



Accountability Report 2021–22

Agriculture



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Accountability Report 2021–2022

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Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report of the Department of Agriculture for the year ended March 31, 2022 is prepared pursuant to the *Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Department of Agriculture Business Plan for the fiscal year just ended. The reporting of the Department's outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments, and opinions by Department of Agriculture management.

We acknowledge that this Accountability Report is the responsibility of Department of Agriculture 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 of Agriculture 2021-2022 Business Plan.

Original signed by:

Honourable Greg Morrow
Minister of Agriculture

Original signed by:

Loretta Robichaud
Deputy Minister

Message from Minister

I am pleased to present the Department of Agriculture's Accountability Report for 2021-22.

The agricultural sector faced many challenges this year: from rising costs and labour shortages, to climate change and the uncertainty driven by a global pandemic in its second full year. But this is a sector that knows how to adapt to change, and in 2021-22, we saw that firsthand.

Thanks to the resilience of the operators, Nova Scotia's agricultural industries continued to drive economic activity in our province. In 2021, farm cash receipts for Nova Scotia farms were \$672 million - up 14 per cent from 2020 -- and international agri-food exports reached \$400 million, a nearly 7 per cent increase from the year before.

Clean, sustainable growth is top of mind in the agriculture industry. Programs like *Nova Scotia Clean Technology for Agriculture* and our partnership with Efficiency Nova Scotia helped agricultural businesses adopt clean technologies and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The department continued with year three of the nine-year, almost \$50 million dykeland system upgrade project to help protect our natural infrastructure from the impacts of climate change.

As food costs rise, we need to make sure all Nova Scotians have access to safe and nutritious food, and the agricultural sector has an important role to play. We want to see Nova Scotians consuming more food grown in the province. The department continued its successful *Get Your Hands on Local* program in 2021-22, among other activities, designed to encourage Nova Scotians to buy more locally produced products.

Thank you to all Nova Scotians who put local food on their tables this year. Your efforts help our farmers and support our economy.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Greg Morrow
Minister of Agriculture

Financial Results

	2021-2022 Estimate	2021-2022 Actuals	2021-2022 Variance
Program & Service Area	(\$ thousands)		
Departmental Expenses:			
Senior Management	726	692	(34)
Policy and Corporate Services	4,343	3,862	(481)
Agriculture Risk Management and Lending	13,604	13,209	(395)
Agriculture and Food Operations	12,827	13,776	949
Industry Development	9,113	7,372	(1,741)
Total Gross Departmental Expenses	40,613	38,911	(1,702)
Additional Information:			
Revenues	3,168	583	(2,585)
Fees and Other Charges	1,522	1,539	17
Ordinary Recoveries	5,122	3,830	(1,292)
Total: Revenue, Fees and Recoveries	9,812	5,952	(3,860)
TCA Purchase Requirements	11,317	5,275	6,042
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	169.6	154.4	(15.2)

Departmental Expenses Variance Explanations:

The Department of Agriculture's 2021-22 Actual Expenses are \$1.7M lower than Estimate due to \$1.5M of additional spending in previous years under Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP), which is a 5-year federal cost shared \$37M program that will be fully spent over the 5 years. Additional spending in previous years was due to increasing support for COVID-19 program response, resulting in reduced cash flow in this year. In addition, there was a decrease of \$0.3M in amortization related to TCA projects, and \$0.2M decrease in net operating primarily due to decreased travel expenses, offset by \$0.3M increase related to the AgriStability program.

Revenue, Fees and Recoveries Variance Explanation:

Net variance consists of a decrease in the federal portion of Disaster Mitigation and Adaption Fund (DMAF) revenues due to underspending in TCA, as well as a decrease in federal contributions related to the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (which is consistent with the decrease in CAP expenditures).

TCA Purchase Requirements Variance Explanation:

The DMAF Dykeland Upgrade project spans from 2019-2020 to 2027-2028. In the third year of the project there continued to be underspending as engineering and planning work continues to be completed. Additional TCA projects (Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition grounds and buildings, and Harness Racing Grandstand), as well as the Dykeland project, have experienced delays due to COVID-19 and issues with global supply issues.

Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) Variance Explanation:

Variance includes transfers to Fisheries and Aquaculture as well as an increase in recoverable positions.

Measuring Our Performance

Priority Outcomes That Help Develop Our Agriculture Industries

Buy Local Program

Various promotional activities in 2021-2022 supported Nova Scotia farmers and encouraged Nova Scotians to purchase more local products at major grocery stores, independent retail markets and farmers' markets.

Efforts have begun to develop a Food and Beverage Strategy for the province, which will promote the local production and consumption of Nova Scotia food and beverages.

The 'Get Your Hands on Local' program continued in the spring and summer of 2021 at major retail partners Sobeys, Loblaws, and Walmart, as well as 14 independent retail locations throughout the province. Point of sale tags identified over 800 Nova Scotia products provided by 200 producers in those retail locations. As of September 2021, the 'Get Your Hands on Local' program was paused as the Department works to integrate its buy local programming with the broader intergovernmental 'Nova Scotia Loyal' program.

The Department also helped promote Nova Scotian produced agri-food and beverage products by working with partners like Bell Media / CTV, the Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia, the Wine Growers of Nova Scotia, the Craft Brewers of Nova Scotia, and the Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia.

A grassroots campaign was launched in 2021-2022 with the Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia to provide local chef curated farm market boxes. The chefs selected items available from the farmers' market and created recipes, so that everything a consumer needed for an amazing farm-to-table dinner was in one easily accessible box. Three farmers' markets piloted the boxes: Wolfville Farmers' Market, Halifax Brewery Market, and Antigonish Farmers' Market.

Building Industry Capacity

Several special projects were conducted with different sectors of the agri-food industry to implement strategic priorities that will help advance agri-business performance.

The Building Tomorrow Fund provided \$215,000 for Christmas Tree industry research and marketing development projects in 2021-2022. The marketing video for the Blue Button Campaign supported by these funds was released in December 2021 and received over 34,000 views on YouTube.

The Building Tomorrow Fund also provided \$257,208 for wild blueberry feasibility studies including processing and packaging and an innovation challenge in 2021-2022. Projects to reduce pathogens, expand marketing and branding, and optimize harvest processes will continue into fiscal 2022-2023.

Implementation of the Maple Producers Association of Nova Scotia strategic development plan was also conducted under the Building Tomorrow Fund. Projects focused on building capacity for the Association's marketing and agri-tourism efforts are in development.

The Department continues to work with Nova Scotia cattle producers to advance the priorities of the Maritime Beef Strategy. A provincial beef verification program was developed to vaccinate Nova Scotia cattle to improve animal health and value.

The Sheep Producers Association of Nova Scotia worked with department staff on the development and adoption of a 5-year strategic plan.

Nova Scotia Quality Wine Strategy

The Department is in the first year of a five-year Nova Scotia Quality Wine Strategy that is supporting the Nova Scotia wine and grape sectors. The Vineyard Replant Program was introduced under the strategy in 2021-2022 to assist grape growers in replanting sections of their vineyard with recommended varieties. Consultations with industry were undertaken to determine those varieties most likely to grow well in Nova Scotia's terroir and produce competitive wine products.

Funding was provided to the Wine Growers of Nova Scotia for the implementation of the Wine Navigator program to ensure market opportunities match or exceed the increasing volumes of wine projected to be available in Nova Scotia. The program is addressing gaps such as the lack of human and financial resources to cooperatively pursue, coordinate and deliver international market development.

In 2021-22, Nova Scotia annual wine sales grew by 15.3 per cent to \$15.5 million through Nova Scotia Liquor Commission retail outlets which represents ten per cent of all wine sold through NSLC outlets.

Grape harvests, which have been affected by weather events over the past four years, rebounded in 2021. The tonnage reported in 2021 was 2,539 metric tonnes, 19 per cent more than the last best harvest year of 2017 when grape tonnage reported was 2,132 metric tonnes.

Nova Scotia Clean Technology for Agriculture Program

The Nova Scotia Clean Technology for Agriculture Program aims to strengthen provincial food security by increasing year-round food production. The fund, administered by Dalhousie University, provides financial support to the agriculture industry for the adoption of clean technologies that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency, promote sustainable and clean growth and increase value-added agricultural production.

The program opened in summer 2021 with all \$5 million in funding fully committed by February 2022. Fifty-five approved projects are expected to be completed by January 31, 2023.

Agriculture Energy Partnership

The Department continued its partnership with Efficiency One to reduce the sector's electricity and fossil fuel footprint. The Onsite Energy Manager for Agriculture assisted producers to identify and achieve energy savings and supported energy related applications to the Nova Scotia Clean Technology for Agriculture program.

2021/2022 Agriculture Energy Partnership results:



167 farms
assisted



60 energy
saving projects
completed



2,045
tonnes/year of
CO₂ reduced



\$200,000/year
in electricity
savings



\$500,000 in
Efficiency NS
incentives
provided

Climate Change Adaptation

The Department's Agricultural Champions for Environmental Sustainability (ACES) team continued work on the Climate Change Adaptation Workplan. In 2021-2022 ACES identified climate data/information gaps, initiated a climate lens project on Crop and Livestock Insurance peril data, completed a series of climate change awareness staff meetings to increase departmental ability to support the agricultural sector, developed content for a 'Climate Change in Agriculture' learning curriculum for staff, and developed and piloted a climate change risk register for Department services.

Three agricultural commodities are currently participating in the Climate Adaptation Leadership Program: Horticulture, Cattle/Sheep, and Christmas Trees. In 2021-22, all

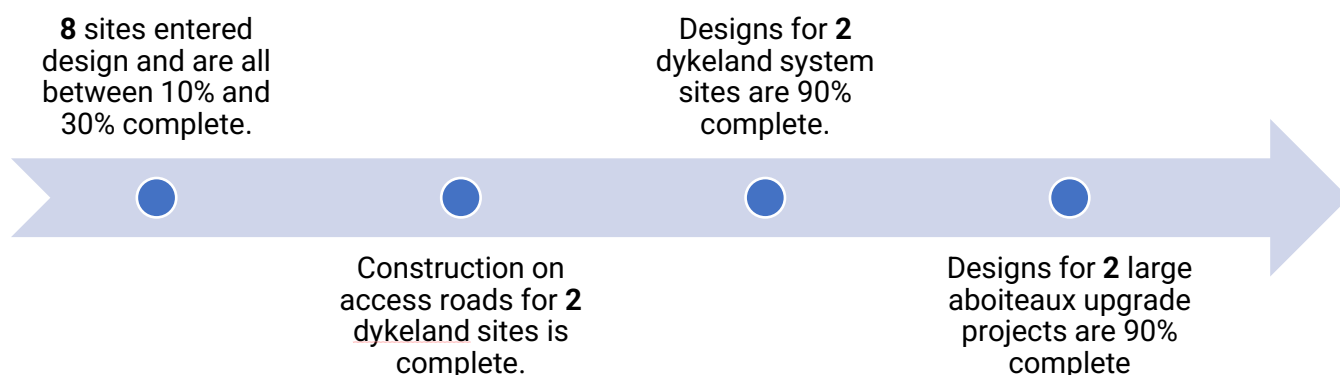
three sectors had initiated the climate scan and are developing a Climate Adaptation Strategy to help prepare them for the impacts of climate change.

Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Fund

In 2021-2022, the Department continued with year three of the nine-year, almost \$50 million Dykeland System Upgrade Project, which is 50 per cent funded under the Federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund. Consultation with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia was ongoing throughout 2021-2022, and stakeholder engagement with marsh bodies and landowners is well underway at all project sites.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have an impact on work schedules and the ability to conduct necessary in-person discussions and meetings. Moving forward it is anticipated that the lessening influence of the COVID-19 pandemic will lead to reduced impacts on project timelines and allow all work to be completed by the end of the funding envelope.

Of the 16 sites currently identified in the Dykeland Systems Upgrade Project, progress for 2021-2022 included:



Environmental Farm Plan Enhancements

The Agri-Environmental program began in 2020 to build on the success of the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program and create a partnership between the Department, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and Perennia. The Agri-Environmental program has continued to enhance and strengthen the Nova Scotia EFP through the initiation of a Climate Lens review in 2021-2022. This project will develop feasible, action-oriented recommendations to improve environment and climate change programming.

Supporting the Nova Scotia 4-H Council

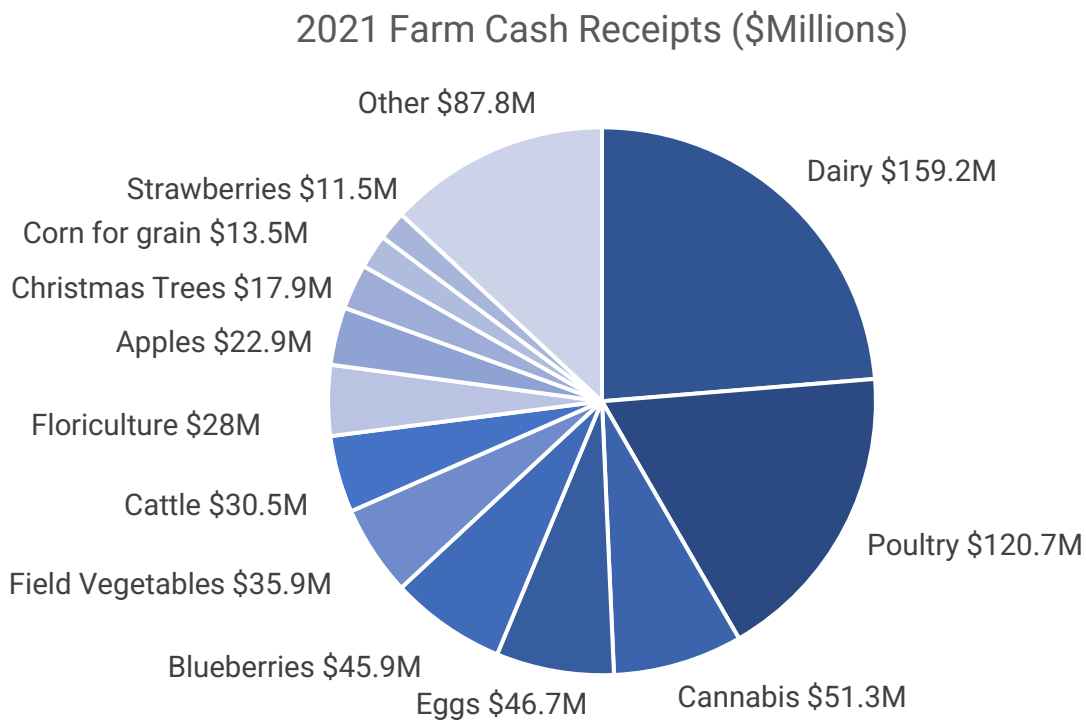
The Department continued to transition 4-H programs and events to the 4-H Council of Nova Scotia by holding multiple training sessions with newly hired 4-H Council staff. Ongoing support was provided for planning and executing provincial events and programs in 2021-2022.

Community Pastures

The Community Pasture Action Committee continued its work to guide and manage community pastures into the future, with a new vision for economic growth. The Community Pasture Support Program was created in 2021-2022 to provide important investment into the infrastructure and soil of the community pastures owned by the Farm Loan Board. The program is a cost-shared funding program with community pasture co-operatives.

Agriculture Industry Performance

Farm cash receipts increased by 14 per cent in 2021 to \$672 million. Dairy continues to be the top revenue-generating sector at \$159 million, and total receipts for the supply-managed industries account for approximately half of all farm cash receipts. Major contributors to farm cash receipts (in millions) include:



Key Core Functions That Support Our Sectors

Trade Development

One of the strategic themes guiding Department activities in 2021-2022 was increasing trade and market access. Despite ongoing supply chain disruptions and market uncertainty due to the global COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions, the Department continued to support industry interests in domestic and international market development and trade issues.

The Department supported virtual marketing events, strategic market intelligence gathering and research, development of an online food and beverage directory, and branding and digital marketing assets for the provincial agri-food industry. These tools helped promote Nova Scotia's premium agri-food and beverage products across Canada and around the world.

International agri-food exports increased by 6.9 per cent for a total of \$399.7 million in 2021. Nova Scotia exported agricultural products to 73 countries in 2021, with half of Nova Scotia's agri-food exports destined for the United States. Wild blueberries continue to be Nova Scotia's highest valued agri-food export, accounting for over \$120 million.

In 2021, the value of Nova Scotia total fresh apple exports doubled year over year from 2020, an increase from \$8.6 million to \$17.6 million. In 2021-2022, the Department initiated and supported a Canadian Ambrosia apple retail promotion in Vietnam that resulted in a 96 per cent increase in sales revenue during the promotion. This promotion supported market diversification efforts for Nova Scotia apple exporters that normally rely on one market for nearly all sales.

Canadian Agricultural Partnership

The Department completed year four of the five-year Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP). CAP is an agriculture policy and priorities multilateral framework agreement that supports the agricultural sector. It includes a cost-shared budget of \$37 million over five years in federal and provincial funding and aims to increase competitiveness, productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability of agriculture and agri-food sectors and expand domestic and international markets.

The COVID-19 Agriculture Response Program continued to be offered in 2021-2022 to allow farmers to mitigate impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department invested in six designated priority areas as follows:



Pan-Atlantic Agricultural Partnership Initiative

Pan-Atlantic projects are funded through CAP in partnership with other Atlantic provinces for regional benefit. These initiatives can be developed and supported in any of CAP's six priority areas. Nova Scotia is the provincial lead on the following four Pan-Atlantic projects, for which \$211,000 was invested in 2021-2022:

- Atlantic Technology Transfer in Apiculture Project (Perennia – project lead)
- Improving the Production and Storage of High-Quality Apple Cultivators (Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association – project lead)
- Advancing Poultry Research in Atlantic Canada (Atlantic Poultry Research Institute – project lead)
- Maritime Beef Sector Growth and Expansion Strategy (Maritime Beef Council – project lead)

Programs and Business Risk Management

Business Risk Management programs continued to offer mitigation against producer income losses stemming from production losses, severe market volatility and extreme events or disasters. The Department established an AgriStability Advisor in the fall of

2021 to support industry with education and access to all Business Risk Management programs.

The federally delivered AgriInvest and AgriStability programs are cost-shared between the Province and the Federal government on a 60/40 basis. In 2021-2022, provincial contributions of \$1.66 million in AgriStability and \$1.17 million in AgriInvest supported farmers.

Federal and provincial governments decided to remove the Reference Margin Limit from the AgriStability program in 2021. This has significantly improved equity in the program for Nova Scotia producers, in particular for wild blueberries and maple products.

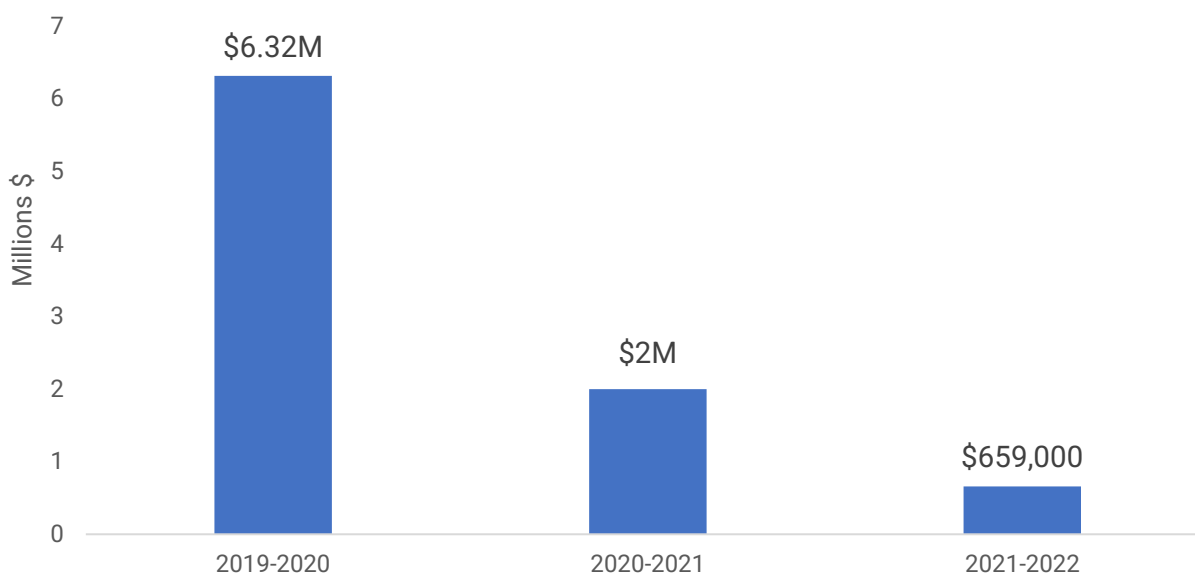
Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

Business Risk Management includes a robust AgriInsurance program delivered on behalf of the Department through the Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission. AgriInsurance supports income stability in the agriculture sector through cost-shared crop and livestock insurance plans and a wildlife compensation program.

In 2021-2022, the Province provided an additional 10 per cent reduction in the producer's share of premiums for crop insurance (a total of \$118,428) to help offset increased costs.

An optimal growing season in 2021 resulted in the lowest AgriInsurance claim rate in over 30 years. This low claim rate helped stabilize premium rates for the upcoming 2022 growing season.

Total AgriInsurance claims paid to producers in the last three fiscal years



Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

The Farm Loan Board completed a refresh of its marketing and promotional materials in 2021-22 with redesigned printed and electronic ad materials in various formats. Rollout of the new ads will take place this fall.

The Farm Loan Board continues to do outreach work in the innovation and value-add space to raise awareness of the board's lending products and value proposition. Assisting clients in finding ways to address the impacts of climate change, creating new products, and finding innovative new ways to reach customers are just a few of the things the Board has partnered on over the past year.

Perennia Agricultural Extension Services

The Department provided an operating budget of \$2.5 million in 2021-2022 and additional program-based funding to Perennia. These funds support Perennia in helping Nova Scotia farmers develop the understanding and skills essential to solve agricultural-related problems, and to create new opportunities to support sustainability and profitability.

Innovative and Value-Added Strategies

The Department worked with Perennia, universities and other partners in the agri-food space to develop new and innovative products and strategies to help increase the value and competitiveness of the agri-food sector.

The first growing season for the Nova Scotia Long Cane Raspberry Pilot project in the summer of 2021 was successful in bringing local long cane raspberries to the Nova Scotia market. Perennia, in collaboration with Horticulture Nova Scotia, provided production support to the two commercial growers involved in the project. Data and lessons learned from the project will be shared with the broader industry.

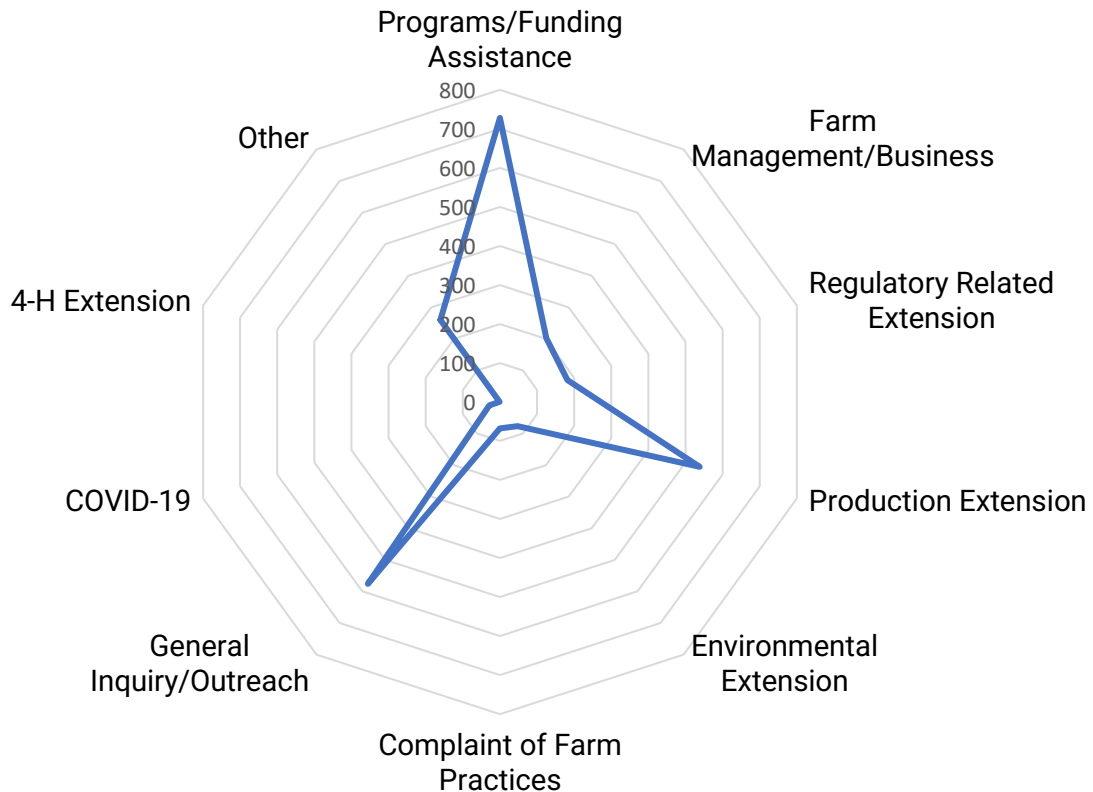
Perennia and the Department worked collaboratively in 2021-2022 to develop the pillars of a Farm Weather Action Plan. A key achievement of the plan was the development and launch of the Weather Station Assistance Program, which has encouraged producers throughout the province to purchase affordable on-farm weather stations that allow them to closely monitor their farms and make more informed production decisions.

The Department collaborated with the governments of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island and the pork industry to develop a feasibility analysis on re-establishing a federally regulated pork facility in Atlantic Canada.

Regional Services Delivered to Agriculture Clients and Rural Organizations

The Department continued to provide extension services to regional agriculture producers and organizations in 2021-2022. The Department has continued to adapt extension programming to respect COVID-19 guidelines, and provide support related to COVID-19 recovery to the agriculture industry.

Client Calls by Category



Minister's Digital Webinar Series

The Department's annual Minister's Conference for Agriculture was held virtually in 2021 – 22 through a six-part digital webinar series supported by Perennia. The free noon-hour sessions attracted more than 500 participants and nearly 400 follow-up video views. More than a dozen industry and public sector panelists contributed to discussions on weather monitoring, climate change, investment and succession planning, labour, the role of big data in agriculture, and retail trends.

Agriculture Awareness and Building Public Trust

Across the province, 269 schools, participated in hands-on, inquiry-based agriculture learning through a variety of educational programs and resources. A total of 33,807 students were reached through the Department's educational programming in 2021-2022.

New youth educational resources were also developed, including The Science of Cheesemaking (Grade 11 Chemistry and Biology); Root Viewer and Story Block kits for Pre-Primary learning environments; and videos to enhance the Digging Deeper (Grades 7-8 Science) and Little Green Sprouts (Grades 2-5) resources.

Special initiatives were undertaken to encourage underrepresented groups in Nova Scotia to increase their involvement in agriculture. The Department partnered with Hope Blooms to send Africentric home garden and art kits to African Nova Scotian students across the province. The Department also partnered with Truro-based social enterprise STEPS on Arthur, whose clients – adults with intellectual disabilities – helped put together resource packages which supported the expansion of the program.

Agricultural education and public trust work were enhanced through the Department's memberships in national organizations including Agriculture in the Classroom – Canada, and the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity. Funding was provided to the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture for public trust work such as Open Farm Day and the 'Your Farms, Your Nova Scotia' social media campaign to connect farmers and consumers.

In 2021-2022, the Department supported the development of a horticulture training program for members of the African Nova Scotian community called 'Bridge into Agriculture'. This new program provides materials and virtual instruction for African Nova Scotian adults to develop vegetable gardening skills, and the opportunity to participate in farm tours. The program is a partnership between the Department, the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, and Dalhousie University Extended Learning.

Labour Initiatives and Developments

Just over 1,500 Temporary Foreign Workers arrived in Nova Scotia in 2021 for the agriculture industry, a nine per cent increase from 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact the federal process for receiving Temporary Foreign Workers, and Nova Scotia had to adapt quickly. The Department worked closely with the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and Perennia to assist employers with worker arrivals.

Nova Scotia is working with the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, other provinces and territories, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to develop longer-term strategies to help address labour shortages in the agriculture sector.

Laboratory Services Initiatives and Developments

The Department's laboratory services provide ISO accredited laboratory testing to support public and animal health and inform industry on production management decisions.

The Plant and Animal Laboratory offers analysis for water, soil, soil amendments, plant tissues, dairy samples, livestock feeds, greenhouse water and greenhouse soil. Over 28,000 samples were received in 2021, an increase over the previous two years. The lab engaged in efforts to improve client outreach and promotion including virtual training with Regional Coordinators on test interpretation to better assist farmers, attendance in industry conference virtual trade shows, the development of newsletter articles, and other correspondence with industry regarding potential project support and partnership. An effective equipment refresh strategy to best plan for the future of the lab is being developed.

The Animal Health Laboratory provides diagnostic testing to support provincial animal health and welfare, food safety, and public health. Over 8,000 tests were performed in 2021, 60-75 per cent of which were accredited under the ISO 17025:2017 standard. The Animal Health Laboratory continues to experience supply procurement difficulties related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Veterinary Services Initiatives and Developments

The potential for veterinarian shortages has received attention recently in Canada. The Atlantic Chief Veterinarians are working together to find long term solutions for veterinary services in our region. A Livestock Veterinary Services Working Group of representatives from government, the agriculture industry, and the veterinary industry was also established to identify opportunities for sustainable improvements to veterinary services for livestock producers in Nova Scotia.

Emergency Preparedness

The Department continues to support the livestock industry in emergency preparedness to respond to animal-health issues. Nova Scotia experienced outbreaks of Avian Influenza in early 2022, and the Department helped provide support, educational materials, and communication. The Poultry Emergency Response Plan will be revised to reflect lessons learned.

Ensuring producers are prepared before an animal health emergency occurs is important. Provincial and industry emergency response plans are being prepared in case of an African Swine Fever outbreak. The Department is also working with the Department of Environment and Climate Change and Perennia to draft Livestock Mortality Management Guidelines that will instruct producers on the safe and efficient disposal of deadstock.

Animal and Crop Services Registrations and Safety and Security Programs

The Department continued to support the safety and security of food production through the delivery of traceability and biosecurity programs in 2021-2022. Beekeeper registration and inspection have been continuously increasing ensuring a healthy, vibrant bee industry. Uptake of the Premise Identification Program has also increased, allowing traceability of livestock in potential emergency biosecurity situations. The Department continues to work with a variety of other industry and government partners to enable compliance with regulations and monitor and manage pests.

Client Relationship Management System and Grants Management System

In 2021-2022, the Department continued to improve its Client Relationship Management System and Compatible Grants Management System. These systems streamline the delivery of programs and interactions with our clients by providing faster turnaround times and enhancing performance reporting of programs.

A project to integrate the provincial AMANDA system with the Grants Management System to streamline validation of business farm registrations was completed. Bee registration activities were successfully incorporated into the Client Relationship Management (CRM) system, allowing smooth flow of applications, enhanced data storage and better reporting.

Developments Supported by the Natural Products Marketing Council

The Natural Products Marketing Council regulates the production and marketing of pork, beef and potatoes and oversees all supply-managed commodities in Nova Scotia, including dairy, eggs, hatching eggs, chicken, and turkey. The Council completed 11 regulatory amendments in 2021-2022. Several commodity boards were hosted virtually throughout the year to provide industry updates and continued engagement in industry planning and discussion, with the goal of strengthening the regulatory framework that supports commodity boards. Two new dairy processing licenses were approved for facilities to offer dairy products to Nova Scotian consumers.

Operational Changes

The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture have worked jointly through a common leadership for over eight years. In 2021-2022, these departments were assigned separate Ministers and Deputy Ministers. Some roles that previously served both departments jointly now only serve one department, including the Executive team, Policy and Planning, and Marketing and International Business. This transition will allow the Department to provide more efficient support to Nova Scotia's agriculture industry while continuing to work collaboratively on joint initiatives for our agri-food industries.

Annual Report under Section 18 of the *Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act*

The *Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act* was proclaimed into law on December 20, 2011.

The Act provides for government employees to be able to come forward if they reasonably believe that a wrongdoing has been committed or is about to be committed and they are acting in good faith.

The Act also protects employees who do disclose from reprisals, by enabling them to lay a complaint of reprisal with the Labour Board.

A Wrongdoing for the purposes of the Act is:

- a) a contravention of provincial or federal laws or regulations
- b) a misuse or gross mismanagement of public funds or assets
- c) an act or omission that creates an imminent risk of a substantial and specific danger to the life, health or safety of persons or the environment, or
- d) directing or counselling someone to commit a wrongdoing

The following is a summary of disclosures received by the Department of Agriculture:

Information Required under Section 18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2021-2022
The number of disclosures received	0
The number of findings of wrongdoing	0
Details of each wrongdoing	0
Recommendations and actions taken on each wrongdoing	0