



Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

Annual Report
2012-2013



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The Honourable Graydon Nicholas
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick

May it please your Honour;

It is my privilege to submit the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries, Province of New Brunswick, for the fiscal year April 1, 2012, to March 31, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Olscamp
Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

The Honorable Michael Olscamp
Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries
Fredericton, N.B.

Sir:

I am pleased to present to you the Annual Report describing operations of the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries for the fiscal year 2012-2013.

Respectfully submitted,

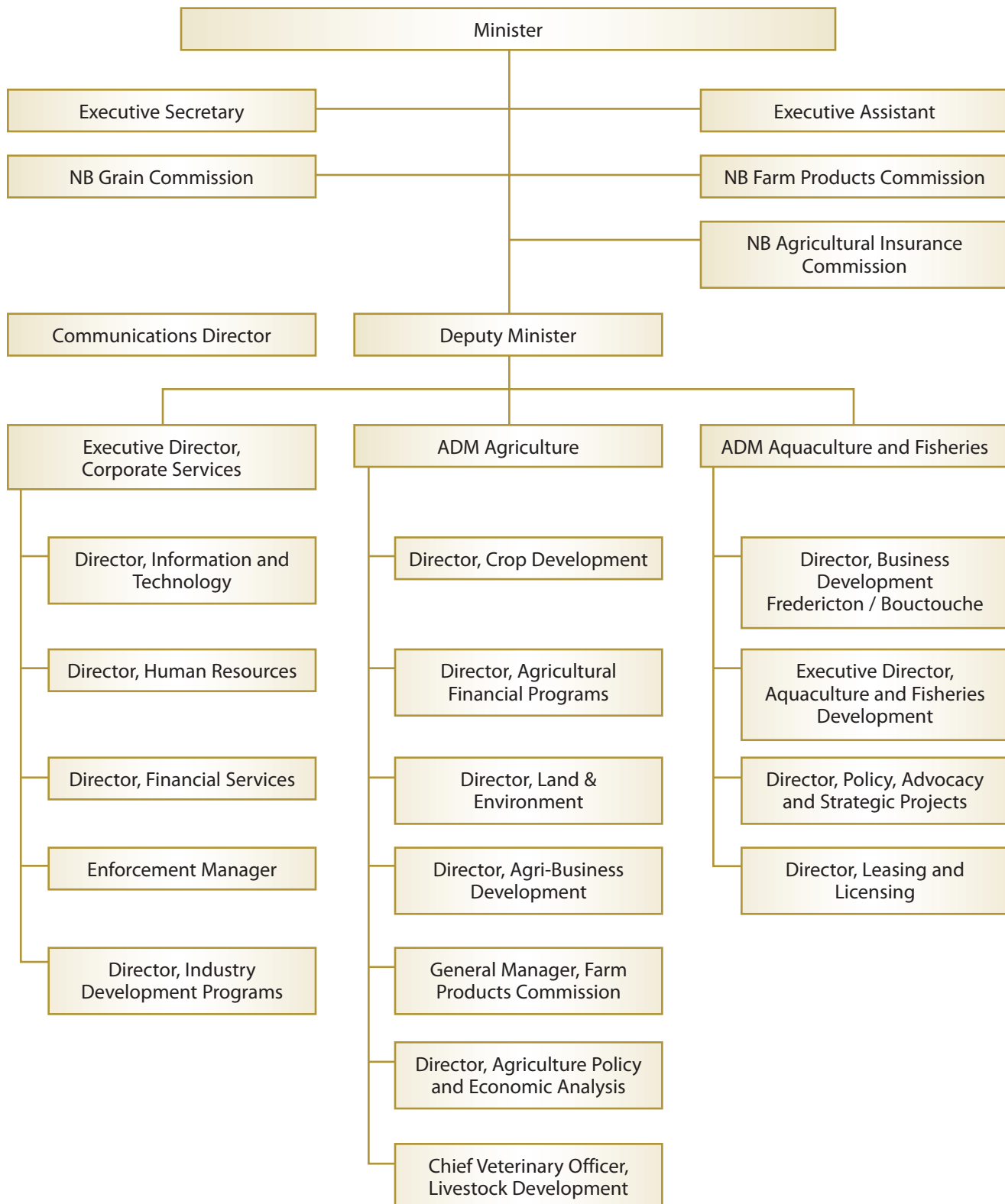


Robert Rioux
Deputy Minister
Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

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Organization Chart



Introduction

This is the annual report of the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries. It provides summary information about the department's plans and activities, as well as financial and statistical information for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2013.

The annual report's primary function is to be the major accountability document for the Legislative Assembly and the public. It serves as the key link between the objectives and plans of the Department and the results obtained.

Vision

Innovative and sustainable growth in agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors that contribute towards a higher standard of living, wellness and quality of life for all New Brunswickers.

Mission

A strategically focused team, promoting sustainable growth of the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors through innovative partnerships and targeted policies and programs resulting in greater prosperity for New Brunswickers.

Mandate

The Department strives to achieve its vision and mission through:

- the adoption of a total development approach to food and seafood production and agri-food and seafood processing, from primary to value-added production, aimed at improving economic competitiveness and sustainable development of the food and seafood sector;
- the creation of new economic opportunities by fostering research, development, innovation and investment;
- the administration of a transparent and effective regulatory framework supportive of sustainable growth;
- the promotion of sustainable development and optimized utilization of resources for the benefit of all New Brunswickers; and
- the promotion and facilitation of strategic alliances throughout the value chain.

Acts administered by the Department

- *Agricultural Associations Act*
- *Agriculture Commodity Price Stabilization Act*
- *Agricultural Development Act*
- *Agricultural Insurance Act*
- *Agricultural Land Protection and Development Act*
- *Agricultural Operation Practices Act*
- *Agricultural Producers Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act*
- *Apiary Inspection Act*
- *Aquaculture Act*
- *Diseases of Animals Act*
- *Farm Credit Corporation Assistance Act*
- *Farm Improvement Assistance Loans Act*
- *Farm Income Assurance Act*
- *Farm Machinery Loans Act*
- *Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Act*
- *Inshore Fisheries Representation Act*
- *Livestock Incentives Act*
- *Livestock Operations Act*
- *Marshland Reclamation Act*
- *Natural Products Act*
- *New Brunswick Grain Act*
- *Plant Health Act*
- *Potato Disease Eradication Act*
- *Poultry Health Protection Act*
- *Seafood Processing Act*
- *Sheep Protection Act*
- *Women's Institute and Institut féminin Act*
- *Keswick Islands Act* (administered by the Keswick Islands Property Owners Association)

Year in Review

The Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries plays an important role in economic development for the Province by providing programs and services to three key sectors. With over 2,500 farms, approximately 2,330 fishing vessels, and the second largest aquaculture sector in the country, departmental employees work diligently to meet the diverse needs of everyone involved in these important sectors.

The year 2012-2013 had both challenges and significant achievements.

The Province's fiscal situation continues to present challenges. In order to meet these challenges, the Department became a Second Wave Adopter under the Government's Performance Excellence Process in 2012-13. The Performance Excellence Process is a results-oriented, long-term approach to the way the Government of New Brunswick does business. It was established with the following goals in mind: (1) create processes for GNB leaders to increase efficiency and accountability; (2) create a sustainable culture of continuous improvement in government; and (3) adopt recognized best business practices. Using process improvement tools, the Department is able to accurately assess its progress by using defined measurable targets.

The lobster industry faced an extremely difficult year with a glut of lobsters and record-low prices. As the result of a summer of unrest and tensions between lobster fishermen and processors, the Department implemented a number of measures to address some of the challenges, including forming a lobster working group to bring together all players to identify options to move forward.

Despite the challenges facing the lobster industry, hard work by Department staff in marketing and developing new markets paid off as New Brunswick became the number one seafood exporting Province in Canada for 2012 for the first time. Efforts also continued throughout the value chain that contributed to the increase in export values. Activities such as quality improvement (lobster handling seminars), traceability, and the development of multilingual market development tools, all contributed to the increase in seafood exports. As well, innovative market development efforts such as the Seafood Academies resulted in great exposure for New Brunswick seafood and suppliers.

Aquaculture continues to be an important industry in New Brunswick. In consultation with industry, staff

worked diligently over the past fiscal year to ensure the province's Aquaculture Act and regulations reflect the evolution and development of issues such as new culture techniques, husbandry practices and fish health management practices within the industry.

The fiscal year 2012-2013 was also the final year of the five-year Growing Forward (GF) agreement, which saw the province contribute \$9,319,063 million in cost-shared federal and provincial funding directed to the agricultural industry in New Brunswick. While winding down the first GF agreement, staff was also working hard on the new GF2 agreement. In developing the new agreement, staff consulted with industry organizations throughout the fall and worked on program design for New Brunswick strategic programming.

Staff continued to work with farmers and producers to provide expert advice and services, as well as deliver programs to support the industry. The blueberry sector received particular attention this year as it has been identified as a potential growth sector. Staff began a new process of pre-identifying suitable land for future blueberry development.

A strong commitment was also made by industry and government to reduce Potato Virus Y (PVY) levels in the province. As a result, virus testing and threshold caps for potatoes were mandated, in consultation with industry, for the first time in 2012. In order to protect the quality and productivity of NB potatoes, all seed lots intended for planting within the province had to be laboratory tested for all PVY strains. Any potatoes with virus levels above the Ministerial established cap were not permitted to be planted within the province.

As part of an integrated government approach to industry development, the Department took the lead on coordinating activities related to implementation of the Provincial Bioscience and Value-added Food sector strategies. Bioscience and Value-added Food are two of six priority sectors identified for economic growth and investment under the Government's Economic Development Action Plan, which was released in the summer of 2012.

These are some of the accomplishments of the 2012-2013 that reflect the Department's commitment to providing quality services and support to the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors. In the future, the Department will continue to focus on ensuring delivery of services to its sectors, while providing the best value to taxpayers.

Agriculture Division

Function

To foster continued development and innovation within the primary agriculture and value-added sectors.

Structure

Branches:

1. Agri-Business Development
2. Land and Environment
3. Crop Development
4. Livestock Development
5. Agricultural Policy and Economic Analysis
6. Agricultural Financial Programs

Commissions:

1. New Brunswick Grain Commission
2. The New Brunswick Farm Products Commission
3. New Brunswick Agricultural Insurance Commission

Federal-provincial cost-shared programs:

1. Canada/New Brunswick Agriculture Futures Initiatives
2. Canada/New Brunswick Growing Forward (GF) Agreement

Agri-Business Development Branch

Function: To provide front-line support to producers, producer groups and organizations, agri-businesses, agri-food processors and economic development agencies. This support is provided through technical advice on matters related to crop and livestock production and the delivery of programs and initiatives under Growing Forward and Agri-Futures. The Agri-food Market Development section promotes local market and value added opportunities.

- Cost-shared assistance of \$153,234 was provided toward 51 projects under the Agri-Food Market Development Program. Projects included road signage improvement, promotional material development, website marketing, agri-tourism, and a pilot element - NB Food Harvest Fundraising.

- Established an interdepartmental Working Group on Local, Healthy New Brunswick Food Promotion comprised of representatives from the Departments of Healthy and Inclusive Communities, Tourism Heritage and Culture, Health, and Education and Early Childhood Development, and the Alcool NB Liquor Corporation. An action plan was developed to collaboratively promote local New Brunswick food products and healthy lifestyles.
- Worked with the departments of Tourism, Heritage and Culture and Transportation and Infrastructure on the development of a new Provincial highways signage policy.
- Coordinated the activities of the Industry/Government Working Group established to review the tax exemptions for farmers under the *Gasoline and Motive Fuels Act*. The recommended changes were accepted and expanded exemptions for farmers came into effect on November 1, 2012.

Land and Environment Branch

Function: To promote environmentally sustainable agricultural practices by providing services and programs in four areas - land management, stewardship, regional land and environment services, and marshland infrastructure maintenance.

- 78 projects, representing 404 hectares, were delivered under the New Brunswick Agri-Land Development Initiative to expand the agriculture land base.
- Four new leases (91 hectares) were issued bringing the total Crown land under lease for agriculture to 14,377 hectares (193 leases). The major commodities leasing Crown land for agriculture are wild blueberries (174 leases, 8,163 hectares), community pasture (six leases, 2,398 hectares) and cranberries (two leases, 3,400 hectares).
- A total of 42 applications were approved for registration and property tax deferral benefits under the Farm Land Identification Program (FLIP). Field audits were completed on 299 properties receiving FLIP benefits to ensure compliance. The program provided property tax savings of \$5.8 million and protected approximately 161,200 hectares of land on 9,222 individual properties for

agricultural use. The cumulative total of deferred tax (and associated interest) is \$76.6 million.

- A total of 1,140 applications were approved for registration of farm businesses under the *Agricultural Producers Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act*. Registration fees of \$291,350 were transferred to the general farm organizations.
- Provided technical review on eight Environmental Impact Assessment files and four land use planning documents.
- The Branch is also responsible for maintenance of dykeland infrastructure that protects over 15,000 hectares of low lying marshland in the southeast region (Bay of Fundy) from flooding from tidal waters. This involves maintenance and repairs to 80 kilometers of dykes, 76 water control structures, and 112 kilometers of marsh roads and bridges.
- The Agricultural Laboratory provided analytical services as shown in the table below.

Sample Type	Number of samples
Field soil	3864
Greenhouse soil / water	50
Livestock feed /manure / compost or liming materials	667
Plant tissue	449
Total	5030

Crop Development Branch

Function: To provide expertise, research, training, and strategic programming to the crop sectors. The Branch also is responsible for producing and selling disease-free, tissue-culture derived potato material and early generation, high quality, disease tested seed potatoes.

- Obtained one emergency use pesticide registration for a pest outbreak in potatoes and submitted two minor use applications for the registration of new pesticides for use in potatoes and blueberries.
- Diagnosed /identified 536 samples for insect, disease, and weeds or pest damage in all crops.
- Provided support for the introduction of two new crops: hops and sea buckthorn.
- Registered 244 beekeepers and 7300 colonies in the spring of 2012 and inspected 1,395 colonies.

This resulted in six orders to destroy hives to help minimize the spread of bee pests in the province.

- Issued 61 permits to allow for the importation of 23,000 honey bee colonies from Ontario and Quebec for the pollination of the wild blueberry crop.
- Conducted testing for potato quality including 2,483 sucrose/glucose tests, 628 chip colour tests, 1,518 French fry colour tests and 580 specific gravity tests.
- Initiated and multiplied diseased-tested, tissue-cultured potato material stock plantlets and microtubers at the Plant Propagation Centre - 34,000 plantlets and 13,000 microtubers were sent to Bon Accord for planting. Of those sent, there were 30 varieties. A total of 37,500 plantlets of 43 varieties were sent directly to N.B. growers. Distributed 39 varieties to 24 clients for tissue culture multiplication.
- Received 24 new varieties for entry screening into the Canadian Potato Variety Repository at the Plant Propagation Centre, where over 500 potato varieties are conserved.
- Provided nuclear, pre-elite, and elite seed potatoes to the New Brunswick potato industry through the Bon Accord Elite Seed Potato Centre. This was made possible through the production of over 52,410 propagules (2,137.95 kilograms) of 54 varieties planted in the greenhouses and 39 varieties of elite seed I grown in the field (10.98 hectares). The Centre sold 213,556.96 kg of seed potatoes to 26 growers and four research projects, and sold 112.4 kg of greenhouse tubers to six growers.

Livestock Development Branch

Function: To maximize the development and prosperity of the livestock sector (dairy, beef, swine, poultry, sheep, goats and fur).

- Through the Agriculture Futures Initiative, a number of livestock sectors were supported, including mink, poultry, swine and beef.
- A Livestock Genetic Enhancement Initiative was offered to improve the genetics of NB produced beef, sheep, goats, swine, mink and fox.
- The Provincial Dairy Laboratory performed a total of 70,486 tests for a variety of parameters, including milk composition (fat, protein and lactose), somatic cell counts, freedom from antibiotics and analysis of dairy solids (cheese, butter, etc).

- The Provincial Veterinary Laboratory increased testing to support the New Brunswick poultry industry's expanded surveillance activities for Salmonella enteritidis. This testing revealed the first case of this organism in a commercial poultry flock in New Brunswick, enabling the problem to be dealt with swiftly and effectively.
- Departmental veterinarians completed 9,383 on-farm visits.

Agriculture Policy and Economic Analysis Branch

Function: To conduct strategic planning, policy development, legislation/regulation development, program evaluation, economic research and analysis and trade policy oversight for the agriculture sector. To compile export statistics for the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors.

- Conducted a review of provincial government policies and programs affecting the agriculture sector. This review allowed the assessment of support levels for the 2011-12 World Trade Organization (WTO) Notification for New Brunswick, Agreement on Internal Trade, and Government Expenditures.
- Developed the *Marshland Infrastructure Maintenance Act* which was introduced in the 2013 spring session of the Legislature to replace the *Marshland Reclamation Act*.
- Oversaw or conducted economic analyses on issues such as a Food Self-Sufficiency model for New Brunswick.

Agriculture Financial Programs

Function: To provide policy and support related to the federal/provincial/territorial agricultural business risk management program suite including (a) AgriStability; (b) AgriInvest; (c) AgriRecovery and (d) AgriInsurance (also known as Crop Insurance). To administer risk management programs as well as other financial programs in support of the New Brunswick agricultural sector.

(a) AgriStability: During the 2012-2013 fiscal year payments were as follows:

Program year	Net payments (\$)	Cumulative payments to March 31, 2013 (\$)
2009	4 611 198	13 921 156
2010	377 437	5 740 256
2011	6 590 968	9 004 347
2012*	2 401 007*	2 401 007

* - Interim payments / Paiements provisoires

(b) AgriInvest: Total value of AgriInvest funds (participant and government contributions) not withdrawn and held on account at March 31, 2013 by New Brunswick producers was \$11,677,531. During the 2012-2013 fiscal year payments were as follows:

Program Year	Cumulative Gov Cont as of March 2012	Net payments in 2012-13	Cumulative Gov Cont as of March 2013
2008	2,213,978	44,173	2,258,151
2009	2,376,051	58,056	2,434,107
2010	1,895,271	424,731	2,320,002
2011	-	2,337,378	2,337,378
2012		6,831	6,831

(c) AgriRecovery: The initiative provided financial assistance to New Brunswick potato producers who incurred extraordinary costs in order to control disease as a result of excessive moisture throughout the 2011 growing season. Funding to producers totaled \$8,161,351 (60 per cent federal and 40 per cent provincial).

Commissions

New Brunswick Grain Commission

Function: The Commission operates under the authority of the *New Brunswick Grain Act*. It provides for the effective development of New Brunswick's grain industry, promotes the production and marketing of grain, and establishes and maintains standards of quality for grain and grain handling to ensure a dependable commodity for markets.

- Ongoing activities include surveillance and toxin testing for Fusarium Head Blight on random samples of wheat, barley, corn and oats. Additional testing was conducted in cooperation with the Canadian Grain Commission under its Harvest Survey project.
- Training was provided for first time graders and a mandatory grain grader's update session was organized for the 46 authorized grain graders in the province.
- Hosted the Maritime Grain Symposium.

New Brunswick Farm Products Commission

Function: The Commission is a nine-member body representing the interest of producers, processors and consumers. It is responsible for the overall supervision of all producer boards established under the *Natural Products Act* and facilitates the province's participation in provincial and national orderly marketing systems.

- Implemented a three cent per litre milk-price adjustment in February of 2013.
- Conducted a plebiscite of New Brunswick Christmas Tree Growers to determine the level of support for a proposed Christmas Tree Agency. The final result was an Agency was not formed.
- Issued the following licenses:
 - 219 milk producers
 - 3 milk dealers (processors)
 - 70 milk vendors
 - 22 transporters
 - 36 bulk-tank milk graders and 27 milk graders
 - 23 quality assurance inspectors
 - 3 farm product service officers.

New Brunswick Agricultural Insurance Commission

Function: The Commission is an independent body with a primary function to hear disputes from agricultural producers relating to insurance matters. The Agricultural Insurance Program is a federal/provincial cost shared program that provides farmers with insurance protection against crop production losses caused by natural perils, such as drought, hail, frost, excessive moisture, and insects.

AgrilInsurance: Statistics for the 2012 crop year are as follows:

Insured crop	Number of contracts	Insured hectare	Insured value (\$)	Total premium revenue (\$)	Total indemnities (\$)
Wild Blueberries	34	657	915 033	109 063	8 817
Apples *	7	58	1 039 763	50 152	1 785
Potatoes	507	13 229	59 031 707	7 536 758	6 609 530
Grain	138	8 797	3 944 669	641 400	320 669
Strawberries	16	37	382 387	59 198	77 854
Processing Carrots	2	42	119 295	9 154	0
Sweet Corn	5	39	169 756	16 176	2 619
Oilseed	83	5 242	3 250 400	323 456	63 829
Grain Corn	32	2 817	3 126 997	383 675	77 959
Fresh market vegetables	16	79	370 487	37 049	0
Total	840	30 997	72 350 494	9 166 081	7 163 062

* includes Apple Tree Rider

Federal-Provincial Cost Shared Programs

Canada/New Brunswick Agriculture Futures Initiatives

The Canada-New Brunswick AgriFlexibility Agreement was signed in 2010 to provide funding for a four-year cost-shared initiative named the *Canada-New Brunswick Agriculture Futures Initiative*. The objective of the Initiative is to improve the profitability, competitiveness and sustainability of the New Brunswick agriculture and agri-food sector. Funding is cost shared on a 40/60 provincial/federal basis.

- Capturing Crop Development Opportunities Program provided a total of \$305,067 in funding to 10 projects.
- Capturing Organic Development Opportunities Program provided a total of \$57,970 for training and advisory assistance (11 projects), soil improvement (two projects), minor infrastructure related to the Canadian Organic Standards requirements (seven projects), and certification (49 projects).
- Honey Bee Expansion Program assisted beekeepers to expand their operations. As a result, the industry was able to expand by 2,441 colonies. Assistance was also provided for the purchase of beekeeping equipment to support the expansion and/or health of the apiaries. A total of \$114,311 was provided for 29 projects.
- Grape Industry Development Program provided a total of \$24,381 to New Brunswick grape growers. This funding contributed to the establishment of new or more productive vineyards (six projects) and the adoption of new technologies and/or new equipment (six projects) in order to improve grape production practices.
- Apple Development Initiative provided assistance for the establishment of new and more productive orchard systems and apple varieties and rootstocks (five projects). The initiative also encourages the adoption of new technologies to improve post-harvest storage systems and quality assurance (five projects). A total of \$24,763 was provided.
- New Brunswick Agriculture Profitability Enhancement Program provided \$181,873 in funding to 46 projects. The objective of the program is to support a variety of crop and livestock system efficiency upgrades.
- Site Suitability Assessment Program provided \$38,796 to assist four potential producers to conduct site assessments for cranberry production.
- Seizing Opportunities for Value-Added and Niche Production provided a total of \$171,692 in assistance for 15 projects. This support assisted small-scale agri-businesses and primary producers to expand or diversify into value-added or niche production.

Canada-New Brunswick Growing Forward Agreement

The federal/provincial/territorial agricultural policy agreement entitled Growing Forward expired on March 31, 2013. Programs were available in the areas of business development, research and innovation, environment, food safety, traceability, and biosecurity. Generally known as “non-business risk management programs”, the delivery of these programs was managed by the Agriculture Division.

Funding for non-business risk management programs under the Growing Forward agreement in 2012-2013 is summarized as follows:

Programs under Growing Forward	Federal \$	Provincial \$	Total Dollars	Number of Completed Projects
Enabling Agricultural Research and Innovation (EARI)	\$ 1,025,030.00	\$ 519,275.81	\$ 1,544,305.81	64
Business Development	\$ 265,000.00	\$ 190,159.02	\$ 455,159.02	104
Food Safety/Traceability/Biosecurity	\$ 385,207.78	\$ 21,909.98	\$ 407,117.76	44
Beneficial Management Practices	\$ 980,704.23	\$ 330,604.73	\$ 1,311,308.96	140
EFP Delivery	\$ 198,743.16	\$ -	\$ 198,743.16	2
Agro-Environmental Clubs		\$ 353,318.71	\$ 353,318.71	9
Environment Management Planning		\$ 47,822.43	\$ 47,822.43	11

Aquaculture And Fisheries Division

Function

To foster the continued development and innovation of the province's aquaculture, commercial fisheries, seafood processing, and seafood marketing.

Structure

Branches:

1. Business Development
2. Leasing and Licensing
3. Policy, Advocacy and Strategic Projects
4. Aquaculture and Fisheries Development

Business Development Branch

Function: To support trade, export development and promotion of New Brunswick seafood products and to foster the continued development and innovation of the province's aquaculture, commercial fisheries, seafood processing and seafood marketing. The Branch is also responsible for leading development in the seafood processing sector.

- In 2012, New Brunswick became the number one seafood exporting province in Canada as export sales rose to \$967 million from \$833 million in 2011.
- Exports to Asia, particularly in Hong Kong and China, increased 91% over the previous year to nearly \$37 million.
- Dependence on the traditional US market has continued to decline and represented approximately 80% of NB exports in 2012.
- The Trade and Technical Mission Program supported 21 companies in 23 different market projects. The program also supported companies in efforts to attain internationally recognised food safety and quality certifications.
- Led two important projects in partnership with the Lobster Council of Canada on (1) lobster automation and (2) traceability.
- Hosted market intelligence sessions prior to the beginning of the lobster, crab and shrimp seasons.
- As part of an integrated government approach to industry development, DAAF took the lead on

coordinating activities related to implementation of the provincial Bioscience and Value-added Food sector strategies. Bioscience and Value-added Food are two of six priority sectors identified for economic growth and investment under the government's Rebuilding New Brunswick - Economic Development Action Plan 2012-2016, which was released in the summer of 2012.

- Working with the lobster industry in New Brunswick, the Department set up a working group to develop a common approach in an effort to improve lobster fishing in area 25.
- The Department continued its work with groundfish-dependent harvesters to finalize the implementation of the rationalization plan for the fleet in order to ensure its long-term viability.
- A project through BioAtlantech was supported by both DAAF and ACOA to ensure completion of immediate priorities of the Bioscience sector.

Leasing and Licensing

Function: To issue leases and licenses under the *Aquaculture Act* and the *Seafood Processing Act*.

- In the Bay of Fundy, a total of 96 marine sites are administered annually.
- A total of 21 lobster pound leases were administered, one of which is licensed for flatfish on a research and development basis.
- Integrated Multitrophic Aquaculture (IMTA) continued to take place in the Bay of Fundy with five finfish sites licensed for additional species such as kelps and mussels.
- Marine shellfish site approvals included three new sites, four species amendments, 20 transfers, and 15 renewals. There were no applications for boundary amendments or amendments to culture techniques.
- A total of 703 shellfish sites (502 are active sites, of which 15 were overwintering sites, plus 201 vacant sites) are administered annually.
- Throughout New Brunswick, 10 new inland finfish sites were approved, one lease was renewed, and 28 licenses were renewed. A total of 204 inland freshwater sites and one inland shellfish site are administered annually.

Region	1	2	3	Total
Number of primary processing plant licences issued	28	46	21	95
Number of primary processing plant licence amendments (addition of species)	2	2	3	7
Number of secondary processing plant registration certificates issued	9	4	5	18
Number of licences issued for live lobster holding facilities	5	3	31	39
Number of fish purchaser licences issued	35	53	59	147

Policy, Advocacy and Strategic Projects

Function: To provide strategic planning, policy development and program evaluation for the aquaculture, fisheries and seafood processing sectors.

- Undertook industry consultations with harvesters, processors and buyers and hosted a meeting of the Minister's Round Table on Fisheries to discuss and receive input on potential amendments to the *Seafood Processing Act*.
- Developed amendments to the Regulation under the *Aquaculture Act* with respect to the reporting of sea lice.
- Participated on the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM) Aquaculture Sustainability Reporting Initiative (ASRI) Workgroup and contributed to Department of Fisheries and Oceans Aquaculture Sustainability Report 2012.

Aquaculture and Fisheries Development

Function: To promote the sustainable development of the aquaculture and fishing industries by creating an atmosphere that is conducive to these industries.

- Worked closely with the Professional Shellfish Growers Association of New Brunswick to follow up on the report prepared by GTA Fisheries

Consultants Inc. with respect to shellfish culture and the implementation of the initiative on the best farm management practices.

- Launched 48 strategic and research and development projects with an investment of \$1,691,507, for a total value of \$4,672,219 and delivered 10 commercial projects with an investment of \$219,502 for a total value of \$1,261,404.
- Biologists offered the oyster spatfall prediction service in Caraquet, Miramichi, Bouctouche, and Cocagne bays.
- Managed the New Brunswick Aquarium and Marine Centre in Shippagan. Visits to the NBAMC were slightly down this year with 29,670 visitors - 1,042 of whom were students.
- Revised the Agreement Relating to the Aquaculture Research Program between the DAAF and the Coastal Zones Research Institute (CZRI) with respect to the use of the NBAMC premises and the coordination of priority research activities. The new agreement will be in effect from April 2013 to April 2018.
- Assisted in the development of an annual fishery management plan for rockweed (*Ascophyllum nodosum*).
- Established a lobster working group with Fundy North Fishermen's Association (FNFA) to identify and address constraints to lobster fleet viability.
- Developed the 2012 Fish Health-Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) in conjunction with the Atlantic Canada Fish Farmers Association (ACFFA).
- The regional fish health unit and fish health laboratory staff continued fish health surveillance programs for the finfish and shellfish sectors for Infectious Salmon Anemia and MSX and were involved in a number of projects in 2012-13 including:
 - Exploring non-lethal sampling methods for detection of viruses of concern (ISA, IPN and VHS).
 - Began work on two in-feed products for the control of sea lice.
 - Led a study looking at the vertical transmission of avirulent ISA from broodstock to eggs.
 - Continued work on the susceptibility and survivability of sea lice to pesticides treatments.

Corporate Services

Function: To provide corporate services to the Department for the continued development of the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors. These corporate services include:

1. Human Resources
2. Enforcement
3. Information Technology
4. Continuous Improvement
5. Industry Development Programs
6. Financial Services

Corporate Services is also responsible for coordinating *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* requests. The department responded to four requests for information under the *Act*. In addition, the Department responded to 12 consultation requests from various federal agencies or departments made under the federal *Access to Information Act*.

Human Resources

Function: To assist and support senior management/directors/managers in the effective management and development of their human resources within the scope of the departmental guidelines and policies.

- Employed 25 students under the Student Employment Initiative and two co-op students.
- No disclosures were made by employees during this fiscal year under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*.
- All regional offices were surveyed to ensure compliance with the Department's ability to meet the official language preference of the public. In order to increase the knowledge and understanding of policies related to official languages, employees were mandated to complete both iLearn modules related to official languages on the Department of Human Resources' internal website.
- No official languages complaints were made against the department.
- Seven competitions were advertised.

- Pursuant to sections 15 and 16 of the *Civil Service Act*, the Department made two appointments using other processes to establish merit rather than the competitive process. These appointments were made under the Corporate Talent Management Program, pursuant to section 16(1)(b).
- Pursuant to section 33 of the *Civil Service Act*, no complaint alleging favouritism was made.

Enforcement

Function: To ensure compliance with Acts administered by the department through the provision of enforcement services.

- 287 enforcement activities.
- Five court cases relating to charges or lawsuits.

Information and Technology

Function: To facilitate the efficient use of information and technology and implement strategic information handling, systems support and systems development initiatives related to enhancing the business activities of the Department.

- Development of a new departmental Intranet site was completed.
- The implementation of Microsoft Office Communicator for on-line meeting and web conferencing was further extended to include all divisions and regional offices resulting in additional productivity, efficiency gains and travel savings.
- A Continuous Improvement Project was undertaken with the goal of finding efficiencies without impacting service levels.
- Enhancements were made to the Agriculture Crop Insurance System.
- Enhancements were made to the Total Potato Production Sites web application to improve forecasting capabilities to 96 hours.

Continuous Improvement

Function: To implement and facilitate the Performance Excellence Process within the Department.

- Two Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Process Improvement facilitators have been trained.
- Three projects were undertaken to find efficiencies within agricultural advisory services, veterinary pharmaceutical inventory and information technology.

Industry Development Programs

Function: To provide financial assistance in the form of direct loans, loan guarantees and land leases to the resource based sectors of agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries.

- In agriculture, 14 requests for financial assistance were approved totaling \$2.2 million.
- In aquaculture and fisheries, seven requests for financial assistance were approved totaling \$1.7 million.

Financial Services

Function: To facilitate the efficient use of the financial resources available to deliver departmental programs.

- Administered an expenditure budget of approximately \$40 million (ordinary and capital) and a revenue budget of approximately \$10 million.

Details of Expenditures for Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries for Fiscal Year 2012-2013

Program	Revised Budget \$000	Expenditures \$000	Variance (under) over \$000
Management Services			
Corporate Services	3,973.0	3,789.4	(183.6)
Strategic Initiatives	210.0	231.3	21.3
Program Total	4,183.0	4,020.7	(162.3)
Agriculture			
Agri-Business Development	1,721.0	1,512.5	(208.5)
Land and Environment	2,060.9	1,921.6	(139.3)
Crop Development	2,994.1	2,740.5	(253.6)
Agricultural Financial Programs	23,283.5	23,384.5	101.0
Livestock Development	4,809.6	5,083.9	274.3
Farm Products Commission	333.0	254.2	(78.8)
Agriculture Policy and Economic Analysis	413.0	365.4	(47.6)
Program Total	35,615.1	35,262.6	(352.5)
Aquaculture and Fisheries			
Regional Development	3,630.0	3,430.5	(199.5)
Resource Management and Fish Health	1,082.9	1,106.5	23.6
Business Development	1,357.0	1,184.8	(172.2)
Policy, Advocacy and Strategic Initiatives	744.0	631.6	(112.4)
Leasing and Licensing	594.0	496.5	(97.5)
Program Total	7,407.9	6,849.9	(558.0)
Strategic Assistance			
Strategic Assistance	1,000.0	92.1	(907.9)
Program Total	1,000.0	92.1	(907.9)
Department Total	48,206.0	46,225.3	(1,980.7)

Explanation of Variances: Under expenditure is mainly a result of less than anticipated spending under Strategic Assistance and various operational savings.