

Sheep Handling, Weighing Systems & Rotational Pasture Initiative Guidelines 2022 2023

Objective:

The objective is to encourage sheep producers to use efficient animal handling & weighing systems to implement enhanced flock health programs, on-farm food safety programs and/or improve and monitor overall quality of the sheep flock in order to increase sheep flock profitability and safety for the producer. Another objective is to encourage sheep producers to use rotational grazing on their farms to increase pasture productivity, control parasites, improve soils and pasture biodiversity

Assistance Levels:

Applicant farm operations will be eligible for financial assistance of 50% towards the purchase of animal handling facilities, weighing systems and/or rotational pasture infrastructure improvements. The maximum assistance will be \$3,000 per farm.

Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis until funding is exhausted.

Deadline for applications is December 16, 2022.

No assistance will be paid on projects built or purchased before the approval date.

Eligibility of Applicants:

All sheep farms are eligible for financial incentives provided that they meet the following conditions:

- Premises on which the farming activities occur must be located in New Brunswick.
- An individual representing the applicant farm operation must have attained the legal age of 19 in the province of New Brunswick.
- Applicants must be compliant with the *Livestock Operations Act* or have a license application or renewal in process. In the case of license application or renewal, the Registrar under the *Livestock Operations Act* should be consulted to ensure that no major limitations to the issuance of a license exist.
- 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.

Eligibility Criteria:

Only sheep farmers that are enrolled in one or more of the following programs will be considered for assistance:

- Established Veterinarian, Client, Patient relationship (VCPR)
- Approved on-farm food safety program
- Approved group marketing initiative
- Approved genetic and flock management program

The following is a list of eligible animal handling, weighing and pasture equipment purchased or constructed:

- Head gate
- Squeeze
- Alley/sorting gates/unit
- Crowding tub
- Scale
- Loading ramp
- Rotational pasture sub-division fencing materials
- Fencers for sub-division fencing
- Pasture water infrastructure
- Perimeter pasture fencing is not eligible

(Note: Applications for rotational grazing infrastructure must include completed pasture questionnaire and claims for pasture projects must include pasture report)

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. 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.

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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 is defined as an individual who has reported farming income or owned a farm for 5 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.

The Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries reserves the right to terminate this initiative or to modify these Guidelines at any time without notice.