

Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association (NSFGA) Honeycrisp™ Orchard Renewal Program (HCORP) Technical & Administration (T/A) Guidelines (2008 Revised & 2009)

Foreword

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA) is providing financial assistance for apple orchard renewal in Nova Scotia using the cultivars Honeycrisp™, Ambrosia, Gala and Sweet Tango (a club variety that has been included in the "Special Market Opportunities" category). Over the five-year period, 2005 to 2010, the NSDA committed to invest \$1.175 million in the Honeycrisp™ Orchard Renewal Program. In 2008 NSDA provided an additional \$235,000 to offset the high number of plantings in that year and in 2009 provided an additional payment of \$200,000 to offset the high number of 2009 planting applications. Total program funding is \$1.61 million.

The purpose of the NSDA assistance is to provide Nova Scotia apple producers with a funding incentive to replant orchards with specific high yielding/high value cultivars that are intended to increase the producers' returns from the marketplace.

The HCORP is managed and administered by the NSFGA. The program is supported by a Program Manager, the HCORP Steering Committee (SC) and an independent Technical Advisor (TA).

NSFGA HCORP SC:

1. Production Representative	Blake Sarsfield
2. Production Representative	Larry Lutz
3. Production Representative	Waldo Walsh
4. IFP Representative	David Power
5. Packer Representative	Hal Stirling
6. Grower-at-Large	Gail Parker
7. Processor Representative	Leonard Sarsfield
8. Research Representative	Charles Embree, AAFC, Sustainable Prod Systems
9. Research Representative	Keith Fuller, AAFC, Soil & Water
10. HC Research Advisor	Doug Nichols, NSFGA
11. President (current)	Brian Boates, Chair
12. Program Manager	Dela Erith
13. External expertise	as required
14. External expertise	as required
Technical Advisor (non-voting)	Bill Craig, AgraPoint International

1. HCORP Parameters:

1.1. Program period: April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2010

1.2. Primary Cultivars:

- Honeycrisp™
- Ambrosia
- Gala
- Sweet Tango ("Special Market Opportunities" Category)

1.3 Planting:

A minimum of 139,643 trees will be funded by the program. Each of the primary cultivars listed above (item 1.2), or combination thereof, is subject to a minimum 70/30 planting ratio of primary HCORP approved cultivar(s) to HCORP SC approved pollinizer(s).

- 1.4. Non-repayable grant: \$1.61 million is the total provincial contribution. \$235,000 will be provided each year for five years. **In 2008 an additional, one-time contribution of \$235,000** was provided by NSDA to assist with the cost of the 2008 planting. **In 2009 an additional one-time contribution of \$200,000** has been provided by the NSDA to assist with the cost of the planned 2009 planting.
- 1.5. Applications: All applications will be subject to the approval of the HCORP SC.

2. **HCORP Eligibility Criteria:**

- 2.1. The Applicant must be a Nova Scotia producer, partnership or corporation that has minimum annual gross farm revenue of \$10,000 derived from the production of tree fruit.
- 2.2. The Applicant must have a demonstrated ability to be able to meet the current NSFGA HCORP Technical & Administrative (T/A) Guidelines to the satisfaction of the HCORP SC.
- 2.3 The Applicant, as a new entrant to apple production, may be considered eligible for the HCORP at the discretion of the HCORP SC.
- 2.4 The Applicant must agree to abide by the NSFGA HCORP T/A Guidelines.
- 2.5 The Applicant, as the **land owner**, must agree to maintain, to the satisfaction of the HCORP SC, the HCORP planting as a commercial orchard operation for a minimum period of ten years from the date of the HCORP planting.
- In the case of **leased property** both the owner and the lessee of the leased property must agree to maintain, to the satisfaction of the HCORP SC, the HCORP planting as a commercial orchard operation for a minimum period of ten years from the date of the HCORP planting.
- 2.6 The Applicant must agree to pay royalties on all of the patented varieties that he/she plants under the HCORP as well as fees applicable to club varieties.
- 2.7 The Applicant must agree that if the conditions of the HCORP T/A Guidelines are not met and maintained, at the discretion of the HCORP SC the applicant will be obliged to repay the HCORP planting grant to the NSFGA.

3. **HCORP Technical & Administrative (T/A) Guidelines:**

3.1 **Planting:**

- 3.1.1 **20% Rule:** **Effective with the 2009 planting, up to 20%** of the eligible grower's owned and existing orchard, or orchard acreage held over the three years previous to application, may be replanted over the five year HCORP. *For example:* If the applicant has 50 eligible acres, he/she may receive funding to replant 10 acres (20%).

Note: Regardless of how many trees an applicant plants, HCORP funded tree planting maximums will match the government's HCORP cash available annually.

Planting Minimum: 300 trees per acre. The minimum allowable planting is one acre.

Planting Maximum: 800 trees per acre

Exception to the 20% Rule:

If the Applicant wishes to increase his/her planting density to more than 800 trees per acre and receive funding for the additional trees, then the Applicant's number of allowable acres will be decreased. For example:

- under the 20% rule, an applicant with 50 eligible acres may replant 10 acre, this allows him/her to plant a maximum of 8,000 funded trees on those 10 acres. With a maximum tree funding of **\$9.80** per supported tree the applicant will be allowed \$78,400 in funding (800 trees/acre x 10 acres = 8,000 trees @ \$9.80 per tree = \$78,400).

but

- if the same Applicant wants to increase his/her planting density 30% over the maximum allowable planting density of 800 trees per acre to 1,040 trees per acre, the Applicant's maximum funding allowance will remain at \$78,400 but the allowable acreage for replanting will drop by a corresponding 30%; the applicant will be eligible to plant only 7 acres over the life of the program.

3.2 Funding:

The HCORP will be delivered by the NSFGA over five years (2005 to 2010). Program end date is March 31, 2010. The final planting year is 2009.

Tree Assistance: \$9.80 per supported tree

A maximum of \$7,840 per acre will be allowed for supported trees (800 trees @ \$9.80 per tree = \$7,840) (see above, "Exception to the 20% Rule")

\$6.30 per unsupported tree

A maximum of \$5,040 per acre will be allowed for unsupported trees (800 trees @ \$6.30 per tree = \$5,040) (see above, "Exception to the 20% Rule")

3.3 Administration Fee: effective for the 2008 & 2009 plantings

A 15% administration fee will be charged on all trees planted, inspected by the TA and accepted for payment by the HCORP SC. This fee will be deducted from the planting payment.

A non-refundable Application Processing Fee of \$200 plus HST will be charged to non-members of the NSFGA. In 2008 the fee will be deducted from the planting payment. In 2009 the fee must accompany the HCORP application.

3.4 Support Systems:

An HCORP SC approved tree support system is required for plantings when, in the opinion of the HCORP SC, the rootstock and planting system selected requires support.

3.5 Pollinizers:

Each planting may include a maximum of 30% pollinizer trees. Pollinizer varieties must be approved by the HCORP SC.

3.6 Tree Quality:

A producer must plant trees of at least 1.2 m in height or at least 12.5 mm trunk diameter measured 50 mm above the graft union.

3.7 Inspections:

First inspection: After the Applicant's application has been accepted and prior to planting, the orchard site must be inspected by the HCORP Technical Advisor (TA) to assure compliance with the HCORP Technical & Administrative Guidelines (Guidelines) and the Applicant's 'planting design' as described in his/her application.

Second Inspection: Subsequent to planting, a second inspection will be conducted by the HCORP TA to assure that the Guidelines have been met. The TA's tree count is based on live and healthy trees at the time of the 2nd inspection.

Annual Inspections: The HCORP TA will conduct annual spot inspections for the duration of the program to ensure that the Guidelines are being maintained and that technical advice provided is being followed by the producer.

3.8 Application Procedures:

Application Forms: HCORP application forms must be submitted to the NSFSGA office in accordance with the submission schedule. Each application must be fully completed and include the following supporting documents:

- Orchard Renewal Plan
- Marketing Plan for all cultivars planted
- HCORP Letter of Agreement – this letter must be signed and submitted for each year of planting.

The application package must be submitted to the NSFSGA office:

HCORP
Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association
Agricultural Centre, Kentville, Nova Scotia B4N 1J5

Applications will be reviewed in the order of their receipt.

Multi-year applications are encouraged for program planning purposes only; applications are accepted on a yearly basis only.

Application Submission Schedule:

- 2005 planting year Plantings may be approved if an application is received by the NSFSGA by Oct 31/05 and if, upon post planting inspection it is shown that all of the Guideline criteria have been met.
- 2006 planting year applications due: Nov 21/05.
- 2007 planting year applications due: Jul 31/06.
- 2008 planting year applications due: Jul 31/07.
- **2009 planting year applications due: Jul 31/08 (funding restrictions may be necessary based on funds available)**

3.9 Orchard Renewal Plan:

Applicants must submit an Orchard Renewal Plan with their application. (Note: a guidance document, "*Planting & Care of the Young Apple Orchard*" dated October 2005, has been attached to these Guidelines to serve as a reference document). At a minimum, the plan must include descriptions of the following:

- Site preparation and planting design diagram (the site must be fumigated prior to planting if the site was previously in orchard; or, not fumigated if a replant test shows that fumigation is not necessary. ***Payment will not be made for a spring planting on unfumigated land until a separate fall inspection has been completed that shows that the trees planted in the spring are not showing adverse signs of replant disease.***
- Planting densities
- Rootstock
- Support system (if required)
- Identification of pollinizing cultivars

Note: GPS orchard acreage verification may be required.

3.10 HCORP Planting Measurement: HCORP acreage planted will be measured by the Technical Advisor using GPS technology and the resulting data submitted to the HCORP SC.

3.11 Marketing Plan: Orderly marketing is required to maintain a consistent premium price for the HCORP fruit produced over the long-term. Applicants must include, with their application, a HCORP Marketing Plan for ***all of the HCORP fruit produced.*** Each Packer that has HCORP participating growers is requested to submit their HCORP marketing plan to the NSFGA office. These plans will be treated as confidential.

3.12 Letter of Agreement (LOA): A signed LOA for each planting year must be included with each application (sample attached).

Contact Information:

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