

2022-2023 Honey Bee Industry Development Program Guidelines

1) Objectives:

- To increase the number of honey bee colonies available for pollination in New Brunswick
- To support the expansion of the honey bee sector through the purchase or on-farm construction of new beekeeping equipment

2) Rationale:

New Brunswick beekeepers provide pollination services to wild blueberry, apple, cranberry and vegetable producers, with the largest requirement for pollination coming from the blueberry industry. The NB Beekeepers Association and the NB Pollination Strategy identified opportunities in pollination services and local honey products. The strategic plan identified a shortage of honey bee colonies available for the pollination of the wild blueberry crop in NB. The plan set a strategic goal of increasing hive numbers within the province from the estimated 10,500 colonies (2017) available to 18,000 colonies available for pollination by 2024. This will be accomplished by supporting: the growth of larger commercial operations, the expansion of small scale beekeepers to larger commercial operations and new beekeeping operations.

The New Brunswick Honey Bee Expansion Program will help New Brunswick beekeepers expand their operations through incentives to:

- increase the number of honey bee colonies used for pollination by:
 - purchase of honey bee colonies, nucleus colonies or packages;
 - splitting of existing colonies;
- assist in the purchase or on-farm construction of beekeeping equipment;

3) Eligible Applicants:

- Applicant must carry out activities within the province of New Brunswick for a period of six months or more during the year.
- Applicant must make colonies available for wild blueberry pollination within New Brunswick;
- Applicant must be registered as a New Brunswick beekeeper in 2022 (as per the requirements of the New Brunswick *Apiary Inspection Act*);
- Applicant must be a member in good standing of the New Brunswick Beekeepers Association.
- Applicant must have registered a minimum of 20 colonies or demonstrates to have provided a minimum of 20 colonies for pollination services in 2021.

4) Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicant must submit a 5-year 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.

- 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.

Applications will be reviewed on a first come first serve basis until funds are exhausted.

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

Maximum Contribution: The maximum contribution an applicant can receive is a total of \$20,000 per year (combined amounts from Elements A, & B).

Element A: Expansion of honey bee for pollination services.

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 registered 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 29, 2022.
- **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 29, 2022.
- **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 29, 2022.

All colonies (purchased or split) must be up to winter strength by September 23, 2022 (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 23 and November 4 of the current year to verify that the number of colonies of winter strength is accurate.

Applications accepted until: July 29, 2022 or until funds are exhausted.

Element B: Purchase and/or Construction of Honey Bee Equipment

Eligibility Criteria:

- The applicant must demonstrate the requirement for beekeeping equipment in the Honey Bee Development plan. The requirement for the purchase or construction of equipment and modification of existing equipment to improve movement of colonies to crop fields for pollination should also be identified in the Honey Bee Development Plan.
- The applicant must indicate the potential annual value or revenue that the new beekeeping equipment will contribute to the growth or sustainability of the beekeeping operation.

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

- b) Purchase of modified hive management system: Consideration will be given to

the purchase of modified pallets for transporting honey bees. Proof of payment will be required. Assistance up to 50% of the cost of the modified pallet system for moving honey bees to a maximum of \$60 for a wooden pallet and \$80 for a metal pallet.

- c) On-farm construction of equipment: Construction of supers, bottom boards and top covers will be eligible for assistance. Funding will not be provided for the construction of equipment intended for sale.

Eligible items	Maximum assistance provided per eligible item
Bottom boards	\$7.00
Screened bottom board	\$15.00
Deep super	\$8.00
Medium super	\$6.50
Shallow super	\$6.00
Nuclei super (6 frames)	\$7.00
Inner cover	\$4.00
Wooden feeders	\$12.80
Metal Insulated covers	\$10.00
Metal Non-insulated covers	\$8.00
Modified hive management equipment for movement of colonies	
Metal pallets	\$80.00
Wood pallets	\$60.00

Applications accepted until: November 18, 2022 or until funds are exhausted.

Maximum Contribution: The maximum contribution an applicant can receive is a total of \$20,000 per year (combined amounts from Elements A & B).

5) Application Process and Administration: (CAP wording)

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. Program applications are welcome on an ongoing basis until funding is exhausted.

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. Unless otherwise notified in writing, costs incurred prior to the date of the written project approval 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

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 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 Entrants 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 financial institution showing 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 amounts outstanding 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 amounts for HST reimbursement requested 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.