Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

Livestock Genetic Enhancement

New Nouveau Brunswick

Canada

Program Description/Objectives

To foster the continued improvement of the genetic base of the New Brunswick livestock sector through the purchase of genetically superior animals. The continual introduction of genetically superior animals will ensure producers have the ability to consistently produce the highest quality livestock products on a competitive basis, thereby giving them the means to adapt to and take advantage of new production and marketing opportunities in their respective sectors.

General Eligibility Criteria:

- Arm's Length Transactions: for the purpose of this program, exceptions can be allowed if the vendor and purchaser are not arm's length when the following conditions are met:
  1. The vendor and purchaser each file separate farm income tax;
  2. Proof of payment has been verified;
  3. Ownership status on purebred animal registrations are transferred (the registration documents of purebred animals that have been transferred to the name of the applicant or his farm constitute proof of payment).
- Premises on which the farming activities occur must be located in New Brunswick.
- Unless otherwise stated all claims, where applicable, must include:
  - Copies of all receipts must accompany claim for payment; and
  - Animal identification and purchase documentation must be attached to claim form.
- Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis until funding is exhausted. Final deadline for applications to each component under this element is February 28, of the current fiscal year (April 1 to March 31) or until funding is exhausted whichever occurs first.

ELEMENT # 1

Beef Genetic Enhancement

Objectives:

To enhance the New Brunswick beef industry with genetically superior animals capable of producing the highest quality beef, competitively and consistently for the benefit of all the beef sectors. This element is made up of the Beef Elite Sire, Beef Elite Female and Beef Elite Embryo Components, and the Beef Genetic Testing Component.

Eligibility Criteria:

- For reimbursement of claims, copies of paid receipts for genetic program enrollment fee, genetic evaluation software, genetic testing fees and weighing fees must accompany claim for payment.

Levels of Assistance:

The combined total financial assistance for Components 1.1 and 1.2 of the Beef Genetic Enhancement Element will be limited to a maximum of $5,000 per applicant per year.

1.1 Beef Elite Sire, Beef Elite Female, and Beef Elite Embryo Component

Component Objectives: To improve the quality and productivity of beef cattle produced in New Brunswick through the use of genetically superior animals.

Elite Sire Component Eligibility Criteria:

- Only physically and structurally sound bulls will be considered.
- An approved applicant farm operation is eligible for one bull per 30 breeding females (or less) every two years.
- Bull's registration papers must be transferred to the applicant farm operation's name before any assistance will be considered. Purchase receipt and performance certificate must be included before any assistance is considered.
- Assistance will be considered for breeding bulls from a home test with a minimum of three (3) Estimated Progeny Difference (EPD) traits that meet or exceed the breed average.
- Bulls purchased prior to April 1 of the current fiscal year are not eligible for assistance.
- Qualifying animals must be kept for a minimum of 1 year unless culled for disease or productivity reasons.
- Bulls must be a minimum of 1 year of age on date of purchase and not older than 6 years.

Elite Female Eligibility Criteria:

- Only purchased genetically superior registered purebred beef females with a minimum of two Estimated Progeny Difference (EPD) traits breed average or above will be eligible for assistance. Female registration papers must be transferred to the applicant farm operation's name before any assistance will be considered. Purchase receipt and performance certificate must be included before any assistance will be considered.
- Only purchased genetically superior F1 beef females having proof of a registered purebred beef sire and beef dam as parents will be eligible for assistance. Purchase receipt must be included before any assistance will be considered.
- Only females that are at least 12 months of age and no older than six years of age at time of purchase will be considered.
- Females purchased prior to April 1, of the current fiscal year (April 1 – March 31) are not eligible.
- Qualifying animals must be kept for a minimum of 1 year unless culled for disease or productivity reasons.

Elite Embryo Eligibility Criteria:

- Only the purchase of viable embryos from genetically superior parents will be considered for assistance.
- Both parents of embryos must have a minimum of three production and/or carcass trait EPD above breed average to be eligible.
- Embryos purchased prior to April 1 of current fiscal year are not eligible.

Levels of Assistance:

Elite Sire:

- Up to 30% of the purchase price of sale eligible Test Station bull(s) or eligible bulls from a purebred breeder up to a maximum of $1,400 per animal plus:
  1. A premium of $100 for Test Station bulls having a breed Average Daily Gain (ADG) on-feed index of 100 (minimum of five bulls in a contemporary group of same breed on test) or better will be eligible plus
  2. A premium of $100 for Test Station bulls with a minimum of at least three breeds average or above Expected Progeny Difference (EPD) on production or carcass merit traits or combination of either plus
  3. A premium of $100 for Test Station bulls with a negative residual feed intake (RFI).

Elite Female:

- Up to 30% of the purchase price of an eligible genetically superior elite female up to a maximum of $900 per animal plus:
  1. A premium of $100 for Purebred females with three Estimated Progeny Difference (EPD) traits above breed average on production and/or carcass merit trait plus
  2. A premium of $100 for F1 females with at least one purebred parent having three Estimated Progeny Difference (EPD) traits above breed average on production and/or carcass merit traits.

Elite Embryo:

- Up to 30% of the purchase price of genetically superior embryos up to a maximum of $500 per embryo.

1.2 Beef Genetic Testing Component

Component Objectives: To provide the necessary tools and incentives for beef producers to identify genetically superior animals within their herds using the newest technology and applications in animal selection.

Levels of Assistance:

Activity 1: Beef herds participating in an approved herd genetic evaluation program will be eligible. Assistance levels will be up to 100% to a maximum of $500 per herd. Eligible costs include:

- Herd genetic evaluation program herd enrollment, data entry and weighing fees.
- Purchase of herd genetic evaluation software.
- Ultrasound testing.
- Genomic testing.

Activity 2: To identify bulls with superior potential for meat yield, tenderness and marbling, funding will be provided to cover costs associated with genetic testing (e.g. ultrasound and semen testing). Consignors of Test Station bulls meeting a minimum on-test weight of 550 pounds for British breeds and 600 pounds for Continental breeds will be eligible for funding. Maximum assistance will be $500 per bull.

ELEMENT # 2

Swine Genetic Enhancement Element

Objectives:

To encourage New Brunswick hog producers to use superior breeding stock to improve productivity, quality, efficiencies and profits via:

- Purchase of superior "boars" for improved growth rates and carcass grades;
- Purchase of superior "gilts" for improved productivity.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be members in good standing with the Porc NB Pork to be considered for assistance. Please contact Porc NB Pork at 506-458-8051 to verify your status.
- Assistance will not apply to animals purchased prior to April 1 of the current fiscal year.
- Qualifying animals must be kept for a minimum of 1 year unless culled for disease or productivity reasons.

Levels of Assistance:

- Up to 30% of the purchase cost of superior boars from a recognized licensed breeding stock company up to a maximum of $1,000 per animal.
- Up to 30% of purchase cost of purebred, commercial gilts from recognized licensed breeding stock company. Max. of $120 per animal.
- Up to 30% of purchase cost boar semen from recognized licensed breeding stock company. Maximum of $15 per straw.
- The combined total financial assistance provided in the Swine Genetic Enhancement Element will be limited to a maximum of $5,000 per hog farm per year.
- No assistance is available for transportation of animals.

ELEMENT # 3

Sheep Genetic Enhancement Element

Objectives:

To enhance the New Brunswick sheep industry with genetically superior animals to improve efficiencies, growth rates, fertility, meat quality and increase marketing opportunities and options. This element is made up of the Elite Ram & Elite Ewe Component and the Sheep Genetic Testing Component.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Assistance will not apply to animals purchased prior to April 1 of the current fiscal year.
- Animals must be identified by the National Sheep Identification tags. Purebred animals must also be identified as per the national identification requirements for purebred sheep;
- In order to be eligible for the EPD and scrapie's resistant genotype premiums supporting documentation(s) must be provided.
- Applicant animals must be registered to and in the possession of the applicant by claim deadline date and remain on the owner's premises for a period of one year from date of purchase. Registration papers of F1 sheep's parents must be provided.
- Applicants must provide receipt from the sheep breeder with the animals being identified by the National Sheep Identification tags.
- Animal registration document. A copy is acceptable.
- Please note copies of paid receipts for genetic program enrollment fee, genetic evaluation software and genetic testing fees must accompany claim for payment.

Levels of Assistance:

The combined total financial assistance for Components 3.1 and 3.2 of the Sheep Genetic Enhancement Element will be limited to a maximum of $5,000 per applicant per year.

3.1 Elite Ram & Ewe Component

Component Objectives: To encourage New Brunswick sheep producers to use genetically superior animals to improve productivity, quality, efficiencies and profitability via:

- Use of prolific breeds for improved lambing percentages;
- Use of superior rams and ewes for improved growth rates and carcass grades;
- Use of long season breeders for extended seasonal production of lambs.

Levels of Assistance:

- Up to 30% of the purchase cost of pure bred rams up to a maximum of $500 per animal; plus
- Up to 30% of the purchase cost of pure bred or F1 ewes and ewe lambs up to a maximum of $250 per animal, plus:
  1. A premium of $50 for rams and ewes with 3 Estimated Predicted Differences (EPDs) breed average or above; plus
  2. A premium of $50 for ram and ewes with confirmed scrapie's resistant genotype.
  3. New: Up to 30% of semen cost, up to $40 per dose.

3.2 Sheep Genetic Testing Component

Component Objective: To provide the necessary tools and incentives for sheep producers to identify genetically superior animals within their flocks using the newest technology and applications in animal selection.

Levels of Assistance:

- Sheep flocks participating in an approved flock genetic evaluation program and/or disease resistant genotyping or testing will be eligible.
- Assistance levels will be up to 100% to a maximum of $500 per flock for the total of the three first activities below (A + B + C).
- The limit for the Sheep Genetic Testing Component is $1,000 (A+B+C+D).

Eligible costs include:

A. Flock genetic evaluation program enrollment & data entry fees;

B. Purchase of flock genetic evaluation software;

C. Scrapies genotyping;

D. Ultrasounds on lambs for genetic carcass evaluation (Max $500 per flock). Sheep producers will be eligible up to 100% to a maximum of $500 for the costs of having a technician from GenOvis, La Pocatière (QC), do the ultrasound testing. The travel costs and per diem for the technician is divided by all farms using this service.

ELEMENT # 4

Goat Genetic Enhancement Element

Objectives:

- Encourage New Brunswick goat producers to use superior breeds and breeding stock for improved:
  1. Meat goat genetics
  2. Milk goat genetics
- Expand New Brunswick's goat herd base to take advantage of market opportunities for goat meat and goat milk products.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Assistance will not apply to animals purchased prior to April 1 of the current fiscal year.
- Animals must be registered and identified by tattoo in accordance with Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC) requirements.
- Applicant animals must be registered to and in the possession of the applicant by claim deadline date.
- Qualifying animals must be kept for a minimum of 1 year unless culled for disease or productivity reasons.
- Applicants must provide receipts from goat producers with registered animals;
- Claims for reimbursement: Animal identification, registration and purchase documentation must be attached to claim forms;

Levels of Assistance: Financial assistance will be available in two categories:

- Up to 30% of the purchase cost of pure-bred bucks up to a maximum of $250 per animal;
- Up to 30% of the purchase cost of CLRC registered does and doe kids up to a maximum of $150 per animal.

The combined total financial assistance provided in the Goat Genetic Enhancement Element will be limited to a maximum of $5,000 per farm operation per year.

ELEMENT # 5

Mink Genetic Enhancement Element

Objectives:

- To assist and encourage improvement of industry breeding stock base in order to further enhance productivity and fur quality.
- To facilitate purchase(s) of genetically superior (size and quality) mink by New Brunswick mink farmers.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Assistance will not apply to animals purchased prior to April of the current fiscal year.
- Qualifying animals must be kept for a minimum of 1 year unless culled for disease or productivity reasons.
- Element funding will only apply to breeder animals which will be used for breeding in the upcoming breeding season.
- Eligible Purchased Animals are breeding stock originating from eligible source farms defined as:
  1. Those farms with annual minimum sale volume of 4,000 or greater pelts and or breeders (black and mahogany) and in the top 20% of auction sales;
  2. Those farms with annual minimum sale volumes of 2,000 or greater pelts and/or breeders (pastel and other lower volume, high-demand colours) and in the top 20% of auction sales.
  3. Eligible mink must be free of Aleutian Disease (AD): acquired from mink farms free of AD as declared by the seller and the herd veterinarian (who has an established veterinary-client-patient relationship with the ranch) from which the mink have been purchased on the Aleutian Disease Free Declaration form;
- Eligible mink must be blood tested for and be serologically negative for AD within 30 days prior to purchase using either the Counter-Current Immunelectrophoresis (CCIP), or the Lateral Flow Test, or the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) or another test approved by the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries.
- Claims for reimbursement for purchased animals must be accompanied by copies of receipts stating:
  1. Date of purchase;
  2. Seller's name and contact information
  3. Buyer's name (applicant) and contact information
  4. Number of animals;
  5. Animals identification, i.e. colour, type, sex and any other unique identifications;
- All purchased and retained mink must be in the possession of participating applicants prior to claim submission;
- Completed (1) Aleutian Disease Free Declaration and (2) Declaration of Source of Proposed Breeding Stock Purchase forms are to be attached to claim.

Levels of Assistance:

- Up to 30% of purchase price up to a maximum of $100 for large volume colour mink (i.e. brown, mahogany and black) and $150 for other lower volume, high demand colour mink (i.e. pastel).
- Total financial assistance for the purchase of genetically superior mink shall not exceed $5,000 per applicant per year.

ELEMENT # 6

Farmed Fox Genetic Enhancement Element

Objectives: To assist and encourage improvement of industry breeding stock base in order to further enhance productivity and fur quality.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Element funding will only apply to breeder animals which will be used for breeding in the upcoming breeding season.
- Qualifying animals must be kept for a minimum of 1 year unless culled for disease or productivity reasons.
- In order to qualify, all purchased foxes must be tattooed in both ears by the ranch of origin in accordance with national livestock registration standards (Serial number and year letter, i.e. 100T in the left ear and the herd letters, i.e. ABC in the right ear) Herd Letters may be chosen by the applicant or assigned by Canadian Livestock Records Corporation and this identification recorded on the element claim form.
- Claims for purchased animals must be accompanied by copies of receipts stating:
  1. Date of purchase;
  2. Number of animals;
  3. Animals tattoo identification;
  4. Name and address of vendors and name of buyer (element applicant).
- All purchased foxes must be in the possession of participating applicant prior to claim submission

Levels of Assistance:

- Up to 30%, of purchase price per eligible purchased breeder up to a maximum of $125;
- Total financial assistance for the purchase of genetically superior fox shall not exceed $5,000 per applicant per year;
- Assistance will not apply to animals purchased prior to April 1 of current fiscal year

ELEMENT # 7

Dairy Genomic Testing

Objectives:

- To provide the necessary tools for Dairy producers to identify genetically superior animals within their herds using the newest technology in animal selection and herd management.
- To assist producers to select the best heifers at an earlier age.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Assistance will not apply to animals tested prior to April 1 of current fiscal year;
- Applicants must provide proof of testing from a recognized testing facility;
- Producers must test at least 50% of their animals under 2 years of age;
- Qualifying animals must be kept for a minimum of 1 year unless culled for disease or productivity reasons;
- Animal identification and genetic testing results must be attached to claim forms;
- Copies of paid receipts for genomic testing must be attached to claim forms.

Levels of Assistance:

- $20.00 per head to a maximum of $5,000 per applicant per year.

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.

Regional Collaboration

Projects that are assessed to demonstrate benefits and impacts to more than one province may be eligible for funding on a regional basis.

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:

Livestock 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
PO Box 6000
Fredericton, NB
E3B 5H1