

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

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Honey Bee Industry Development Program





Program Description/ Objectives

To foster the continued growth of the New Brunswick honey bee sector through the following elements:

- A. honey bee colonies,
- B. purchase or construction of bee hive equipment, and
- C. on-farm investment in equipment to improve efficiencies. The increase in the honey bee sector supports the pollination needs of the wild blueberry sector, including pollination of other agricultural crops.



Eligible Applicants:

- Applicant must be registered as a New Brunswick beekeeper in 2024 (as per the requirements of the *New Brunswick Bee Act*)
- Applicant must be a member in good standing of the New Brunswick Beekeepers Association in 2024
- Applicant must have registered a minimum of 50 colonies or demonstrates to have provided a minimum of 50 colonies for pollination services in 2023
- New Entrants whose ultimate goal is commercial beekeeping

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicant must carry out activities within the province of New Brunswick.
- Applicant must make colonies available for wild blueberry pollination within New Brunswick;
- New applicants or entrants are required to submit a 5-year business plan and a Honey Bee Development Plan;
- Applicant must submit a Production Management Plan that includes disease control and overwintering practices. Applicants with practices that are deemed by the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (NBDAAF) to be poor practices will not be eligible for funding assistance.

New Entrants

- Beekeepers with less than 5 years experience must:
 - Have been employed by an experienced beekeeper for at least one full season; **or**
 - Have completed a beekeeping course from a recognized post-secondary institution; **or**
 - Establish a mentor relationship with an experienced beekeeper; **or**
 - Have demonstrated the ability to successfully manage a large-scale operation (100 or more colonies) for two or more winter seasons.

Approval Process

Program Deadline:

First Application form submission: July 15, 2024.

Projects received after this date will be evaluated as they are received until funds are exhausted.

All applications must be received before February 1, 2025

Maximum Contribution: The maximum contribution an applicant can receive is a total of \$15,000 per year (combined amounts from Elements A, B & C).

Priority will be given to projects submitted under Element A of the program which allows NB beekeepers to increase number of honey bee colonies available for pollination.

All purchases of materials and equipment that occurred prior to project approval are not eligible for funding.

ELEMENT A:

Expansion of honey bee for wild blueberry pollination services.

Objectives:

To support beekeepers that are expanding their operation to supply honey bees for blueberry fields. This element aims to support beekeepers that intend to purchase honey bees or grow their operation from their existing operation.

Eligibility Criteria:

- **Splitting of honey bee colonies:** Up to \$75.00 for every additional colony gained through splitting. Verification of the number of colonies obtained by splitting existing colonies will be required. The numbers of colonies gained through splitting will be limited to 50% of the colonies in the spring (May 31 of the current year).
- **Purchase of nuclei colonies:** Up to 50% of costs per nucleus colony (minimum four (4) frame nucs). Proof of payment will be required. To be eligible for assistance, colonies must be purchased before July 31, 2024.
- **Purchase of bee packages:** Up to 50% of the cost per package purchase. Proof of payment will be required. To be eligible for assistance, packages must be purchased before July 31, 2024.
- **Purchase of full colonies:** Up to 50% of costs per full colony. Proof of payment will be required. To be eligible for assistance, colonies must be purchased before July 31, 2024.

All colonies (purchased or split) must be up to winter strength by September 27, 2024 (minimum 6 frames of bees or deemed equivalents) to be eligible for assistance.

The applicant must indicate the potential annual value or revenue that the expansion of pollination services will contribute to the growth or sustainability of the beekeeping operation.

Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries staff will visit and audit a number of selected beekeepers between September 27 and November 4 of the current year to verify that the number of colonies of winter strength is accurate.

ELEMENT B:

Purchase and/or Construction of Honey Bee Equipment

Objectives:

- To support beekeepers that demonstrated the requirement for beekeeping equipment. This element supports the purchase or construction of hive equipment. It supports the modification of common bottom boards and common top covers to facilitate the lifting of honey bee hives with specialized equipment.

Eligible Items and level of assistance:

- a) Purchase of beekeeping equipment: Up to 50% assistance on hive components (see list of eligible items, quotes must be attached if applicable). Proof of payment will be required.

Eligible Items	
Bottom board	Frame feeders
Screened bottom board	Wooden feeders
Deep super	Pail feeders
Medium super	Wooden frames
Shallow super	Permadent foundation
Nuc super	Wax foundation
Inner cover	Plastic frames
Queen excluder	Drone frames
Top cover	Insulated top cover
Palletized common bottom board	Palletized common covers

- b) On-farm construction of equipment: Funding will not be provided for the construction of equipment intended for sale.

Eligible Items	Maximum assistance provided per eligible item
Bottom board	\$9.50
Screened bottom board	\$15.50
Deep super	\$8.50
Medium super	\$7.50
Shallow super	\$7.50
Nuclei super (6 frames)	\$9.00
Inner cover	\$7.00
Wooden feeders	\$12.80
Metal isolated covers	\$12.50
Metal Non-insulated covers	\$12.00

Modified hive management equipment for movement of colonies

Metal pallets	\$80.00
Wood pallets	\$60.00

ELEMENT C:

On-farm investment in equipment to improve efficiencies

Objective:

To support beekeepers that have increased their number of colonies beyond their existing infrastructure capacity. This element is intended for beekeepers that need to invest in handling equipment, increase efficiency and transportation of colonies to blueberry fields.

Eligible items

- Equipment related to moving honey bees from home yard to blueberry fields
- Equipment associated with handling bees in the bee yard and subsequently in blueberry fields

Ineligible items

- Trucks and vehicles to move honey bees
- Tractors to lift and move honey bee equipment
- Replacement of equipment with those similar capacity
- Buildings to house equipment, processing equipment, personal protective gear, land improvement equipment, management supplies

Applications accepted until funds are exhausted.

Cost incurred prior to project approval are not eligible for assistance.

Maximum contribution from Program:

Under element A, B and C, the maximum combined contribution an applicant can receive is \$15,000.



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

Mail Applications:

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