
Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Province of New Brunswick
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Transmittal letters

FROM THE MINISTER TO THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

Her Honour The Honourable Brenda Murphy
Lieutenant-Governor 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, 2021, to March 31, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



Honourable Margaret Johnson
Minister

FROM THE DEPUTY MINISTER TO THE MINISTER

Honourable Margaret Johnson
Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

Madam:

I am pleased to be able to present the annual report describing operations of the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries for the fiscal year April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy LaRochelle
Deputy Minister

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Minister's message

The agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors are a vital part of the social and economic fabric of our province.

These industries touch the lives of New Brunswickers every day, creating good jobs, contributing to our exports, and helping to put safe, high-quality food on our tables.

Time and time again, these sectors have demonstrated resilience and I am proud of the ways they have adapted and changed in response to the global challenges we have faced, particularly over the last few years.

In the 2021-2022 reporting period we launched the *New Brunswick Finfish Aquaculture Growth Strategy 2022-2030*, a multi-year strategy to guide continued responsible development of our province's finfish aquaculture sector. Through this strategy and its actions, we will continue to focus on utilizing scientific innovations, particularly as it relates to aquatic animal health and protection of the environment.

We also invested to help improve food self-sufficiency in New Brunswick. Initiatives that received funding include a project to help strengthen the local food supply chain and a soil productivity and sustainability project.

New Brunswick's food and seafood export sales exceeded \$2.6B in 2021. New Brunswick experienced the largest increase in seafood exports in Canada for 2021, increasing by more than \$800M!

These are just a few examples of the incredible accomplishments detailed in this report. Thank you to those in the industry and to the hardworking staff at the department for their commitment to the work. Our accomplishments would not be possible without your willingness to share your knowledge and expertise. I look forward to continuing to work together to grow our agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries industries both at home and all over the world.



Honourable Margaret Johnson

Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

Deputy Minister's message

During the 2021-2022 reporting period, the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries added to its strong track record of delivering results. Our sectors are incredibly important to New Brunswick's economy, especially in coastal and rural communities. The growth of the sectors remains a priority, and we are committed to continuing to work with our industries and stakeholders to help them reach their full potential.

We worked with our federal partners to make significant investments; together we invested \$18.8M help improve New Brunswick's fish and seafood processing, harvesting and aquaculture sectors, while \$7.5M was invested to help strengthen and grow the agriculture sector.

As part of our efforts to support the province's food and beverage sector, we launched the New Brunswick Deliciously Canadian logo and brand for exports, creating a strong and clear online presence in new and existing international markets. We continue to see results of increased exports by our sectors.

On the agriculture side, we have helped expand the footprint of controlled environment agriculture areas and modernized the oversight of the bee industry, including offering better protections against invasive species, with a new *Bee Act*.

These are just a few examples of the diverse accomplishments of the department during 2021-2022. This report clearly illustrates we have many reasons to be proud of our efforts and accomplishments. I want to express my gratitude to the department staff around the province; your dedication to the work of our department and to the industries we support is evident, and I am inspired every day by your passion.



Cathy LaRochelle
Deputy Minister

Government Priorities

Delivering for New Brunswickers

ONE TEAM ONE GNB

One Team One GNB is our vision as an organization and a collaborative approach to how we operate. It is our path forward, and it represents a civil service that is working collectively across departments, professions, and sectors. Together, we are learning, growing, and adapting, and discovering new and innovative ways of doing business. It is enabling us to achieve the outcomes needed for New Brunswickers, and we are working more efficiently and effectively than ever before.

As *One Team One GNB*, we are improving the way government departments:

- communicate with one another,
- work side-by-side on important projects, and
- drive focus and accountability.

STRATEGY AND OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

The department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries uses a Formal Management system built on leading business practices to develop, communicate and review strategy. This process provides the Public Service with a proven methodology to execute strategy, increase accountability and continuously drive improvement.

The development of the strategy, using the Formal Management system, starts with our government's roadmap for the future of New Brunswick that focuses on key priorities and the importance of public accountability.

GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Our vision for 2021-2022 is a vibrant and sustainable New Brunswick. To make progress towards this vision, we must focus on our government's priorities.

- Energize private sector
- Vibrant and sustainable communities
- Affordable, responsive and high-performing government
- Dependable public health care
- World-class education, and
- Environment

COVID RESPONSE

As part of GNB's priorities this past year, responding to the COVID-19 pandemic was at the forefront. Our department supported GNB in responding to the pandemic by deploying employees to critical staffing needs to assist with COVID-19 efforts across all sectors. This also included updating standard operating procedures to ensure continued adherence to public health guidelines. Throughout the year, the department adapted program delivery when necessary to maintain client service.

Highlights

During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries focused on these government priorities through:

- Launching the *New Brunswick Finfish Aquaculture Growth Strategy 2022-2030* to focus on opportunities that promote sustainable and responsible finfish aquaculture growth. By 2030, the final year of the strategy, the target is to increase finfish production by 20 per cent (3,500 tons) through improved yields, better use of current lease footprints and alternative finfish species production.
- Continuing delivery of the ten-pillar Action Plan on Improving Food Self-Sufficiency in New Brunswick. Accomplishments included:
 - expanding the footprint of controlled environment agriculture area by 20 per cent;
 - completing the first phase of the Improving New Brunswick Farmland Soil Productivity project to assess alternate products that would make farmland more productive, and the Land Suitability Mapping Tool for increasing farmland availability and accessibility in our province;
 - supporting 86 projects to assist agriculture producers in bringing new land into production and improving the productivity of existing land;
 - implementing strategic programming to promote herd renewal and pasture management to help build the beef herd and promote efficiencies in animal grazing practices with the New Brunswick Cattle Producers Association; and
 - supporting 22 local meat processing projects for upgrades to improve availability of local meat products in New Brunswick.
- Modernizing the oversight of the bee industry and offering better protections against invasive species with a new *Bee Act*.
- Developing a New Brunswick Swine Market Interruption Response Plan to provide guidance and resource information to industry and government in the event of a disease or non-disease related emergency or market interruption.
- Completing a diagnostic of the fishing and processing industry in New Brunswick, which included an economic impact study of the lobster, snow crab, shrimp, and herring industries.
- Investing, along with the federal government,
 - a total of \$18.8M to help improve New Brunswick's fish and seafood processing, harvesting and aquaculture sectors. Through the Atlantic Fisheries Fund, 62 projects were approved to enhance productivity, innovation and sustainability in all sectors, enabling industry to be more efficient and adapt to meet national and international market requirements; and
 - a total of \$7.5M to help strengthen and grow the agriculture sector. Through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, 767 projects were approved that supported production improvement, business development, market and product development, research and development, environmental initiatives, assurance and food safety, and educational activities.
- New Brunswick's food and seafood export sales exceeded \$2.6B in 2021, and New Brunswick experienced the largest increase in seafood exports in Canada for 2021, increasing by \$827.5M (60 per cent).
- Launching the New Brunswick Deliciously Canadian logo and brand for exports, aiming to benefit the province's food and beverage exporters with a strong and clear online presence in new and existing international markets.

Performance Outcomes

The information below outlines some of the department's priorities and how we measured our performance.

Outcome #1

OVERALL AGRI-FOOD AND SEAFOOD EXPORTS

Enable sector growth in the agri-food and seafood sectors by increasing exports sales outside of Canada by three per cent in 2021.

Why is it important?

Agri-food and seafood exports contribute significantly to the New Brunswick economy. Investments in promoting New Brunswick products and assisting New Brunswick companies to penetrate strategic markets should increase the overall value of exports in future years.

Overall performance

The target for agri-food and seafood export sales was exceeded in 2021 by \$787.9M. Export value increased significantly by 47 per cent, largely due to an increasing demand of seafood products.

What initiatives were undertaken to achieve the outcome?

New Brunswick was the most active province in Canada in 2021, participating in 11 trade shows and generating over 350 leads for exporters. New Brunswick took advantage of virtual platforms and organized five virtual business to business matchmaking initiatives generating 183 meetings. The new brand and marketing campaign: New Brunswick – Deliciously Canadian was launched and used in eight different digital promotions and helped our social media accounts reach over 70,000 followers. We used in-market consultants to keep an in-person presence with 10 in-store/restaurant/e-commerce promotions in Asia and Europe. Finally, New Brunswick shared market intelligence with the industry by organizing six workshop/seminars addressing market demand and market access requirements.

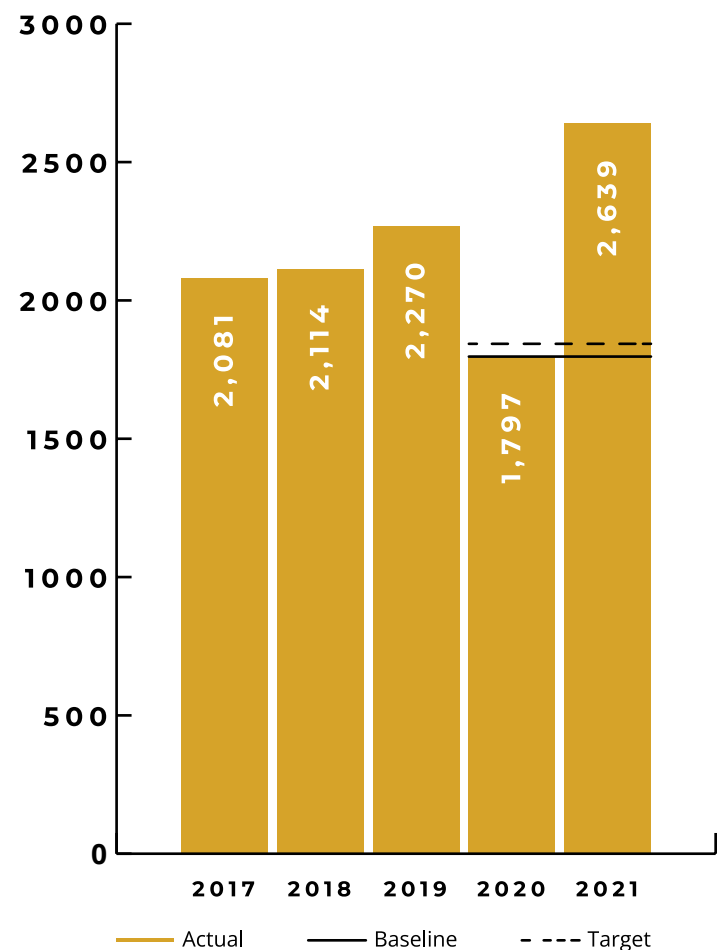
Agri-food and seafood exports (\$ millions)

Baseline: \$1,797.4 million (2020)*

Target: \$1,851.3 million (3% growth from 2020)

Actual: \$2,639.2 million (47% growth from 2020)

*updated from the 2020-2021 report



*2019 and 2020 numbers revised by Statistics Canada

Outcome #2 GROWTH IN OYSTER PRODUCTION

Enable sector growth in the oyster aquaculture industry by 10 per cent each calendar year from 2017-2021.

Why is it important?

The oyster aquaculture industry is an important generator of employment and economic activity in rural coastal communities along the eastern shores of the province. While the shellfish aquaculture sector has experienced unprecedented growth in New Brunswick in the past decade, there remain opportunities to further expand the sector, which would create jobs and grow the economy. The number of bags on a site directly correlates to the site's inventory.

Overall Performance

The number of oyster production bags in the water grew by six per cent compared to 2020. This was below the targeted increase of 10 per cent annual growth but represents an overall growth of 31 per cent since 2017. Year five of the 2017-2021 Shellfish Aquaculture Development Strategy was completed and although there were challenges in meeting bag count targets several other targets were exceeded. An additional strategy target was to record sales of 30M market size oysters by 2021, which was exceeded in 2018 (34.3M), 2019 (35M), 2020 (33.1M), and 2021 (45.9M). The farm gate target was \$12M. The sales numbers for market size oysters in 2018 (\$14.8M), 2019 (\$15.3M), 2020 (\$12.9M), and 2021 (\$19.2M) all exceeded this target. It is important to note the drop in farm gate value in 2020 was partly due to a reduction in average price to \$0.39 per individual oyster coupled with a drop in demand for oysters in 2020 due to COVID-19. New markets were created amidst the pandemic, contributing to the continued increased demand in 2021.

What initiatives were undertaken to achieve the outcome?

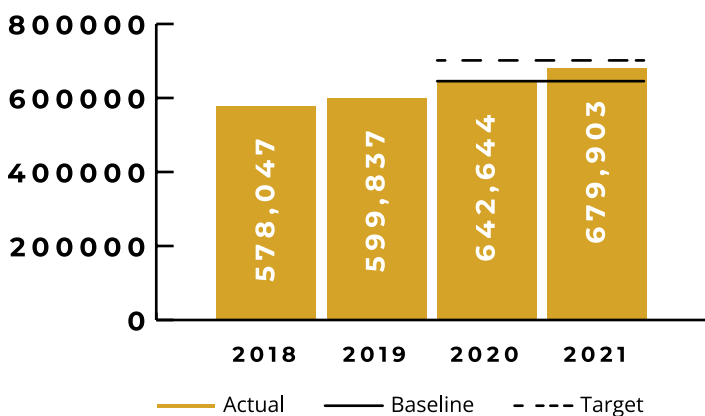
This outcome was achieved as part of the department's 2017-2021 Shellfish Aquaculture Development Strategy. The goal of this strategy is to promote the orderly growth of New Brunswick's shellfish aquaculture industry, while recognizing the importance of protecting the environment and co-existing with other users of the marine space. Five broad objectives were set to guide efforts aimed at increasing shellfish production. Strategic actions were identified to address priorities, the implementation of which is coordinated by DAAF through a multi-party committee that includes industry and First Nations representatives.

Oyster production (number of bags)

Baseline: 642,644 bags (2020)

Target: 10% growth from 2020 (706,908 bags)

Actual: 6% growth from 2020 (679,903)

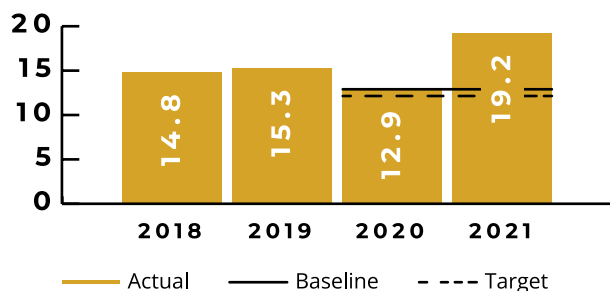


Farm gate value of market size oysters (\$ millions)

Baseline: \$12.9 million (2020)

Target: \$12 million by 2021

Actual: \$19.2 million in 2021 (49% growth from 2020)



Outcome #3

CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENTAL AGRICULTURE (CEA) IN NB

Enable growth in the vegetable sector by increasing the square meters of CEA facilities producing vegetables, which will in turn increase farm cash receipts and local food availability. Production is targeted at 30,000 square meters by 2024.

Why is it important?

The NB Food Self-Sufficiency Model that was developed as part of the Action Plan: Improving Food Self-Sufficiency in New Brunswick, has identified that vegetables (excluding potatoes) represent one of the largest gaps between what the province produces and consumes. In 2020, NB was only eight per cent self-sufficient in vegetable production. This represents an opportunity for growth in CEA for new entrants, existing producers and Indigenous participants. By increasing production space in CEA, food self-sufficiency will be increased.

Overall Performance

Square meter growth in the CEA sector between 2020 and 2021 increased from 20,507 square meters to 24,674 square meters, representing a growth of 20.3 per cent. Farm cash receipts of greenhouse grown vegetable grew by 17.6 per cent during the same period (from \$1.38M in 2020 to \$1.62M in 2021).

What initiatives were undertaken to achieve the outcome?

As the market for locally produced New Brunswick fruit and mixed vegetable crops has grown significantly during the past few years, so to has funding for the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Development program, with \$80,000 being invested in 2019 and \$500,000 in 2020. In 2021, funding for the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Development program was increased from \$500,000 to approximately \$793,000, which netted a substantial increase in growing space.

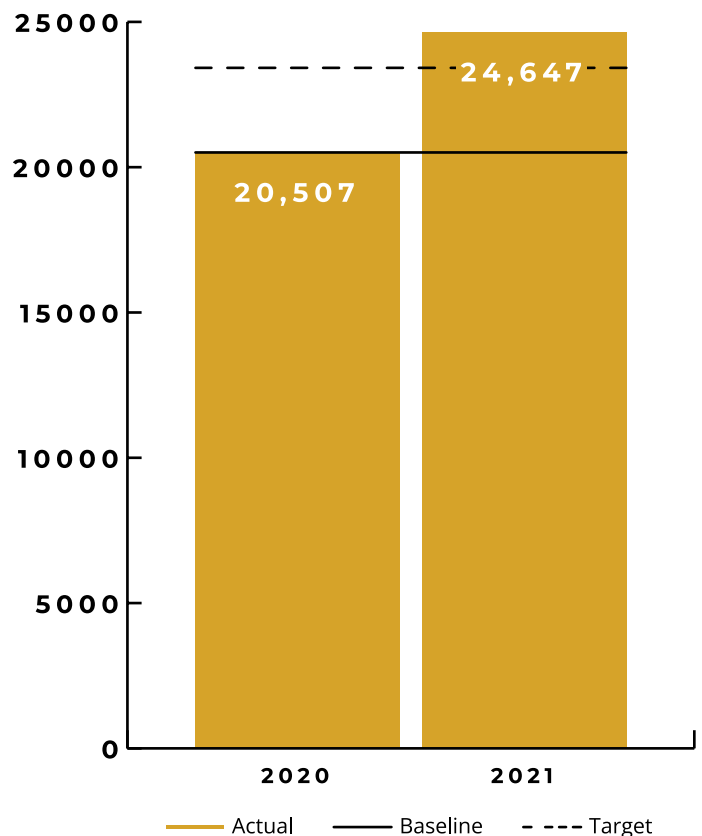
Square metres of controlled environmental agriculture

Baseline: 20,507 square meters (2020)*

Target: 30,000 square meters by 2024 or an additional 3,000 square meters annually (23,507 square meters in 2021)

Actual: 24,674 square meters achieved in 2021

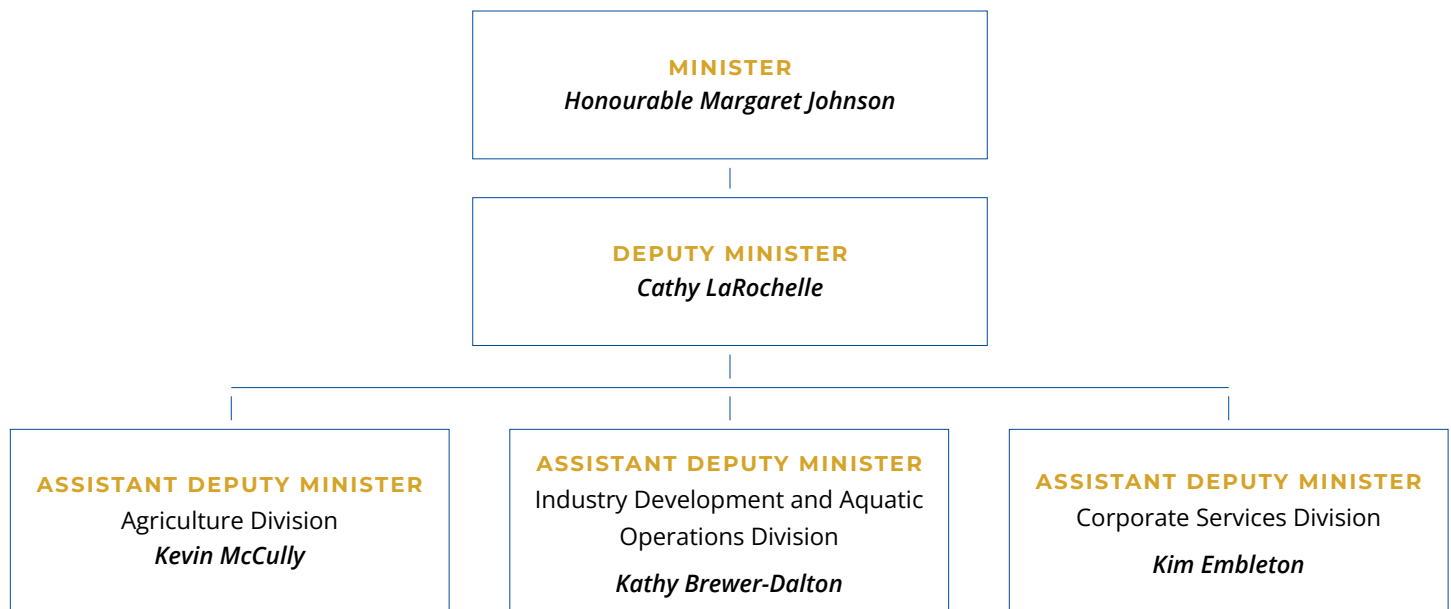
* updated from 2020-2021 report



Overview of departmental operations

The mandate of the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries is to develop and implement a total development approach for the agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and value-added sectors. This approach aims at improving the economic competitiveness and responsible development of these sectors and related industries.

HIGH-LEVEL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Division Overview and Highlights

The department delivers targeted programs and services and provides strategic direction in support of economic development opportunities related to the sustainable primary and value-added agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors.

Please note that the budget and expenses for the common administration of the Departments of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries and Natural Resources and Energy Development are recorded in the 2021-2022 annual report for the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development. The common administration applies to the Corporate Services Division.

AGRICULTURE DIVISION

The Agriculture Division is composed of four branches: Animal Health Services; Crop Sector Development; Livestock Sector Development; and Potato Sector Development.

The **Animal Health Services Branch** provides veterinary field services and laboratory diagnostic services to the livestock sector and supports important related programs for the greater public good (e.g., rabies, New Brunswick Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). Veterinary field services provide on-farm animal health care, technical services and disease surveillance to agriculture and equine stakeholders throughout the province on a 365 day/year (24-hour basis).

Highlights:

- Departmental veterinarians completed 8,388 on-farm visits and travelled over 587,000 km to all regions of the province to support the health and development of the livestock industry. The Provincial Veterinary Laboratory supported the departmental vets and other clients with diagnostic work in response to over 3,500 submissions.
- Completed approximately 70,000 tests at the Provincial Veterinary Laboratory and Foreign Animal Disease Laboratory, including 116 tests for rabies and 1,566 tests for Avian Influenza. These tests support the labs' role in promoting and protecting animal health, public health, regulatory responsibilities, animal welfare and other functions related to disease surveillance and control in New Brunswick.
- Led and coordinated the dispersal of 368,000 oral rabies vaccine baits through aerial and hand

distribution over 4,700 km² of western New Brunswick. This was done with the cooperation and support from the Department of Health and the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development. No cases of rabies were reported during the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

The **Crop Sector Development Branch** provides general crop technical advisory services; integrated pest management and diagnostic services; environmental programming and advice; strategic and innovative research and monitoring; and develops and implements strategic sector initiatives and programs. The branch is also responsible for the Farm Land Identification Program, leads the climate change file for the Agriculture Division, and represents the department and agricultural sector interests on various intergovernmental, regional, and national committees.

Highlights:

- Developed and launched two requests for proposals to support expansion of the wild blueberry industry in the Acadian Peninsula (one for primary production for the public; and one to encourage new/enhanced wild blueberry processing, value-add activities, or other business investments).
- Provided virtual methods to transfer technical information to producers and staff, including a series of five Controlled Environment Agriculture webinars.
- Conducted stakeholder engagement sessions on potential changes to the Farm Land Identification Program, in collaboration with Service New Brunswick and Finance and Treasury Board, to increase the amount of land in production and support producer's access to idle farmland.

The **Livestock Sector Development Branch** provides technical advisory services; strategic and innovative research and monitoring; and develops and implements strategic sector initiatives and programs. The branch is also responsible for the New Brunswick Grain Commission.

Highlights

- Provided support to the livestock and livestock feed sectors through technical advisory services, feed variety research, promoting grain and oilseed quality through the New Brunswick Grain Commission, animal disease emergency preparedness, promoting livestock traceability through the Livestock Premises Identification database and strategic livestock program design and delivery.
- Led the Maritime Working Group on Food Self-Sufficiency, compiling and sharing information on self-sufficiency levels with Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Activities also included identifying issues and opportunities to cooperatively support the agriculture industry, in particular the non-supply managed livestock sectors, to increase self-sufficiency capacity.

The **Potato Sector Development Branch** provides technical advisory services; strategic and innovative research and monitoring; and develops and implements strategic sector initiatives and programs. The branch also includes the Plant Propagation Centre (PPC), which is responsible for the production of tissue cultured nuclear stock according to the requirements of the Canadian Seed Potato Certification System. The PPC houses the Canadian Potato Variety Repository, a collection of nearly 500 varieties that supplies nuclear stock material to the seed potato industry of New Brunswick, other Canadian provinces, the United States, and countries around the world.

Highlights

- Provided support to industry through technical advisory services, disease diagnostics, processing potato testing, potato variety research trials, crop monitoring services for pests and disease (e.g., aphid alert, late blight), daily in season crop updates, post-harvest testing for Potato Virus "Y" and regulatory services to ensure enforcement of the *Potato Disease Eradication Act*.
- Increased seeded area and record yields pushed the province's production to over eighteen million hundredweights. Support provided by the branch contributed to potatoes being the highest value crop grown in New Brunswick with 2021 farm cash receipts at \$166.1M.
- The PPC produced 152,000 disease-free units (plantlets/micro-tubers) in 2021, which are used by the seed potato industry to further multiply.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND AQUATIC OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Industry Development and Aquatic Operations Division consists of four branches: Aquaculture and Extension Services; Commercial Fisheries and Strategic Initiatives; Marketing and Trade; and Business Growth.

The **Aquaculture and Extension Services Branch** provides specialist advice and extension services to promote and foster the growth and competitiveness of the aquaculture sector and administers the regulatory framework for aquaculture in New Brunswick. The branch provides services and programs focused on maintaining responsible practices that produce safe, high quality seafood products. The branch also provides regulatory oversight of the *Aquaculture Act* and the *Seafood Processing Act*. The Aquaculture and Extension Services Branch includes three separate units: Aquaculture Sector Development, Aquaculture Science and Fish Health, and Leasing, Licensing and Compliance.

Highlights

- Continued the engagement process for the proclamation of the new *Aquaculture Act* and the making of the associated Regulations.
- Staff conducted the following compliance checks under the *Aquaculture Act* and *Seafood Processing Act*: 198 shellfish site inspections, 28 finfish site inspections, 119 fish buyer visits and five inspections on smokehouses. In addition, 456 surveillance visits took place with 3,970 fish submitted for testing under the Infectious Salmon Anemia surveillance program, while under the Certificate of Health for Transfer program, there were 35 visits and 1,070 samples (eggs, fry, smolt) tested.

The **Commercial Fisheries and Strategic Initiatives Branch** provides specialized advice and extension services to support and advocate for New Brunswick interests in the fisheries sector. The branch provides technical advice to support programming focusing on maintaining responsible practices and production of safe, high quality seafood products. It has management responsibilities over two Marine Service Centres in New Brunswick and the New Brunswick Aquarium and Marine Centre. The Commercial Fisheries and Strategic Initiatives Branch includes three separate units: Commercial Fisheries, Strategic Initiatives and the New Brunswick Aquarium and Marine Centre.

Highlights

- Assessed the economic impact of reopening the redfish fishery on New Brunswick communities and worked with fisheries associations to test different trawls for the fishery.
- Hosted a Minister's Round Table on Fisheries with fishery and seafood processing industry representatives in October 2021 to ensure that the Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries received advice on issues impacting the industry.
- The New Brunswick Aquarium and Marine Centre had a 40 per cent increase in visitors in 2021 over the previous tourism season. The attraction continued to provide COVID-19 protocols to ensure a safe environment for visitors.

The **Marketing and Trade Branch** provides strategic delivery and coordination of marketing and trade initiatives. This includes facilitation of increased local, domestic, and international New Brunswick seafood and agri-food sales. Key initiatives include the implementation and execution of the *Local Food and Beverages Strategy 2021-2025*, promotion of the New Brunswick Food Basket, the promotion and expansion of seafood and agri-food export markets, and compilation of market intelligence and other related activities.

Highlights

- Completed year one of the *Local Food and Beverages Strategy 2021-2025* and announced key achievements for 2021, including
 - vegetable production increased 24 per cent;
 - 1,600 students were educated on New Brunswick food and beverage sectors;
 - 15 grocery retail matchmaking initiatives resulted in sales opportunities for local food and beverage products;
 - 45 videos featuring local growers, producers and manufacturers were shared as part of the Buy Local for Good campaign on social media; and
 - 1,100 New Brunswickers joined the Food for All NB bilingual garden network.

- Ensured strong New Brunswick food industry representation within our key markets (Europe, Asia and North America) throughout 2021-2022, despite global trade show cancellations and restrictions.
 - 16 international market development activities took place in 2021-2022 with an average participation rate of four New Brunswick companies per event, generating over 350 leads.
 - 10 international promotional activities took place in 2021-2022 generating over 15,000,000 views on social media for seafood and agri-food products from New Brunswick.

The **Business Growth Branch** provides strategic delivery and coordination of development initiatives to support clients, including new entrants. The branch is responsible for fostering growth of existing businesses through expansion, modernization or diversification within agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors. Business growth officers are the liaison to programs, including extension services, offered by the department and various other partners.

Highlights

- Supported over 55 new entrants in the three sectors by providing business navigation and financial programming to support growth in primary and value-added food production.
- Led Labour Force Adjustment committees to recommend initiatives aimed at improving recruitment and retention of labour in agriculture and seafood processing.

CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

The Corporate Services Division provides direction and support in matters of human resources, financial services, policy, strategy, information and technology, facilities management and coordination of financial assistance to the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors under various funding programs.

The division consists of the Financial Services Branch, the Industry Financial Programs Branch, the Human Resource Services Branch, the Information Systems and Departmental Services Branch, the Strategic Planning and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, the Regulatory Affairs Branch, and the Performance Excellence Branch.

The **Financial Services Branch** is responsible for the department's financial resources, including expenditure and revenue management, budgeting, accounting and financial reporting services.

Highlights

- Supported the Government of New Brunswick Enterprise Resource Planning team and the department with the implementation of the Accounts Payable module of Oracle Fusion. This included how invoices are reviewed, coded, and approved as well as a change in the purchase card process.
- Implemented a new standardized monthly branch reporting process.

The **Industry Financial Programs Branch** provides financial assistance to the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors under various funding programs.

Highlights

- Administered the fourth year of the five-year Canadian Agricultural Partnership, an investment by federal, provincial, and territorial governments to strengthen and grow the agriculture sector.
- Commenced federal, provincial, territorial negotiations on the next five-year investment to support the agriculture sector which resulted in the release of the Guelph Statement in November 2021.

The **Human Resource Services Branch** is responsible for providing all human resource management services, including recruitment and retention, classification, labour relations, human resource policies, employee engagement, organizational development, succession planning and administration of programs such as health and safety.

Highlights

- Supported GNB with critical staffing needs during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to ensure critical services could continue.
- Launched new Health and Safety bulletin boards in all offices.
- Launched a communication matrix to allow efficient notification of common safety concerns.

The **Information Systems and Departmental Services Branch** provides province-wide services to the department, including information technology, records management, information security, intranet management, facilities management, remotely piloted aircraft (drone) services and geographic information system services.

Highlights

- Provided support for a project to identify potential farmland within the province.
- Provided mapping support for determining the locations of farms to be examined in the case of a positive avian influenza test result.
- Supported continuous improvement efforts through revising, developing and training on standard operating procedures within records management, with emphasis on the complete restructure of departmental record transfers dating back to the early 1900's.

The **Strategic Planning and Intergovernmental Relations Branch** provides strategy development, strategic planning, and support for federal-provincial-territorial activities. The branch is also responsible for trade policy analysis, economic forecasting, monitoring, research, statistical analysis, and reporting. Additionally, the branch is responsible for the management of ministerial correspondence.

Highlights

- Published (on-line) Sectors in Review Reports for Agriculture and Agri-Food, and Aquaculture, as well as the New Brunswick Agri-Food and Seafood Export Highlights, all for 2020.

The **Regulatory Affairs Branch** provides leadership, coordination and support regarding the development of legislation, policy initiatives and proposals, and the Minister's legislative business. The branch also manages requests under the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and provides support on privacy matters. The branch, in conjunction with the Strategic Planning and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, continued to provide policy administrative support to the Department's Policy Management Committee.

Highlights

- Coordinated responses to 10 requests under the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

The **Performance Excellence Branch** supports departmental programs to align efforts toward common goals, understand progress toward targeted outcomes, and conduct improvement projects to close gaps. This work is done by facilitators using process improvement, project management, change management, and other innovative techniques.

Highlights

- Supported implementation of the Action Plan on Improving Food Self-Sufficiency in New Brunswick initiative using project management tools.
- Facilitated a review of the Sector Advice and Business Growth process, using Lean and Change Management tools.
- Participated in GNB-wide efforts to enhance our capacity for change management and to compile and communicate lessons learned from management of the COVID-19 pandemic response.

Financial information

EXPENDITURES IN DETAIL 2021-2022 (\$)

ORDINARY PROGRAM	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS*	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries	45,455,000	1,322,700	46,777,700	43,025,400	(3,752,300)
Total 2021-2022	45,455,000	1,322,700	46,777,700	43,025,400	(3,752,300)

* Includes Special Warrant of \$1,248,200

CAPITAL ACCOUNT	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Capital Equipment	140,000		140,000	128,100	(11,900)
Strategic Infrastructure	200,000		200,000	191,200	(8,800)
Total 2021-2022	340,000	-	340,000	319,300	(20,700)

LOANS AND ADVANCES	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
New Brunswick Agricultural Insurance Commission	1,600,000		1,600,000	-	(1,600,000)
Loan Programs	9,500,000		9,500,000	5,038,300	(4,461,700)
Total 2021-2022	11,100,000	-	11,100,000	5,038,300	(6,061,700)

REVENUE IN DETAIL 2021-2022 (\$)

REVENUE	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Return on Investment	400,000		400,000	504,900	104,900
Taxes on Consumption	-		-	(2,200)	(2,200)
Licences and Permits	268,000		268,000	232,800	(35,200)
Sales of Goods and Services	5,292,000		5,292,000	5,101,900	(190,100)
Miscellaneous	71,000		71,000	87,700	16,700
Conditional Grants - Canada	4,630,000		4,630,000	4,864,000	234,000
Total 2021-2022	10,661,000	-	10,661,000	10,789,100	128,100

LOANS AND ADVANCES	MAIN ESTIMATES	APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS	FINAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
Recoveries	700,000		700,000	2,590,100	1,890,100
Total 2021-2022	700,000	-	700,000	2,590,100	1,890,100

Summary of staffing activity

Pursuant to section 4 of the *Civil Service Act*, the Secretary to Treasury Board delegates staffing to each Deputy Head for his or her respective department(s). Please find below a summary of the staffing activity for 2021-2022 for the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries.

NUMBER OF PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES AS OF DEC. 31 OF EACH YEAR		
EMPLOYEE TYPE	2021	2020
Permanent	164	167*
Temporary	38	34*
TOTAL	202	201*

* updated from the 2020-2021 report.

The department advertised 27 competitions, including 18 open (public) competitions and nine closed (internal) competitions.

Pursuant to sections 15 and 16 of the *Civil Service Act*, the department made the following appointments using processes to establish merit other than the competitive process:

APPOINTMENT TYPE	APPOINTMENT DESCRIPTION	SECTION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ACT	NUMBER
Specialized Professional, Scientific or Technical	An appointment may be made without competition when a position requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a high degree of expertise and training • a high degree of technical skill • recognized experts in their field 	15(1)	1
Equal Employment Opportunity Program	Provides Aboriginals, persons with disabilities and members of a visible minority group with equal access to employment, training and advancement opportunities.	16(1)(a)	0
Department Talent Management Program	Permanent employees identified in corporate and departmental talent pools, who meet the four-point criteria for assessing talent, namely performance, readiness, willingness and criticalness.	16(1)(b)	0
Lateral transfer	The GNB transfer process facilitates the transfer of employees from within Part 1, 2 (school districts) and 3 (hospital authorities) of the Public Service.	16(1) or 16(1)(c)	3
Regular appointment of casual/temporary	An individual hired on a casual or temporary basis under section 17 may be appointed without competition to a regular properly classified position within the Civil Service.	16(1)(d)(i)	0
Regular appointment of students/ apprentices	Summer students, university or community college co-op students or apprentices may be appointed without competition to an entry level position within the Civil Service.	16(1)(d)(ii)	0

Pursuant to section 33 of the *Civil Service Act*, no complaints alleging favouritism were made to the Deputy Head of the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries and no complaints were submitted to the Ombud.

Summary of legislation and legislative activity

BILL #	NAME OF LEGISLATION	DATE OF ROYAL ASSENT	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
58	<i>Bee Act</i> Chap-30.pdf (gnb.ca)	June 11, 2021	Repealed the <i>Apiary Act</i> and replaced with a new <i>Bee Act</i> to modernize the oversight of the bee industry and offer better protections against invasive species.
42	<i>Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act</i> Chap-16.pdf (gnb.ca)	June 11, 2021	Amendments to various New Brunswick legislation that included the repeal of the <i>Sheep Protection Act</i> .

NAME OF REGULATION	EFFECTIVE DATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
Amendments to Fees for Veterinary Services Regulation under the <i>Financial Administration Act</i>	April 26, 2021	Amended the Regulation to establish increased fees relative to the services provided by provincial veterinarians.
Amendments to the Farm Land Identification Regulation under the <i>Real Property Tax Act</i>	June 7, 2021	Amended the Regulation to correct an oversight in subsection 10.3(1).

The acts for which the department was responsible in 2021-2022 may be found at: [Browse Acts by Department \(gnb.ca\)](#)

Summary of Official Languages activities

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries has continued to work on its Official Languages action plan, which includes the four sectors of activity as identified in the [Plan on Official Languages – Official Bilingualism: A Fundamental Value](#). The following outlines the actions taken during 2021-2022 in each of the four areas of focus.

FOCUS 1

Ensure access to service of equal quality in English and French throughout the province:

- Employees were reminded of their legal obligation to offer service of equal quality in English and French in all locations.
- Linguistic profiles were maintained throughout the year and utilized during the hiring process to ensure the department's ability to provide services in both Official Languages throughout the province.

FOCUS 2

An environment and climate that encourages, for all employees, the use of the Official Language of their choice in their workplace:

- Communication, correspondence, and interactions with employees, such as performance appraisals, were delivered in their Official Language of choice.
- The department continued to encourage the use of both Official Languages for small meetings. For all large meetings, the department promoted bilingual presentations, or separate English and French sessions.

FOCUS 3

New and revised government programs and policies will take the realities of the province's official linguistic communities into account:

- Correspondence and information were provided to the public in the Official Language of their choice.
- The department held a series of 15 Public Consultations regarding the Aquaculture regulatory framework. Sessions were delivered in the language of choice of the participants.

FOCUS 4

Ensure Public Service employees have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the *Official Languages Act*, relevant policies, regulations, and the province's obligations with respect to Official Languages:

- The Deputy Minister, and other management team members, reminded employees of their legal obligation to offer services in the Official Language of choice of the client. Employees were also reminded of the Language of Service Policy and Guidelines and the Official Languages Toolkit.
- As part of the ongoing process for employee orientation and performance management, employees were required to read the policies related to Official Languages.

CONCLUSION

The department understands its obligations under the *Official Languages Act* and related policies and strives to provide quality services to clients in both Official Languages. The department encourages and supports the use of both Official Languages in the workplace and invests in employee development through second-language training. The 2021-2022 year was a success as the Department did not receive any official languages complaints.

Summary of recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General

SECTION 1 - Includes the current reporting year and the previous year.

NAME AND YEAR OF AUDIT AREA WITH LINK TO ONLINE DOCUMENT	RECOMMENDATIONS
	TOTAL
N/A	N/A

NAME AND YEAR OF AUDIT AREA WITH LINK TO ONLINE DOCUMENT	ACTIONS TAKEN
N/A	N/A

SECTION 2 - Includes the reporting periods for years three, four and five.

NAME AND YEAR OF AUDIT AREA WITH LINK TO ONLINE DOCUMENT	RECOMMENDATIONS	
	TOTAL	IMPLEMENTED
2019 V3 Chapter 7: Contaminated Sites Chap7e.pdf (agnb-vgnb.ca)	1	1

Report on the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*

As provided under section 18(1) of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*, the chief executive shall prepare a report of any disclosures of wrongdoing that have been made to a supervisor or designated officer of the portion of the public service for which the chief executive officer is responsible. The Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries received no disclosures of wrongdoing in the 2021-2022 fiscal year.