

**NOVA SCOTIA**
Agriculture



2013– 2014 Statement of Mandate

Table of Contents

Message from the Minister.....	2
Department Mandate	3
Department Vision.....	3
Department Mission	3
Alignment with Government Priorities	4
Performance Measures.....	4
Environmental Stewardship.....	5
Economic Viability—Industry Stability.....	6
Economic Viability – Markets and Opportunities	9
Budget Context	11

Message from the Minister

It is my privilege to present the Department of Agriculture's 2013-2014 Statement of Mandate which outlines our mission, mandate and vision for the upcoming year.

This Statement of Mandate reflects our commitment to provide Nova Scotia's agriculture industry with the support it needs to be more competitive, develop new and innovative products, seize new market opportunities, grow the rural economy and to create new jobs.

I encourage readers to visit our website at www.gov.ns.ca/agri to learn more about our department and our priorities for the coming year.

Sincerely,

John MacDonell

Minister

Department Mandate

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

The policy and corporate services division of the Department of Agriculture also supports the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture in developing competitive and profitable ocean products and recreational fishing industries.

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, food and agri-business industries through the delivery of quality public services for the betterment of rural communities and all Nova Scotians.

Alignment with Government Priorities

The Department of Agriculture released Homegrown Success in November 2010, a framework document describing a vision for long-term profitability and sustainability in Nova Scotia's agri-product industry. It articulates our commitment to working with and helping businesses across the value-chain seize market opportunities, be profitable in the long-term and create good jobs for Nova Scotians. Homegrown Success builds on several initiatives already underway in the department and reflects the following government's core priorities.

Get back to balance and ensure government lives within its means.

The Department of Agriculture has realigned programs and services in recent years to address the changing needs of the agriculture industry. The ten-year plan, Homegrown Success, will guide our efforts to better align programs and services, target more specific needs, increase the overall profitability of the agri-product industry, and to ensure our programs are highly efficient and generate economic returns to support public revenues.

Make health care better for you and your family.

The department continues to address public expectations for animal welfare, environmental health services for soil, dairy and water quality, and retail food safety.

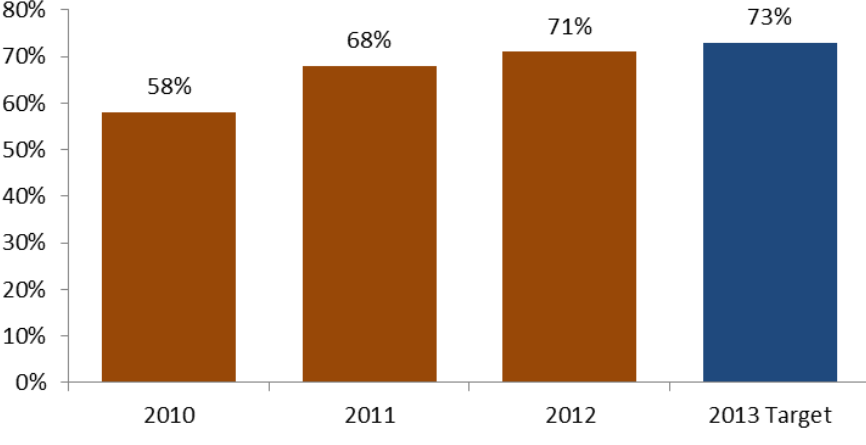
Create good jobs and grow the economy.

Homegrown Success aligns with the government's *jobsHere* strategy. It articulates our commitment to growing Nova Scotia's agri-product industry and creating jobs across the value-chain (including primary, processing, distribution and retail). The department also launched initiatives in recent years to help prospective farmers find information, contacts and tools they need to begin rural business opportunities in Nova Scotia.

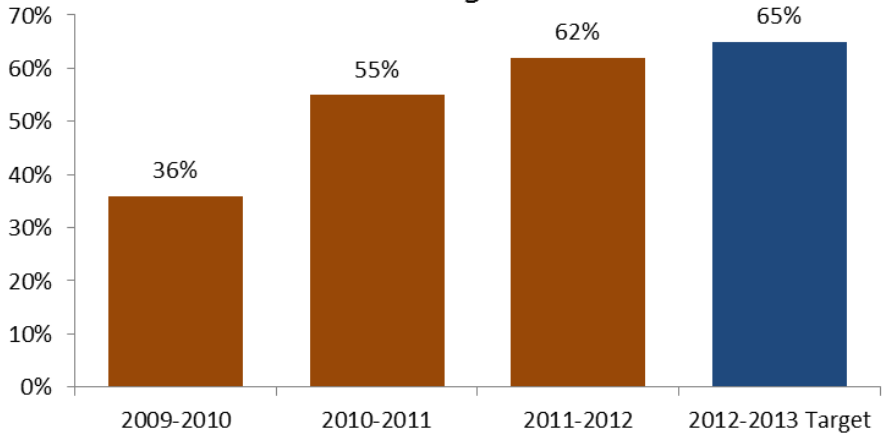
Performance Measures

The following pages show outcomes sought by the Department to fulfill its mandate. Also included are indicators and progress data, targets for upcoming years, and planned means of achieving targets.

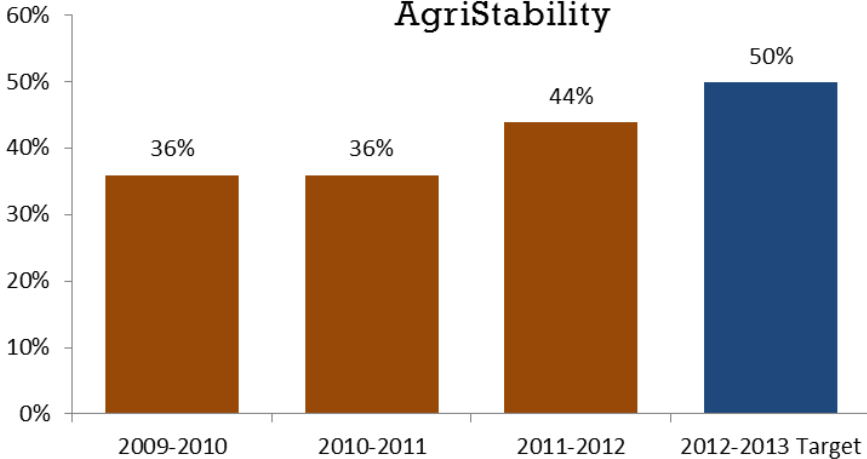
Environmental Stewardship

<p>Outcome</p>	<p>Greater environmental responsibility. The Environmental Farm Plan program helps farmers identify and assess environmental risk on their property. It enables farmers to incorporate environmental considerations into their everyday business decisions.</p>										
<p>Measure</p>	<p>Percentage of registered farms with an environmental farm plan</p>										
<p>Data</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">% Registered Farms with Environmental Farm Plans</p>  <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>58%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>68%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>71%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013 Target</td> <td>73%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The percentage of registered farms with environmental farm plans has increased each year.</p>	Year	Percentage	2010	58%	2011	68%	2012	71%	2013 Target	73%
Year	Percentage										
2010	58%										
2011	68%										
2012	71%										
2013 Target	73%										
<p>Targets</p>	<p>Continued increase in the number of registered farms participating. The target for 2013 is 73%.</p>										
<p>Strategic Actions to Achieve Target</p>	<p>Continue to encourage industry participation in the environmental farm plan program</p> <p>Expand the energy audit and assessment component of the program</p> <p>Support pilot projects based on renewable energy and agri-products</p>										

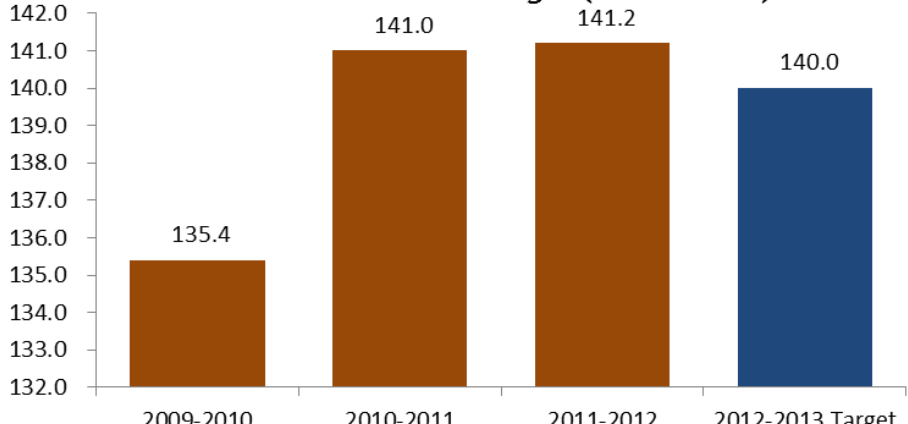
Economic Viability—Industry Stability

<p>Outcome</p>	<p>Greater agricultural income stability. AgriInvest is a government/producer cost-shared initiative to encourage savings. The intent is to build a cash reserve for farmers to address smaller (less than 30% of historical average) fluctuations in net income. Participation is voluntary, with producers paying into a deposit account which is matched by government. Owners can access money in this account when needed.</p>										
<p>Measure</p>	<p>AgriInvest participants' farm margins as a percentage of sector total farm revenues</p>										
<p>Data</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">% Farm Margin Protected Through AgriInvest</p>  <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>% Farm Margin Protected</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2009-2010</td> <td>36%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010-2011</td> <td>55%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011-2012</td> <td>62%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012-2013 Target</td> <td>65%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The percentage of farm margin protected has increased each year.</p>	Year	% Farm Margin Protected	2009-2010	36%	2010-2011	55%	2011-2012	62%	2012-2013 Target	65%
Year	% Farm Margin Protected										
2009-2010	36%										
2010-2011	55%										
2011-2012	62%										
2012-2013 Target	65%										
<p>Targets</p>	<p>Progressively increasing share of sector farm margin protected through AgriInvest. Updated information is only available in the next fiscal year. The target was 65% for 2012-2013.</p>										
<p>Strategic Actions to Achieve Target</p>	<p>Ongoing promotions, including information sessions, personal communication with industry, and print media</p>										

Economic Viability – Industry Stability

Outcome	Greater agricultural income stability. AgriStability is a government supported income stabilization program to protect producers against large fluctuation in annual net income (margin). Payments are triggered when margins decrease by greater than 30% of historical average. Participation is voluntary, with producers paying an annual fee based on their individual margins protected.										
Measure	AgriStability participants' farm margins as a percent of sector total farm revenues										
Data	<p style="text-align: center;">% Farm Margin Protected Through AgriStability</p>  <table border="1" data-bbox="488 957 1349 1413"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>% Farm Margin Protected</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2009-2010</td> <td>36%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010-2011</td> <td>36%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011-2012</td> <td>44%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012-2013 Target</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The percentage of farm margin has increased each year.</p>	Year	% Farm Margin Protected	2009-2010	36%	2010-2011	36%	2011-2012	44%	2012-2013 Target	50%
Year	% Farm Margin Protected										
2009-2010	36%										
2010-2011	36%										
2011-2012	44%										
2012-2013 Target	50%										
Targets	Progressively increasing percentage of sector farm revenue protected through AgriStability. Updated information is only available in the next fiscal year. The target was 50% for 2012-2013.										
Strategic Actions to Achieve Target	Ongoing promotions, including information sessions, personal communication with industry, and print media										

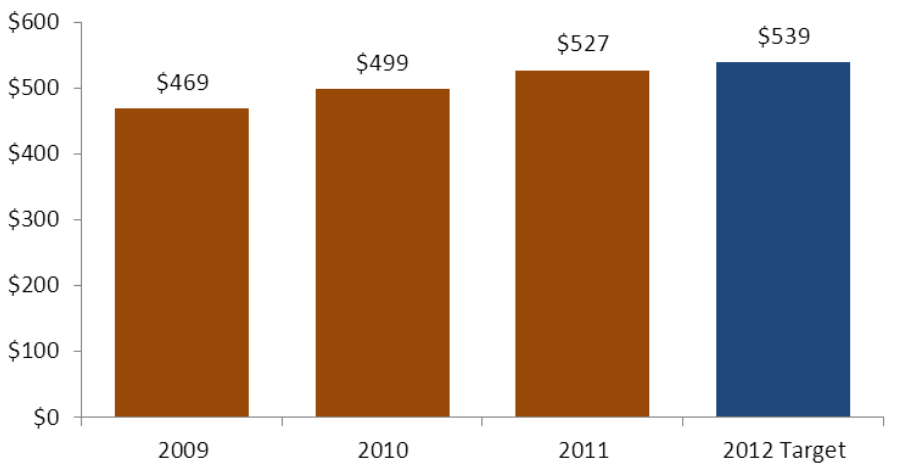
Economic Viability – Industry Stability

Outcome	Greater agricultural income stability. Agri-insurance is an insurance program which allows farmers to stabilize and protect income by insuring against income loss due to reduced crop yields caused by specified perils. This program covers 14 crops grown in the province.										
Measure	Total production crop insurance coverage (\$ millions)										
Data	<p style="text-align: center;">Total Production Insurance Coverage (\$ millions)</p>  <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Fiscal Year</th> <th>Insurance Coverage (\$ millions)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2009-2010</td> <td>135.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010-2011</td> <td>141.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011-2012</td> <td>141.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012-2013 Target</td> <td>140.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Insurance coverage has increased in the past couple of years, but was expected to decline slightly in the last fiscal year.</p>	Fiscal Year	Insurance Coverage (\$ millions)	2009-2010	135.4	2010-2011	141.0	2011-2012	141.2	2012-2013 Target	140.0
Fiscal Year	Insurance Coverage (\$ millions)										
2009-2010	135.4										
2010-2011	141.0										
2011-2012	141.2										
2012-2013 Target	140.0										
Targets	Data is time-lagged. Information for 2012 is reported in the next fiscal year (2013-14). The target was \$140 million for 2012-13										
Strategic Actions to Achieve Target	Expansion of maple insurance, stone fruit insurance provided										

Economic Viability – Markets and Opportunities

<p>Outcome</p>	<p>Increased total and diversity of agri-food exports. Exports of agri-food products lead to greater market opportunities and economic growth. Export data is calculated by Statistics Canada, which counts exports from the province where they leave Canada.</p>										
<p>Measure</p>	<p>Total agri-food exports, less seafood products and fishing (\$ millions)</p>										
<p>Data</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Total Agri-Food Exports Minus Seafood & Fishing (\$ millions)</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Exports (\$ millions)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>\$183</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>\$230</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>\$229</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013 Target</td> <td>\$230</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Agri-food exports have been on the rebound from the worldwide recession in 2010.</p>	Year	Exports (\$ millions)	2010	\$183	2011	\$230	2012	\$229	2013 Target	\$230
Year	Exports (\$ millions)										
2010	\$183										
2011	\$230										
2012	\$229										
2013 Target	\$230										
<p>Targets</p>	<p>The target for 213 is \$230 million. For the long-term, the goal is continued increase in export sales.</p>										
<p>Strategic Actions to Achieve Target</p>	<p>Inform trade negotiations to achieve favorable outcomes</p> <p>Focus on market and product diversification, branding, co-operative efforts, research and information and strategic alliances</p> <p>Support the Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism on trade-related initiatives</p>										

Economic Viability – Market and Opportunities

<p>Outcome</p>	<p>Growth in total farm cash receipts. Farm cash receipts estimate the agriculture sector’s contribution to gross domestic product. Farm cash receipts measure the gross revenue of farm businesses in current dollars. They include sales of crops and livestock products (except sales between farms in the same province) and program payments.</p>										
<p>Measure</p>	<p>Value of agricultural production (farm cash receipts) (\$ millions)</p>										
<p>Data</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Total Farm Cash Receipts (\$ millions)</p>  <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Total Farm Cash Receipts (\$ millions)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>\$469</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>\$499</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>\$527</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012 Target</td> <td>\$539</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Farm cash receipts have recovered from the recession lows.</p>	Year	Total Farm Cash Receipts (\$ millions)	2009	\$469	2010	\$499	2011	\$527	2012 Target	\$539
Year	Total Farm Cash Receipts (\$ millions)										
2009	\$469										
2010	\$499										
2011	\$527										
2012 Target	\$539										
<p>Targets</p>	<p>Information for 2012 is reported in the next fiscal year (2013-14). The target for 2012 was \$539 million. The long-term goal is continued increase in farm cash receipts.</p>										
<p>Strategic Actions to Achieve Target</p>	<p>Promote innovation, competitiveness and business planning</p> <p>On-going marketing and industry (and business skills) development</p> <p>Development of strategies and sector plans</p>										

Budget Context

	2012-13 Estimate (\$thousands)	2012-13 Forecast (\$thousands)	2013-14 Estimate (\$thousands)
Senior Management	593	487	596
Policy and Corporate Services	24,799	39,490	45,000
Agriculture and Food Operations	15,831	15,896	16,377
N. S. Agricultural College	22,726	8,073	0
Total Gross Departmental Expenses	63,949	63,946	61,973
Additional Information			
Fees and Other Charges	(11,767)	(6,716)	(1,896)
Ordinary Recoveries	(5,019)	(4,997)	(6,146)
TCA Purchase Requirements	1,345	488	2,550
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	476	324	218