

Department of Agriculture

Annual Report

2023-2024



Department of Agriculture

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

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November, 2024

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, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bloyce Thompson'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bloyce Thompson
Minister 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, 2024.

This report outlines the Department's activities from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G MacFadyen', written in a cursive style.

Gordon MacFadyen

Deputy Minister

Department of Agriculture

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Highlights of Accomplishments

The Prince Edward Island (PEI) Department of Agriculture is committed to leading our province's efforts to innovate our agriculture sector for success now and into the future, as well as safeguarding our precious land resources for all Islanders. In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Department continued to support the agriculture sector in PEI through the delivery of programs and services, inclusive and meaningful engagement, and its policies and legislation. The Department strives to grow a sustainable, prosperous, innovative, healthy, and resilient agriculture sector in PEI. This will be achieved through the efforts of all its divisions: Agriculture Resources; Animal Health, Regulatory and Analytical Laboratories; and Strategic Policy and Evaluation.

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

In 2023-2024, the [Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership](#) (Sustainable CAP) was launched, representing an investment of over \$46 million into PEI's agriculture industry over a five-year period (April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2028). Through federal and provincial investment, Sustainable CAP will fund over a dozen program streams that aim to support the competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of the agriculture industry. Additionally, Sustainable CAP will continue to help producers manage risks that threaten the sustainability of their farm and that are beyond their capacity to manage through a suite of Business Risk Management Programs, including AgriStability, AgriInsurance, AgriInvest and AgriRecovery.

Hurricane Fiona Recovery Support

This year, the Department continued delivering the [Fiona Agriculture Support Program](#) to support agriculture industry in mitigating the impacts of Hurricane Fiona. In September 2023, the Department launched the [Canada – Prince Edward Island Fiona Fruit Tree Recovery Initiative](#) to support producers in the tree fruit sector that incurred extraordinary costs due to Hurricane Fiona. This initiative, under AgriRecovery, will provide eligible fruit tree growers with over \$1.7 million in federal/provincial cost-shared funding to support extraordinary costs such as the replacement and restoration of trellis infrastructure, labour costs, and the replacement and straightening of damaged trees. Furthermore, the Prince Edward Island Agriculture Fiona Recovery Fund (PEIAgFRF) was initiated to support agricultural operations who experienced significant infrastructure damage on insured assets from Hurricane Fiona and were not able to fully rebuild or replace the infrastructure through disaster relief supports. The program is available through an \$8.5M investment from the Government of Canada, through the Atlantic Canadian Opportunities Agency (ACOA), and administered by the PEI Department of Agriculture.

Environmental Sustainability

In response to the emerging need for expansion of livestock operations and sustainable manure management practices on PEI, the Department updated the [Guidelines for Manure Management for Prince Edward Island](#), published in 1999. These updated guidelines are intended to provide information to the government, agriculture industry, and members of the public on recommended manure management practices on PEI. As well, the Department continued to support Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) and soil health through programs, services, and research. This included new testing packages added to the soil health analysis package at the PEI Analytical Laboratories, on-farm biomass

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trials for soil building crops, launch of a series of Soil Health Webinars, and release of [2023 Soil Quality Monitoring Project Report](#) and [2023 Manure Nutrient Analysis Report](#). The Department also launched a renewed [Agriculture Stewardship Program](#) and a renewed [Alternative Land Use Services \(ALUS\) program](#) under the Sustainable CAP, supporting the implementation of BMPs and conservation of agricultural landscapes.

Climate Change and Resiliency

This year, a new section – Agriculture Climate Adaptation Section – was established in the Department. This section will support industry efforts to increase resilience and capacity in adapting to climate change impacts while supporting proactive climate action. In February 2024, the Department launched the [PEI Agriculture Energy Systems Pilot Program](#), which represents a \$1.4 million provincial investment into the local agriculture industry to support the adoption of clean technologies and processes that improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce energy costs. In addition, the Department continued delivering the Nature Smart Climate Solutions project, with funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada, and collaborating with the PEI Federation of Agriculture on a climate action initiatives project.

Animal Health and Wellness

This year, the Department continued its legislative research for the *Animal Health Act*, the *Veterinary Professions Act*, and the *Dog Act*. The Department launched a public consultation on the proposed *Dog Owners Act* and an industry consultation on the *Animal Health Act*. The Department also developed response plans and case definitions for proposed list of named diseases for the modernization of the *Animal Health Act*. Furthermore, the Department partnered with Diagnostic Services at the Atlantic Veterinary College to provide low-cost necropsy services to Island livestock producers and collected valuable animal health data to share with Island veterinarians.

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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 mandate includes:

- 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. (Please note, in April 2023, the Department of Agriculture and Land changed to the Department of Agriculture. The Department is currently reviewing and updating its strategic plan.)

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

<i>Integrity</i>	We value integrity in our work with staff and stakeholders.
<i>Innovation</i>	We value innovation—supporting staff and stakeholders to adopt new technologies and practices that add value to their work.
<i>Sustainability</i>	We value environmental sustainability in agriculture, land use planning, and the natural and built environment.
<i>Excellence</i>	We value excellence and continuous improvement in our work.
<i>Accountability</i>	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
- Support the expansion and diversification of markets, trade, and agricultural products

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- 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

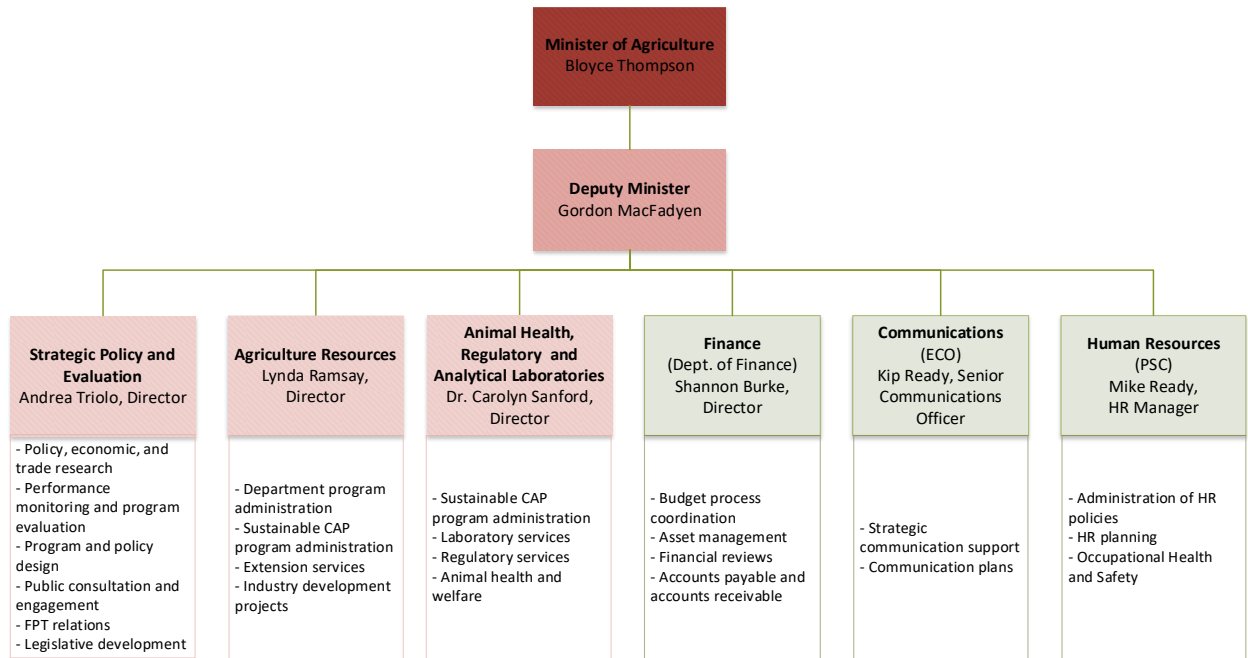
Legislative Responsibility

During the 2023/2024 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

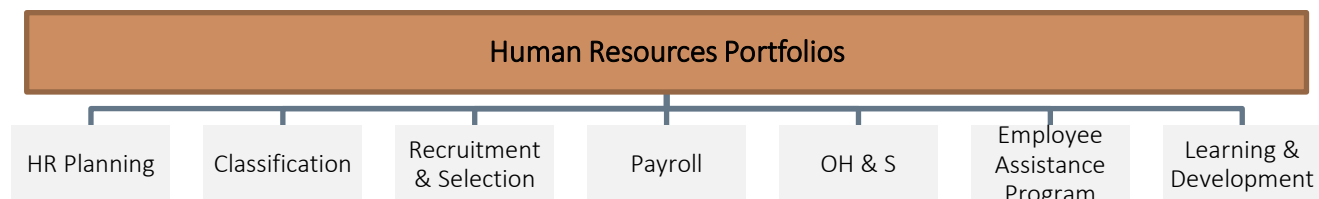


*As of March 31, 2024

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Human Resources

The Human Resources Section is part of the PEI Public Service Commission and has been assigned to the Department of Agriculture to provide advice, support, and assistance regarding all aspects of human resources and workforce relations. The section ensures that human resource policies and programs are consistent and aligned with the Department's strategic direction, while also supporting the Department in advancing its mandate.



Areas of Focus in 2023-2024:

- ✓ Equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives
- ✓ Employee engagement initiatives
- ✓ Training and development opportunities for staff
- ✓ Leadership development opportunities for the management team
- ✓ Strengthening recruitment strategies
- ✓ Continuing to strengthen the Department's OH&S Program

Human Resources as of March 31, 2024

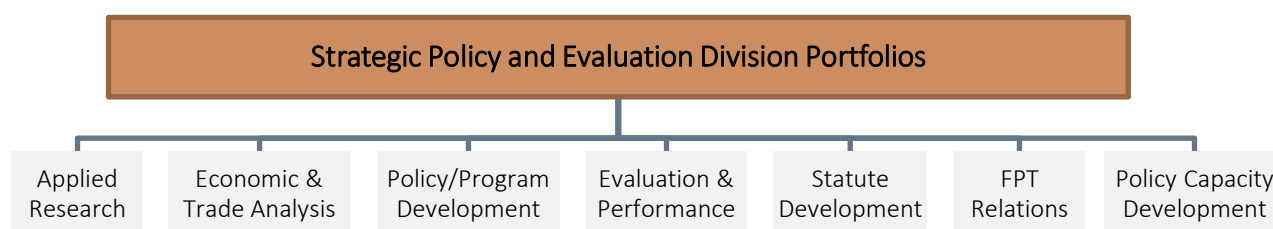
Division	Full-Time	Part-Time	Total
Corporate Office	4	0	4
Agriculture Resources	32	2	34
Animal Health, Regulatory and Analytical Labs	24	3	27
Strategic Policy and Evaluation	7	0	7
Total	67	5	72

Employee Demographics as of March 31, 2024

	Female	Male
Average Age	43.4	43.5
Gender Distribution	61%	39%
25 Years of Service and Over	14%	7%
Senior Management by Gender	67%	33%
Manager and Supervisors by Gender	59%	41%
Non-Management by Gender	65%	35%

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.



Key Results in 2023-2024:

Applied Research

- ✓ Completed research to support the development of a program to support agriculture resiliency
- ✓ Completed a jurisdictional scan on food waste reduction strategies to support the development of a provincial food waste reduction strategy
- ✓ Completed a jurisdictional scan on grain elevators corporations in Canada to support the strategic planning process for PEI Grain Elevators Corporation

Economic and Trade Analysis

- ✓ Completed a jurisdictional scan on weekly agriculture market reports
- ✓ Updated weekly agriculture market report template
- ✓ Continued to participate in the Atlantic Agriculture Labour Working Group to support activities related to labour issues
- ✓ Continued to participate in FPT groups related to economic and trade issues

Policy/Program Development

- ✓ Launched a suite of programs under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership
- ✓ Started the process for developing a food waste reduction strategy
- ✓ Developed a program to help improve the quality of housing for temporary foreign workers in the agriculture sector
- ✓ Provided support related to Prince Edward Island Marketing Council activities and Agencies, Boards and Commissions appointments for 2023/2024 fiscal year

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Evaluation and Performance Monitoring

- ✓ Completed final reporting for Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) programs
- ✓ Developed four infographics for the impacts and results of CAP programs in 2021/2022

Statute Development

- ✓ Continued the legislative research for the further development of the *Veterinary Professions Act* and the *Dog Act*
- ✓ Completed the legislative research for the amendments to the *Agricultural Insurance Act* and the *Animal Health Act*
- ✓ Released public consultation on the proposed *Dog Owners Act*
- ✓ Conducted industry consultation on the *Animal Health Act*
- ✓ Passed amendments to the *Agricultural Insurance Act*

Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Relations

- ✓ Represented the Department on over fifteen (15) FPT and PT committees
- ✓ Continued to communicate with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on priorities of mutual interest

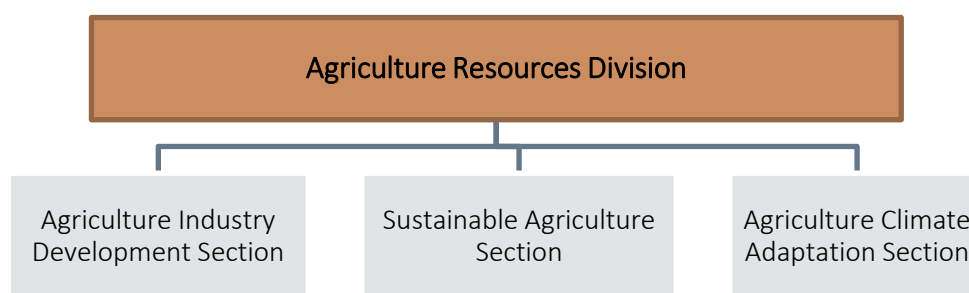
Policy Capacity Development

- ✓ Continued to implement the Policy Capacity Development and Mentorship Program
- ✓ Provided co-chair services to the interdepartmental Policy Capacity Development Forum
- ✓ Division staff completed policy capacity training activities, including Survey Methods for Program Evaluation, Introduction to Economic Evaluation, Applying an Inclusion Lens in Decision Making, Indigenous Cultural Awareness, Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, Dynamics of Policy Development and Policy Innovation, Qualitative Data Analysis, Writing for Government, How Government Works, Conflict Management, Strategies for Leading Inclusive and Respectful Workplace Culture, and Coaching Skills for Performance Management.

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Agriculture Resources Division

The Agriculture Resources Division was expanded in 2023-2024 with the addition of the Agriculture Climate Adaptation Section to complement the Agriculture Industry Development Section and the Sustainable Agriculture Section.



Agriculture Industry Development Section

This section provides resources to support agriculture industry development. Development Officers with crop and livestock commodity expertise are available to work with producers and industry organizations and commodity groups on specific production-related topics, industry development projects, on-farm innovative technology demonstrations, and applied research trials.

The section is responsible for the delivery of eight Sustainable CAP 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.

Key Results in 2023-2024:

Hurricane Fiona was a major focus of the section throughout the year. The section was responsible for delivering the Fiona Agriculture Support Program (FASP). This program had over 700 applicants and provided support in four areas: buildings and infrastructure, crops (corn, tree fruit), livestock, and tree debris cleanup. Over \$10 million in funding was provided to producers through this program in 2023/2024.

Developed and launched the following initiatives:

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- ✓ Assisted with the development and launch of the Sustainable CAP suite of programs to be delivered from 2023 to 2028
- ✓ Developed and delivered a “Grow the Herd” session for the beef industry to gather information on a delivery model for the livestock strategy

Continued to deliver and support the following initiatives:

- ✓ Promotion of the PEI Livestock Strategy 2021-2025
- ✓ Development and delivery of a PEI Livestock Strategy Program with subprograms in genetics and feed efficiency, abattoir support, and community pasture enhancement
- ✓ Delivery of the Fiona Agriculture Support Program
- ✓ Delivery of Sustainable CAP programs (see Appendix A for the logic model for Sustainable CAP)
- ✓ Delivery of the Soil Building for Seed Producers program
- ✓ Creation of a Fresh Products Directory to support local producers
- ✓ Maintenance of the Department’s website
- ✓ Delivery of the Potato Industry Contingency Fund
- ✓ Delivery of an online Class A pesticide certification training and continuing education courses
- ✓ Organization and operation of the Department’s booth at Old Home Week
- ✓ Planning and delivery of the 2024 PEI Potato Conference
- ✓ Creation of the 2023 PEI Seed Potato Certification List and Grower Directory
- ✓ Assistance with the Manure Management Guideline update

Sustainable Agriculture Section

This section supports the agriculture sector in contributing to the priorities of 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 (BMPs) through the delivery of agri-environmental programs and services, including the Agriculture Stewardship Program, the Alternative Land Use Services Program, and the Soil Health Improvement Plan Service.

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

Key Results in 2023-2024:

Developed or launched the following initiatives:

- ✓ Released the updated 2023 Manure Management Guidelines for Prince Edward Island
- ✓ Hired a new team member, the Agronomic Extension Specialist, to provide client agricultural producers and clients of the PEI Analytical Laboratory with soil report interpretation and soil fertility advice
- ✓ Developed improved lime application recommendations for PEI

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- ✓ Designed new testing packages as part of the soil health analysis package at the PEI Analytical Laboratories, incorporating more flexible options for clients as well as the new Available Water Capacity test
- ✓ Released a 2023 update of the Soil Quality Monitoring Project Report
- ✓ Added additional precipitation sensors (rain buckets) to each of the department weather stations to ensure more consistent and reliable weather data
- ✓ On-farm biomass trials for soil building crops, to improve the ability to model the contribution of various soil building crops to soil carbon
- ✓ Launched a series of Soil Health Webinars, bringing speakers and soil health experts to producers and local agronomists
- ✓ Designed and launched a renewed Agriculture Stewardship Program under the Sustainable CAP, including new Beneficial Management Practices funded for reduced tillage, improved soil health, innovations in agroforestry and improved manure application
- ✓ Launched and delivered a renewed Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) program, with new and redesigned features, including improved options and incentives for participants to increase biodiversity and carbon sequestration on agricultural land
- ✓ Completed a full testing cycle for soil health on each sample site under the Soil Quality Monitoring Project, allowing for improved monitoring of trends in soil health on agricultural land over time
- ✓ Released a report on Manure Nutrient Analysis, with results of a research project exploring provincial manure nutrient content
- ✓ Provided scientific and technical support to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's second Living Laboratory Initiative on PEI through the development and implementation of on-farm research trials

Continued to deliver and support the following initiatives:

- ✓ Delivery of the Soil Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) service
- ✓ Soil First Farming Campaign
- ✓ Technical support for the erosion control project and other on-farm projects
- ✓ Management plan development under the *Agricultural Crop Rotation Act*
- ✓ Participation in the FPT Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides, Minor Use Standing Committee, and Pesticide Risk Reduction Program
- ✓ Applications for Emergency Use Registrations of pest control products
- ✓ Administration of the Assurance Systems Program
- ✓ Partnership with Dalhousie University on field trials related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through understanding of soil biological nitrogen availability

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 also has responsibility for delivering the following programs through the Sustainable CAP: Perennial Crop Development Program, Pollination Expansion Sub-program of the Livestock Strategy Program, and the Organic Industry Development Program.

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Key Results in 2023-2024:

- ✓ Agriculture Climate Adaptation Section was formally established in January 2024, with the hiring of a new manager.
- ✓ Hiring team members to make possible fulfilling the section's mandate of the 2023/2024.
- ✓ The section developed and launched the Agriculture Energy Systems Pilot Program to support producers to adopt technologies and process improvements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save money.
- ✓ Section is leading development of the Agriculture Resiliency Program for launch in 2024-2025.

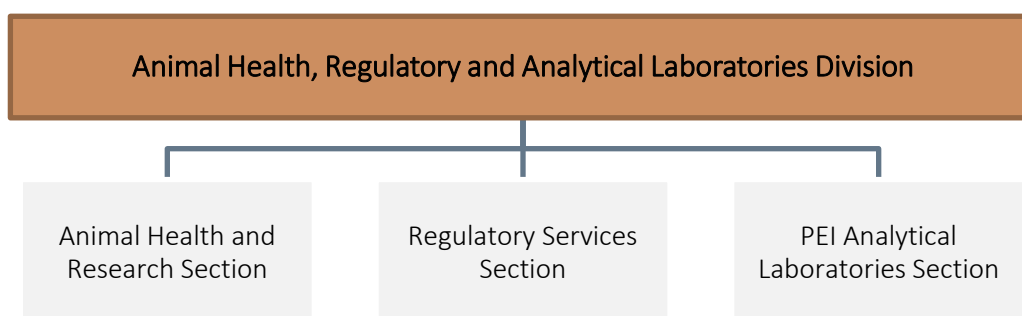
Continued to deliver and support the following initiatives:

- ✓ The Nature Smart Climate Solutions project, with funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada, to undertake program development and delivery activities, research and extension initiatives to enhance carbon sequestration and biodiversity in agricultural landscapes.
- ✓ Collaboration with the PEI Federation of Agriculture on a climate action initiatives project:
 - Supporting industry-led cross-sector climate change adaptation planning
 - Supporting industry-led development of a carbon offset project to reward producers for adopting climate-smart agricultural practices.
- ✓ Delivering the Perennial Crop Development Program, Pollination Expansion subprogram of the Livestock Strategy Program, and the Organic Industry Development Program with complementary extension activities and services.

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Animal Health, Regulatory and Analytical Laboratories Division

The Animal Health, Regulatory and Analytical Laboratories Division includes the Animal Health and Research Section, the Regulatory Services Section and the PEI Analytical Laboratories Section.



Animal Health and Research 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.

Key Results in 2023-2024:

- ✓ Participated in provincial, regional, national, and international animal health discussions with a focus on emergency preparedness with a one health perspective
- ✓ Developed and participated in an interdepartmental One Health Committee with staff from Department of Health and Wellness and Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action
- ✓ Participated in provincial, regional, national, and international animal health discussions with a focus on local, regional, and national foreign animal disease preparedness and response
- ✓ Assisted in the departmental response to the global avian influenza outbreak
- ✓ Reviewed and updated five Animal Disease Emergency Response Manuals and met with all corresponding emergency response teams
- ✓ Communicated disease awareness messaging to local veterinarians and stakeholders as appropriate to build awareness during outbreak situations
- ✓ Developed information guides for extreme weather preparedness for livestock
- ✓ Development of response plans and case definitions for proposed list of named diseases to accompany on-going work to modernize the *Animal Health Act*
- ✓ Partnered with Diagnostic Services at the Atlantic Veterinary College to provide low-cost necropsy services to Island livestock producers resulting in valuable animal health data collection, and the reports were distributed to Island veterinarians
- ✓ Participated in numerous opportunities to deliver messaging on positive animal welfare, including public lectures to school groups, 4-H and commodity groups, and veterinary professionals

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- ✓ Led a feasibility study on the concept of a biorefinery/biodigester for agricultural waste management
- ✓ Participated in Sustainable CAP program adjudication committees
- ✓ Established the Office of the Chief Plant Health Officer
- ✓ Initiated a review of the *Plant Health Act* and Regulations
- ✓ Focused on stakeholder meetings to introduce the new office and learn about varying plant health needs across the many commodities and organizations
- ✓ Completed year three of a comprehensive crop adaptation to climate change project which includes:
 - collaborating with UPEI on building climate prediction models (PEI Climate Atlas)
 - collaborating with UPEI on the development of a web-based integrated pest management system (IPMS) through the establishment of a field pest monitoring system
 - collaborating with Dalhousie on the adaptability of various potato varieties to climate change
 - collaborating with UPEI on supplemental irrigation through a decision support system

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.

Key Results in 2023-2024:

- ✓ Updated the Department's webpage to provide clearer information about animal welfare and the complaints process
- ✓ Updated and reported animal welfare statistics on the website quarterly
- ✓ Contracted the PEI Humane Society to enforce the companion animal component of the *Animal Welfare Act*
- ✓ Supported the dairy and potato industry to maintain product quality and safety
- ✓ Participated in various working groups to support the potato industry as it navigates the modernization of the potato wart program
- ✓ Supported the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the potato industry with potato wart control by providing a freedom from soil (cleaning and disinfection) service
- ✓ Continued implementation of measures to minimize the spread of bacterial ring rot between potato farms
- ✓ Issued 80 permits authorizing the planting of seed potatoes from outside PEI
- ✓ Conducted the Post Harvest Potato Virus Program to ensure the continued quality of PEI seed potatoes
- ✓ Responded to 169 complaints from the public

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PEI Analytical Laboratories (PEIAL) 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 laboratory is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) to the international standard for the competence of calibration and testing laboratories, ISO/IEC 17025. This laboratory has responsibilities for delivering high-quality laboratory testing services, including:

- Dairy – The Dairy Laboratory provides microbiological and compositional analysis of raw milk and finished dairy products.
- Soil and Soil Health – The Soil Laboratory provides chemical, physical and biological analysis of soil.
- Feed and Special Products – The Feed and Special Product testing laboratory provides chemical analysis of animal feed, plant tissue, compost, manure, and greenhouse media.
- Water – The Water Laboratory provides chemical and microbiological analysis of drinking water, surface water and wastewater.
- Plant Health Diagnostics – 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.

Key Results in 2023-2024:

- ✓ PEIAL underwent a successful reaccreditation assessment conducted by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) in February 2024.
- ✓ The dairy composition section of PEIAL increased the frequency of testing components on bulk tank milk samples in August 2023 and later added milk urea nitrogen (MUN) to bulk tank testing in October 2023 to support Island dairy producers.
- ✓ The interest in soil health testing remained strong in 2023-24. In collaboration with the Sustainable Agriculture Section, work on improving client service was addressed by creating a variety of soil health test package options which were made available to clients in early 2024.
- ✓ Through collaboration with the Sustainable Agriculture Section, an agronomist position was added to the Department in early 2024. The agronomist will provide agronomic extension services to PEIAL clients by interpreting soil, soil health, and plant tissue test reports, and provide guidance based on the test results.
- ✓ Work was completed on the development of the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). The final subsystem, Special Products, was incorporated into LIMS in September 2023.
- ✓ The feed lab section completed work on the development of a suite of forage tests using the Near-Infrared (NIR) analyzer in March 2024. The NIR analyzer will provide a quick turnaround of results and allow for a higher volume of throughput than conventional wet chemistry methods.
- ✓ Maintaining relationships with local educational institutes continued to be a priority in 2023-2024 as the laboratory hosted an on-the-job training student from Holland College in May 2023. These students gain valuable experience by working alongside senior laboratory technicians conducting accredited testing methods in a through-put laboratory environment.

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Agricultural Samples Analyzed, 2021-22 to 2023-2024 Fiscal Years

Type	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Raw Milk	273,387	263,766	264,299
Processed Dairy Products	704	918	1,092
Soil	13,396	11,635	15,101
Soil Health	987	1,169	1,751
Feed	1,514	1,130	1,977
Leaf Tissue	1,680	1,090	1,429
Seed	439	310	406
Special Products	971	569	1,947
Greenhouse	472	309	152

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Financial Statement

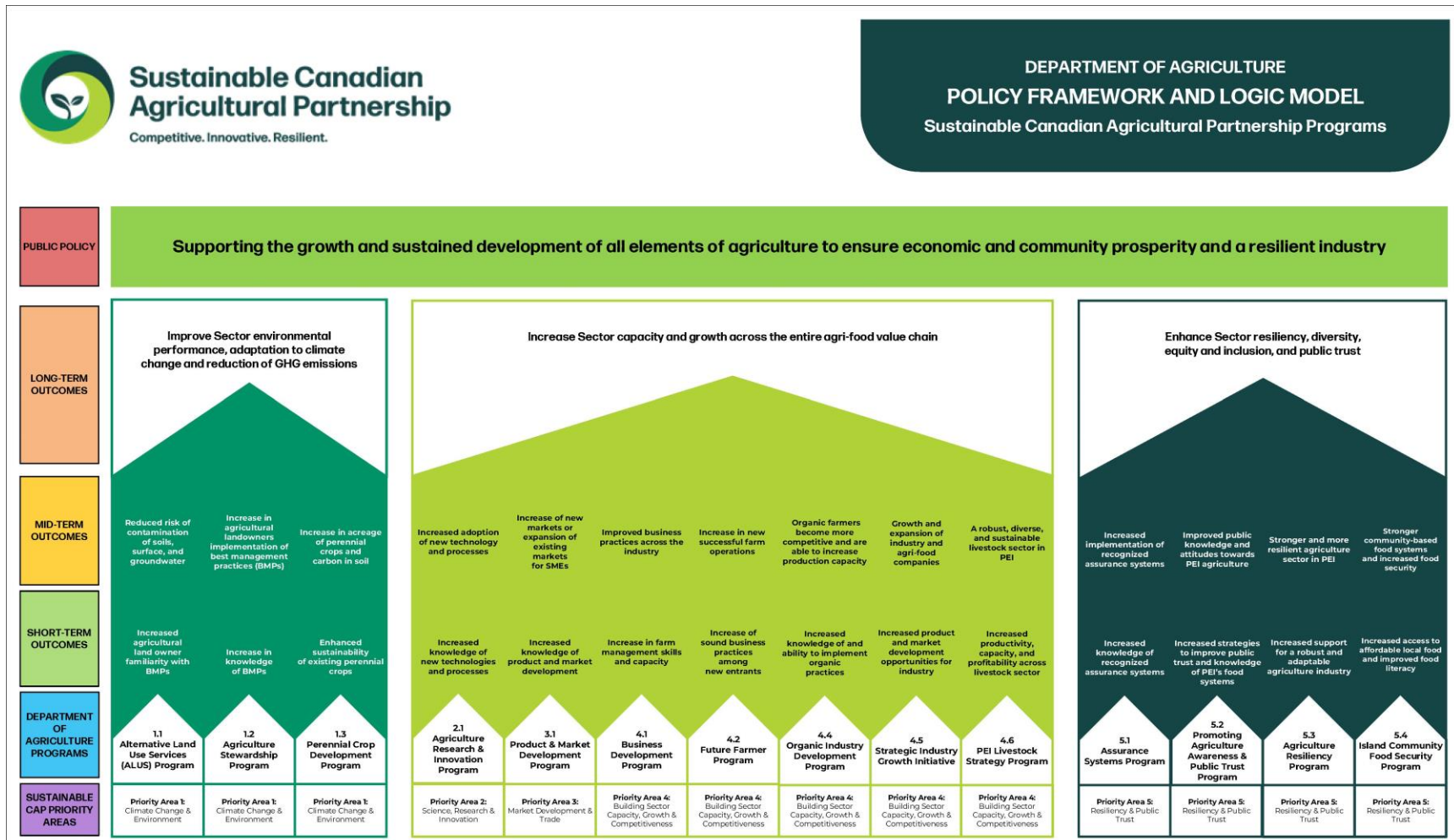
Department of Agriculture Expenditures and Revenue Summary 2023-2024 Fiscal Year

Division	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual Expenditures/Revenue
EXPENDITURE			
Department Management	\$690,300	\$690,300	\$489,011
Agriculture Resources	\$13,720,300	\$13,720,300	\$12,808,579
Strategic Policy and Evaluation	\$1,460,600	\$1,460,600	\$1,419,225
Animal Health, Regulatory and Analytical Labs	\$5,233,500	\$5,233,500	\$4,122,559
PEI Agriculture Insurance Corporation	\$16,215,400	\$16,215,400	\$15,384,649
Total Expenditure	\$37,320,100	\$37,320,100	\$34,224,023
REVENUE			
Department Management	\$5,457,800	\$5,457,800	\$4,505,001
Agriculture Resources	\$320,700	\$320,700	\$6,443,220
Strategic Policy and Evaluation	-	-	-
Animal Health, Regulatory and Analytical Labs	\$780,200	\$780,200	\$1,169,919
PEI Agriculture Insurance Corporation	-	-	-
Total Revenue	\$6,558,700	\$6,558,700	\$12,118,140
TOTAL NET	\$30,761,400	\$30,761,400	\$22,105,883

Financial information is based on the 2023-2024 Public Accounts, Volume II.

Department of Agriculture

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/en/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.



