

In June 2006, a new *Agricultural Producers Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act* received Royal Assent. The Act was not proclaimed, however, as several regulatory amendments were necessary. With the regulations now complete, the Department will be implementing the new Register of Farm Businesses effective December 1, 2007.

What is the purpose of this new law?

The process created by the new Act and regulations is necessary to allow New Brunswick to have strong, representative, financially self-sufficient general farm organizations. By having a reliable source of funding, these organizations can do even more work that benefits all agricultural producers.

How does the process work?

Eligible producers may voluntarily register by completing an application form and paying the prescribed fee. They will get a registration number that will be necessary to access various government agriculture services, and the fees will be forwarded to accredited farm organizations for general funding purposes.

Who is eligible to register?

Agricultural producers operating a farm business within the meaning of the federal *Income Tax Act*¹, or start-up operations following a management plan approved by the Minister, will be eligible to register.

What are the benefits of being registered?

Registered agricultural producers will be able to apply for various government programs, such as Farmer's Purchaser's Permits, farm truck plates, and discounted agriculture laboratory services.

What are the registration fees?

Annual registration fees vary from \$150 - \$500/year, depending on the farm business income:

Gross Annual Farm Income	Registration Fee
\$1 - \$49,999	\$150
\$50,000 - \$149,999	\$225
\$150,000 - \$249,999	\$325
\$250,000 - \$499,999	\$400
\$500,000 or more	\$500

How long is the registration good for?

Applications for registration can be made at any time during the year, but all registrations expire on October 31. The whole registration fee must be paid regardless of when the application is made.

What if I have already paid to join an accredited general farm organization?

In the first year, producers who have already joined an accredited general farm organization will have those dues go towards their registration fee. In these instances, only a partial registration fee may apply. Please contact the Registrar for more information.

Do I have to become a member of an accredited farm organization when I register?

No. If you do not wish to join an accredited farm organization, you will still receive a registration card and have all of the benefits of registration; in this case, your registration fee will be proportionally divided among the accredited farm organizations.

Can I join more than one accredited farm organization?

Through the registration process, you may only join one accredited farm organization, and your registration fee will go to that organization. If you want to join another organization, you will have to contact that organization directly and pay its membership fee.

¹ The federal *Income Tax Act* defines farming as the various activities of a person who is engaged in the business of earning income from the tillage of soil, raising or exhibiting of livestock, the maintenance of horses for racing or exhibiting, raising of poultry, keeping of bees, fur farming, dairy farming, and fruit growing. Also includes tree farming (Christmas trees, maple syrup), the operation of nurseries or greenhouses and mechanical hatching operations.

What will the Registrar do with the fees that are collected?

All fees will be transferred in full to accredited farm organizations.

What are the accredited farm organizations?

The Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick and the National Farmers Union in New Brunswick are accredited farm organizations.

What is done with the information that is collected?

The information of all registrants will be entered into a government register that may only be used (a) by government to verify the eligibility of the farm business for government programs involving agricultural activities, and (b) for consultations between government and industry on government policy involving agricultural activities. Registrants that indicate that they would like to join an accredited farm organization will have their contact information sent to that organization.

How do I register?

Registration forms can be picked up at any Service New Brunswick (SNB) office or DAA regional office. Forms can also be downloaded or filled out online at www.snb.ca. Producers may also register by calling SNB Teleservices at 1-888-762-8600. Completed forms can be dropped off in person at any SNB location or mailed to the Registrar of Farms at the address below. Acceptable payment methods are cash, debit card, cheque, or credit card.

Will I have to go through with this process every year?

The Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture is currently working on developing a renewal system that will streamline the process.

How long until card arrives?

You will receive your card within 7-10 days.

How do I get more information?

For more information, please contact either the Registrar of Farms or a Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture regional office.

Registrar of Farms

Mail: Registrar of Farms
Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture
PO Box 6000
Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 5H1

Phone: 1-888-323-4440
Email: registraroffarms@gnb.ca
Internet: www.gnb.ca/agriculture

Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture Regional Offices

Bathurst (547-2088)
1425 King Ave, Box 5001
Bathurst, NB E2A 1S7

Bouctouche (743-7330)
26, rue Acadie
Bouctouche, N-B E4S 2T2

Fredericton (453-2172)
850 Lincoln Road
Fredericton, NB E3B 9H8

Grand Falls (473-7755)
824, route 108
Saint-André, N-B E3Y 3H5

Miramichi (778-6030)
1780 Water Street
Miramichi, NB E1N 1B6

Moncton (856-2277)
381 Killam Drive
Moncton, NB E1C 8R3

Sussex (432-2150)
701 Main St., Box 5305
Sussex, NB E4E 7H7

Tracadie-Sheila (394-4128)
PO Box 3058, Station Main
Tracadie-Sheila, N-B E1X 1G5

Wicklow (392-5100)
39 Barker Lane
Wicklow, NB E7L 3S4