

Elementary Programs

(Grades Pre-Primary-6)

- **Care Storybook:** Grades Pre-Primary to Grade 1
- **Early Elementary Kit:** Grades Pre-Primary to Grade 1
- **Explore Farming in Nova Scotia Colouring Book:** Grades Primary to Grade 3
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- **Simple Machines on the Farm:** Grade 5
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- **Agriculture and Renewable Energy:** Grade 6

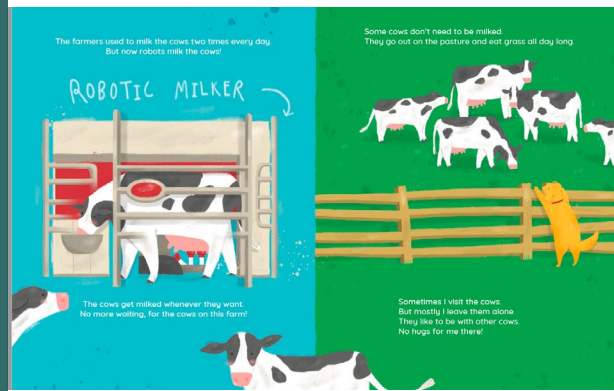


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Care Storybook



All animals and humans need shelter, clean water, and nutritious food. This looks different for pets, farm animals and wildlife but the principles are the same for each. The Care Storybook is told from the perspective of a dog that lives next door to a dairy farm.

Teachers can use this book in the classroom to support Grade Primary science outcomes (learners will compare living things through the senses) and Grade 1 science outcomes (learners will analyze interconnectedness of living things and the environment).

The book is only available for Pre-Primary, Primary and Grade 1 classrooms in public schools. The Care storybook is also available in French.

This book is available anytime throughout the year.

This resource is also available in French.

Eligibility

Pre-Primary, Primary and Grade 1 teachers in Nova Scotia public schools are eligible to apply.



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Agriculture in the Classroom

Early Elementary Kit



Pre-Primary, Primary and Grade 1 teachers can apply to receive Agriculture in the Classroom activities. These activities promote learning through interactive play-based activities.

Agriculture in the Classroom resources for Pre-Primary classes include:

- Seeds and Sprouts package – students can make their own root viewer (individual planting pots) and living necklace (seed necklace)
- Agriculture and food story blocks to inspire creative storytelling about agriculture and food

These resources are available anytime throughout the year.

This resource is also available in French.

Eligibility

Pre-Primary, Primary and Grade 1 teachers in Nova Scotia public schools are eligible to apply.



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Explore Farming in Nova Scotia Colouring Book



The Explore Farming in Nova Scotia Colouring Book is suitable for early elementary grades to learn about Nova Scotia's farming industry. Each page includes a small amount of text and a line drawing for colouring. Books are available in English and French.

The Explore Farming in Nova Scotia Colouring Book contains 20 pages with line drawings developed from photos taken on Nova Scotia farms. The text and images support learning about how food is produced in Nova Scotia for early elementary students (Grade Primary – 3).

The colouring book covers the following material:

- farms
- honeybees
- fruit
- apples
- blueberries
- strawberries
- cranberries
- vegetables
- carrots
- potatoes
- dairy cows
- beef cows
- chickens
- eggs
- turkey
- sheep
- pigs
- Christmas trees
- maple syrup

The short text in the book focuses on how these crops and livestock are grown and raised. Teachers can create opportunities for developing learning competencies while meeting outcomes in Health Education, Science, and Social Studies.

This resource book is available anytime throughout the year. Teachers can order one copy per student or one master copy that can be freely photocopied.

This program is also available in French.

Eligibility

Elementary School teachers Grades P-3 in Nova Scotia public schools are eligible to apply.



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Hatching Chicks in Classrooms



Elementary school students can experience chicks hatching in the classroom while also meeting science, language arts, and math curriculum outcomes with the chick hatch program. Hatching eggs and incubators are provided to classrooms and the chicks will be collected 3-4 days after hatching.

Students monitor chick development in the egg and experience the wonder of new life. Teachers can create opportunities for developing competencies such as Communication, Critical Thinking, Personal Career Development, and Technological Fluency while meeting curriculum outcomes in Science, English Language Arts, and Mathematics.

Provided with the program are:

- An incubator with an automatic egg turner
- 12 hatching eggs
- An egg candler
- A heat lamp, shavings, chick feed, chick feeder, chick waterer
- Manual with instructions on operating the incubator and handling the eggs and chicks, as well as background information on chicken biology and reproduction
- A video series with instructions for students on setting up the incubator and handling the eggs, as well as virtual visits to Nova Scotia poultry farms and a video showing how to make a simple chicken and a simple egg recipe
- Staff support to answer questions and troubleshoot problems throughout the program

Incubators and eggs will be delivered to classrooms in March, April and May, exact dates will follow. Incubators will remain in classrooms for approximately 24 days. Department of Agriculture staff will deliver hatching eggs and incubators and then pick up the chicks.

Before applying to the program, teachers should take into consideration the following:

- Although the automatic egg turners eliminate the need for regular check ins on weekends, teachers may still need to check on the incubators after school hours, particularly in the event of a power outage
- Moving the incubator once the eggs have been placed inside it can negatively impact the hatching rate. Teachers intending to share the experience with another classroom should select a single location for the incubator
- The hatched chicks will be in the classroom for 3-4 days. There will be a bit of mess and mild odour before they are picked up
- It is a rare occurrence but sometimes none of the eggs hatch
- Only 1 application per school per year will be accepted

Hatching Chicks in Classrooms (*cont.*)

There are a limited number of incubators available. If more classrooms apply than can be supported by the program, the Department of Agriculture will prioritize applicants based on the following criteria:

- Geographic location
- New applicant to the program

This program is also available in French.

Eligibility

Elementary school teachers, Grades P-6, in Nova Scotia public schools are eligible to apply.



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Explore Farming in Nova Scotia: From Honeybees to Maple Trees



Explore Farming in Nova Scotia is a full-colour book for later elementary grades to learn about Nova Scotia's farming industry. Each sector is profiled with facts and photos of farms, farmers, and agricultural scientists. Books are available in English and French.

Explore Farming in Nova Scotia is a 30-page resource book for late elementary school students (particularly Grades 3-4) that supports learning about how food is produced. The colourful design creates an engaging reference to support student investigation into the topics of food and agriculture.

Explore Farming in Nova Scotia: From Honeybees to Maple Trees covers the following material:

- careers in agriculture
- honeybees
- apples
- strawberries
- blueberries
- cranberries
- greenhouse production
- vegetables
- chicken
- turkey
- eggs
- beef
- dairy
- sheep
- Christmas trees
- maple syrup

The book focuses on how these crops and livestock are grown and raised, science and technology used to improve production, animal and human nutrition, and suggestions for further investigation. Teachers can create opportunities for developing learning competencies while meeting outcomes in Health Education, Science, and Social Studies.

This resource book is available anytime throughout the year. Teachers can order one copy to use as a reference book in their classroom.

This program is also available in French.

Eligibility

Elementary school teachers Grades 3-6 in Nova Scotia public schools are eligible to apply.



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All Kinds of Apples Program



Elementary school students can experience different varieties of Nova Scotian apples while also meeting Health, Science, Social Studies and Mathematics curriculum outcome with the All Kinds of Apples Program.

Students will sample up to 4 different apple varieties grown in Nova Scotia, learn how apples are grown through a virtual farm tour as well as learn about research done on apples here in Nova Scotia. Teachers can create opportunities for developing competencies such as Communication, Critical Thinking, Personal Career Development, Citizenship, Connections, Mental Mathematics and Estimation, Visualization and Reasoning while meeting curriculum outcomes in Health Education, Science, Social Studies and Mathematics for Primary to Grade 3.

The All Kinds of Apples Program provides:

- 3-4 varieties of apples (3-pound bag of each variety)
- A video series on how apples are grown and apple research in Nova Scotia
- Lesson plan with curriculum connections, background information, guiding questions and a list of online resources
- Staff support to answer questions

This program will take place during October and November each year.

Teachers should take into consideration that apple varieties will depend on supplier inventory and classes may not all receive the same varieties.

This resource is also available in French.

Eligibility

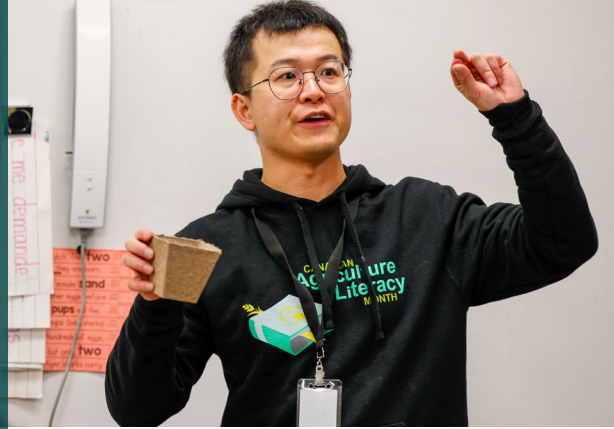
Elementary school teachers (Primary to 3) in Nova Scotia public schools are eligible to apply.



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Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month



Grade 3 students will learn about the farming industry and agricultural careers from guest speakers. Guest speakers will also help students plant mystery seeds, which will remain in the classroom. This activity supports Grade 3 Science and Math curriculum outcomes.

Canadian Agricultural Literacy Month takes place each year in March with the goal of connecting students with farmers and other agricultural professionals. Learning where their food comes from is a topic that every student will engage with. These speakers will be recruited by the Department of Agriculture to visit Grade 3 classrooms to tell students the story of their farms and agricultural careers, using pictures, videos and/or artefacts from their farms or businesses. Department of Agriculture staff will match guest speakers with participating teachers and allow them to coordinate when the classroom visits will take place.

The Department of Agriculture has developed a mystery seed activity to accompany the guest speakers. This experiential, inquiry-based activity will allow students to explore differences in plant growth in the classroom and connect how plants are grown in pots to how plants are grown on a farm via the video series.

Teachers can create opportunities for developing competencies such as such as Communication, Critical Thinking, Connections, Mental Mathematics and Estimation, Visualization, Technological Fluency, Problem Solving and Reasoning while meeting curriculum outcomes in Science and Mathematics for Grade 3.

Provided with the program are:

- A Nova Scotian farmer or agricultural professional guest speaker, prepared with a presentation, videos and/or artefacts from the farm or business to show the students
- A mystery seed kit with all necessary supplies for growing plants included, as well as instructions for planting and care
- A lesson plan with curriculum connections, background information, guiding questions and a list of online resources
- A mystery seed video series that connects the seeds grown in the classroom to a Nova Scotia vegetable farm
- Staff support to answer questions

This program will take place in late February and March each year.

Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month (*cont.*)

Teachers should take into consideration:

- Guest speaker availability will vary for each school. Unfortunately not all schools will be paired with a volunteer
- The mystery seed kit comes in a self-contained plastic container that measures 16" x 13" x 5.5" There must be an available surface to keep the container near an electrical outlet. A small grow lamp is included so the surface does not need to have access to natural light. The plants must be watered regularly
- There are limited French volunteers

This resource is also available in French.

Eligibility

Elementary School Grade 3 teachers in Nova Scotia public schools can apply.



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Little Green Sprouts Classroom Garden



Little Green Sprouts (LGS) is an indoor garden-based program for hands-on, inquiry-based learning in the classroom. The program equips teachers with the tools, skills, and training to grow classroom gardens and support students' academic and social growth.

As part of Little Green Sprouts, you will receive:

- A Little Green Sprouts indoor garden
- Growing trays and pots
- Seeds and Soil
- Teacher's Manual
- Online teacher training
- Access to Little Green Sprouts teacher portal full of learning resources, how-to videos and troubleshooting support
- Support from an Agriculture in the Classroom Nova Scotia Little Green Sprouts coordinator

The classroom will need:

- Access to a power outlet, as well as 1.2m (3.2 ft) by .5m (1.5 ft) space in which to assemble your garden
- A sturdy table, shelf, or countertop. Somewhere where it will not be easily bumped during normal everyday classroom activity
- Some access to water to water your plants (you can use a watering can or jug to transport water to your garden)

With a Little Green Sprouts garden, you can grow microgreens, such as pea, sunflower, kale, as well as herbs, such as basil, parsley, lemon balm or mint and lettuce and spinach greens. Teachers should take into consideration:

- Only one application per school will be accepted
- Teachers will be asked to sign a Memoriam of Understanding (MOU) with regards to sending the kit back at the end of the school year, staying in contact with the program coordinator, and completing a program evaluation

Little Green Sprouts Classroom Garden (cont.)

There are a limited number of Little Green Sprout kits available. If more classrooms apply than can be supported by the program, the Department of Agriculture will prioritize applicants based on the following criteria:

- Geographic location
- New applicant to the program

This program is available throughout the school year, teachers are encouraged to apply in the Fall as there are limited kits available. Returning teachers can register for replenishment supplies each year.

This program is also available in French.

Eligibility

Teachers for Grades 2-5 in Nova Scotia public schools are eligible to apply.



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A Pollinator's Habitat and its Connection to Agriculture



A learning experience exploring the importance of pollinators to crops in Nova Scotia and their necessary habitats.

This resource supports Grade 4 Science outcomes. Learners will explore the importance of pollination to Nova Scotia agriculture and examine how they could help farmers to protect native pollinator habitats. Background information is provided on pollinators and what fruits and vegetables require pollination to flourish as well as habitats for different pollinators.

A Pollinator's Habitat and its Connection to Agriculture provides:

- Lesson plan with curriculum connections to Grade 4 science outcomes, background information, guiding questions, hands on activities and a list of online resources
- Printed student habitat journal (one per student)
- Video on Nova Scotia pollination
- Staff support to answer questions

This program will open in January each year for registration, kits will be sent out in early Spring.

This program is available in French.

Eligibility

Grade 4 teachers in Nova Scotia public schools can apply.



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Simple Machines on the Farm



Classroom resources to support curriculum outcomes related to simple and compound machine outcomes for Grade 5 science teachers, using farm machinery as examples.

Learners can explore simple and compound machines with a focus on farm machinery with this Grade 5 resource. Background information on different types of farm machines is provided with details on how technology has changed how machines work. Teachers are provided with a simple, fun activity that can be done as a class or individually by each learner.

Simple Machines on the Farm Provides:

- Lesson plan with curriculum connections to Grade 5 science, background information, guiding questions and a list of online resources
- Simple and fun activity that can be done as a class or individually by learners
- Staff support to answer questions

This program is available anytime throughout the year.

This resource is available in French.

Eligibility

Grade 5 teachers in Nova Scotia public schools can apply.



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Weather on the Farm

Grade 5 Classroom Resource



Grade 5 Science, Social Studies and Math teachers can apply for classroom resources about weather and how it affects crops. Resources include a lesson plan, student activities and staff support. With Weather on the Farm, Grade 5 students can explore the topic of weather and how it affects food production.

The program includes:

- A lesson plan with curriculum connections to Grade 5 science, social studies and math, background information, guiding questions and online resources
- An activity that students can do individually or as a class
- Staff support to answer teachers' questions

This program is available anytime throughout the year.

This program is available in French.

Eligibility

Grade 5 teachers in Nova Scotia public schools can apply.



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Agriculture and Renewable Energy



Classroom resources to support curriculum outcomes related to renewable energy for Grade 6 Science and Math teachers, using biogas as an example.

Learners explore the topic of renewable energy with a focus on agriculture and biogas with this Grade 6 lesson plan. Background information on renewable energy is provided with details on how biodigesters operate on farms. Teachers are provided with a simple experiment that can be done as a class or individually by each learner.

Agriculture and Renewable Energy Program provides:

- Lesson plan with curriculum connections to Grade 6 science and math, background information, guiding questions and a list of online resources
- Simple and fun experiment that can be done as a class or individually by learners
- Staff support to answer questions

Teachers should take into consideration:

- The experiment materials are not provided (however they are low cost)

This resource is available anytime throughout the year.

This resource is also available in French.

Eligibility

Grade 6 science and math teachers in Nova Scotia public schools are eligible to apply.



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