



AGRICULTURE

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Message from the Minister

Agriculture is the backbone of our rural economy and communities. Employment in primary agriculture increased more than four per cent to 4,700 workers in 2017.

The new Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) will invest \$37.5 million over five years in our agriculture industry to promote innovation, sustainability and market development. CAP is a partnership between the provincial and federal governments to support sustainable growth of our agriculture and agri-food sectors.

We recognize that it has been a challenging season for industry, with a cold and wet spring; a freeze event in early June; and a particularly hot and dry summer. The department is working with producers of wild blueberries, apples, grapes, Christmas trees and others, to identify crop damage and guide our way forward. There are business risk management tools currently in place to deal with adverse weather events, such as Crop Insurance, Agri-Invest and AgriStability. Nova Scotia has initiated a mechanism that allows farmers to obtain coverage through late enrollment in the AgriStability program. This new feature under CAP will ensure more farmers can access the support they need. We will continue to work with our partners in industry and government to address challenges and make success possible.

Every farmer in the province has my sincere thanks for the work you do contributing to our province's food security and economic growth.

Honorable Keith Colwell
Minister of Agriculture

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Ag Extension Highlights

Field Days Focused on Integrated Pest Management

Taking an hands-on approach to weed, insect and disease management in horticultural crops was the goal of a partnership between Agriculture and Perennia.

Thirty farmers had the opportunity to discuss crop scouting techniques in potatoes, strawberries, pumpkin, squash, turnip, garlic and cucumbers with Rachael Cheverie, a horticultural specialist and Sara Wood, a small farm outreach specialist.

Integrated pest management, or IPM, emphasizes the growth of a healthy crop with the least possible disruption to agro-ecosystems and encourages natural pest control mechanisms.

Jack and Margeurite Miller hosted the first field day at their farm in North East Margaree. Local farmers were shown proper field scouting techniques, how to take random samples, and when to conduct checks. They brought forward weeds and insects of concern from their own farms.

Lorne Quinn opened his farm in Millville to another group of local farmers, who scouted his fields for flea and cucumber beetles, plus a variety of weeds. Producers shared ideas and common concerns and heard advice about best approaches for mixed crop management.

These sessions also provided three pesticide re-certification points for licenced applicators who attended.

Website Created for New Farmers

The Nova Scotia New Farmer website can be an aid in helping new or soon to be farmers who are looking for information on how to start and run a farm.

www.nsnewfarmer.ca

What is it?

Whether you are looking for advice on your farm, or looking for a place to start, the professionals here will be able to assist you with your needs. The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Perennia Food and Agriculture Inc. and THINKFARM have created a new website for all current and future farmers that offers complementary service.

How will it will benefit Nova Scotia farmers?

The site will help you get started and has resources to help benefit you and your farm. A variety of resources will be of aid to anyone new to farming, or even someone with a farming background. This new website connects you with experts. It provides access to a supplier list for all aspects of agriculture, shows available resources from various agriculture organizations and government departments, and includes who to contact.

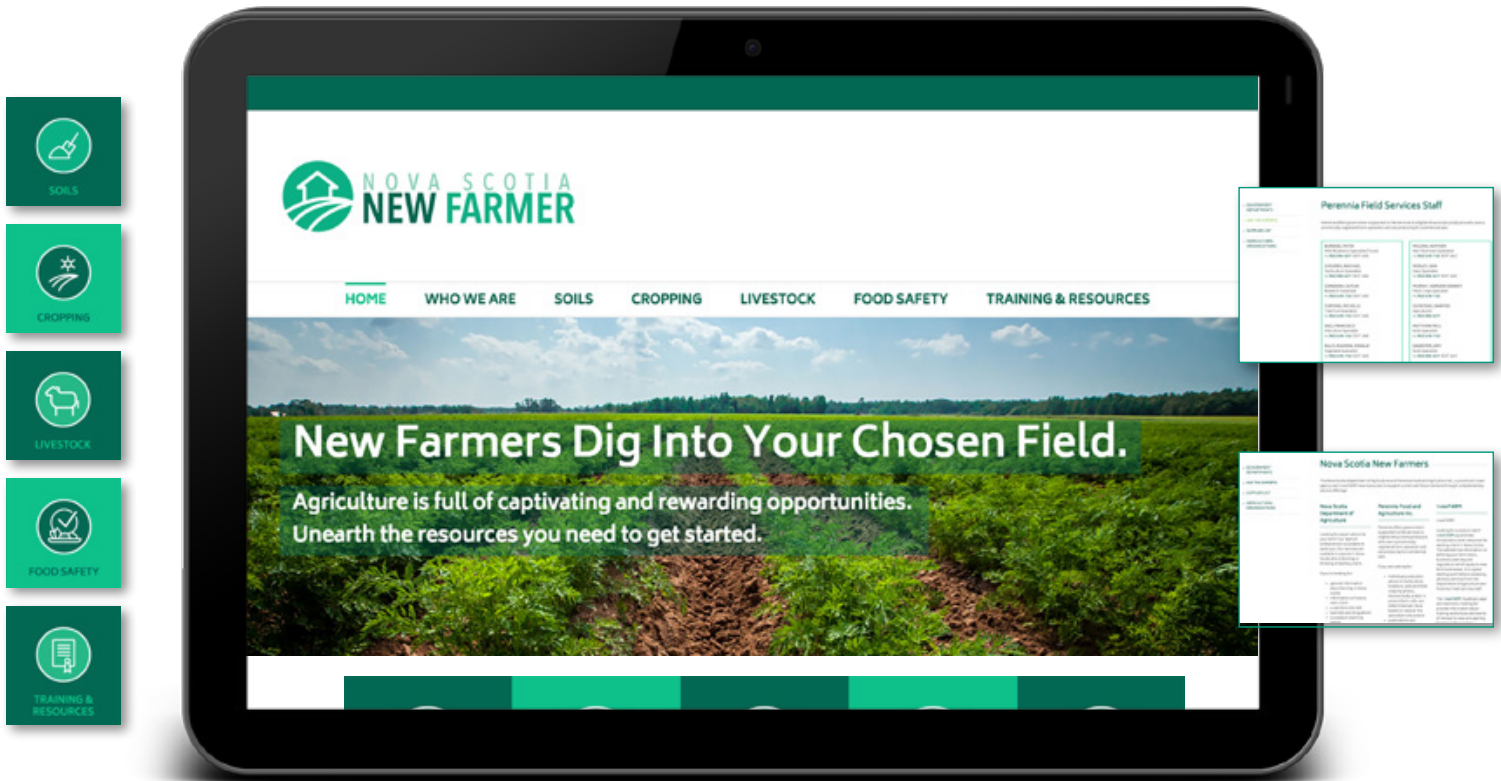
Website highlights:

Training and resources are available through the website. As with any profession, there is always a need for continuous professional and skills development. You can increase both with training courses, guides, and information packages.

The website also offers information on food safety and will give you an overview of good agricultural practices that are commonly required to produce safe quality food for your customers.

It also provides livestock information such as appropriate housing, proper handling and feeding procedures, manure processing and more. This resource will help you decide if raising livestock is the right decision for you.

There are also soil and cropping resources on the website which provide information about Nova Scotia's soil and help you narrow down what crops would be most beneficial to your farm and location.



Changes to Antibiotic Access are Coming

Livestock producers will be facing a change to the way they access antibiotics.

Health Canada will require owners to obtain a prescription from a veterinarian to buy antibiotics for livestock, starting on Dec. 1, 2018.

This policy change covers injectable products as well as treatments for calf scours, feed and water antibiotics and implants.

Producers will need to establish a vet-client-patient relationship before they can obtain a prescription for a medically important antibiotic. Once the relationship is established, a producer will be able to obtain a given amount of product for a specified time. The veterinarian does not need to be local, but they must be licensed to work in Nova Scotia. The antibiotic does not necessarily need to be administered by a vet.

These changes are a response to an increased awareness of the impact of antibiotic use on the resistance of microbes. Because of the cost, anything the industry can do to reduce or limit their

use has far reaching benefits. The changes will allow a greater level of monitoring and traceability for a farm.

As a reminder, if you engage the services of a vet for a farm, there are herd health programs which may help cover some of the costs.

► Cattle

novascotia.ca/agri/documents/CHHAP_Regulations_v2.pdf

► Sheep

novascotia.ca/agri/documents/faw-SFHAP-regulations.pdf

► Swine

novascotia.ca/agri/documents/SHHAP_Regulations_v2.pdf

The Beef Cattle Research Council website includes this relevant factsheet:

beefresearch.ca/files/pdf/AMR-List-2018%20v6%20Generic.pdf

For other information or a contact for a local vet please reach out to your local Agriculture Office.

Rural Organizations

Learning From the Best at the EastGen Showcase

The EastGen Showcase has been an eagerly anticipated summer event for 4-H dairy and beef members in Atlantic Canada for 29 years.

This year's event included 90 youth participants – 61 dairy and 29 beef – to be involved in hands-on learning. The 2018 event took place at the Nova Scotia Exhibition grounds in Bible Hill July 13-15.



Some of the industry's best showed participants the proper techniques and methods to prepare and show their calf in the show ring. Then all are required to put those skills to the test by preparing their own calf for the competitive show. This showcase concludes the overall event. Along the way, there are additional interactive classroom presentations on nutrition, heifer evaluation, successful interviews, health and calf management.

The success of the program rests in the fact that participants have an opportunity to learn showing and fitting skills from experts in the beef and dairy business combined with educational seminars, notes Dale MacPhee, of EastGen.

The members participating will take knowledge, skills and friendships from this weekend will last a lifetime, and will help develop these youth into the agricultural leaders and producers of the future.

Growing the Diversity of the Agricultural Sector



Outreach to African Nova Scotians, First Nations communities and newcomers is a priority for our regional extension staff in Agriculture. The goal is to grow the diversity represented in our agricultural sector, in keeping with the values of the Nova Scotia government.

Exploring the New Farm Dream was delivered at the Black Cultural Centre, in association with Dr. Wayne Adams, Perennia's African Nova Scotian Agri-Projects coordinator. Central staff helped participants assess their farm business idea to decide if an agri-business is the right direction for them. The Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board offered a follow up session, with nine members of the African Nova Scotian community attending.

“Diversity in the workforce has proven value to society and the economy.”

A presentation on starting a farm was provided to clients of the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia at their office in Halifax. Clients asked a wide variety of questions concerning farming opportunities, regulations, management practices and climate.

Efforts are underway to introduce the 4-H program to First Nations Communities, in partnership with 4-H Nova Scotia. Participants from Glooscap First Nation attended the Kings County Joint Achievement Day. Another group from Eskasoni First Nation attended 4-H Day at the Cape Breton Exhibition in August. These were great opportunities for members of the First Nations community to see how 4-H can contribute to positive youth development.

Diversity in the workforce has proven value to society and the economy.

Research & Innovation

Nova Scotia Wild Blueberry Solutions Challenge Offers Opportunities



The **Nova Scotia Wild Blueberry Solutions Challenge** offers a unique chance for a Nova Scotia business to bring an idea to life – and potentially secure a business investment.

The challenge is a partnership between the Wild Blueberry Producers of Nova Scotia (WBPANS) and the **Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture** (NSDA).

The wild blueberry sector offers a diverse range of opportunities to develop a stronger frozen and fresh food industry in Nova Scotia, nationally and globally. There is a growing need to develop new innovative packaging and value-added consumer food products.

Companies were invited to compete by submitting a proposal on the WBPANS website: www.nswildblueberries.com by August 16.

Successful applicants will have the unique opportunity to participate in a new market development initiative designed to help successful submissions take ideas from concept through to the commercialization stage by providing funding and the technical assistance required to take new product ideas to the next step.

The selection committee is now looking to identify the businesses with the ability to successfully advance projects to market. Selected candidates will then proceed to the next stage, which will be announced in the fall of 2018.

For more information, write to info@nswildblueberries.com or licia.elder@novascotia.ca

Growing Rice a Reality in the Annapolis Basin

The shores of the Annapolis Basin were some of the first lands to be farmed in Canada so it is fitting that a new crop gets its start here.

Rice is third largest in grain production worldwide behind corn and wheat but it has never really been introduced here in Canada. Ian Curry and Niki Clark have set out to change this through the work they are doing on their farm in Granville Beach.

The first challenge to overcome was to access viable seed and to build a suitable place to plant. With persistence and determination, they successfully imported seeds into Canada to begin their production. The next challenge was to build some smaller rice beds so they could develop more of their own seeds and identify which varieties performed the best on their farm.

After four years of production, they built up enough seed stock to be able to move their operation into larger paddies built for this year's production.

Concern for the environment was part of the plan, with all the water being caught and recirculated back through the rice beds to catch as many nutrients as possible.

Now they have imported a rice seeder, a rice combine and a rice husker from Asia. This will assist them to better handle their growing production.

These Nova Scotia farmers have the creativity and determination to lay the groundwork for what may be a great opportunity in the future.

Ag Education/ Select Nova Scotia



Saltscapes Harvest Greet the Holidays



Select Nova Scotia is once again partnering with Saltscapes to host the 4th annual *Saltscapes Harvest Greet the Holidays Expo* **November 9-11** in Masstown, Nova Scotia

Consumers get to shop at many local food exhibitors for the best of Nova Scotia products sampling tempting treats from local, family-

owned farms and small businesses featuring many local farm, fibre, food and beverage products.

For opportunities to exhibit and sell your products, please contact Saltscapes at: saltscapes.com/sshh/exhibitors.html

Experience Farmer for a Day

Grade 3 students experienced being a Farmer for a Day from September 18-20 at the *Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum* in Cole Harbour.

Farmer for a Day is a unique opportunity where children learn about the Nova Scotia agricultural industry and agri-food careers. The students can do this, with their teachers, without ever leaving the city.

During this event youth got to think like a farmer as they traveled through several interactive sessions and learned about plant growth, chick hatching, bees, local foods, climate, rural communities and economies. All activities were linked to the Grade 3 curriculum.

The Cole Harbour Farm Museum is steeped in history, in fact, the farm has been in production since the early 1800's. The students got a glimpse of agriculture's past and present, and experienced Nova Scotia agriculture in 2018, from experts who volunteered to enrich this learning experience. coleharbourfarmmuseum.ca

Farmer for a Day contact:

Dawn Barrington-Hodgson, Agricultural Education Liaison
Ag.Education@novascotia.ca



Marking Fifty Years of Crop Insurance in Nova Scotia

Half a century ago, the Nova Scotia Crop Insurance Act was proclaimed on April 11, 1968.

The first chairman S.E. Lewis was appointed by the Governor in Council, soon to be joined by J.D. Johnson as the vice-chairman, along with R.S. Taylor, W.J. Gibbard, R.E. Newcombe and A.G. LeLacheur as members.

The group quickly set to work to implement a crop insurance program for the province, meeting for the first time on October 22, 1968. The chairman expressed his gratitude to the commission for their support in setting up a modern tool for progressive agriculture.

The Spring Grain Plan became the first insurance plan, covering oats, barley, wheat and mixed grain. Implemented in 1969, the plan included 277 growers, insured 10,126 acres and collected \$15,157 in premiums. During that first year, 18 claims were made, for a total of \$8043. By the fall, a Winter Grain Plan enabled 25 growers to insure 725 acres. By 1970, a Fruit Tree Plan was offered and 40 growers bought coverage for 2033 acres in the first year.

Fifty years later, these inaugural insurance plans are still offered by the commission. Many additional crop insurance plans have been added, along with Canada's first Dairy Livestock Insurance Plan and a Poultry Insurance Plan.

Today the commission is proud to offer 16 crop insurance plans covering 59 different crops, plus the dairy livestock and poultry plans. Collectively these plans provide insurance coverage of over \$191 million dollars, protecting the Nova Scotia agricultural industry from the risk of production losses. These can be caused by naturally occurring perils including adverse weather, insects, disease and wildlife.

The fundamental principles and design of the programs have remained relatively constant. They are a true testament to the vision and dedication of the first members of the commission and the forty industry leaders who have served from 1968 until the present.



Programs and Business Risk Management

Small Farm Accelerator Program



The Small Farm Acceleration Program under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement supports the growth of Nova Scotia small farms through business planning and farm growth strategies.

Two program phases must be completed sequentially. Phase 1 requires applicants to explore their farm growth goals in detail by submitting a business plan and Farm Growth Action Plan. Funding is available for applicants to complete their business plan.

Once Phase 1 is deemed complete, applicants can apply to Phase 2 which allows farmers to receive funding to fulfill their farm growth goals.

Phase 2 consists of three funding streams. Stream 1 consists of a loan interest rebate for qualifying project items outlined in the Farm

Growth Action Plan and pre-approved by Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture staff. Stream 2 consists of direct funding assistance for qualifying project items. Stream 3 consists of assistance for contracting mentors and/or professional advisors.

Funding is available over multiple years in Phase 2 and is dependent on meeting growth targets in the previous year. Applicants may choose to remain in the program until their farm income reaches \$100,000 or March 1, 2023, whichever comes first. When an applicant achieves \$30,000 of farm income or greater, they can choose to exit this program and participate in other programs offered by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture. Contact John Murray at John.E.Murray@novascotia.ca or 902-893-4701 novascotia.ca/programs/small-farm-acceleration

Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Interest Rates

As of **July 1, 2018** (applicable to loans approved on or after this date while these rates remain in effect)

Length (years)	Full Term	*10-Yr. Term	*5-Yr. Term	*3-Yr. Term
1-5	4.10%	-	4.10%	3.9%
6-10	4.45%	4.45%	4.35%	3.9%
11-15	4.90%	4.70%	4.40%	4.1%
16-20	5.15%	4.95%	4.45%	4.1%
21-25	5.30%	4.95%	4.45%	4.2%
26-30	5.50%	4.95%	4.45%	4.2%

*3, 5 and 10 year term rates available to clients meeting risk, cashflow, and collateral requirements.

The Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board supports agricultural development such as: property purchase / improvements, construction, machinery / quota / stock purchase, financial restructure, and farm transition. The Board is committed to helping you with your individual financial needs.

A Loan Officer will also have information concerning programs and other services offered by Nova Scotia Agriculture.

Call or visit a Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board office:

Truro 902-893-6506
74 Research Drive, Bible Hill

Kentville 902-679-6009
Kentville Agricultural Centre,
32 Main Street

Need more information?

Visit us at novascotia.ca/agri

News and Events:

Nova Scotia Organic Grade Regulation

Do you market your products as organic or organically grown? These terms are regulated under the Nova Scotia Organic Grade Regulation and can only be used by producers who have been certified by a third party. For more information on the Organic Grade Regulation, see our new fact sheet: novascotia.ca/certifiedorganic

WORKSHOPS



- **HACCP Refresher Training** October 15, 2018
- **Introduction to Food Safety and HACCP** October 16, 2018

Deadline to register for both of these courses is September 27 and more information can be found on this webpage perennia.ca/learning/training

To find out about farm and food events check out nsfarmandfoodevents.com



Agriculture

Exploring the New Farm Dream

This self-assessment course will help you determine if starting a farm business is right for you. It will be held for four weeks on November 1, 8, 15, & 22 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. in Amherst. For more information or to register call 902-893-6575. Spaces are limited.

Farm Business Transition Workshop

Are you considering passing on your farm or business to the next generation? Are you interested in farming but have not found a suitable place to start your operation? Do you have unused farmland and want to sell but are unsure of your next step? If so, this Farm Business Transition workshop hosted by the Department of Agriculture in Amherst will answer these questions and more. On Tuesday, October 16, a lawyer, accountant, real estate agent and the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture will present on several topics about transitioning your farm business.

Exhibitions and Fairs

Mira Ferry Community Fair

Mira River, September 22

Hants County Exhibition

Windsor, September 14-16/ September 21-23

Queen's County Exhibition

Caledonia, September 18-22

4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show

Bridgewater, September 28-30

For more information: www.nsexhibitions.com/ns-exhibitions