

2011 – 2012 Canada - New Brunswick Apple Industry Development Initiative

Guidelines

1) Objectives:

- To provide assistance for the establishment of more productive orchards and new varieties of apples and rootstocks.
- To assist with the adoption of technologies that will improve post-harvest apple storage systems and quality assurance.

2) Rationale:

The apple industry in New Brunswick has been challenged by increasing costs, an aging and inefficient orchard base, a changing market demand and declining price margins at the wholesale level. Investment in the New Brunswick apple industry will assist producers to design more efficient planting systems, plant new apple varieties that are in greater demand and adopt new technologies required to improve post-harvest apple storage systems and to address quality assurance issues.

3) Eligible Applicants:

The following requirements must be met by all applicants:

- must be a New Brunswick resident at least 19 years of age who has filed an income tax return in the past year which included agricultural income from apple production.
- activities must be carried out within the province of New Brunswick.
- will be in good standing with apple marketing regulations as prescribed under the New Brunswick *Natural Products Act* and administered by the Apple Growers of New Brunswick (AGNB).

** No current or former public office holder, public servant or Member of the Legislative Assembly who is not in compliance with applicable conflict of interest guidelines and legislation shall derive any benefit from this initiative.

4) Initiative Elements

Element A: Assistance for the Establishment of More Productive Orchards and New Varieties of Apples and Rootstocks

Objective: To provide assistance for the establishment of more productive orchards and new varieties of apples and rootstocks.



Rationale: This component will facilitate the installation of more productive orchard systems that will generate higher yields and higher market returns. New varieties of apples and rootstocks, tree quality, tree density and support systems (stake and trellis) are all critical components of a successful new orchard planting. Each grower will be required to carefully select and manage each of these components in order to successfully establish a more productive, sustainable and profitable orchard.

Eligible Items (Element A):

a) New tree planting

Requirements: The applicant must submit a planting plan that includes a description of new varieties of apples and rootstocks, planting densities and the trellis system for each orchard site with the application. Applicants should consult with the NBDAAF Crop Development Specialist, Nursery/Tree Fruits regarding variety, rootstock selection and tree support systems.

Level of Assistance: **\$7.00** per unsupported tree and up to a maximum of **\$11.00** per supported tree; a tree support system must include a 2.4-3.0m(8-10ft.) permanent tree stake and / or a trellis system installed in permanent orchard location to receive the maximum contribution. Trees and support systems must meet quality requirements. The level of assistance per supported tree will be pro-rated according to the support system selected and the tree planting density.

Quality Requirements: Trees must be planted in their permanent orchard location and be at least 1.2m (4 ft) in height with a stem caliper that is at least 12.5mm (1/2 in.), measured at 50mm (2 in) above the graft union at the time of inspection, to be eligible for funding. The support system must include a 2.4-3.0 meter (8-10 ft.) permanent support stake or trellis that includes 3.7-4.3 meter (12-14 ft.) support posts, high tensile wire and/or individual tree stakes or conduit. The level of assistance per supported tree will be pro-rated according to the trellis system selected and the tree planting density.

b) Top grafted trees

Top grafted trees: **\$5.00** per tree for trees that have been top grafted in the past 2 years, have a support stake and meet quality requirements.

Quality Requirements: Top-grafted trees must be top grafted onto the central leader of a semi-dwarf or dwarf tree rootstock. At least one grafted scion must be at least 60cm (2 feet) in height and with a stem caliper that is at least 10 mm (3/8 in.) measured at 50mm (2 inches) above the graft union at the time of inspection and be secured with a support stake.

c) For fumigation and in-field irrigation (e.g. drip)

Applicants are eligible for up to 50% assistance for soil fumigation and in-field irrigation.

Element B: Support for Post-harvest Apple Storage Systems and Quality Assurance Technologies

Objective: To assist with the adoption of technologies that will improve post-harvest apple storage systems and improve product quality assurance.

Rationale: This element is intended to complement production upgrades to the orchard. It will facilitate the adoption of technologies that will improve post-harvest apple storages and allow growers to meet quality assurance requirements. The ability to keep fruit at peak quality after harvest requires careful handling and constant monitoring of Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage rooms. Storage, fruit handling and monitoring equipment that will maintain optimum fruit quality until it is delivered to the consumer is required.

Eligible Costs (Element B): Controlled Atmosphere storage room monitoring and regulating equipment, calibration gas equipment and canisters, and specialized equipment required to improve post-harvest fruit quality or to meet current industry standards for quality assurance e.g. bulk fruit storage bins, bin trailers, SmartFresh curtain technology. Other technologies may be considered where strong rationale and significant benefit back to the sector can be demonstrated.

Building infrastructure, refrigeration systems and computer hardware are not eligible.

Requirements: All applicants must provide a description of the overall apple storage requirements for their orchard(s) and how the planned storage and quality assurance upgrades will integrate with the new production systems.

Level of Assistance: Assistance will be up to 50% of the eligible costs up to a maximum of \$20,000 per applicant.

For bulk fruit storage bins (18-20 bushel) only:

- On- farm constructed wooden bins will be funded at a flat rate of \$30 per bin.
- Purchased wooden and plastic bins will be eligible for funding based upon receipts for up to 50% of the eligible costs per bin.

The number of bins must be verified for identification purposes by the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (NBDAAF) before funding will be provided. All bins must have a clearly visible, permanent date stamp that identifies the year constructed.

Application Process and Administration:

Application forms for the 2011 – 2012 Canada - New Brunswick Apple Industry Development Initiative are available from all offices of the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries and on the departmental website at <http://www.gnb.ca/agriculture>.

All completed applications must be submitted to the following address:

Administrator- Agricultural Financial Programs Branch
New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5H1

Upon review, NBDAAF will advise the applicant in writing whether or not their application was approved. If approved, NBDAAF will provide a contract that indicates eligible project items. A project officer will be appointed to ensure that applicable financial administrative procedures, timelines and reporting requirements are followed. NBDAAF reserves the right to limit funds associated with any of the Canada – New Brunswick Apple Development Initiative elements and will evaluate and prioritize requests on a case-by-case basis until funds are exhausted or the eligibility period ends, whichever comes first. NBDAAF also reserves the right to add or remove eligible items to be funded within the various elements. Expenditures incurred before April 1, 2011 are not eligible. The Harmonized Sales tax (HST) is not a reimbursable cost.

Deadline for applications: December 1, 2011

Claims for reimbursement and project reporting:

Applicants are required to submit a report (summary of expenditures, information collected and outcome of activities) with each claim for reimbursement following project completion. The request for reimbursement must include an appropriate proof of payment for each of the eligible items as indicated in the contract.

Claim for reimbursement should be submitted no later than Feb. 28, 2012. NBDAAF may hold back a portion of the approved funding until the required final report has been submitted. The Project Officer must certify that the project and report are complete. Failure to submit acceptable final reports may affect funding approval decisions for future projects.