



Department of Agriculture

Annual Report

2024-2025



Department of Agriculture

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Message from the Minister



The Honourable Dr. Wassim Salamoun
Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island
P.O. Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

May It Please Your Honour,

I have the honour to submit herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bloyce D." followed by a surname.

Bloyce Thompson
Minister of Agriculture

Department of Agriculture

Message from the Deputy Minister



Minister,

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025.

This report outlines the Department's activities from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carolyn Sanford".

Dr. Carolyn Sanford

Deputy Minister

Department of Agriculture

Year in Review: 2024-2025

The 2024-2025 fiscal year was a year of innovation, resilience, and collaboration as the Prince Edward Island (PEI) agriculture sector navigated global challenges, including shifting tariffs and trade dynamics. Through strategic investments, innovative programs, and collaborative partnerships, the Department of Agriculture advanced its vision to build a sustainable, prosperous, innovative, healthy, and resilient agriculture sector in PEI. This work was a collaborative effort across all three divisions of the Department.

Driving Competitiveness and Growth

Through the **Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership**, the Department invested over \$8.5 million in cost-shared funding to support agriculture industry, including over \$2.1 million in building sector capacity, growth, and competitiveness and over \$312,000 to support market development and trade. This includes a suite of cost-shared programs, such as the Business Development Program, Organic Industry Development Program, PEI Livestock Strategy Program, and Product and Market Development Program. The Department also launched the **Temporary Foreign Worker in Agriculture Housing Improvement Program**, providing \$198,000 to support projects to improve living conditions for temporary foreign workers in agriculture.

Promoting Environmental Sustainability

Environmental stewardship remained a cornerstone of the Department's work. The **Agriculture Energy Systems Pilot Program** supported 59 projects, helping producers save over \$500,000 annually and reduce emissions by nearly 20,000 tonnes of CO₂. The **Agriculture Stewardship Program** provided \$1.4 million in funding for 132 on-farm projects to implement beneficial management practices. The **Alternative Land Use Services Program** invested over \$1 million to support 74 new clients to convert environmentally sensitive land into biodiverse perennial landscapes. **Soil health initiatives** expanded through advisory services and testing, with 103 Soil Health Improvement Plans and over 1,000 soil health tests completed for Island producers.

Enhancing Animal and Plant Health

The Department strengthened animal and plant health through targeted programs and laboratory innovations. A partnership with the Atlantic Veterinary College provided discounted necropsies, generating valuable animal health data. **Pest monitoring** across major crops enabled producers to make informed decisions, reducing pesticide use and protecting yields. Laboratory innovations included the launch of **near-infrared (NIR) analysis** for forage and expanded **soil health testing**, aiming to improve turnaround times and supporting sustainable practices.

Building Resilience

The **Agriculture Resiliency Program** funded projects to conduct resiliency research, improve extreme weather preparedness, and support farmer wellness. The **Island Community Food Security Program** supported 25 initiatives such as community fridges, gardens, and meal programs. Efforts to improve traceability included updating the **Livestock Premises Identification Database** and promoting registration

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among livestock owners. The Department also contributed to **national pest surveillance and emergency response networks** to strengthen food system protection.

Legislation and Public Engagement

Public engagement and legislative modernization were key priorities. Updates were made to the ***Animal Health Act*** to improve emergency response and disease surveillance. A new ***Dog Owners Act*** was introduced with strengthened enforcement and dangerous dog provisions. The Department also partnered with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and potato industry to enhance the provincial **Bacterial Ring Rot regulatory activities** to improve disease detection and containment for non-seed potatoes. In collaboration with the Department of Education and Early Years and Agriculture in the Classroom PEI, a **Grade 6 Agriculture Pilot Program** was launched to provide participating public schools with tools and supplies for agriculture education. **Awareness programs** reached classrooms and communities, with presentations on animal welfare and biosecurity delivered to high school students and more than 1,800 Grade 3 students engaged through Agriculture Adventure Days and farm tours.

Fostering a Healthy and Inclusive Workplace

The Department continued to support mental health and inclusion in agriculture sector. The **FarmersTalk Program** provided confidential counseling services to farmers and their families, ensuring accessible mental health support. Core funding was allocated to organizations such as **4-H** and the **Women's Institute**, reinforcing community engagement and leadership development. Internally, the Department prioritized staff mental wellness and inclusion. Mental Health First Aid training was completed by frontline staff to strengthen support for colleagues and clients. Employees participated in Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) training and other inclusion initiatives, fostering a workplace culture that values diversity and equity.

Looking Ahead

The Department remains committed to building a competitive, sustainable, and resilient agriculture sector that supports producers, strengthens communities, and earns public trust. By working together with all stakeholders, communities, and interest groups within PEI's agriculture industry, we will continue to innovate, adapt, and grow.

Department Overview

The Department of Agriculture plays a vital role in leading our province's efforts to innovate our agriculture sector for success now and into the future, as well as safeguarding our precious land resource for all Islanders.

Mandate

As per the Ministerial Mandate Letter to the Minister of Agriculture that was delivered on August 8, 2023, the Minister of Agriculture is asked to:

- Continue to advocate for seed potato producers to get our world-class seed potatoes back into domestic and international markets;
- Continue to support healthy soil initiatives for farmers;
- Support the agriculture sector by exploring controlled-environment farming and indoor farming through state-of-the-art greenhouses, tunnels, hydroponics and enhanced storage and refrigeration;
- Continue to develop financial and support programs related to the beef industry to increase the number of animals raised and produced on Prince Edward Island;
- Working with the Minister of Fisheries, Sport, Tourism and Culture, promote local food products and support community-based promotional campaigns for our products from land and sea;
- Working with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, make provincially-owned land available for organizations to operate community gardens;
- Consulting with relevant organizations and stakeholders, begin the process of creating a provincial food waste reduction strategy;
- Provide core funding to organizations that run community fridges and fund an umbrella organization to work with community leaders across the province;
- Working with the Minister of Housing, Land and Communities, create the appropriate mechanisms through the development of a land-use plan to maintain agricultural land for food production;
- Working with the Minister of Health and Wellness and relevant stakeholders, continue to expand mental health services for farmers;
- Support diversification of crops to more fully prepare for and take advantage of climate change;
- Modernize the Agricultural Insurance Corporation;
- Working with the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Action, support green farming initiatives, including expanding solar programs for farms and making three-phase power more widely available to rural businesses and farms that contribute to our primary industries;
- Establish a long-term plan to manage the Island's dead stock safely;
- Continue to advocate for our farmers on a national and international basis to address production and export barriers;
- Work with the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Action to explore Agri-Tech opportunities for technological advancements in agriculture and food sector, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and

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- Working with the Minister of Housing, Land and Communities and the Minister of Workforce, Advanced Learning to provide support to farmers to address workforce challenges in agriculture, specifically focused on housing.

Strategic Plan 2021-2025

The following is from the Department of Agriculture and Land Strategic Plan 2021-2025.

**Note: In 2023, the Department of Agriculture and Land transitioned to the Department of Agriculture. An updated strategic plan for 2025-2029 will be implemented in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.*

Vision

A prosperous, innovative, and sustainable agriculture industry for the benefit of all Prince Edward Islanders; responsible land stewardship based on efficient and sustainable land use planning, regulation of land ownership, and protection of the natural and built environment.

Mission

Supporting the agriculture industry's prosperity, innovation, sustainability, and production of quality food through legislation, policies, programs, and services; providing quality land use planning, and safeguarding the natural and built environment, through the application of legislation and policy.

Values

Integrity We value integrity in our work with staff and stakeholders.

Innovation We value innovation—supporting staff and stakeholders to adopt new technologies and practices that add value to their work.

Sustainability We value environmental sustainability in agriculture, land use planning, and the natural and built environment.

Excellence We value excellence and continuous improvement in our work.

Accountability We value accountability and our commitment to deliver quality policies, programs, and services to the public.

Priorities

- Economic prosperity and financial stability in the agriculture industry
- Environmental sustainability and climate change
- Animal health and welfare, and food safety
- Provincial food system resiliency
- Land protection, use, ownership, and inspection services
- Communication and engagement
- Modern programs, services, and legislation
- Diversity, inclusion, and mental wellness

Focus Areas

- Support the competitiveness, productivity, and profitability of the agriculture industry

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- Support the expansion and diversification of markets, trade, and agricultural products
- Promote environmental sustainability by supporting soil health and the adoption of best practices in agriculture, land use planning, and inspection services
- Improve the delivery of business risk management programs to support the financial stability of agricultural producers
- Enhance animal health and welfare, plant health, as well as food safety, through the adoption of best practices and quality laboratory testing to support agriculture
- Contribute to the environmental, social, and economic wellbeing of the province through orderly land use planning, and the protection of public health, safety, and the natural and built environment
- Improve the resilience of the province's food system, including supply chains and community food security
- Improve legislation, policies, programs and services, and promote public trust and awareness in agriculture, land use planning, and inspection services through research, performance monitoring, and evaluation
- Promote a healthy and inclusive workplace, including mental wellness for internal and external stakeholders

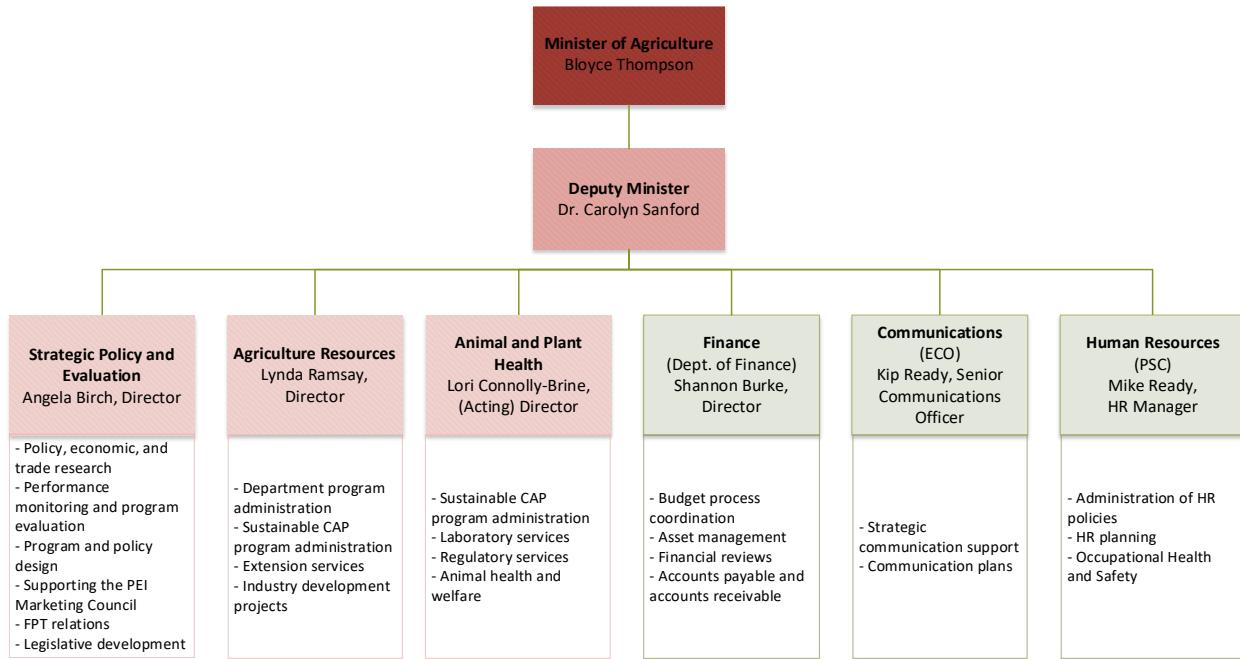
Legislative Responsibility

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Minister of Agriculture was responsible for administering the following legislation:

- *Agricultural Insurance Act*
- *Agricultural Products Standards Act*
- *Agrologists Act*
- *Animal Health Act*
- *Animal Welfare Act*
- *Dairy Producers Act*
- *Dog Act*
- *Farm Machinery Dealers and Vendors Act*
- *Farm Practices Act*
- *Farm Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act*
- *Grain Elevators Corporation Act*
- *Natural Products Marketing Act*
- *Plant Health Act*
- *Stray Livestock Act*
- *Veterinary Profession Act*
- *Weed Control Act*
- *Women's Institute Act*

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Organizational Chart



*As of March 31, 2025

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Staffing Summary

Human Resources as of March 31, 2025

Division	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total
Corporate Office	4	0	4
Agriculture Resources	31	4	35
Animal and Plant Health	24	5	29
Strategic Policy and Evaluation	7	0	7
Total	66	9	75

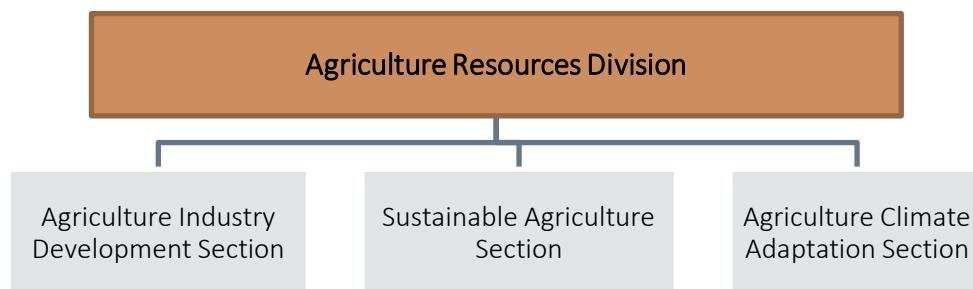
Employee Demographics as of March 31, 2025

	Female	Male
Average Age	43.0	44.0
Gender Distribution	56%	44%
25 Years of Service and Over	11%	4%
Senior Management by Gender	100%	0%
Manager and Supervisors by Gender	54%	46%
Non-Management by Gender	53%	47%

Division Responsibility

Agriculture Resources Division

The Agriculture Resources Division includes the Agriculture Industry Development Section, the Sustainable Agriculture Section, and the Agriculture Climate Adaptation Section.



Agriculture Industry Development Section

This section provides resources and agriculture extension to support agriculture industry development. Development Officers with crop and livestock commodity expertise provide extension support to

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producers, industry organizations and commodity groups on specific production-related topics, industry development projects, on-farm innovative technology demonstrations, and applied research trials. The section assists with updating website content and delivery of agriculture programs information. The section is responsible for the delivery of eight Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership programs, including:

- Business Development Program,
- Applied Research and Innovation Program,
- PEI Livestock Strategy Program,
- Product and Market Development Program,
- Future Farmer Program,
- Strategic Industry Growth Initiative,
- Island Community Food Security Program, and
- Agriculture Awareness Program.

The section also delivered the Agri-Food Growth Program and the Fiona Agriculture Support Program.

In 2024-25 the section developed and began the Grow the Herd Pilot Program focused on the beef industry.

Sustainable Agriculture Section

This section supports the agriculture sector in contributing to the priorities of soil conservation, climate change, soil health, clean water and air resources, and improved biodiversity. The section works to provide support to producers in voluntarily implementing beneficial management practices through the delivery of agri-environmental programs and services, including:

- Agriculture Stewardship Program,
- Alternative Land Use Services Program, and
- Soil Health Improvement Plan Service.

This section oversees the delivery of the PEI Assurance Systems Program, which provides assistance to address risks related to humans, animals, and plants.

The section also provides significant technical assistance and extension related to soil conservation, water quality and supply, nutrient management, crop rotation, soil health, and integrated pest management strategies. A key role of the section is to facilitate improved environmental outcomes through collaboration, partnership, and participation in various working groups, committees and initiatives with producer organizations, research institutions, watershed groups, and others.

Agriculture Climate Adaptation Section

This new section supports industry efforts to increase resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change impacts, while supporting proactive climate action. The section is also responsible for industry development activities for perennial crops, organic crops and bees. The section has responsibility for delivering the following programs:

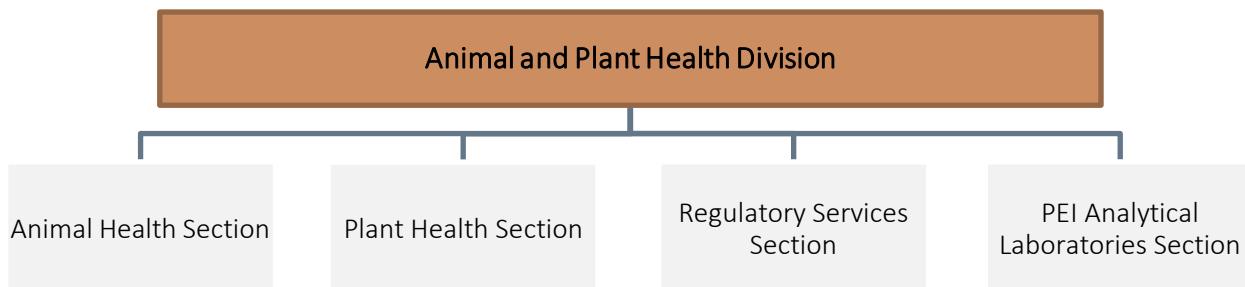
- Perennial Crop Development Program,

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- Pollination Expansion Sub-Program of the Livestock Strategy Program,
- Organic Industry Development Program,
- Agriculture Resiliency Program, and
- Agriculture Energy Systems Pilot Program.

Animal and Plant Health Division

The Animal and Plant Health Division (previously known as Animal Health, Regulatory, and Analytical Laboratories Division) includes the Animal Health Section, the Plant Health Section, the Regulatory Services Section, and the PEI Analytical Laboratories Section.



Animal Health Section

This section supports the agriculture and aquaculture sectors with animal health, emergency preparedness, and animal health disease prevention and surveillance. This section also provides expertise in research, epidemiology, traceability, and assurance programming.

Plant Health Section

This section focuses on safeguarding plant resources, ensuring agricultural sustainability, and protecting the environment and economy from plant pests and diseases. The key responsibilities of this section include, but are not limited to, plant disease and pest prevention and control, plant health surveillance and diagnostics, plant health research, plant pest emergency preparedness and outbreak response, and regulatory compliance and promotion of phytosanitary measures.

Regulatory Services Section

This section is responsible for safeguarding and supporting components of plant health, animal health and animal welfare. This is accomplished, in part, by administering and enforcing five provincial statutes and seven sets of regulations. This section responds to complaints from the public concerning the welfare of commercial animals (livestock) and collaborates with external groups involved in the protection of companion animals and plant health.

PEI Analytical Laboratories Section

Located in the Bio-Commons Park in Charlottetown, the PEI Analytical Laboratories Section is cooperatively managed by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action. This partnership allows for the sharing of staff, equipment, and supplies. The

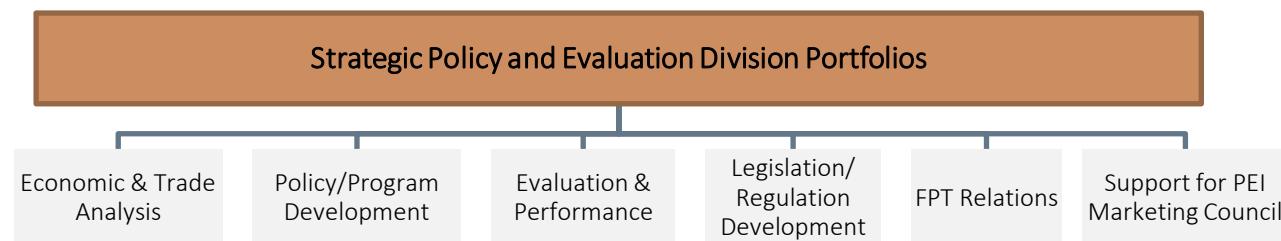
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laboratory is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada to the international standard for the competence of calibration and testing laboratories, ISO/IEC 17025. This laboratory delivers the following high-quality laboratory testing services:

- The Dairy Laboratory provides microbiological and compositional analysis of raw milk and finished dairy products.
- The Soil Laboratory provides chemical, physical and biological analysis of soil.
- The Feed and Special Product Testing Laboratory provides chemical analysis of animal feed, plant tissue, compost, manure, and greenhouse media.
- The Water Laboratory provides chemical and microbiological analysis of drinking water, surface water and wastewater.
- The Plant Diagnostics Laboratory provides disease identification services for commercial crops and home gardens. The laboratory operates on a seasonal basis from spring until fall.

Strategic Policy and Evaluation Division

The Strategic Policy and Evaluation Division provides policy services to the Department of Agriculture. The division is responsible for managing and coordinating priority policy projects and working across divisions and other areas of government to advance the department's policy agenda. The division works closely with other divisions, departments, and levels of government to translate priorities into policies, programs, and initiatives to produce measurable results. This includes oversight of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Multilateral Framework Agreement for the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2028) (see Appendix A).



Accountability Reporting

Throughout 2024-2025, the Department of Agriculture continued to make progress on the focus areas outlined in the Strategic Plan 2021-2025.

Support the competitiveness, productivity, and profitability of the agriculture industry

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Department implemented a range of initiatives to strengthen the competitiveness, productivity, and profitability of the agriculture industry on PEI. Key actions include:

- **Organic Industry Development Program**

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Invested **\$183,622** in **17 projects** to support organic producers to adopt specialized equipment, improve market access, convert land to organic production, and undertake strategic industry initiatives.

- **Pollination Expansion Sub-Program**

Provided **\$175,805** in funding for **15 projects** to support the pollination industry to expand and improve overwintering success.

- **Strategic Livestock Industry Enhancement Sub-Program**

Allocated **\$165,855** to **three industry organizations** to assist livestock producers in enhancing operations, including improvements to animal welfare and genetics.

- **Business Development Program**

Delivered funding for training, business planning and implementation, organizational development, benchmarking, risk management, sector capacity building, and agricultural labour supports. Through this program, the Department invested **\$279,722** in **seven projects** that focused on building sector capacity.

- **Temporary Foreign Worker Housing Improvement Program**

Launched the Temporary Foreign Worker in Agriculture Housing Improvement Program, committing support to **18 projects** to improve living conditions for temporary foreign workers in agriculture and providing **\$198,000** to those projects in the first year of the program.

- **Future of Farming Conference**

Hosted the first Future of Farming Conference in November 2024 that brought young and aspiring farmers together addressing key topics relevant to young people in agriculture.

- **Research Collaboration with UPEI**

Partnered with UPEI Faculty of Sustainable Design Engineering on the development of a GIS-based, data-driven tool that optimizes supplemental irrigation strategies. This project aimed at boosting farm productivity and profitability by using precision data to optimize irrigation, ensuring higher yields with lower costs, while building climate resilience for long-term competitiveness of the PEI agriculture industry.

- **Dairy Composition Analysis**

Completed equipment validation for fatty acid analysis in raw milk. This test will provide critical insights into herd health and feeding efficiency, supporting high-quality milk production. Testing services will be available for bulk tank and individual cow raw milk samples in the 2025–2026 fiscal year.

- **Wild Blueberry Cost of Production Study**

Developed a cost-of-production study and tool to help the wild blueberry industry better understand and manage its costs.

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- **Agricultural Commodity Price Monitoring**

Provided weekly summaries of agricultural commodity prices to enable monitoring of market trends.

- **PEI Marketing Council**

Supported the PEI Marketing Council in its supervisory role for the commodity boards and groups under the *Natural Products Marketing Act*. The council reviewed meeting reports, approved amendments for commodity regulations and Board Orders, and conducted commodity board elections and appointments. The council is also conducting a plebiscite for the wild blueberry growers.

- **Governance Support**

Supported three ministerial and four Lieutenant Governor in Council boards to make sure they stay fully constituted, which allowed operations of these boards to continue as outlined in their governing legislation.

Support the expansion and diversification of markets, trade, and agricultural products

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Department advanced initiatives to broaden market opportunities and diversify agricultural products. Key actions included:

- **Product and Market Development Program**

Provided **\$262,741** in funding for **19 projects** to assist companies in expanding their markets. This included support for product and packaging development for new markets and the acquisition of equipment to enable product diversification.

- **Perennial Crop Development Program**

Invested **\$255,040** to support **35 projects** that focused on converting annual cropland to perennial, carbon-sequestering orchards, and enhancing post-harvest storage and value-added processing capabilities.

Promote environmental sustainability by supporting soil health and the adoption of best practices in agriculture

During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, the Department advanced initiatives to strengthen environmental sustainability, improve soil health, and encourage adoption of best practices across the agriculture sector. Key actions included:

- **Soil Health Improvement Plan**

Delivered free advisory services to producers to assess soil health and set improvement actions. In 2024–2025, **103 Soil Health Improvement Plans** were completed for approximately **16 clients** (including 5 new clients).

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- **Soil Health Testing**

Provided free soil health testing packages alongside nutrient analysis. In 2024–2025, **\$66,445** was covered for approximately **1,062 soil health tests**.

- **Agriculture Energy Systems Pilot Program**

Developed and launched the **Agriculture Energy Systems Pilot Program** and hired an Agriculture Energy Systems Specialist to work with farmers to optimize energy use, improve efficiency, and increase renewable energy generation. In the first intake (2023–2025), **59 projects** were completed with an investment of **\$1.4 million**, projected to save clients **\$516,731 per year** and reduce emissions by **19,520 tonnes of CO₂** over the lifespan of project activities.

- **Advanced Grazing Extension Program**

Launched an **Advanced Grazing Extension Program** and supported **42 new practitioners** through one-on-one coaching to improve farm productivity and carbon sequestration, convened a grazing peer mentorship club, and hosted a series of pasture walks.

- **Agriculture Stewardship Program**

The **Agriculture Stewardship Program** continues to be a highly used agri-environmental funding program, providing financial and technical support to producers for sustainability and climate change mitigation and adaptation. A total of **\$1,398,322** was paid out under four sub-programs in 2024–2025. Two main sub-programs are as follows:

- **Beneficial Management Practices Sub-Program**

Supported cost-shared on-farm projects to develop, promote, and implement Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs), with approximately **132 projects** completed in 2024–2025. Uptake included:

- Soil Health & Nutrient Management (**65 projects**)
- Manure & Livestock Management (**21 projects**)
- Agroforestry (**4 projects**)
- Water Supply & Management (**22 projects**)
- Integrated Pest Management (**20 projects**)

- **Environmental Farm Plan Sub-Program**

Promoted and shared information on on-farm environmental risks and BMPs and assisted producers and landowners in risk assessment and action planning through completion of approximately **80 Environmental Farm Plans**, with **\$206,241** paid in 2024–2025.

- **Alternative Land Use Services Program**

Financially supported **337 clients** to adopt and maintain BMPs and convert environmentally sensitive land with annual crop production to biodiverse perennial landscapes. Examples of BMPs include delayed hay cutting or deferred grazing to support bobolink habitat, conversion of targeted areas of high slope land or seasonally wet cropland to take them out of production,

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and expanded buffer zones. In the 2024–2025 fiscal year, approximately **74 new clients** entered in the Alternative Land Use Services Program, with **\$890,755** committed for payments.

- **Research**

- Trialed a novel method of carcass destruction as an alternate disposal method for emergency disease preparedness.
- Collaborated with UPEI to develop a **PEI Climate/Pest Prediction System** which can accurately forecast pest outbreaks, enabling farmers to apply pesticides only when and where necessary. This aims to reduce chemical usage and input costs, while increasing productivity.
- Updated lime requirement recommendations on soil nutrient test reports to ensure evidence-based practices and reduce environmental impacts.

Enhance animal health and welfare, plant health, as well as food safety, through the adoption of best practices and quality laboratory testing to support agriculture

During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, the Department advanced initiatives to strengthen animal health and welfare, plant health, and food safety by promoting best practices and delivering high-quality laboratory services. Key actions included:

Animal Health

- Participated in national, international, provincial, and regional animal health discussions focused on **animal disease preparedness and emergency response** using a One Health approach.
- Served on an interdepartmental **One Health Committee** with staff from the Department of Health and Wellness and the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action.
- Communicated **disease awareness** messaging to local veterinarians and partners to build awareness during outbreak situations.
- Partnered with the Diagnostic Services at the Atlantic Veterinary College to provide **low-cost necropsy services** to livestock producers through a one-year funding agreement, collecting valuable animal health data.
- Published three quarterly newsletters for the veterinary community summarizing 135 discounted necropsies performed under the **Supporting PEI Animal Agriculture Procedures with Local Diagnostic Services** Program.
- Delivered animal welfare messaging through public lectures to schools, 4-H groups, commodity organizations, and veterinary professionals.
- In conjunction with federal and provincial partners, reviewed **650 introductions and transfers applications** and analyzed more than **16,000 laboratory submissions** to support finfish and shellfish health decisions.

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Plant Health

- Conducted **field pest monitoring** of **15 major pest species** across five key crops, providing weekly evidence-based reports to producers during growth season to improve pest management decisions. This enabled targeted pesticide applications, reduced unnecessary input costs, minimized crop losses and protected yield, and directly enhanced productivity and profitability.
- Participated in regional, national, and international **pest monitoring networks** to maintain PEI's reputation in domestic and international trade by exchanging vital pest status information and producing credible, standardized data.
- Assisted in the development of biosecurity communication materials through the **Canadian Plant Health Council Biosecurity Working Group**. These materials aimed at promoting best practices in the use of farm-level crop biosecurity for reducing the risk of pest and pathogen spread.
- Collaborated with crop specialists and strawberry growers to identify a **novel strawberry disease** and develop **targeted control measures** to safeguard crop health and ensure sustainable production for growers.
- Acted as a co-investigator on an Atlantic Veterinary College-led multidisciplinary project to develop effective **control strategies for darkling beetles**, a major pest threatening poultry health across Canada.
- Provided **plant disease diagnostic services** to support the agriculture industry with disease identification. By accurately identifying pathogens and providing science-based management recommendations, the service contributed to improved plant health management and promoted sustainable agriculture practices.
- Delivered presentations on integrated pest management, pest identification, and pesticide control at **eight producer-facing events**, including a Potato Crop Scouting Workshop and the Continuing Education Credit Program for Class A Pesticide Applicators.
- Completed **eight formal insect and weed identifications** for clients through PEI Analytical Laboratories, along with numerous informal identifications and on-farm extension visits on farms.

Laboratory Services

- The Dairy Microbiology Lab provided **analysis of processed dairy products** (e.g., cheese, ice cream) to ensure compliance with food safety regulations.
- The Feed Lab soft-launched a **near-infrared (NIR) analysis package** for forage samples and processed approximately **485 samples**, which enables quick turnaround of results and faster animal health decisions at the farm level.

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- The Soil Health Lab introduced **tiered soil health test packages** (from basic to detailed packages) to improve client service and turnaround times and processed **1,801 samples**.

Regulatory Services

- Issued **74 seed planting permits** for the planting of seed potatoes from outside PEI and implemented the **Post-Harvest Potato Virus Program** to ensure the quality of PEI seed potatoes.
- Collaborated with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to support **potato wart control** and promoted the implementation and continued use of biosecurity measures to minimize the spread of bacterial ring rot between potato farms.
- Responded to **166 animal welfare complaints** from the public.

Improve the resilience of the province's food system, including supply chains and community food security

During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, the Department implemented initiatives to strengthen food system resilience, enhance supply chain stability, and support community food security. Key actions included:

- **Agriculture Resiliency Program**
Developed and launched the Agriculture Resiliency Program featuring three sub-programs: Agriculture Resiliency Research Sub-Program, Extreme Weather Preparedness Sub-Program, and Producer Wellness Sub-Program. This program supported **9 projects** with a total investment of **\$77,354**.
- **Island Community Food Security Program**
Provided **\$201,367** in funding to community groups to support **25 projects** related to community fridges, gardens and meals.
- **Livestock Premises Identification Database Review**
Conducted a review of the Livestock Premises Identification Database to improve traceability and ensure accurate, up-to-date information. During the 2024-2025 fiscal year,
 - **1,080 Premise ID signs** were mailed to registrants for easy record keeping;
 - **428 updates** were made to the database; and
 - **46 new registrations** were recorded.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Pest Surveillance**
 - Contributed to the **Canadian Plant Health Council Emergency Response Work Group** to strengthen provincial preparedness and communication during pest incursions to enhance food system resilience.
 - Participated in the **Canadian Plant Health Council Insect Surveillance Community of Practice Working Group**, supporting development and distribution of **Priority Invasive and Migratory Insect Posters** for all Canadian provinces to enhance early-warning capacity and support protection of food security.

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- **Industry Support and Food Safety**

Supported the dairy and potato industries in maintaining product quality and safety.

- **Food Waste Consultation**

Completed a province-wide consultation to better understand food waste challenges, engaging food supply chain partners, community and charity organizations, and the public.

Improve legislation, policies, programs and services, and promote public trust and awareness in agriculture through research, performance monitoring, and evaluation

During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, the Department worked to strengthen legislative frameworks, enhance programs and services, and build public trust through education, research, and performance monitoring. Key actions included:

- **Agriculture Awareness Program**

Provided funding to **Agriculture in the Classroom** and **Farm & Food Care** to promote public trust in agriculture in PEI through educational materials and presentations to classrooms and public events.

- **Public Awareness and Education**

- Presented to students in **five high schools** on the topic of **animal welfare and biosecurity**.
- Engaged with more than **1,800 Grade 3 students** on animal welfare through the **Agriculture Adventure Days and Farm Tours**.

- **Assurance Systems Program**

The Assurance Systems Program supports a variety of projects driven by industry organizations that are designed to improve the anticipation, mitigation, and response to risks related to humans, animals, and plants, often through biosecurity, traceability, food safety, animal welfare, and surveillance activities. In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, this program supported **six projects** with a total investment of **\$128,995**.

- **Bacterial Ring Rot Regulatory Activities**

Collaborated with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and key potato industry to strengthen **Bacterial Ring Rot (BRR) regulatory activities**, supporting the development and implementation of an enhanced, science-based BRR testing for non-seed potatoes to improve disease detection and containment.

- Collaborated with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and potato industry to advance **regulatory improvements for potato wart**, strengthening protection for PEI's potato sector.
- Communicated with Canadian Food Inspection Agency and industry partners to address legislative issues related to **box tree moth**, protecting the provincial nursery industry.

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- Monitored client satisfaction through anonymous surveys at PEI Analytical Laboratories, achieving **93% satisfaction** in 2024.
- Published infographics for the final year (2022-2023) of the **Canadian Agriculture Partnership**.

Legislative Updates

- Completed **amendments to the Animal Health Act** that will enable better response to animal disease outbreaks and address gaps in areas of emergency response and disease surveillance. The amendments were passed in the legislature in November 2024 and will come into force once regulations are complete.
- Completed **amendments to the Animal Welfare Regulations** under the **Animal Welfare Act** to update references to codes and guidelines in the regulations to the most current version.
- Conducted extensive research and interprovincial collaboration to inform the legislative review of PEI's **Plant Health Act and regulations**, ensuing evidence-based decisions.
- Completed a new **Dog Owners Act** to replace the **Dog Act**. The new Act will strengthen enforcement and dangerous dog provisions as well as modernize the format and language. The **Dog Owners Act** was passed in the legislature in November 2024 and will come into force once regulations are complete.
- Worked with PEI Chicken Farmers Board and the PEI Marketing Council to complete amendments to the **Poultry Meat Commodity Regulations** under the **Natural Products Marketing Act** to modernize language and bring the election procedures in line with most other active commodity boards under the Act that already allow for mail-in ballots.
- Worked with the Hog Commodity Board and the PEI Marketing Council to complete amendments to the **Hog Commodity Marketing Regulations** under the **Natural Products Marketing Act** to modernize and update wording throughout the regulations.
- Worked on proposed amendments to the **Veterinary Profession Act** to promote public trust and awareness in the veterinary profession in PEI.

Promote a healthy and inclusive workplace, including mental wellness for internal and external stakeholders

During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, the Department implemented the following actions to promote a healthy and inclusive workplace:

- **FarmersTalk Program**
Funded the FarmersTalk Program, which provides confidential, professional counselling services to farmers, farm employees and their families. All PEI Analytical Laboratories' mailouts included the FarmersTalk.ca web address and hotline number to promote FarmersTalk to support farmers' mental health.

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- **Funding to 4-H**

Provided a total of **\$269,500** in funding to engage youth and underrepresented groups in participation in agriculture and provide leadership and skill development to strengthen community in agriculture.

- **Funding to Women's Institute**

Provided a total of **\$118,000** in funding to the Women's Institute for projects that aimed to develop leadership among women in agriculture, improve social wellbeing, promote diversity and inclusion, and increase public trust in agriculture.

- **Mental Health First Aid Training**

Frontline staff from all three sections of the Agriculture Resources Division attended a two-day Mental Health First Aid Training in March/April 2025 that was delivered by Mental Health First Aid Canada.

- **Mental Health Survey**

The Animal Health team assisted in developing and delivering a mental health survey to agricultural producers and workers.

- **GBA+ Training**

All members of the Animal Health team, including summer students, completed Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) training.

- **Mental Health and Inclusion Training**

Staff were encouraged to participate in mental health and inclusion training, with several staff taking advantage of the opportunity.

- **Social Committee Initiatives**

The Department's staff social committees promoted inclusion, celebrated diversity, and organized activities to reduce stress.

Department of Agriculture

Financial Statement

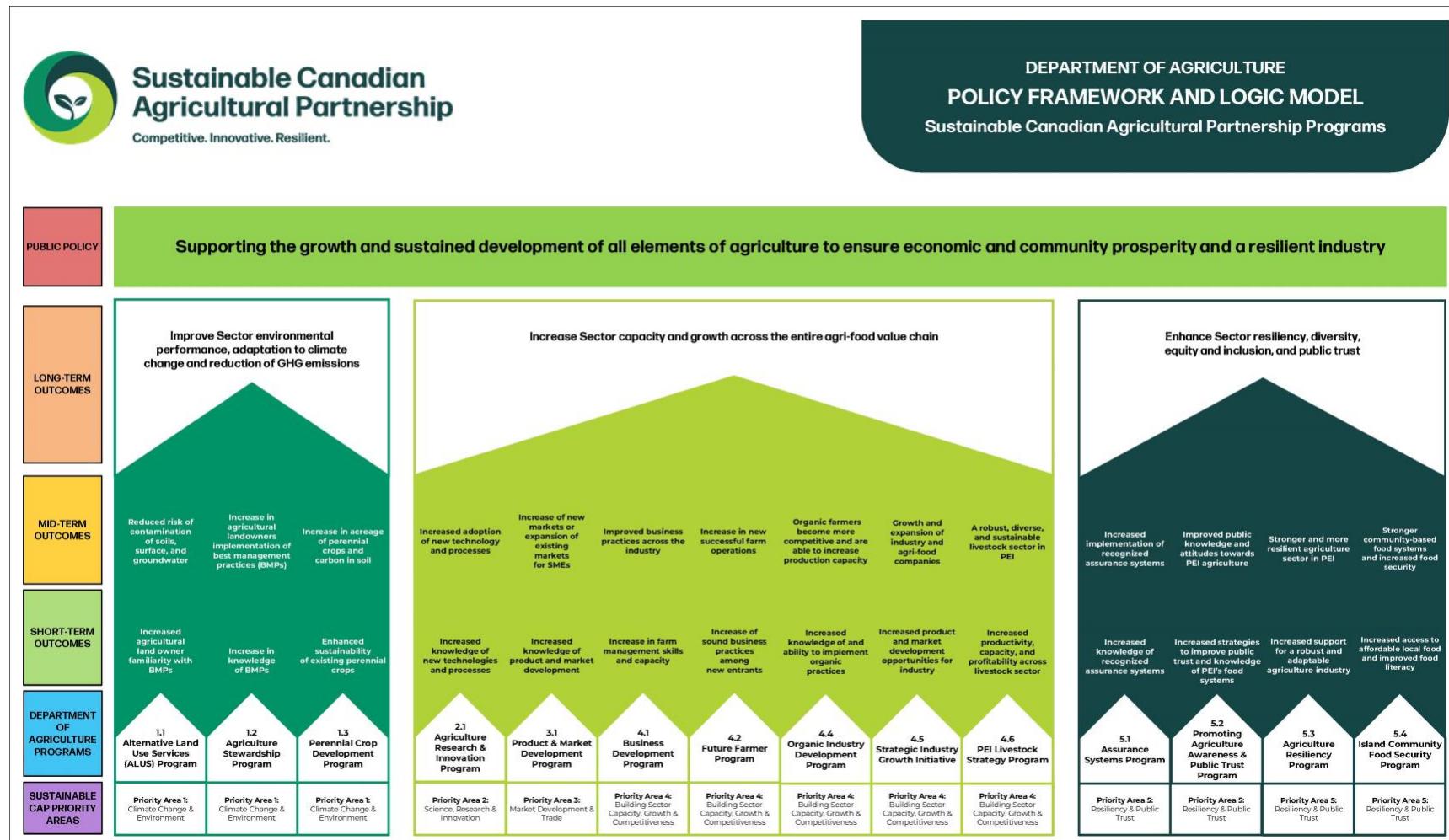
Department of Agriculture Expenditures and Revenue Summary 2024-2025 Fiscal Year

Division	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual Expenditures/Revenue
EXPENDITURE			
Department Management	\$712,100	\$712,100	\$521,703
Agriculture Resources	\$15,482,000	\$15,482,000	\$12,621,821
Strategic Policy and Evaluation	\$2,002,000	\$2,002,000	\$1,560,177
Animal and Plant Health	\$4,479,700	\$4,479,700	\$4,481,827
PEI Agriculture Insurance Corporation	\$16,294,900	\$16,294,900	\$18,650,789
Total Expenditure	\$38,970,700	\$38,970,700	\$37,836,317
REVENUE			
Department Management	\$5,895,200	\$5,895,200	\$4,557,120
Agriculture Resources	\$3,489,200	\$3,489,200	\$2,469,338
Strategic Policy and Evaluation	-	-	-
Animal and Plant Health	\$1,067,700	\$1,067,700	\$1,339,821
PEI Agriculture Insurance Corporation	-	-	-
Total Revenue	\$10,452,100	\$10,452,100	\$8,366,279
TOTAL NET	\$28,518,600	\$28,518,600	\$29,470,038

Financial information is based on the 2024-2025 Public Accounts, Volume II.

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Appendix A. Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership Logic Model



Department of Agriculture

SUSTAINABLE CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP (SUSTAINABLE CAP), 2023 – 2028

Strategic Agriculture Programs at the PEI Department of Agriculture • Logic Model Backgrounder • Prince Edward Island, Canada

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) is a new \$3.5-billion, 5-year agreement (April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2028) between the federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) governments to strengthen the competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector. The agreement includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and \$2.5 billion in cost-shared programs and activities funded by FPT governments. Sustainable CAP marks an ambitious path forward and positions Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector for continued success as a world leader in economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable agriculture.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES FOR PROGRAMS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

As per the Multilateral Framework Agreement (MFA) signed by all FPT Ministers of Agriculture, all programs administered under the Sustainable CAP at the PEI Department of Agriculture must work towards one of the following **three** outcomes:

1. Improve Sector environmental performance, adaptation to climate change and reduction of GHG emissions;
2. Increase Sector capacity and growth across the entire agri-food value chain; and
3. Enhance Sector resiliency, diversity, equity and inclusion, and public trust.

These outcomes were developed following broad-based consultations with national, regional, and provincial groups representing the agriculture industry in Canada. These three outcomes direct the activities of each program and represent the Department of Agriculture's public policy agenda for agriculture development in PEI. Programs are evaluated based on their contributions towards each of these outcomes.

PROGRAMS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The fourteen strategic agriculture programs administered at the Department of Agriculture under the Sustainable CAP includes the continuation of programs from the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (2018-2023) and the addition of new programs which further align the suite of programs to Sustainable CAP's outcomes and priority areas. The development of Sustainable CAP programs at the Department of Agriculture were informed by: consultations with industry groups on PEI; feedback received from the public; and peer-reviewed literature on agriculture development. Consultation reports can be found at: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/er/topic/policy-research> (see Next Policy Framework (2023 to 2028) documents).

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Department of Agriculture continuously monitors the performance of Sustainable CAP programs. In addition, evaluations to determine program performance, relevancy and impact is a part of the Department's planning cycle.

PRIORITY AREAS FOR PROGRAMS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In addition to the outcomes, all Sustainable CAP programs must also align with one of the following **five priority areas**:

1. **Climate Change and Environment** - Tackling **climate change and environmental protection** to support GHG emission reductions and the long-term vitality of the sector while positioning producers and processors to seize economic opportunities from evolving consumer demands
2. **Science, Research & Innovation** - Continued and targeted investments in **science, research and innovation** to address key challenges and opportunities
3. **Market Development & Trade** - Supporting sustainable agriculture and economic growth by creating the conditions for Canadian businesses to meet evolving challenges of the interconnected **domestic and global marketplace**
4. **Building Sector Capacity, Growth & Capacity** - Building **sector capacity** and **growth** through realizing the potential of value added agri-food and agri-products
5. **Resiliency and Public Trust** - Enhancing **resiliency** to anticipate, mitigate and respond to risks, including a robust suite of Business Risk Management programs

These priority areas were developed based on feedback from national, regional and provincial groups representing the agriculture industry in Canada. These priority areas establish parameters for the types of activities supported by each program.



