



# Wild Blueberry Harvest Efficiency Program Guidelines

2018-2019

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

Programs and Business Risk Management (PBRM)

74 Research Drive

Bible Hill, Nova Scotia B6L 2R2

Tel: 902-893-6377 Toll free: 1-866-844-4276

Fax: 902-893-7579

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## CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP (CAP)

The governments of Canada and Nova Scotia are committed to ensuring farmers and processors have the tools they need to innovate, grow and prosper. The *Canadian Agricultural Partnership* agreement is part of a commitment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to promote productivity and profitability for the sector. The programs are designed to help the industry position itself to respond to future opportunities and to realize its full potential as a significant contributor to the economy. Programs are also tailored with the flexibility to meet diverse regional requirements.

The partnership is a five-year, \$3-billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments that aims to strengthen the agriculture and agri-food sector and ensure continued innovation, growth and prosperity. The partnership includes \$1 billion for federal activities and programs, and \$2 billion in cost-shared programs delivered by provinces and territories on a 60-40 basis. In Nova Scotia, \$37 million will be invested through provincially delivered programs focusing on Markets and Trade; Science, Research and Innovation; Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change; Risk Management; Value Added Agriculture and Agri-Food Processing; and Public Trust.

In addition to cost-shared strategic initiatives, the partnership includes several business risk-management programs to help farmers manage risks that threaten the viability of their farms.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Wild Blueberry Harvest Efficiency Program supports the adoption of efficient harvester technology to increase blueberry producers' harvest and field handling efficiency resulting in an increase in crop yield. The support provided by this program will also allow growers to increase their competitive advantage.

## ELIGIBILITY

**An eligible applicant is a farm that:**

- is currently and accurately registered under the *Farm Registration Act*;
- is at least 19 years of age and actively farming in the program year;
- reports farming income and expenses which show income from the primary production of agricultural commodities of at least \$30,000 to Canada Revenue Agency;

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Each applicant may be eligible for **75%** funding assistance to a maximum of **\$20,000 per harvester**.

### Eligible Items

- Harvester head upgrade from 22" diameter head to 26"
- Harvester head upgrade to 42" wide
- Harvester efficiency kit for 22" diameter heads
- Picker bar upgrade to 65 tooth bars for 22" diameter heads
- Bin loader addition for small box harvesters
- Bin loader upgrade
- Arm's length labor to install the above listed eligible items \*

\*Arm's length is defined as individuals who are not connected by blood relationship, marriage, common-law partnership or adoption.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications will be accepted from July 20 2018 to October 31, 2018. Applicants are to complete the following steps:

1. Complete the **Program Funding Registration Form** (unless previously submitted).
2. Complete the **Wild Blueberry Harvest Efficiency Program Application**.
3. Submit all forms to the PBRM office via mail, email, or fax:

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## APPROVAL PROCESS

1. Applications are assessed based on the information and supporting documentation provided. If an application requires further assessment or information, Programs staff will follow up with the applicant.
2. If approved, applicants will receive a Letter of Agreement (LOA) that identifies the eligible project activities, assistance offered and the terms and conditions under which assistance is approved.
3. Sign and return the LOA to the Programs office within **60 days** of the date of the letter to secure your funding. Late agreements will forfeit any assistance offered.

**You must review and return the signed copy of the Letter of Agreement to the PBRM office within 60 days or you will forfeit the funding.**

## CLAIMING PROCESS

1. Complete your wild blueberry harvest efficiency projects prior to the completion deadline.
2. Complete and sign the **Program Claim Form** that you received with your LOA.
3. Attach copies of all invoices for eligible project costs incurred and paid for by the applicant. Eligible purchases are **only** those made and paid for by the applicant. Group purchases are not eligible.
4. Attach proof of payment for each invoice – debit slips, cancelled cheques or credit card statements.

**Note:** receipted invoices marked paid and signed by the supplier are not accepted as a proof of payment. No payment will be made for claims under \$20.00.

5. Submit your claim with the required supporting documentation to the PBRM office by **December 31, 2018**. Submit as project is completed or by the deadline noted. Multiple claims can be submitted prior to the deadline. Claims will only be accepted if an application was approved and projects were noted on your LOA.

## PROJECT EVALUATION AND AUDIT

Review and evaluation of projects may be carried out by officials of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA), Government of Canada or other parties chosen by the NSDA for the purpose of audit, analysis, evaluation, program development and determining assistance. This review and evaluation process may be conducted prior to project commencement, during work or upon project completion. Applicants may be asked to complete an evaluation survey statement related to their final claim.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

Applicants consent to the release of their name and the amount of support received under the program as public information to be actively disseminated by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture. Any other information provided, unless disclosed in the manner and for the purposes stated above, will be subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) Act.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

To find out more information about the Wild Blueberry Harvest Efficiency Program, please contact PBRM at: 902-893-6377, toll free 1-866-844-4276 or your regional office at the following locations:

Central Region	Truro office	902-893-6575
Valley Region	Kentville office	902-679-6021
Western Region	Cornwallis office	902-638-2395
Eastern Region	Antigonish office	902-863-7180
Cape Breton Region	Sydney office	902-563-2000