

Nova Scotia Local Beef Processing Program PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2026

FUNDING PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

This program will fund projects that directly contribute to a measurable increase in the volume of local beef that is processed and consumed in Nova Scotia. Support for new abattoir construction and significant retrofits will be aimed at strengthening the supply chain for beef in Nova Scotia.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must be 19 years of age or older, and

- Hold a provincial abattoir license or indicate a plan to proceed with a provincial license
- Have an approved engineered plan for their proposed facility
- Be registered through the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stocks
- Be in good standing with the Department of Agriculture and the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board, if applicable

This program is intended for abattoirs who are building new facilities or significantly expanding and/or retrofitting existing facilities.

ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicants seeking funds to support the construction or major retrofit of a new abattoir **MUST** provide approved engineered drawings of their facility and include custom beef processing as part of their business model.
2. A business plan demonstrating an enhanced level of service to the beef community through the proposed infrastructure improvements is required for program entry. Successful applicants will be asked to review the progress of this plan from time to time with a program representative.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Funding: Up to 25 per cent funding for eligible costs or a maximum of \$250,000, whichever is the least, based on the evaluation criteria.

Funding for the program is limited and the final decision on support will be determined by the Program Review Committee.

PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Abattoir submissions will be evaluated by the Program Review Committee based on the following criteria:

| Criteria | Submission Details | Points |
|---|---|--------|
| Alignment with achieving program objectives | Is the proponent committed to increasing the volume of beef processed in a provincially regulated environment (including through custom kill activities)? | 40 |
| Geographic location of the abattoir project | Will the proposed location improve access to beef slaughter for Nova Scotia beef producers? | 20 |
| Organizational and financial capacity | Has the applicant demonstrated the financial and organizational capacity to successfully complete the project within the given timelines? | 40 |
| Total | | 100 |

PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCESS

Preference will be given to applicants who can finish the project within 18 months of the date of funding approval.

- Applicants must complete the Program Application Form, which requires quotes for the work to be done. Funding will be considered for only those items noted in the application and for which there are submitted quotes.
- Applicants must provide documentation showing that the project meets the current municipal and provincial building code requirements.
- A dated building permit must be submitted before program funding is approved.
- Applicants must provide a letter from the Agriculture Inspection Services Division indicating their floor plan has been received and granted pre-construction approval.
- Applicants must provide financial statements for the past two years of operation
- Applicants must provide an annual report and/or projection on the number of local beef carcasses slaughtered or processed through the facility.
- A detailed business plan must be submitted that demonstrates the level of intended increased custom kill or processing capacity and service to the local industry along with revenue projections for a three-year period.

NOTE: Please see checklist included with application form.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

These include but are not limited to:

- Construction costs or permanent fixtures* with paperwork demonstrating building code compliance with municipal and/or provincial inspection standards
- Accredited service providers, tradespeople, inspectors
- Engineering services

Eligible expenses must be directly related to the abattoir qualifying for program funding and the project must take place on land owned by the applicant.

- Permanent fixtures*
 - » Rails
 - » Cooler and freezer doors
 - » Ventilation components such as fans
 - » Cooling components such as refrigeration units
 - » Kill boxes
 - » Holding barn pens
 - » Handling equipment (animal chutes linked to slaughter activity)

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

These include but are not limited to:

- Administrative costs and general overhead
- HST
- In-kind labour and contributions
- Any work that does not meet municipal and provincial regulatory requirements
- Operating expenses and existing staff salaries
- Regular maintenance or incremental costs
- Exploratory travel
- Land purchases

APPROVAL DECISION

Upon project decision, the applicant will receive a funding decision by email, followed by a Letter of Agreement which will need to be signed and returned to officially open the project.

IMPORTANT DATES

| Activity | Date |
|--|--------------------|
| Fund opens | February 5, 2026 |
| Deadline for submission of application, supporting documents and business case | April 30, 2026 |
| Project completion deadline | September 30, 2027 |
| Claims deadline | November 30, 2027 |

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

At the end of the project, applicants will be required to submit a Final Project Report (using a template provided to successful applicants) with their claim that includes:

- A detailed and measurable overview of how the project met the program's goals of increasing the volume of beef processed and consumed in Nova Scotia
- A financial overview of how the funds were expended
- Successful applicants agree to keep and submit a copy of their processing numbers for a period of five years after they have received support (so that processing numbers can be reviewed annually with reference to increases)

A program officer will be in touch during the activity period to assess progress against the applicant's business case and in some instances, to arrange a site visit. Applicants may also be invited to participate in photo and video shoots of their project.

CLAIMING PROCESS

1. Successful applicants will receive a Letter of Agreement that must be signed and returned to officially open the project. Unless otherwise notified in writing, costs incurred prior to the date of the Letter of Agreement will not be eligible for funding.
2. After Perennia receives the signed Letter of Agreement, a claim form will be sent.

Keep the form until the end of your project. Complete and sign the claim form at the time of claim submission.

3. The claim form must be accompanied by:
 - » A Final Project Report (using the template provided)
 - » Copies of invoices for all eligible costs incurred and paid for by the applicant. The following are not acceptable: purchase orders, sale acknowledgements, bills of sale, quotes, estimates, statements, etc.
 - » Proof of payment for each invoice – e-transfer confirmation, EFT, debit card receipt, digital image of cleared cheques (front and back), wire transfer details or credit card/bank statements (invoices marked paid and signed by the supplier are not accepted).

Claims and supporting documentation must be submitted to Perennia by November 30, 2027.

If the project is not completed by the date noted in the application/letter of agreement, no funds will be awarded, unless a previous accommodation has been agreed upon.

It is anticipated that funds awarded under this program will be considered farm income and therefore AGR-1's will be issued for the year the claim payment is made.

Claims may be submitted by email to beefprograms@perennia.ca with *Claim* in the subject line. If you need another option to submit your claim, contact us at least two business days before the claim deadline to discuss other options.

ARM'S LENGTH TRANSACTIONS

Program funding will only be offered on transactions (invoices) that do not involve a supplier/service provider that is associated with the applicant, unless it is proven that an associated supplier/service provider is the only registered company providing that service in the area. In such cases that it is necessary to proceed with an associated supplier/service provider, the applicant must apply for a pre-approval before proceeding or submitting a claim to ensure that the associated costs will be approved for reimbursement.

AUTHORITY

Perennia shall have the authority to deny an application if there is evidence of misrepresentation of pertinent information or if Perennia feels that the application does not show adequate evidence that it will support the program objectives.

EVALUATION AND AUDIT

Review and evaluation of projects may be carried out by Perennia, or other parties chosen by Perennia for the purpose of audit, analysis, evaluation, program development and determining financial 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 related to their final claim.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Applicants consent to the release of their name and the amount of support received under the program. This specific information is deemed to be public information, to be actively disseminated by Perennia. Perennia may provide any information from an applicant to another public body or a law-enforcement agency in Canada to assist in an investigation, undertaken with a view to a law-enforcement proceeding or from which a law-enforcement proceeding is likely to result. Any other information provided, unless disclosed in the manner and for the purposes stated above, will be subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please submit any questions by email to beefprograms@perennia.ca