



# Guide for BEGINNING FARMERS in Nova Scotia



Growing Forward 2 

A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

  
NOVA SCOTIA

Canada 

# Guide for BEGINNING FARMERS in Nova Scotia



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## So you want to be a farmer ...

Farming is an ancient and noble profession. It is also one of Nova Scotia's backbone industries. Agriculture and its related industries—like food processing—make a vital contribution to the province's economy, society, and culture.

We value our farmers. We are working to attract new people into the agriculture industry. Nova Scotia needs farmers for growth, for sustainability, and to harness our province's natural bounty. We are interested in helping you make a success of your farming venture.

Successful farmers make good plans. This guide will help you plan a successful farm enterprise.

As a beginning farmer, you will need to think through your plans carefully. You will also need to write things down so that you can more easily re-evaluate your plans and measure your progress.

This guide takes you through the important steps in the planning process. It also points you to sources of additional information for topics too complex to be covered here.

## Are you sure that farming is for you?

### Watch

Watch our series of THINKFARM videos about farming here in Nova Scotia. You will meet some successful local farmers who share their experiences.

Watch them online:

[novascotia.ca/thinkfarm/starting-your-farm/#page=introduction](http://novascotia.ca/thinkfarm/starting-your-farm/#page=introduction)

### Read

Read about farming. We recommend the book *You Can Farm: The Entrepreneur's Guide to Start and Succeed in a Farming Enterprise* by Joel Salatin. This book gives an excellent overview of what you can expect from a farm lifestyle. You can borrow a copy from your local agriculture resource coordinator (ARC) or from your local library. You can also google "Joel Salatin" for more of his resources.

### Experience

If you have no farming experience, get some real-life farming experience before you invest your time, energy, and capital in a farm enterprise. We recommend that you work on a farm for at least a year before you commit to a farming life. This will help you decide what kind of farming suits your goals and interests, and whether farming is for you.



# Step 1: Define your goals

## Why do you want to farm?

You need to clear on “why” before you commit to “what” you want to produce and “how” you want to farm.

People want to be farmers for many different reasons—and for many combinations of reasons.

Most people have more than one reason for wanting to farm. Understanding your reasons will help you define clear goals.

### What are your reasons?

- I want to keep my cultural ties to the land.
- I want to preserve the farming way of life.
- I want increase household food security and self-reliance.
- I think it’s a solid way of earning a living.

- I want to supplement income from another job.
- I want \_\_\_\_\_

Your goals will help define the kind of farming enterprise you will develop.

### Think about your financial goals:

Do you want to earn your main income from your farm?

Do you want to supplement other sources of income?

### Think about your family goals:

Are you a beginning farmer with small children?

Are you looking for an affordable way to retire?

## Need help defining your goals?

- Talk with someone with agricultural or business expertise about what you want from farming.
- Read some of the resources suggested in this guide before taking the next step.
- Ask an agricultural resource coordinator (ARC) or other staff in the Department of Agriculture nearest regional office for help. Appendix 1 lists contact information for Agriculture offices.

## Step 2: Assess your resources

### What are your resources?

- land
- capital
- infrastructure
- equipment
- labour
- information

Make a list of what you already have.

Make another list of what you think you still need to get started.

#### Land:

- How much land do you want to farm?
- Are there any zoning or municipal bylaw restrictions that would restrict the type of farm enterprise you can develop? Ask your local municipal development officer: Find contact information in the blue pages of your local phone directory.
- Are there any environmental considerations that would restrict the type of farm enterprise you can develop, such as proximity to neighbours and proximity to wetlands?
- What kinds of crops and livestock are suited to the land you have? This will depend on soil type and productivity, drainage, slope, climate, and location's access to markets.

#### Capital:

- How much can you or are you willing to invest in your farm enterprise?
- What return on investment do you expect? How quickly do you expect to see it?

#### Infrastructure:

- What sort of infrastructure already exists on your farm—wells, irrigation ponds, barns, sheds, fencing?
- Is the existing infrastructure in a safe and useable state? If not, can it be repaired?

#### Equipment:

- What sort of equipment do you already have—tractors, other farm machinery, chainsaw, machine and carpentry tools, computer?
- Is the existing equipment in a safe and useable state? If not, can it be repaired?





## Labour

- Do you plan to do the work yourself or hire help?
- If you will hire help, do you know how to find the kind of help you need? Where to advertise for help? What can you afford to pay?

## Information

- What do you know about farming?
- What do you know about marketing farm products?
- What do you know about farm legislation in Nova Scotia?
- Do you know where to get additional information about the various aspects of farming in Nova Scotia?

## Need help assessing your resources?

- Sign up for THINKFARM's "Exploring the Small Farm Dream":
  - learn what it takes to start and manage your own commercial agricultural business
  - offered in four sessions of three hours each (12-hour course)
  - call 902-893-5649 for more information
- Ask your local ARC—agricultural resource coordinator—or other regional office staff for help:
  - find contact information in Appendix 1.

## Step 3: Decide what you will farm, how much you will farm, and how you will do it

Nova Scotia has a wide variety of farms. These include supply-managed livestock, non-supply-managed livestock, crop farms, and farms producing specialty products.

**Supply management** means that the relevant commodity marketing board matches supply to demand. They allocate production quotas to producers. They set the prices for the commodity. This ensures that farmers have a stable and adequate income and that consumers have a high-quality and stable supply of these commodities. However, the supply-managed commodities are heavily regulated. Typically they are the most difficult commodities for new farmers to get started in.

### WHAT

#### Think about what you want to farm

Below is a list of the major commodities produced in Nova Scotia. Many farms fall into more than one category.

- supply-managed livestock
  - dairy cows
  - poultry – meat chickens (broilers), egg-laying chickens (layers), turkey
- non-supply-managed livestock
  - beef
  - swine
  - sheep
  - fur animals – mink, foxes, chinchillas, rabbits
  - goats
  - horses
- crop farms
  - tree fruit – apples, pears, peaches, cherries, other tree fruits
  - small fruit – strawberries, blueberries, cranberries, raspberries, others
  - vegetables
  - grain crops
  - forages
  - ornamental crops – cut flowers, landscape annuals and perennials
  - wine grapes
- specialty areas
  - beekeeping
  - maple syrup production
  - Christmas trees



## HOW MUCH

### Think about what scale of farm you want

Farms can operate at many different scales.

- Do you want to vegetable farm 100 acres and sell all your produce to a wholesaler?
- Do you want to farm only 2 acres and sell all your produce at a farmers' market?

## HOW

### Think about how you want to farm

A variety of production and marketing methods are possible for each commodity:

- You can raise beef cattle exclusively on pasture.
- You can raise beef cattle on grain and silage in a feedlot.
- You can have an apple orchard that sells all the apples to a pie processor.
- You can have an apple orchard that sells primarily through a u-pick.



## Are you thinking of going organic?

Organic farming prohibits the use of synthetic chemicals. Any farm category can be certified organic—except fur, although national standards are in the works.

### **For information on organic certification, contact**

Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network  
(ACORN)  
1-866-32-ACORN (2-2676)  
acornoffice@acornorganic.org  
[acornorganic.org](http://acornorganic.org)

### **For information on organic farming, contact:**

Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada  
(OACC)  
Dalhousie Agricultural Campus, Bible Hill  
902-893-7256  
oacc@dal.ca  
[organicagcentre.ca](http://organicagcentre.ca)

## Summary

What you decide to grow, at what scale, and the production methods you choose to use depends on your goals, the amount of capital you have to invest, and how you plan to market your farm products. A summary of each of the types of farms listed above and the resources and capital required to establish these farms can be found in the start-up factsheets available for various farm types.

## Step 4: Think about adding value

One way that farmers can increase their profits is by adding value to their farm produce through processing. You can turn milk into cheese, pork into sausages, wool into sweaters, or small fruits into jam. There are many small-scale processors of farm products throughout the province. Note that this type of processing, especially of food products, may be subject to food safety regulations and food processing licenses.

While tried and true products like jams and sausages usually find a strong market, there is plenty of room for innovation in the market as well. What are your ideas for adding value to the commodity you plan to produce?

### Need help commercializing a great idea?

If you have an idea for a new product and need some technical help to commercialize it, contact the Perennia Innovation Centre, located at the Perennia Innovation Park in Bible Hill: [perennia.ca/innovation-centre](http://perennia.ca/innovation-centre)

### Need help exploring how you could add value?

[Read Fact Sheet #25 – Value-Adding to Your Farm's Products](#)

Contact staff at the Department of Agriculture's Value Chain Development Division: 902-893-6585



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## Step 5: Make a business plan

If your farming goal extends beyond having a self-sufficient, homesteading lifestyle, you need a business plan. A business plan will help you think through all the aspects of your farm enterprise. A business plan will help you think through problems that may arise—and they will. A business plan will help you create a successful farm business.

### Need help with your business plan?

Start with our factsheet, for information about business planning and links to business plan templates: [Fact Sheet #14 – Business Plans](#).

**Make an appointment with a business development officer:**

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture  
902-893-6585

### Need help with funding the planning process?

Explore whether you are eligible for business development funding to help pay for private business advisory services and business training offered in Atlantic Canada.

Contact your local agricultural resource coordinator—see Appendix 1 for contact details.

## Step 6: Take advantage of the services Nova Scotia offers farmers

The Government of Nova Scotia wishes to promote a strong agriculture industry and, as a result, provides a number of services to farmers in the province. For more information on these services, visit THINKFARM's webpage and the Resource Kit for Nova Scotia Farmers.

You can also find relevant programs and services using AgPal, a comprehensive user-friendly database of federal and provincial programs and services for the agricultural industry: [agpal.ca](http://agpal.ca).

To access many of these services, you need a **farm registration number**.

### Register your farm with NSFA

Farm registration is a voluntary, annual program. Farms eligible to file a farm tax return with the Canada Revenue Agency may register.

Farm registration provides for:

- managed access to government programs by farm businesses
- collection of farm information to develop farm policy
- stable funding for the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

Registration fees range from \$100 to \$1025, depending on gross farm income. This fee provides funding for the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA). Your farm registration automatically makes you eligible to be a member of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

For more information on farm registration, see [Fact Sheet #11 – Farm Registration](#) in the Resource Kit for Nova Scotia Farmers.

Registered farms are eligible to receive a number of government services. For example, if you are a registered farm, you

- can apply for farm license plates, which are cheaper than regular license plates if you have a truck that is used exclusively for farm purposes, like hauling trailers or bringing produce to market
- can purchase untaxed fuel for farm tractors
- receive a discount on Department of Agriculture laboratory services, such as soil, crop tissues, feed, manure, and water tests
- can apply for a number of government development programs (see [Fact Sheet #34 – Programs for Farmers](#) in the Resource Kit for Nova Scotia Farmers)

For more information on farm registration, contact the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Programs & Business Risk Management Division: 1-866-844-4276

[prm@novascotia.ca](mailto:prm@novascotia.ca)

[novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/growing-forward2](http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/growing-forward2)

## Register your business with CRA

Along with a farm registration number, you may also wish to have a **business number** with the Canada Revenue Agency. Virtually all farms in Nova Scotia are also registered businesses. A business number is a numbering system that simplifies and streamlines your business dealings with the federal government. You must have a business number if you intend to export any products or hire employees.

Before registering for a business number, you need to make some important decisions about the business you plan to operate:

- What is the name of the business?
- Where is your business located?
- What is the legal structure of the business—sole proprietorship, partnership, or corporation?
- What is the fiscal year-end for your business?
- What are the estimated sales for your business?

As you consider registering your business, carefully consider each of the following:

- Will you need to register for GST/HST? Whether you register depends on the nature of your business and its sales volume. You need to consider the advantage of registering, such as the ability to claim GST/HST back on business start-up expenses.
- Will you need an import/export tax account? Opening this type of account will avoid delays at the point of entry, if you will import or export.
- Will you need a payroll deduction account? If you will have employees, you will need to open payroll deduction accounts before you need to file employee deductions.

For more information on business registration, contact the Canada Revenue Agency: 1-800-959-5525 (toll-free)  
[cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/bsnss/tpcs/bn-ne/menu-eng.html](https://cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/bsnss/tpcs/bn-ne/menu-eng.html)



## Step 7: Find the things you still need

### What are the gaps in your resources?

- land
- capital
- infrastructure
- equipment
- labour
- information

### Land

#### Find land for sale

You should contact realtors in your area to find farms for sale.

#### Check zoning before you buy

Contact your local municipal development officer before buying land. Ask about zoning laws and bylaws that could restrict your use of the land for agricultural purposes. This is especially important if you are buying land that has not been developed or has not been used for the type of farm you wish to establish.

#### Consider renting or leasing

You might also consider renting or leasing farmland. Ask around in the area you hope to farm. Your local agriculture resource coordinator may know of farms for sale or land for rent in your area.

#### Search FarmLINK's MatchMaker database

Nova Scotian farmland owners and farm seekers can access an Ontario-based site called FarmLINK to find farms for sale, land for lease, mentorship opportunities, and more: [farmlink.net](http://farmlink.net)

# Capital

Do you need extra capital to buy land, build infrastructure, or purchase equipment?

## Find agricultural lenders for secured loans

- Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board: [novascotia.ca/farmloan](http://novascotia.ca/farmloan)
- FarmNext program for new commercial farms: [novascotia.ca/programs/farmnext](http://novascotia.ca/programs/farmnext)
- Farm Credit Canada: [www.fcc-fac.ca/en](http://www.fcc-fac.ca/en)
- Canadian Agricultural Loans Act program, which guarantees loans obtained through commercial banks: [agr.gc.ca/eng/?id=1288035482429#l4](http://agr.gc.ca/eng/?id=1288035482429#l4)

## Find sources for unsecured loans

- FarmWorks Investment Fund
- Community Business Development Corporations
- Canadian Youth Business Foundation, for those under 40
- Black Business Initiative, for African Nova Scotians
- Aboriginal Business and Entrepreneurship Development, through Ulnooweg Development Group

## Find creative ways to get started with less money

- Rent or lease land
- Make deals with other farmers to share labour or hire equipment
- Finance equipment through the vendor
- Make use of the provincial Equity Tax Credit
- See if you qualify for the federal Self-Employment Benefit in your first year of business
- See if you qualify for the federal Advanced Payment Program

**Find links and more information in** [Fact Sheet #13 – Financing Your Farm Operation.](#)

## Infrastructure

### Assess your needs

For an assessment of the infrastructure needs of both crop and livestock farms, see [Fact Sheet #3 – Farm Infrastructure Considerations](#).

### Find an engineer who knows farms

The Department of Agriculture maintains a list of agricultural engineers who can help with a variety of infrastructure-related issues, such as developing a farm water supply or designing a barn. The list is available at [novascotia.ca/agri/documents/programs-brm/engineers.pdf](http://novascotia.ca/agri/documents/programs-brm/engineers.pdf)

### Find information about farm structures

Visit the Canada Plan Service webpages, housed on the Province of Ontario's website, for great resources on planning, designing, and constructing modern farm buildings. Canada Plan Service is a Canada-wide network of agricultural engineers and livestock specialists who gather ideas from across Canada, then develop construction and management recommendations. They make their information about up-to-date building technology and farmstead management practices available to all Canadian farmers.

Canada Plan Service: [omafra.gov.on.ca/english/nm/buildev](http://omafra.gov.on.ca/english/nm/buildev)



## Equipment

### Find new equipment

A number of agricultural equipment retailers operate in Nova Scotia. Farm stores throughout the province sell animal feed and a variety of agricultural equipment, such as fencing equipment and animal feeders. Check your local Yellow Pages for listings under Farm Equipment, Farm Supplies, and Feed Dealers.

### Find used equipment

Used equipment is

- occasionally auctioned off at Atlantic Stockyards, Ltd., located in Murray Siding (near Truro)
- often advertised in the classifieds of farm periodicals
- often sold through online classified sites, such as [kijiji.ca](http://kijiji.ca), [ironsearch.com](http://ironsearch.com) and [agriculturesearch.com](http://agriculturesearch.com)

## Labour

### Assess your resources and needs

- Do you plan to do the work yourself or hire help?
- If you will hire help, do you know how to find the kind of help you need? Where to advertise for help? What can you afford to pay?

Finding skilled and unskilled farm workers can be a big problem for farmers. You need a plan and a backup plan.

### Find skilled agricultural students

One way to recruit skilled workers is through the Career Services Office at the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus:

Coordinator of Career Services  
Dalhousie Agricultural Campus  
902-893-7895  
[careerac@dal.ca](mailto:careerac@dal.ca)

The Career Services Office can post your job opportunity on a social media account that will be seen by hundreds of agricultural students. Contact the Career Services Office to learn more.

## Find other university and college students

You can also register as an employer on the Dalhousie and NSCC web portals, which might be used by students from all faculties:

Dalhousie University – myCareer web portal – Employer Registration:  
[mycareer.dal.ca/home](http://mycareer.dal.ca/home)

Nova Scotia Community College – Employer Job Posting Form:  
[nsc.ca/services/careerservices/graduate-employment-services/employer-form/index.asp](http://nsc.ca/services/careerservices/graduate-employment-services/employer-form/index.asp)

## Find Canadian workers

Sign up as an employer on the federal government's job bank:  
[employer.jobbank.gc.ca/employer/](http://employer.jobbank.gc.ca/employer/)

## Learn about hiring temporary foreign workers

Nova Scotia Immigration can help you figure out if this federal program can help meet your needs:  
[novascotiainmigration.com/help-for-employers/hiring-a-temporary-foreign-worker](http://novascotiainmigration.com/help-for-employers/hiring-a-temporary-foreign-worker)

## Information

### Like THINKFARM on Facebook

THINKFARM regularly posts news and events on its Facebook page. You can "like" our page and opt to get an alert from Facebook each time we post new items.

### Join the THINKFARM listserv

THINKFARM also shares news and events via an email listserv. To join the listserv, send a blank email to [join-bfs@lists.gov.ns.ca](mailto:join-bfs@lists.gov.ns.ca)

### Connect with experts at Perennia

Perennia is a Crown corporation contracted by the Government of Nova Scotia to provide extension services to our farmers free of charge.\* Perennia specialists are experts in their fields and can answer questions about producing, processing, and marketing farm products in Nova Scotia. The Perennia website has a great deal of useful information.

1-866-606-4636 (toll-free)  
[perennia.ca](http://perennia.ca)

\* "Through a unique partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Perennia provides agricultural extension and development services to Nova Scotia's farm and rural communities at no charge to the client. These services are available and accessible to all Nova Scotia farmers."

- perennia.ca

## Learn about local research at Dal Agriculture

The Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture, formerly the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, has been educating farmers, researchers, extension workers, and other agricultural support personnel for over one hundred years. Dal's researchers conduct cutting-edge research on developing new food products, testing new crops for Atlantic Canada, and minimizing the environmental impact of farming. Contact the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus, Industry Liaison Officer, to ask about current research and agriculture industry trends.

902-863-6600  
[dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/research/industry.html](http://dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/research/industry.html)

## Borrow from university library collections

The Dalhousie Agricultural Campus' MacRae Library has an extensive collection of books, periodicals, and reference texts available for loan to the general public. You can access these books at Dal AC, through any university library in the province, or through the Novanet Catalogue. The Novanet service allows library cardholders at member universities to access the library collections of all Novanet members. All adult Nova Scotians can borrow university library materials through the Borrow Anywhere, Return Anywhere library program.

- MacRae Library:  
[libraries.dal.ca/hours-locations/macrae.html](http://libraries.dal.ca/hours-locations/macrae.html)
- Off-Campus Borrower Card:  
[libraries.dal.ca/borrow/library-cards/ocb-cards.html](http://libraries.dal.ca/borrow/library-cards/ocb-cards.html)
- Novanet academic library catalogue:  
[novanet.ca](http://novanet.ca)

## Borrow from your local library

Your local library may have items on farming, such as Joel Salatin's *You Can Farm*. You may also borrow from other libraries through inter-library loan. Ask your librarian for help finding what you need.

## Find farm-related publications

*Atlantic Farm Focus* is a monthly farm newspaper that reports on issues of relevance to farmers in the four Atlantic provinces.

902-354-5411  
[atlanticfarmfocus.ca](http://atlanticfarmfocus.ca)

*Rural Delivery* is a farm and country journal for those who love farming, gardening, nature, preserving food, cooking great meals, and country life. It is published 10 times a year. The same publisher also produces *Atlantic Beef and Sheep*, *Atlantic Forestry Review*, and *Atlantic Horse and Pony*.

902-354-5411  
[rurallife.ca](http://rurallife.ca)

*Small Farm Canada* is a magazine that promotes small-scale farming as a legitimate and viable endeavour. It is published 6 times a year.

1-866-260-7985  
[smallfarmcanada.ca](http://smallfarmcanada.ca)

The Rural Life website collects links to news articles and websites that may be of interest to Atlantic Canadian farmers.

## Find commodity-specific publications

Many provincial and national commodity associations produce newsletters or magazines for their members. Some of these publications are free of charge to everyone, some are free to paid members, and some require a paid subscription. Contact the individual commodity associations for more information. Find commodity-related associations in the Commodity Profiles section of this Guide for Beginning Farmers.

[novascotia.ca/thinkfarm](http://novascotia.ca/thinkfarm)

## Find Education and Training Opportunities

### Dalhousie's Faculty of Agriculture, Truro: degrees and diploma

- Diploma in Enterprise Management
- Bachelor of Technology in Small Business Management (2 years, post diploma)
- Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (4 years)

902-893-6600

[dal.ca/faculty/agriculture.html](http://dal.ca/faculty/agriculture.html)

### NSCC Kinstec: diploma and grape growing courses

The Nova Scotia Community College, Kingstec campus, offers a diploma and grape-growing courses:

- Diploma in Horticulture and Landscape Technology (2 years)
- Grape Growing in Nova Scotia: beginner and intermediate level courses

[nsc.ca](http://nsc.ca)

902-491-4911

1-866-679-6722 (toll-free)

### Learn2Farm courses and modules

Dalhousie University's Faculty of Agriculture Extended Learning Unit offers a variety of courses through its Learn2Farm program. This program is designed to meet the needs of new farmers in the sectors experiencing the greatest growth or the largest skills gaps. The program helps position the region's farm industry for environmentally and economically sustainable growth into the future.

Each course or module is offered separately, with no pre-requisites or multi-course commitments. Some courses are offered online, some are classroom based, and some are on-farm to allow maximum flexibility and accessibility while still delivering course content in the most effective way possible.

Learn2Farm

902-893-6666

[dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/extended-learning.html](http://dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/extended-learning.html)



## Hands-on training experience

If you would like to spend time on a farm being mentored by an experienced farmer, you may be interested in a Grow a Farmer or SOIL apprenticeship:

- Grow a Farmer, coordinated in the Maritimes by ACORN, the Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network  
[growafarmer.ca](http://growafarmer.ca)  
1-866-322-2676
- SOIL, Stewards of Irreplaceable Lands, offers a sustainable farm apprenticeship program  
[soilapprenticeships.com](http://soilapprenticeships.com)

## THINKFARM workshops

THINKFARM offers workshops throughout the year delivered regionally in the fall and winter and its annual Small Farm Expo.

## More courses

The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council has a comprehensive directory of agricultural training opportunities across Canada:

[agrivalent.ca](http://agrivalent.ca)



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## Step 8: Getting ready to farm: Licenses, regulations, and memberships

### Licenses – provincial requirements

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture issues the following licenses and permits:

- Beekeeper and Apiary Registration
- Honey Bees Import Permit
- Deer Farming License
- Deer Processor License
- Fur Farming License
- Game Farm License
- Meat Slaughtering and Processing License
- Dairy Processor License
- Milk Producer License
- Milk Transporter License
- Food Establishment Permit
- Food Handler Certification
- “Controlled Atmosphere” Designation Apple Packer Registration
- “Controlled Atmosphere” Designation Apple Storage Plant Registration

Find out how to apply for these licenses on our “Licensing and Permits” webpage: [novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/licensing-and-permits](https://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/licensing-and-permits)

### Licenses – producer organizations

Other licenses can be obtained from relevant producer organizations.

## Regulations

Various provincial and municipal regulations apply to Nova Scotia farmers in the following areas:

- food safety
- environmental impacts of farming activities
  - pesticide use
  - manure management
  - nutrient management
  - soil erosion
- farm animal welfare
- stray livestock
- land zoning
- building permits

You can find more information on these topics in the Resource Kit for Nova Scotia Farmers.

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture website has a Frequently Asked Questions page related to laws and regulations that impact farmers. Related services that various departments and agencies provide include Nutrient Management Planning support, Environmental Farm Plan consultation, and Safe Food Handling training.

## Memberships – Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA)

You can become a member of the NSFA when you obtain your farm registration number.

The NSFA is the recognized voice of agriculture in Nova Scotia and plays a strong role in public policy. It reviews new legislation and regulations to ensure there are no negative implications for agriculture.

### Membership includes

- newsletter, sent out 10 times per year
- e-newsletter, sent out every Friday
- background or position papers, as issues arise that concern Federation members
- offers from benefits partners, such as a health insurance program for members and their families and special promotions and discounts from other organizations

[nsfa-fane.ca](http://nsfa-fane.ca)

## Memberships – other farmer groups, by commodity

You may also want to become a member of other farmer groups in the province and region. These farmer groups can help you make useful contacts, share with and learn from other producers, and jointly market farm products.

You can find contact information for current farm groups on the NSFA website, including

- Chicken Farmers of Nova Scotia
- Chicken Producers Association of Nova Scotia
- Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia
- Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia
- Egg Farmers of Nova Scotia
- Goat Association of Nova Scotia
- Grape Growers Association of Nova Scotia
- Greenhouse Nova Scotia
- Horticulture Nova Scotia
- Landscape Nova Scotia
- Maple Producers of Nova Scotia
- Mink Breeders Association of Nova Scotia
- Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association
- Nova Scotia Cattle Producers
- Nova Scotia Fox Breeders Association
- Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association
- Nova Scotia Greenhouse Vegetable Marketing Board
- Nova Scotia Potato Marketing Board
- Nova Scotia Young Farmers Forum
- Organic Council of Canada
- Pork Nova Scotia
- Sheep Producers Association of Nova Scotia
- Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia
- Turkey Farmers of Nova Scotia
- Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia

# Appendix 1: Contact Information

## Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Regional Offices and Agricultural Resource Coordinators

### Cape Breton (Inverness, Victoria, Richmond, and Cape Breton Counties)

Gary Koziel  
902-563-2003  
arccapebreton@novascotia.ca

### Eastern (Pictou, Antigonish, and Guysborough Counties)

Adam Wile  
902-863-7500  
arceastern@novascotia.ca

### Central (Cumberland, Colchester, Halifax, and East Hants Counties)

Michael Kittilsen  
902-893-3645  
arccentral@novascotia.ca

### Valley (West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg, and Queens Counties)

Brian MacCulloch  
902-679-6006  
arcvalley@novascotia.ca

### Western (Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, and Shelburne Counties)

Terry McKay  
902-638-2396  
arcwestern@novascotia.ca

## Perennia

### Extension and Food Safety Services

Kentville: 902-678-7722  
Truro: 902-896-0277

### Innovation Centre

Truro: 902-896-8782  
perennia.ca

## Farmer Organizations and Networks

### Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

60 Research Drive, Perennia Innovation Park,  
Bible Hill, NS, B6L 2R2  
902-893-2293  
fax: 902-893-7063  
info@nsfa-fane.ca  
nsfa-fane.ca

### *Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network*

PO Box 6343 Sackville, NB, E4L 1G6  
1-866-32ACORN (toll-free)  
fax: 902-536-0221  
acornoffice@acornorganic.org  
acornorganic.org

### Nova Scotia Young Farmers Forum

Krista Vroegh  
902-893-2293  
fax: 902-893-7063  
kvroegh@nsfa-fane.ca  
nsyoungfarmers.ca

## Municipal Development Officers

Check the blue pages in your local phone book.



Growing Forward 2 

  
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