

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

Future Farmer Program 2.0 GUIDELINES



Canada



4.2 FUTURE FARMER PROGRAM 2.0

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The **Future Farmer Program 2.0** supports business sector capacity growth and competitiveness by helping new farmers establish or continue profitable and sustainable commercial farm businesses. The program will help new entrants identify and prioritize their business goals and will help them identify the planning, management and technical skills they need to reach their goals. The program will assist with incentives towards completing projects related to business plan activities and that meet Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) priorities.

To access this program, applicants will be required to complete an application and be accepted into the Future Farmer Program 2.0. Successful applicants will be eligible for funding for a 10-year period.

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Future Farmer Program 2.0

The **Future Farmer Program 2.0** will support new farmers or those transitioning ownership of an existing operation.

To access this program, applicants will be required to complete an application and be accepted into the Future Farmer Program 2.0. Successful applicants will be eligible for funding and support for a 10-year period. Once accepted into the program, participants will be placed in the **Agri-Start** or **Continuing to Grow** subprograms, based on current farm income. **Agri-Start** participants may transition to the **Continuing to Grow** subprogram if future income merits.

Along with access to funding provided through the **Agri-Start** and **Continuing to Grow** subprograms, participants who are registered in the Future Farmer Program 2.0 will also be eligible for Bona Fide Farmer Status and mentoring support from the PEI Department of Agriculture staff.

4.2.1 AGRI-START SUB-PROGRAM

The **Agri-Start subprogram** will support new farmers as they start their agricultural career. New producers who have not yet achieved an annual agricultural income of \$20,000 are eligible for this sub-program.

SUB-PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Eligible Recipients

- Mi'kmaq First Nations and other Indigenous groups; and
- Agricultural Producers.

Eligible Recipients must:

- Be a new agricultural producer (must not have reported farm income for more than 5 years);
- Have not reported over \$20,000 in annual agricultural income;
- Have or develop a business or succession plan;
- Be a Canadian citizen or a Permanent Resident; and
- Be a resident of Prince Edward Island.

Eligible Activities/Expenses

- Facilitation and coaching assistance by a program advisor;
- Development and implementation of continuous-improvement on-farm projects¹;
- Skills development and training assistance by a third-party²;
- Business or succession-planning assistance;
- Analytical laboratory testing; and
- Participation in the following Business Risk Management (BRM) Programs: AgriStability and AgrilInsurance.

NOTES:

- Note¹: Future Farmer Program 2.0 recipients must demonstrate clear linkages to one of the [Sustainable CAP Framework key priority areas](#) for all on-farm projects pursued under this eligible activity. Continuous improvement on-farm projects must be reviewed by the 1) Program Manager **OR** 2) Review Committee prior to submission.
- Note²: Skill development and training must be pre-approved by the Program Manager.

Ineligible Activities/Expenses

- Normal and on-going operating and maintenance activities.
- Activities that do not provide a direct benefit to the sector.
- Livestock and genetics, plant material, livestock feed and crop inputs.
- Activities related to aquaponic food production, or to aquaculture, seaweed, fish and seafood production and processing (except international marketing and traceability activities for fish and seafood).
- Activities which provide tax credits or rebates.
- Development and enforcement of regulations.
- Expenses incurred prior to the project application date.

Funding

- Participants are eligible for up to \$10,000 in total funding during their term in the program.
- 50% of eligible expenses up to \$2,000 per project for continuous improvement on-farm projects, skill development and training, business plan expenses.
- 50% of eligible expenses up to \$1,000 per recipient for PEI Analytical Laboratory testing expenses.
- 50% of eligible expenses up to \$3,000 per recipient for Business Risk Management expenses over their term in the program. Eligible recipients must meet Business Risk Management Program entrance requirements to qualify for this funding.

4.2.2 CONTINUING TO GROW SUB-PROGRAM

SUB-PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Eligible Recipients

- Mi'kmaq First Nations and other Indigenous groups; and
- Agricultural Producers.

Eligible Recipients must:

- Be a new agricultural producer (must not have reported farm income for more than 5 years);
- Have or develop a business or succession plan;
- The participant must have reported at least \$20,000 in annual farm sales; or have received an on-farm salary in excess of \$20,000 annually;
- The farm succession/business plan must indicate that the participant is named as a successor or that there are plans to incorporate the participant into farm ownership or owns at least 15% of the common voting shares or must be the beneficial owner of at minimum of 15% ownership of a partnership;
- Be a Canadian citizen or a Permanent Resident; and
- Be a resident of Prince Edward Island.



Eligible Activities/Expenses

- Facilitation and coaching for those required to have a business plan or a succession plan, by a program advisor or a specialized service provider;
- Development and implementation of continuous-improvement on-farm projects contributing to improved efficiency and/or increased production by implementing practices or equipment new to the operation¹;
- Skills development and training assistance by a third-party²;
- Analytical laboratory testing; and
- Participation in the following Business Risk Management (BRM) Programs: AgriStability and AgriInsurance.

NOTES:

- Note¹: Future Farmer Program 2.0 recipients must demonstrate clear linkages to one of the [Sustainable CAP Framework key priority areas](#) for all on-farm projects pursued under this eligible activity. Continuous improvement on-farm projects must be reviewed by the 1) Program Manager **OR** 2) Review Committee, prior to submission.
- Note²: Skill development and training must be pre-approved by the Program Manager.



Ineligible Activities/Expenses

- Normal and on-going operating and maintenance activities;
- Activities that do not provide a direct benefit to the sector;
- Livestock and genetics, plant material, livestock feed and crop inputs;
- Activities related to aquaponic food production, or to aquaculture, seaweed, fish and seafood production and processing (except international marketing and traceability activities for fish and seafood);
- Activities which provide tax credits or rebates;
- Development and enforcement of regulations; and
- Expenses incurred prior to project application date.

Funding

- Participants are eligible for a maximum of \$50,000 in total funding during their term in the program.
- 50% of eligible expenses up to \$20,000 per project for continuous improvement on-farm projects, skill development and training, and business plan expenses.
- 50% of eligible expenses up to \$1,000 per recipient for PEI Analytical Laboratory testing expenses.
- 50% of eligible expenses up to \$3,000 per recipient for Business Risk Management expenses over their term in the program. Eligible recipients must meet Business Risk Management Program entrance requirements to qualify for this funding.



CLAIMS PROCESS

Recipients shall maintain an accurate record of expenditures incurred and shall submit, upon completion of the project, the following:

- a claim form summarizing expenditures;
- copies of all paid invoices with verification of payment;
- a report on the project and its results in terms of project objectives; and
- copies of material produced (or when applicable, photos of material funded).



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Approved projects must be completed within the timeframe outlined in the funding agreement;
- Recipients must meet the eligibility criteria and submit a complete application to the PEI Department of Agriculture;
- If the project is not approved, all incurred costs are the responsibility of the recipient;
- Assistance will be available until funds are totally allocated within that year; and
- Projects may be funded below the maximum contribution rate upon assessment and availability of funding.

HOW TO APPLY

Completed applications may be submitted to the attention of the Program Officer via regular mail or email.

Email Applications:

Applications may be submitted via email to

futurefarmer@gov.pe.ca

Please include the program name in the subject line.

Regular Mail Applications:

Applications may be submitted via regular mail at:

PEI Department of Agriculture

11 Kent Street

PO Box 2000

Charlottetown PE C1A 7N8

(902) 368-4880 (telephone)



PUBLIC TRUST

Projects approved for funding under the Sustainable CAP which have demonstrable links to increasing public trust may be eligible for additional project funding.



EVALUATION AND CONTROL

A complete evaluation of this program is planned to ensure that the objectives and results are achieved and to assess the relevance of its renewal. Program metrics are collected and reported on an on-going basis.



GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Sustainable CAP is a 5-year, \$3.5-billion agreement between federal, provincial, and territorial governments to strengthen the competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of Canada's agriculture, agri-food, and agri-based products sector. The agreement includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and \$2.5 billion in cost-shared programs and activities funded 60% by the federal government and 40% by provincial/territorial governments for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories. Sustainable CAP programs are available to all Canadians who are eligible to participate in those programs. Wherever possible, the needs of under-represented groups, including Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and persons with disabilities, were considered during program development.