



Soil Building for Seed Potato Producers Program

Program Guidelines: May 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

Program Policy: Supporting seed potato producers who have lost markets due to Potato Wart in building soil health and sequestering carbon.

1. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture has established the Soil Building for Seed Potato Producers Program to assist in the planting of soil-building crops or extended perennial crops in fields originally intended for seed potatoes in 2023.

Note: Applications are due no later than July 10, 2023.

2. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- PEI seed potato producers who have experienced market losses as a result of potato wart, and who are reducing seed potato acres in 2023 as a result. Eligible applicants must also be reducing their total potato acreage.
- Mi'kmaq First Nations and Indigenous Organizations that produce seed potatoes and have experienced market losses as a result of potato wart.
- An Eligible Applicant must apply to the program and:
 - be a taxable entity (e.g. individual, corporation or trust), limited partnership, cooperative, or Mi'kmaq First Nations and Indigenous Organizations;
 - have carried on a business of farming in PEI and reported farming income (or loss), to the Canada Revenue Agency for income tax purposes;
 - For applicants that are not required to file farm income tax, acceptable documentation that demonstrates the production and sale of agricultural commodities must be provided
 - demonstrate lost seed potato sales as a result of potato wart
 - reduce 2023 seed potato acres by a minimum of 10% OR 10 acres compared to 2021
 - reduce overall potato acres and not substitute seed acres with table or processing
- Farm units growing seed potatoes under more than one CFIA farm unit number must submit acreage information for all farm unit numbers. For eligibility purposes, acres for all CFIA farm unit numbers related to one farming operation must show a reduction from 2021.

Note: Supporting documentation is required to demonstrate reduced seed potato acreage (e.g. AIC Production Summary, CFIA documentation, PQI documentation, etc).

3. ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Acreage planted in approved, full season, soil-building rotational crops; or
- Acreage in an existing extended perennial crop maintained for an additional year (i.e. maintained for two consecutive years) in a rotation with annual crops.

4. INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Acreage in long-term pasture, forage, or fallow land;
- In the case of the soil-building crop activity, acreage in crops that will be harvested and removed from the field; and
- Acreage on less than a 3-year rotation.



5. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for Soil-Building Crops:

- A detailed summary of the crop rotation plan that lists the selected soil-building crop species (and why it was chosen), the crop rotation for the preceding 5 years, the method of establishment, and number of acres to be planted in the soil-building rotation crop;
- Property Identification Numbers (PIDs) for acres to be planted to the soil-building rotation crop must be included on the application;
- Acreage may be determined based on the Provincial Field Identification Numbers (FID's) and FID's may be used to determine payment;
- Approved crops can include annual and perennial crops and must be listed on the PEI Department of Agriculture's list of approved soil building crops, which are as follows:
 - grasses (i.e. sorghum sudangrass, pearl millet, spring cereals, ryegrass, etc)
 - legume (i.e. red clover)
 - mixes (i.e. winter rye/oilseed radish, timothy/clover, etc)
 - other soil building mixes may be considered
 - and others to be determined by the committee
- **Biomass must not be removed from the field.** Regular chopping/mulching are recommended;
- Crops must not be incorporated or desiccated with herbicide before winter. Tillage can be resumed the following spring;
- All approved projects through this activity are subject to site visitations which may occur at any point throughout the year to ensure that a soil-building crop was well established;
- Approved acres for this activity are not eligible for the Spring Tillage of Forages BMP in the following year.

Requirements for Extending Perennial Crops:

- For applicants not enrolled in the program in 2022, a detailed summary of the crop rotation plan that lists the selected soil-building perennial crop species, the crop rotation for the preceding 5 years, and number of acres will be required with the application;
- Proof of previous crop rotation may be required; crop rotation plans may be verified using aerial imagery, or through crop insurance reports;
- All property IDs with extending perennial crops must be included on the application;
- Acreage may be determined based on the Provincial Field Identification Numbers (FID's) and FID's may be used to determine payment;
- Two full consecutive years of the extended perennial crop must be maintained (the crop must not be terminated until spring of 2024);
- Fields are eligible only if the extended perennial crop (ex: timothy, clover, alfalfa) had already been established the previous rotation year;
- The field's rotation must include annual crops within it and must not be a long-term forage field, pasture or fallow land;
- All approved projects through this activity are subject to site visitations which may occur at any point throughout the year to ensure that a full-season, extended perennial rotation crop was well established and remained for the entire additional, consecutive year.



6. FUNDING

Eligible applicants (as defined in Section 2) will qualify for \$1,000 per acre of land established into soil-building crops or extended perennial crops. Eligible acres will be limited to the reduction in either 1) total potato acreage if some acres were substituted for table or processing; or 2) the reduction in seed acreage if no acres were substituted for table or processing.

Note: The Department of Agriculture and and/or Project Review Committee has the sole discretion to determine eligibility of applications, validity of information declared on the application and to approve or limit payments.

7. APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications must be submitted no later than July 10, 2023.

8. HOW TO APPLY

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

E-Mail Applications

Applications may be submitted via email at potatowart@gov.pe.ca

Please include the program name in the subject line

Regular Mail Applications

Soil Building for Seed Potato Producers Program

PEI Department of Agriculture

11 Kent Street PO Box 2000

Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

Phone: 902-314-1607