

# Department of Agriculture

## Responsibilities

### **OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER**

The Deputy Minister, responsible to the Minister of Agriculture, oversees the overall administration and corporate planning of the department.

### **AGRICULTURE AND FOOD OPERATIONS BRANCH**

The Executive Director, reporting to the Deputy Minister, oversees the administration and operation of three divisions.

#### **Animal and Crop Protection Division**

Supports the development and protection of animal and plant industries that assure the quality and safety of food produced and processed in Nova Scotia, which includes pathology and analytical lab services, animal health, dairy, bees, weeds and pests.

#### **Regional Services Division**

Responsible for regionally based services to coordinate programming, cooperate and collaborate with industry, rural organizations and other government departments. The Division strives to build public trust in agriculture and to respond to existing and emerging opportunities including environmental management and climate change.

#### **Resource Sustainability Division**

Maintains the provincial dykeland system which targets the protection of highly productive agricultural lands and protects valued heritage sites, Mi'kmaq and Acadian cultural sites, and business and homes behind the dykes.

### **POLICY AND CORPORATE SERVICES BRANCH**

The Executive Director, reporting to the Deputy Minister, oversees the administration and operation of three divisions.

#### **Policy and Planning Division**

Responsible for monitoring the department's alignment with government priorities, coordinating with central agencies, internal divisions, as well as boards and Crown corporations. The Division supports the development of legislation, regulations and policies, preparing ministerial and deputy ministerial briefing materials, policy analysis, and business planning.

Supports the administration of the Natural Products Marketing Council which oversees the supply management sector within Nova Scotia. The Council helps provide the regulatory framework and is the supervisory authority for Nova Scotia's commodity boards, as well as regulating the processing and marketing of milk.

### **Corporate Development and Support Services Division**

Oversees quality assurance, process improvement, and tangible capital asset support and development. Also provides corporate services to the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, including corporate administration of all locations occupied by the two departments, including facilities management and space planning, records management, occupational health and safety, and business continuity management, along with a variety of other services.

### **Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Division**

Provides expert policy advice, leads the strategic direction, and provides operational leadership on the development and implementation of the Department's equity, and engagement framework. Ensures that an equity, inclusion, and diversity lens is applied on the development and management of strategies, policies, standards, program design, recruitment, and initiatives of the department, its agencies, boards and partners.

## **LENDING AND BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT**

### **Crown Lending Agencies Division**

Includes two lending agencies:

- Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board (includes responsibility for the activities of the Nova Scotia Timber Loan Board)
- Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board

These agencies support development and growth by providing affordable, stable financing and credit counselling to the agriculture, agri-food, forestry, fishing, aquaculture, and seafood sections.

### **Business Risk Management Division**

Responsible for providing risk mitigation programs to primary producers through the AgriInsurance and AgriStability programs. The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission administers the AgriInsurance program on behalf of the Province.

## **INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BRANCH**

### **Marketing and International Business Development Division**

Responsible for domestic and international agriculture and agri-food and beverage market development initiatives. Collaborate closely with industry and other departments, agencies, provinces as well as federal partners, working strategically to expand our presence in existing markets and diversity into new distribution markets.

### **Sector Development and Innovation Division**

Service the Department of Agriculture's mission to grow Nova Scotia's economy by focusing on strategic investments and the development of strategies and action plans. The two sections (Sector Development and Innovation and Research) within the Division work collaboratively to connect people and organizations with the tools, resources and partnerships they need to drive new investment and value-added growth.

### **Programs Division**

Responsible for the development and delivery of federal/provincial cost-shared programs under Federal-Provincial-Territorial agriculture policy agreements as well as provincial only programs that support the economic growth and sustainability of the agriculture and agri-food sector.

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Administrative update: **June 1, 2022**

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