



# Accountability Report



*for the fiscal year 2008–2009*

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## **Accountability Statement**

The accountability report of the Department of Agriculture for the year ended March 31, 2009 is prepared pursuant to the *Provincial Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the department business plan information for the fiscal year 2008-2009. The reporting of department outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments and opinions by department management.

We acknowledge that this accountability report is the responsibility of department management. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the department business plan for the year.

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Hon. John MacDonell  
Minister

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Paul LaFleche  
Deputy Minister

## **Message from the Minister**

I am pleased to present the 2008-2009 accountability report on behalf of the Department of Agriculture.

This report describes the progress made throughout the year in support of Nova Scotia's agriculture and agri-food industries. Department staff continued to address issues related to the environment, industry growth, responsible governance, education and life-long learning. The department worked with the federal government and industry partners to implement Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial policy initiative.

In the coming year government will be working to make our province a better place to live, work, do business and raise a family. We want to support Nova Scotia families, create more jobs and fuel economic growth, and continue to build pride in our province.

I encourage everyone to learn more about Nova Scotia's agriculture and agri-food industry and the important role the industry plays in our province.

## Introduction

This accountability report is based on the goals, priorities and performance measures set out in the 2008-2009 business plan. It is organized according to the department's four core business areas: sustainable resource management; industry growth and development; responsible governance; and education and life-long learning. It describes achievements towards the priorities identified by the department for 2008-2009; it is not a comprehensive account of overall department operations. Further information can be found on the department website, at: <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/>.

## Department Progress and Accomplishments

**Core Business 1: Sustainable Resource Management** - Balances industry development with environmental and social responsibility through applied research, technology transfer, generally accepted management principles, and industry and public awareness.

**Priority: Provide support to Nova Scotia's agriculture industry to improve energy efficiency and address the impacts of climate change.**

### Achievements:

- Hired a farm energy specialist and developed a process to deliver on-farm energy audits as part of the Environmental Farm Plan initiative. The energy conservation program, including farm energy assessments, was launched on April 1, 2009 in collaboration with the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and the Farm Energy Research Chair at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC). This initiative aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce input costs for farmers.
- Expanded the Farm Investment Fund to include the Environmental Farm Stewardship Program (EFSP). The EFSP identifies 18 beneficial management practices, two of which directly address on-farm energy conservation. Funding for these initiatives was made available to Nova Scotia's agriculture industry beginning in April 2009. The department invests approximately \$4 million in Nova Scotia's agriculture industry annually through the Farm Investment Fund in projects that enhance economic viability, farm and food safety and environmental stewardship.
- Participated on interdepartmental committees and working groups to address cross-cutting environmental issues, including the Deputy Minister's Green Forum, the senior government officials committee of the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*, the climate change action team, Opportunities for Sustainable Prosperity and the Department of Environment's advisory committee on biosolids. These efforts reflect a growing recognition that complex environmental issues require cooperative action across government departments.

- Partnered with NSAC to research on-farm wastewater management technologies such as treatment wetlands, soil infiltration systems and composting systems to improve water quality and quantity for Nova Scotians. NSAC researchers also conducted composting trials on carcass and food processing waste, wetlands systems research and sub-irrigation drainage.
- Measured ammonia and greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture to establish best management practices and mitigation strategies to reduce pollution. Researchers were able to increase accuracy and analyze findings more effectively through the use of specialized equipment.
- Worked with NSAC and industry partners to develop opportunities for grass pellet biofuel, wood fibre biofuel, waste product based biodiesel and sugar beet ethanol. The department continues to explore new opportunities on an ongoing basis to promote long-term economic growth and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**Core Business 2: Industry Growth and Development** - Focuses on Nova Scotia's rural communities by investing in industry stability, new economic opportunities and strategic development partnerships.

**Priority: Ensure the interests of Nova Scotia's agriculture industry are strongly reflected in Growing Forward, the next agricultural policy agreement.**

**Achievements:**

- Signed an agreement with federal, provincial and territorial partners to extend the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) to March 31, 2009 to allow additional time to develop the Growing Forward Framework and implementation agreements. The APF came into effect in 2003 and focused on five pillars: food safety and food quality; environment; renewal; science and innovation; and business risk management.
- Negotiated and developed Growing Forward programming with federal, provincial and territorial partners, and signed the Growing Forward Bilateral Agreement on March 31, 2009. The Growing Forward agreement commits \$14.74 million in federal funding and \$9.83 million in provincial funding to Nova Scotia's agricultural industry over five years. The agreement outlines three overarching strategic outcomes: a competitive and innovative agriculture and agri-food sector; a sector that contributes to society's priorities; and a sector that is proactive in managing risk. The department consulted with Nova Scotia's agriculture industry throughout the negotiation process.
- Introduced new business risk management programs to replace the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program. Together, AgriInvest and AgriStability are more

responsive, predictable and bankable for farmers. AgriInvest replaces coverage previously provided under CAIS for income declines up to 15 percent, and AgriStability replaces the coverage previously provided under CAIS for income declines of more than 15 percent. Other new business risk management programs include AgriInsurance (production insurance) and AgriRecovery, which provides rapid disaster assistance.

- Initiated consultations with industry on improvements to the Dairy Livestock Insurance Plan, offered through the Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission. The department is currently discussing options with the federal government for federal cost-sharing of the plan, one of the commissions largest in terms of coverage. The department also initiated consultations with industry on the development of new plans for maple and stone fruit, and explored the possibility of a plan for the hog industry, which was discontinued at the request of the industry.

**Priority: Transition Nova Scotia's agriculture industry towards a sustainable and prosperous future.**

**Achievements:**

- Advanced the Made in Nova Scotia policy framework, a ten-year plan to establish a shared vision of agriculture and agri-food in Nova Scotia by government and Nova Scotians. The framework will create alignment with the government's strategic agenda and incorporate economic, environmental and social considerations. The internal phase of the framework will be completed in 2009-2010 with the development of a document that will form the basis of an external engagement phase with Nova Scotians, including industry and other stakeholders.
- Committed to partnering with the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture on a Competitive Transition Framework to guide the agriculture industry towards self-sufficiency, independence and sustainability, with appropriate intervention from government. The pillars of the framework are: transitional support; strategic public investment; and public goods and services. The department appointed a Director of Competitive Transition to lead the initiative. A competitive transition analysis group has been formed with participation from the department and the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture to review programs and services with a view to competitive transition, and to advise the government on a path forward.
- Worked with the Atlantic BioVenture Centre (ABVC) and other partners to explore opportunities to grow and develop Nova Scotia's bio-economy, completing a study on the resources and infrastructure needed to support industry efforts in this area. The department also worked with ABVC to commercialize technology for producing antioxidant-based products from crops such as blueberries and cranberries. The construction of a pilot unit was completed in Spring 2008, with commercialization and

processing trials ongoing. Seizing these and other bio-based opportunities can lead to greater self-sufficiency, independence and sustainability for Nova Scotia's agriculture and agri-food sectors.

- Undertook a policy review and developed a discussion paper examining the issue of agricultural land protection versus development for non-agricultural uses. The paper reviewed a variety of initiatives in jurisdictions in North America and globally to protect agricultural land, and discussed the feasibility, the costs and benefits and the effectiveness of each. The paper is posted on the department's website, and almost 400 copies have been distributed, generating significant interest from key stakeholders and media. An interdepartmental working group has been formed to explore this topic further.
- Partnered with the Halifax Port Authority and private sector operators to design a service to consolidate shipments for low-volume exporters. Beginning in July 2009, this weekly service will increase opportunities for local exporters of dry goods to more efficiently and cost-effectively reach the European market.
- Administered the second year of the four-year Strategic Infrastructure Investment Fund to help producers and processors strengthen their infrastructure, add value and meet market demands for premium products. A total of \$3.2 million has been committed to nine projects to date.
- Administered the Pork Industry Transition Fund to help pork producers and processors transition to more sustainable and competitive business models. The department committed a total of \$485,000 to six initiatives through this fund in 2008-2009 to support the processing and marketing of value-added pork products, and strengthen collaboration between value-chain stakeholders. Nova Scotia's pork industry has experienced a number of challenges in recent years, including low prices, a high Canadian dollar and rising production costs.

**Priority: Work with government and industry partners to address short-term challenges and build conditions for long-term profitability in Nova Scotia's beef sector.**

**Achievements:**

- Worked with the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers on a strategy to make the province's beef sector more competitive and sustainable. The department participated on a steering committee that developed a vision, long-term goals and a strategic direction for the industry, and a three-year implementation plan involving multiple projects. Five of these projects are expected to be initiated in 2009-2010. The steering committee continues to support a collaborative approach and will seek input from industry stakeholders throughout the three-year implementation process. Nova Scotia's beef industry generated more than \$21 million in primary sales in 2008. As of the 2006 Census of Agriculture,

there were 716 beef farms in Nova Scotia.

- Delayed a plan to work with industry and government partners towards the development of a Maritime beef product due to operational uncertainties at Atlantic Beef Products Incorporated, the only federally inspected beef plant in the Maritimes.

**Priority: Accelerate the growth and development of Nova Scotia's wine sector.**

**Achievements:**

- Worked with the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission and industry experts to begin drafting regulations to help manage Nova Scotia's wine industry and establish quality standards. The industry has more than tripled since 2000, and had more than \$8 million in sales in 2008.
- Continued to work with industry and government partners across Canada and represented Nova Scotia's interests towards the development of national wine standards.

**Priority: Increase market share for Nova Scotia's agriculture producers through continued 'buy local' promotional initiatives.**

**Achievements:**

- Implemented the second year of the Select Nova Scotia buy local campaign in partnership with retailers, farmers' markets, farm markets and food service providers to promote awareness and consumption of Nova Scotia seafood and agri-food products. The campaign included a range of development activities including print, radio and television media, and a consumer-focused website. The first annual Incredible Picnic, held at 10 locations throughout the province produced encouraging results. To date, more than 320 companies are profiled on the website. Surveys show a satisfaction level (among company's surveyed) of 76 percent, with 66 percent of companies believing that consumers view the campaign as 'very good to excellent'. Website visits increased 41 percent in the second year of the campaign.
- Partnered with the Council of Atlantic Premier's Agri-Food Action Team to study the direct marketing industry in Atlantic Canada and profile ways to increase sales. The action team also began work on an initiative to develop a common Brand Atlantic initiative and logo to market agri-food and seafood products throughout the region. The Brand Atlantic initiative will be designed to benefit larger-scale producers who ship across provincial lines, while Select Nova Scotia continues to focus on direct retail to Nova Scotia consumers.
- Initiated research on food procurement opportunities in provincial post secondary



academic institutions, schools, and health care facilities. The department will continue to work with a steering committee and procurement personnel in publically funded institutions, food management companies, distributors, suppliers, and industry to review and better understand opportunities. A report identifying public sector procurement barriers and opportunities is expected in the winter of 2009-2010, and will include recommendations to build on current business relationships with suppliers to improve market access.

- Administered the first year of a direct marketing fund to support processing and local marketing of value-added products, and upgrades and facilities for farmers' markets and farm markets throughout the province. The department invested \$1.27 million in five projects in 2008-2009.

**Priority: Improve and enhance extension and information services to better facilitate knowledge transfer and capacity building in Nova Scotia's agriculture industry.**

**Achievements:**

- Hired additional agricultural liaison officers in the areas of animal health and welfare, environmental management and land protection, and front line program support to serve as valuable resources to the industry as a whole. The department continues to identify industry needs to determine the best use of resources to serve the agriculture industry.
- Worked with commodity organizations to implement a premise identification system for commercial livestock farms in the province, to help maintain and expand markets and to help inspectors identify farms of origin in the event of a food disease outbreak. Pork Nova Scotia has identified all pork sites in the province, and poultry producers have begun identifying poultry sites. Premise identification is expected to be complete for the poultry, dairy and mink sectors by the end of the 2009 calendar year.

**Core Business 3: Responsible Governance** - Focuses on the orderly development of the industry through supportive legislative and regulatory frameworks.

**Priority: Partner with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to enhance foreign animal disease surveillance in Nova Scotia.**

**Achievements:**

- Continued planning for a foreign animal disease surveillance lab in Truro. The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal is preparing a cost estimate on the project.

**Priority: Minimize the administrative paperwork burden to business and improve regulatory service delivery to industry clients through the Better Regulation Initiative.**

**Achievements:**

- Encouraged department staff to use more effective policy tools, including incentives and public education instead of legislation (where applicable) to ensure minimal administrative burden to industry. The department also began implementing the corporate regulatory management policy, and continues to review legislation and regulations on an ongoing basis for possible improvements.
- Encouraged and provided assistance to department staff to use more effective communications, including a plain language approach to help clients better identify and understand regulations.

**Core Business 4: Education and Life-Long Learning** - Focuses on sustaining expertise and excellence in Nova Scotia's agriculture and agri-food industries and preparing Nova Scotians for a global labour market through teaching, research and community services.

**Priority: Implement a new governance structure at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College.**

**Achievements:**

- Supported passage of Bill 107, the *Nova Scotia Agricultural College Act*, in the spring 2008 session of the Legislature to establish the NSAC as a Crown entity governed by a board of governors. This new Act provides a governance structure similar to that of other universities, greater autonomy from government, and academic freedom for faculty. This new structure is expected to help the college evolve and be able to better compete with other universities for research funding, quality faculty and students. Significant portions of the Act have already been proclaimed and are now in effect.
- Appointed a five member transitional board of governors for the NSAC to put in place the necessary steps to fully establish the new Crown entity, including the establishment of the full, permanent board of governors within two years. The transitional board, which began its work in March 2009, consists of two former Nova Scotia government Deputy Ministers, a lawyer, a retired university president, and an agricultural producer.

**Internal Management**

**Priority: Address the goals and objectives of the Government of Nova Scotia Human Resource plan.**

## **Achievements:**

- Addressed aspects of the government's Human Resource Strategy through the department's Work Well committee. A subcommittee was formed to develop a three-year diversity strategy for the department and advise management on compliance. Department staff are required to attend diversity training through the Public Service Commission.
- Continued to promote staff health and wellness activities. The Work Well committee organized Lunch & Learn sessions focusing on a range of topics including back health and barbeque food safety. Staff in attendance were encouraged to donate to Feed Nova Scotia. During October's Healthy Workplace Month, the committee promoted staff health and wellness accomplishments and held a grand prize draw for staff who submitted healthy tips and suggestions. The committee also hosted a workshop on balanced lifestyles. The committee also began planning for a two-day staff conference that was held in May 2009.
- Organized and held a one-day orientation session for new staff. The session provided an opportunity for the Deputy Minister and senior managers to give a high-level overview of the work of the department and the various branches, and to meet new staff. Other presentations focused on employee benefits, government ethics, occupational health and safety and the GoverNext initiative.

## Financial Results

<b>Agriculture</b>				
	<b>2007-2008 Estimate</b>	<b>2007-2008 Forecast</b>	<b>2008-2009 Estimate</b>	<b>2008-2009 Actual</b>
Program and Service Area	(\$ thousands)	(\$ thousands)	(\$ thousands)	(\$ thousands)
<b>Total Department Expenses:</b>				
Senior Management	1,047	1,095	828	960
Policy, Planning, Communications	771	788	815	670
Agricultural Services	23,716	26,016	23,750	24,907
Legislation and Compliance	8,160	8,770	8,846	9,085
Industry Development and Business Services	11,554	12,069	5,890	11,333
Nova Scotia Agricultural College	17,947	18,567	19,434	19,029
<b>Total Department Expenses</b>	<b>63,195</b>	<b>67,305</b>	<b>59,563</b>	<b>65,984</b>
<b>TCA Purchase Requirements</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>338</b>
<b>Provincial Funded Staff (FTE's)</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>466</b>

### *Rounding*

#### Estimates/Forecasts:

##### **Departments/PSV's**

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

The large variance for **Industry Development and Business Services** is mainly due to bad debt expense (Farm Loan Board) of \$4,763,372 for 2008-2009.

#### FTE's:

##### **FTE's for Departments**

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

##### **FTE's for Public Service Entities (PSV's)**

- In accordance with what appears in the Nova Scotia Estimates Supplementary Detail all FTE information should be rounded to the nearest tenth.

## Measuring our Performance

### **Measure: Percentage of registered farms participating in the province's Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Initiative**

**Outcome description:** The department provides financial assistance to help farmers implement projects to reduce the environmental impact of farming. This measure is based on approximately 2400 registered farms in Nova Scotia, approximately half of which are full-time commercial operations. The majority of farms participating in the EFP are full-time commercial operations.

**What does this measure tell us?** This measure refers to the percentage of registered farms in the province that either have a completed EFP, or are expected to complete one in 2009.

**Where are we now?** As of April 7, 2009, almost 60 percent of Nova Scotia's farms were participating in the EFP initiative, up from approximately 50 percent the previous year.

**Where do we want to be?** The department aims to increase the number of farms participating in the initiative.

### **Measure: Percentage of provincial farm allowable net sales covered by AgriInvest Measure: Percentage of provincial farm allowable net sales covered by AgriStability**

**Outcome description:** AgriInvest and AgriStability were introduced in 2008-2009 to replace coverage provided through the former Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization program. Together, they are designed to address income losses resulting from uncontrollable events, and to enhance farmers' capacity to manage risk.

**What do these measures tell us?** The first measure refers to the percentage of allowable net sales protected from disaster and uncontrollable events, and the second refers to the percentage of the reference margin covered.

**Where are we now?** As of March 31, 2009, 69 percent of the provincial agriculture industry's allowable net sales was covered through AgriInvest, and 67 percent of the province's total farm reference margin was protected under AgriStability.

**Where do we want to be?** This measure will be changed in future years to focus on the number of farms protected. The department aims to have 1300 farms with allowable net sales protected, and 900 farms with reference margin protected by 2009-2010.

## **Measure: Total Production Insurance coverage**

**Outcome description:** The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission provides a variety of insurance products to support the growth and development of primary agriculture, and pays indemnity to insured producers in the event of a production loss or failure.

**What does this measure tell us?** This measure refers to the total amount of agricultural production insured in the province.

**Where are we now?** As of March 31, 2009, the Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission was insuring \$120 million worth of agricultural production. This is up from \$71 million the previous year, and surpasses the initial target of \$72 million due primarily to a strong uptake of a poultry insurance plan introduced in 2007.

**Where do we want to be?** The commission aims to increase the value of production covered to \$122 million by 2009-2010, through the continued uptake of the poultry insurance product and the introduction of new products for maple and stone fruit.

## **Measure: Value of sales resulting from market development projects and tactics**

**Outcome description:** The department provides ongoing market development support to the agri-food and seafood industries, including participation at major international trade shows, and domestic campaigns like Select Nova Scotia.

**What does this measure tell us?** This measure refers to the overall value of agri-food and seafood sales that can be directly attributable to department's market promotion activities.

**Where are we now?** The department's market promotion activities resulted in approximately \$16 to \$18 million in agrifood and seafood industry sales in 2008-2009 according to preliminary estimates, with the majority being seafood sales. This is up from \$9.4 million in 2006-2007 due to market diversification efforts and an increased focus on higher end products.

**Where do we want to be?** The department aims to increase the overall value of Nova Scotia's agri-food and seafood sales.

## **Measure: Consumer awareness of Select Nova Scotia campaign**

**Outcome description:** The department launched the Select Nova Scotia buy local campaign in 2007 to increase the sale and consumption of Nova Scotia agri-food and seafood products locally.

**What does this measure tell us?** This measure refers to the overall level of consumer awareness of the campaign, as determined by a consumer survey.

**Where are we now?** The survey conducted in the autumn of 2007 indicated a six percent level of consumer awareness. This is considered a strong result by industry standards for a campaign in its introductory year and with its level of investment. A follow-up survey was not conducted in 2008; however one is planned for the autumn of 2009 to be done in conjunction with the department's major promotional activities.

**Where do we want to be?** The department aims to increase consumer awareness of the campaign through ongoing promotions.

**Measure: Ratio of Product and Quality Development (PQD) program funding invested to total R&D invested through PQD projects**

**Outcome description:** The department's PQD program provides cost-shared funding to Nova Scotia's agri-food and seafood industries to develop new and innovative products and technologies. Funding through this program leverages contributions from private, public, and non-government sources. A downward trend in the ratio invested by the department indicates an increased willingness by other organizations to invest, and is a sign of investor confidence. It also attests to the department's success in building relationships with industry and public stakeholders.

**What does this measure tell us?** This measure refers to the funding invested by the department (through the PQD program) as a percentage of the overall investment from all sources.

**Where are we now?** The department contributed 11 percent of the overall funding for projects in 2008-2009, down from 17 percent the year before.

**Where do we want to be?** The department aims to continue to increase funding partnerships with government and non-government sources.

**Measure: Value of new investment in the agri-food and seafood sectors**

**Outcome description:** The department promotes increased new investment in Nova Scotia's agri-food and seafood industries from outside of the province.

**What does this measure tell us?** This measure refers to the overall value of new investment in Nova Scotia's agri-food and seafood industries that can be directly attributed to the department's investment recruitment efforts.

**Where are we now?** The department's investment recruitment activities led to

approximately \$1.1 million in new investment in 2008-2009 according to preliminary estimates, down from \$1.5 million the previous year due primarily to the economic slowdown.

**Where do we want to be?** The department aims to increase the value of new investment in Nova Scotia's agri-food and seafood industries.

#### **Measure: Percentage of loan board principal in arrears**

**Outcome description:** The Farm Loan Board provides stable, long-term financial assistance to support ongoing development of Nova Scotia's agriculture and agri-food industries. A low rate of arrears on loans (as producers repay loans) indicates a strong level of economic activity and successful loan recovery efforts by the board. This measure has been revised slightly from previous years to include all loans in arrears, including those classified as 'in default'.

**What does this measure tell us?** This measure refers to the percentage of arrears of all loans through the Farm Loan Board.

**Where are we now?** The projected arrears for 2008-2009 is 4.4 percent (3.5 percent according the previous basis), up from 3.6 percent in 2007-2008 (2.8 percent according to the previous basis), due to ongoing difficulties in the hog industry.

**Where do we want to be?** The department aims to keep arrears to 4.4 percent or less in 2009-2010.

#### **Measure: Percentage of commercial livestock locations identified for premise identification**

**Outcome description:** The department is working with industry to implement a premise identification system for commercial livestock farms in the province. This will help maintain and expand markets, and will help inspectors identify farms of origin in the event of a food disease outbreak. One of the first steps is to develop a database identifying all commercial livestock premises in the province.

**What does this measure tell us?** This measure refers to progress made towards implementing farm-level traceability protocols for commercial livestock farms in Nova Scotia.

**Where are we now?** Pork Nova Scotia has identified all pork sites in the province, and poultry producers have begun identifying poultry sites. Premise identification is expected to be complete for the poultry, dairy and mink sectors by the end of the calendar year, followed by the beef and sheep sectors.



**Where do we want to be?** The department hopes to have premise identification information for all registered farms with livestock by March 31, 2011.

**Measure: Volunteer food handlers trained in safe food handling**

**Outcome description:** The department continues to offer food handler courses to volunteers preparing and serving food at events such as community dinners and fundraisers.

**What does this measure tell us?** This measure refers to the number of volunteer food handlers trained in a given year.

**Where are we now?** The department's food safety division provided training to 940 volunteer food handlers in 2008, up from 646 the previous year.

**Where do we want to be?** The target for 2009 is 700. The decrease is expected as a result of having already trained a large number of food handlers.

**Measure: Number of food safety concerns reported**

**Outcome description:** The department defines a food safety concern as a complaint or illness (including food poisoning) related to food products sold in Nova Scotia. The department investigates food safety concerns to determine cause and implement measures to prevent recurrence.

**What does this measure tell us?** This measure refers to the number of food safety concerns reported to the department's food safety division.

**Where are we now?** A total of 336 food safety concerns were reported in 2008, up from 275 the previous year. This increase is due to a larger number of reporting mechanisms being made available to the public, including an internet-based system.

**Where do we want to be?** The department's target for 2009 is 400 food safety concerns reported.

**Measure: Number of suspected food poisoning cases reported**

**Outcome description:** The department investigates suspected food poisoning cases to determine cause and put in place measures to prevent recurrence.

**What does this measure tell us?** This measure refers to the number of food poisoning cases reported to the department's food safety division.

**Where are we now?** A total of 68 food poisoning cases were reported in 2009, up from 47 the previous year. This increase is due to a larger number of reporting mechanisms being made available to the public, including an internet-based system.

**Where do we want to be?** The department's target for 2009 is 75 food poisoning cases reported.

**Measure: Total value of research and infrastructure grants awarded to NSAC researchers**

**Outcome description:** Council's and agencies such as the National Science and Engineering Research Council and the Atlantic Innovation Fund are important sources of grant and contract funding for university researchers.

**What does this measure tell us?** This measure refers to the value of all research and infrastructure contracts signed by and awarded to NSAC researchers, and indicates the effectiveness of NSAC's research efforts in applying world class science to the challenges facing the industry.

**Where are we now?** NSAC researchers attracted \$9.5 million in 2008-2009, up from \$8.5 million the previous year.

**Where do we want to be?** NSAC's target is for researchers to secure \$9.3 million in research and infrastructure grants in 2009-2010. The governance changes associated with the *Nova Scotia Agricultural College Act* are expected to help researchers attract additional research and infrastructure funding.

**Measure: Number of students enrolled at NSAC**

**Outcome description:** The number of students enrolled at the NSAC is an indication of the number of skilled workers that may be available to contribute to Nova Scotia's agricultural workforce in the coming years.

**What does this measure tell us?** This measure refers to the overall student enrollment at the NSAC.

**Where are we now?** Overall enrollment at NSAC in 2008-2009 was 832 students, up from 789 the previous year.

**Where do we want to be?** NSAC aims to have 855 students enrolled in 2009-2010, and 900 by 2013.

## **Measure: Number of international students enrolled at NSAC**

**Outcome description:** The number of international students enrolled at NSAC is a direct measure of the NSAC's internationalization agenda, and its appeal in international markets.

**What does this measure tell us?** This measure refers to international student enrollment at the NSAC.

**Where are we now?** International student enrollment at NSAC in 2008-2009 was 79, up from 57 the previous year.

**Where do we want to be?** NSAC aims to see international enrollment make up 10 percent of the student population, meaning 85 international students in 2009-2010 and 90 by 2013.

## **Measure: Value of agricultural production (farm cash receipts)<sup>1</sup>**

**Outcome description:** 'Farm cash receipts' include the combined earnings from the sale of primary agriculture products and government program payments.

**What does this measure tell us?** This measure refers to farm cash receipts for Nova Scotia's agriculture industry in a given year.

**Where are we now?** Nova Scotia's agriculture industry generated more than \$474 million in farm cash receipts in 2008, up from almost \$458 in 2007.

**Where do we want to be?** The department aims to improve the overall value of agricultural production in the province.

## **Measure: Dollar value of total capital and repair expenditures in agriculture<sup>2</sup>**

**Outcome description:** Capital investment patterns in agriculture can reflect the level of industry confidence.

**What does this measure tell us?** This measure refers to the total value of capital expenditures in Nova Scotia's agriculture industry in a given year.

**Where are we now?** Capital and repair expenditures in Nova Scotia's agriculture

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue Number 21-011-X

<sup>2</sup> Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 029-0005

industry were \$88.4 million in 2007, up from \$80.7 million in 2006.

**Where do we want to be?** The department aims to see an increase in total capital expenditures.

**Measure: Total agri-food exports (less seafood products and fishing)<sup>3</sup>**

**Outcome description:** The department continues to promote export opportunities through ongoing trade initiatives such as participation in major international trade shows, incoming and outgoing buyer missions and media events.

**What does this measure tell us?** This measure refers to the overall export value of Nova Scotia's agriculture and agri-food products, including primary and processed products.

**Where are we now?** Nova Scotia's overall agri-food exports were valued at \$215.8 million in 2008, down from \$255 million the previous year and \$272 million in 2004.

**Where do we want to be?** The department aims to increase the overall value of agriculture and agri-food exports from Nova Scotia.

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<sup>3</sup>Source: Industry Canada Trade Data Online, Accessed August 4, 2009