

## **Grape Industry Development Program 2022 - 2023 Guidelines**

### **1) Objectives:**

- To provide assistance for the establishment of new or more productive vineyards.
- To assist with the adoption of new vineyard technologies and/or purchase of specialized vineyard equipment that will improve grape production practices in New Brunswick (NB).

### **2) Rationale:**

- With the availability of hardy new selections capable of withstanding very cold winters in the -32°C to -35°C temperature range and the implementation of the Cottage Winery Program, the NB grape industry has been expanding over the last ten years. The Grape Industry Development Program will assist producers to plant selections of grape varieties suited to NB growing conditions and meet market demands. Healthy planting stock, good vine density and support systems (posts and trellis) are all critical components of a successful vineyard plantation and can provide higher yields and higher quality grapes.
- As the grape industry in NB develops, it will be important to provide assistance to producers to invest in equipment and innovative technologies that will allow them to expand their production capacity and to maintain the quality of the grape until it is delivered to the winery.

### **3) Eligibility:**

#### **A) Eligible Applicants:**

Established New Brunswick grape growers and new entrants who wish to establish a vineyard in New Brunswick.

#### **B) Eligibility Criteria**

- activities must be carried out within the province of New Brunswick
- preference will be given to projects which will result in the grapes being value-added within New Brunswick
- must be a member in good standing of the New Brunswick Grape Growers Association

#### 4) Initiative Elements:

##### **Element A: Assistance for the Establishment of New or More Productive Vineyards**

**Eligible Items:** Grape vines, as listed in Appendix 1 and the associated support system; trellis systems constructed to the following standard: 8 ft galvanized 16 gauge stake (to hold wires), posts (includes line and 14 gauge end posts, anchors) and wire trellis system (12.5 and 14 gauge wire). Upgrade of current trellis and posts to higher standard will be eligible. Bamboo support posts are not eligible for funding. Any variance from the support system standard outlined above must be approved by Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries staff.

##### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- The applicant must submit a vineyard plan (for the new planting site) that includes a list of grape varieties being planted (as selected from the list in Appendix I), and a written description of the planting site indicating suitability for grape production (e.g. topography, slope, soil type and texture and drainage) as well as a description of site preparation and a soil analysis report. A description of the trellis system for each site should also be included. If varieties to be planted are not on the list (Appendix 1) a strong rationale explaining why these varieties should be eligible for funding must be included.
- The vines to be planted should be winter hardy in a temperature range of -32°C to -35°C, sourced from virus indexed stock and be at least one year old.
- To be eligible, grape vines must be planted in their permanent vineyard location (e.g. not in nursery) and the trellis system must be installed.
- The applicant must submit an estimate, in terms of dollar value; of how much the funding is expected to contribute to the growth and sustainability of the operation.
- On-farm plant propagation expenses are not eligible for funding, however; funding for associated vine support systems is eligible. In the case where farm propagated material is used (minimum 1.5 year old), the grower must provide a description of the propagation and phyto-sanitary practices used to ensure healthy plant stock in order to be eligible for funding for the associated vine support system.
- A copy of quotation or invoice (whichever applicable) must be submitted with the application.

It is recommended that applicants consult with NBDAAF staff regarding the suitability of the location of the vineyard within the province, site selection, preparation of soil, choice of variety, and vine support systems before submitting the application. Further information can be obtained from the New Brunswick Grape Growers Association.

##### **Level of Assistance**

For a new planting, replacement of existing vines or an existing trellis system: Up to 50% of eligible cost for the vines and trellis system. A producer is eligible to a maximum of \$1,550 per acre for plants and \$3,150 per acre for trellis system, to a maximum of \$4,700 per acre for both plants and trellis.

Replacement vines for missing or dead vines that received funding through previous programs are not eligible for funding.

**Proof of payment will be required.**

The vine number, viability and strength will be checked by NBDAAF staff before claims are processed. Growers must follow acceptable cultural practices as outlined in the publication "Growing Grapes in New Brunswick".

Costs incurred prior to April 1, 2022 are not eligible for assistance under Element A.

**Element A - Application deadlines: July 8, 2022**

**Element B: Assistance for the adoption of new vineyard technologies and/or purchase of specialized vineyard equipment that will improve grape production practices in New Brunswick.**

**Eligible Items:** Specialized cultivators, in-field drip irrigation, harvesting bins, totes, field trailers (to transport harvesting bins out of the field). Other innovative specialized technologies related to grape production may be considered if sufficient rationale is provided. Bird netting is not eligible but assistance is available under Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) – [Mitigation, Prevention, Occupational Health and Safety](#).

**Eligibility Criteria:** All applicants must provide a written explanation as to how these improvements or pieces of equipment will increase the productivity and/or efficiency of their vineyard. A copy of quotation or invoice (whichever applicable) must be submitted with the application.

**Level of assistance:** Assistance will be provided for up to 50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$10,000 per applicant. The number of bins must be verified for identification purposes by NBDAAF staff before funding will be provided. All bins must have clearly visible permanent marking that identifies the year purchased. Proof of payment will be required.

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

**Element B - Application deadlines: January 20, 2023**

**Priority for assistance will be given to projects submitted under Element A.**

**The maximum program contribution per year/per farm is \$20,000 (Elements A+B).**

## 5) Application Process and Administration:

### **Program Duration:**

The Canada / New Brunswick 'Canadian Agricultural Partnership' policy framework is a five year federal, provincial and territorial Initiative which will operate from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2023, unless otherwise announced.

Priority for assistance will be given to projects submitted under Element A. Approved projects must be completed within the fiscal year for which they were approved (April 1 to March 31). Multi-year projects will only be approved for one fiscal year at a time and subject to satisfactory progress. Costs incurred prior to April 1, 2022 will not be eligible for funding. Upon project decision, the applicant will be notified in writing. The name of the designated Project Officer will be included on each letter of offer.

### **Application Process:**

Clients are responsible to submit a completed application form and attach any additional required documentation (as described in the program guidelines) and submit to any Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (DAAF) regional office or directly to the CAP Administrator, Industry Financial Programs, Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries, P.O. Box 6000, Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1, or by e-mail to [CAP.ADMIN@gnb.ca](mailto:CAP.ADMIN@gnb.ca)

### **Applicant Responsibilities:**

Upon approval, applicants will receive a Letter of Offer which identifies the eligible activities, assistance offered, and the terms and conditions to which assistance is approved. **The Letter of Offer must be signed and returned within 30 days or funding will be forfeited.**

The Applicant must agree to provide access to records and/or premises to staff of DAAF and persons authorized by DAAF for inspection, evaluation, demonstration, audit and public information purposes upon request; provide DAAF with any necessary information related to the evaluation of the project and demonstrate a significant contribution to the project. Successful applicants agree to participate in follow up surveys, either by mail, phone or electronically following completion of the project. Consolidated information will be used for program evaluation and policy development.

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 initiative.

### **New Entrants:**

Agriculture producers considered New Entrants are eligible for an additional 10% contribution provided the contribution does not exceed the established maximums under each program. The total contribution from all government sources will not exceed 100% for the eligible costs. New Entrant are defined as individuals who has owned a farm for five years or less. The Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries may ask for documentation to determine eligibility as a New Entrant.

**Submission of Claim:**

Upon project completion, the completed Claim for Reimbursement form must be forwarded to the designated Project Officer. These forms must be submitted together with a detailed invoice and proof of payment, which may include the following: an original receipt, image of cancelled cheque (front and back), or statement from a financial institution showing the transaction. The claim must be signed and submitted by the claim deadline as identified in the Letter of Offer. Costs included in the claim must be approved and incurred within the approved project dates as identified in the Letter of Offer.

**Reimbursement of Claim:**

Claims will be made payable to the name of the Applicant as indicated on the application form. Clients are encouraged to apply for direct deposit as a payment option to expedite reimbursement. Clients may contact [Service New Brunswick Accounts Payable](#) or their Project Officer to complete this form.

**Tax Form:**

Any amount a client receives through Canadian Agricultural Partnership is funding considered declarable income to the client. DAAF will issue the appropriate tax form to the client.

**Set Off:**

Any funds eligible for reimbursement to the client will be applied to outstanding amounts owed to the Government of New Brunswick first, and remaining amounts (if any) disbursed to the client. Funds applied to outstanding debts will be reflected on the client account statement.

**HST:**

The non-reimbursable portion of HST may be provided as an eligible cost for certain organizations (i.e. Not-for-profit organizations). Appropriate documentation showing the applicant's eligibility for HST reimbursement must be provided at the time of the application. Any requested amounts for HST reimbursement must be included in the project application.

**Arm's Length Transactions:**

Unless otherwise stated in the program guidelines, all businesses from which eligible goods and services are purchased should be at arm's length from the applicant. A person or entity is considered to be at arm's length if they are not related to the applicant, and are not affiliated or controlled by another member of the applicant's business. Related individuals are defined as those that are connected by blood relationship, marriage, common-law partnership or adoption.

## Appendix 1

List of Grape Varieties predicted to grow in N.B.  
in the -32°C to -35°C temperature range

<b><i>Varieties</i></b>
Adalmiina
Baltica
ES 10-18-14
Frontenac
Frontenac Blanc
Frontenac Gris
La Crescent
Louise Swenson
Marquette
Radisson
Sabrevois
St-Croix