhausted. Early submission of applications is encouraged.



Administrative Guidelines

All applicants must be familiar with the administrative guidelines prior to applying. The Administrative Guidelines can be found here: [**SCAP Administrative Guidelines**](#)



Other Requirements

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that any necessary permits, environmental approvals, or certifications are obtained to complete their project.



Reporting

Applicants may be required to report on the impact of the funding received. Reporting requirements will be outlined in the letter of offer.

How to Apply

Applicants should discuss applications with appropriate Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries staff (Business Growth Officer, Development Officer or Specialist) before applying. A list of departmental contacts can be found at the following link:

[**Crop Sector Development \(Branch\) \(gnb.ca\)**](#)

Completed applications may be submitted by e-mail or mail.

E-mail Applications:

[**Sustainable.CAP@gnb.ca**](mailto:Sustainable.CAP@gnb.ca)

Mail Applications:

Sustainable CAP Program Administrator
Industry Financial Programs
Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries
PO Box 6000
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