



NOVA SCOTIA
Agriculture



2010 – 2011 Statement of Mandate

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Message from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Department of Agriculture's 2010-2011 statement of mandate. This document outlines our vision for a diversified, market-focused and profitable agri-food industry and highlights priority actions for the coming year.

Farming continues to be at the heart of rural Nova Scotia. Farm businesses strengthen our rural economies and create employment throughout the value-chain, from primary production through secondary processing. The goods and services they produce are valued here at home, and throughout the world.

I invite readers to visit the department's website at www.gov.ns/agri/ to learn more about the work the department is doing on behalf on Nova Scotia's agriculture industry.

John MacDonell
Minister

Department Mandate

The Department of Agriculture supports the development of a competitive, sustainable and profitable agriculture and agri-product industry that contributes to the economic, environmental and social prosperity of Nova Scotia's rural and urban communities.

The Department of Agriculture also supports the development of competitive and profitable ocean products and recreational fishing industries in partnership with the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Department Vision

The Department of Agriculture's vision is of an agriculture and agri-food industry that is diversified, market-focused, and profitable.

It is an industry recognized for its adaptable, collaborative business approach and its safe, exceptional quality products.

Moreover, it is an industry valued for contributing to the economy, the environment, and vibrant rural communities.

Department Mission

To foster prosperous and sustainable agriculture and food industries through the delivery of quality public services for the betterment of rural communities and all Nova Scotians.

Performance Measures

Core Business One: Sustainable Resource Management

Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Targets	Trends	Strategic Actions to Achieve Target
Environmental sustainability	Percentage of registered farms with an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)	2004-05: 27%	Target for 2010-11: 60% Ultimate target: Continued increase in the number of registered farms participating	2005-06: 35% 2006-07: 40% 2007-08: 50% 2008-09: 52% 2009-10: 58%	Expand the EFP to include energy audits and a farm safety component Deliver the National Farm Stewardship Program

Core Business Two: Industry Growth and Development¹

Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Targets	Trends	Strategic Actions to Achieve Target
An agriculture community that is proactive about managing business risks	AgriStability ² participants market revenues as a percent of total farm income	2007: 52%	Target for 2010-11: 55% Ultimate target: A majority of farms with income protected through AgriStability	2008: 48%	Promotion and awareness
An agriculture community that is proactive about managing business risks	AgriInvest participants market revenues as a percent of total farm income	2007: 60%	Target for 2010-11: 65% Ultimate target: A majority of farms with income protected through AgriInvest	2008: 63%	Promotion and awareness

¹ An asterisk (*) indicates services on behalf of the agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture industries.

² AgriStability is a government / producer cost-shared initiative to protect farm businesses against income losses greater than 15 percent in a given year, with AgriInvest protecting against income losses up to 15 percent. Participation is voluntary, with the federal and provincial governments and business operators paying into a deposit account that the business can access if market revenues decline past a certain point.

Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Targets	Trends	Strategic Actions to Achieve Target
An agriculture community that is proactive about managing business risks	Percentage of AgriInvest producers participating in AgriStability	2007: 85%	Target for 2010-11: 95% Ultimate target: A majority of farms with income protected by both AgriInvest and AgriStability	2008: 94%	Promotion and awareness
An agriculture community that is proactive about managing business risks	Total production insurance coverage ³ (millions)	2004-05: \$52.5	Target for 2010-11: \$128 Long-term target: \$130 by 2011-12	2005-06: \$51.3 2006-07: \$56.4 2007-08: \$71 2008-09: \$120	Expand insurance line Provide new features on existing insurance plans
New investment in the agriculture industry	Value of new investment in industry sectors directly attributed to investment recruitment efforts (millions) *	2006-07: \$1.5	Target for 2010-11: \$1.8 Ultimate target: Increase new investment over time	2007-08: \$1.5 2008-09: \$1.1 2009-10: \$1.5	Partner with government, non-government and industry associations to promote opportunities in Nova Scotia agriculture
Economic growth	Value of industry sales resulting from market development projects and tactics (millions) ⁴ *	2004-05: \$4.5	Target for 2010-11: \$18 Ultimate target: Increase industry sales over time	2005-06: \$5.5 2006-07: \$9.4 2007-08: \$16 2008-09: \$16 2009-10: \$18	International trade shows Market development activities in priority markets such as Germany In-coming buyer events

³ AgriStability and AgriInvest are based on the market income of an entire farming operation, while production insurance compensates for production declines of specific crops and livestock.

⁴ Based on feedback from industry clients involved in department-led initiatives.

Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Targets	Trends	Strategic Actions to Achieve Target
Increased local sales of Nova Scotia agri-food and seafood products	Consumer awareness of Select Nova Scotia campaign *	2007-08: 6%	Target for 2010-11: 11% Long-term target: 15% by 2012	2009-10: 10%	Recruit additional industry partners Promotions and events
Economic growth	Value of agricultural production ⁵ (farm cash receipts, millions)	2004: \$456.7	Target for 2010: Increase farm cash receipts Long-term target: Continued increase in farm cash receipts	2005: \$468.0 2006: \$472.6 2007: \$456.8 2008: \$474.6 2009: N / A	Promote innovation and competitive transition Ongoing marketing initiatives
Increased revenues throughout the agriculture value-chain Increased participation from stakeholders to support the development of new products and technologies	Ratio of Product and Quality Development (PQD) funding invested to total R&D invested through PQD projects *	2004-05: 43%	Target for 2010-11: 15% Ultimate target: Increase funding from other sources, resulting in a smaller overall percentage from the department	2005-06: 32% 2006-07: 19% 2007-08: 17% 2008-09: 11% 2009-10: 16% ⁶	Develop new partnerships Expand support to industry-wide and individual business initiatives

⁵ Source: Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 21-011-X. Published November 2009.

⁶ A projection based on agri-food and seafood expenditures to date. The projected ratio of PQD funding invested for agri-food projects in 2009-10 is seven percent.

Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Targets	Trends	Strategic Actions to Achieve Target
Fiscal responsibility New investment in the agriculture industry	Percentage of Farm Loan Board principal in arrears	2007-08: 3.6%	Target for 2010-11: 5.9% Ultimate target: 4.4% or less	2008-09: 4.4% 2009-10: 5.9% ⁷	Temporarily re-assign staff member to follow up with struggling accounts and refer to industry resources where appropriate Work with former hog accounts ⁸ to reach the best possible outcome
Economic growth	Total agri-food exports, less seafood products and fishing ⁹ (millions)	2004: \$272.3	Target for 2010: Increase export sales Long-term target: Continued increase in export sales	2005: \$273.7 2006: \$263.9 2007: \$255.0 2008: \$215.8 2009: \$175.6	Operationalize the investment plan focusing on market and product diversification, branding, co-operative efforts, research and information, and strategic alliances

⁷ A projection based on available data.

⁸ The hog sector accounts for a significant part of the increase in the 2009-10 arrears rate.

⁹ Source: Statistics Canada

Core Business Three: Responsible Governance

Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Target	Trends	Strategic Actions to Achieve Target
Integrity and security of the food system	Percentage of commercial livestock facilities identified for premise identification	2007-08: 10%	Target for 2010-11: Complete the four priority groups (hogs, cattle, sheep and poultry), mink, and exhibition poultry Ultimate target: 100% of all commercial livestock sites	2009-10: 100% of hog, dairy, poultry and mink facilities and 5% of sheep and beef facilities	Partner with commodity groups and use existing departmental data Develop legislation that makes premises identification mandatory for commercial livestock sites in Nova Scotia and allows information to be shared for emergency purposes

Core Business Four: Education and Life-Long Learning

Outcome	Measure	Base Year Data	Target	Trends	Strategic Actions to Achieve Target
High quality agricultural research and education	Total value of research and infrastructure grants awarded to NSAC researchers (millions)	2004-05: \$5.74	Target for 2010-11: \$9 Long-term target: \$10 by 2013	2005-06: \$5.79 2006-07: \$6.49 2007-08: \$8.50 2008-09: \$9.50 2009-10: \$8.20	Facilitate professional proposal development Increase industry liaison and outreach
High quality agricultural research and education	Total value of peer-based awards through national granting councils (millions)	2004-05: \$1.07	Target for 2010-11: \$1.5 Long-term target: \$2 by 2013	2005-06: \$1.18 2006-07: \$1.30 2007-08: \$1.57 2008-09: \$1.43 2009-10: N / A	Facilitate professional proposal development Recruit new faculty
Skilled agricultural workforce	Number of students enrolled at NSAC	2004-05: 753	Target for 2010-11: 930 Long-term target: 1000 by 2013	2005-06: 758 2006-07: 793 2007-08: 789 2008-09: 832 2009-10: 904	Recruitment drives Improve campus facilities

Skilled agricultural workforce	Number of international students enrolled at NSAC	2004-05: 26	Target for 2010-11: 130 Long-term target: 150 by 2013	2005-06: 26 2006-07: 47 2007-08: 57 2008-09: 79 2009-10: 123	International recruitment Bilateral international agreement development
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Budget Context

Agriculture			
	2009-2010 Estimate	2009-2010 Forecast	2010-2011 Estimate
Program & Service Area	(\$thousands)	(\$thousands)	(\$thousands)
Gross Departmental Expenses:			
Senior Management	710	723	720
Policy, Planning, Comm.	811	692	835
Agriculture Services	24,577	23,591	23,971
Legislation and Compliance	9,468	9,683	8,988
Industry Development and Business	7,093	11,862	6,204
N. S. Agricultural College	19,027	20,656	20,161
Total Gross Departmental Expenses	61,686	67,207	60,879
Additional Information:			
Fees and Other Charges	(9,514)	(10,729)	(9,682)
Ordinary Recoveries	(4,755)	(4,755)	(4,101)
TCA Purchase Requirements	880	280	500
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	477	469	476

Rounding

Estimates / Forecasts:

Departments / PSO's

- All estimates/forecasts should be rounded to the nearest thousand.

FTE's:

FTE's for departments

- Rounding should follow what appears in 1.17 of the Estimates book.