

Accountability Report

2024 - 2025





Contents

Accountability Statement	Page 1
Message from Minister and CEO	Page 2
Measuring our Performance	Page 3
Strategic Priorities:	
Knowledge and Applied Solutions	Page 4
Sustainability and Climate Change	Page 9
Products to Market	Page 13
Financial Results	Page 17
Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act	Page 18





Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report of Perennia Food and Agriculture Corporation for the year ended March 31, 2025, is prepared pursuant to the *Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against Perennia's business plan for the fiscal year just ended. The report of Perennia's outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgements and opinions by Perennia management.

We acknowledge that this Accountability Report is the responsibility of Perennia management. The report is, to the

extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the Perennia 2024-25 Business Plan.

Original signed by

Minister
The Honourable
Greg Morrow

CEO
Lynne Godlien

Minister and CEO Message

We are pleased to present the Accountability Report for Perennia Food and Agriculture Corporation.

In 2024-25, the three priority areas we focused on as Nova Scotia's Food Development Agency were knowledge and applied solutions, sustainability and climate change and supporting getting Nova Scotia food and beverages to market.

Perennia has a long history providing technical advice, resources and practical, applied educational opportunities to farmers. In 2024-25, we promoted our that our food science, regulatory and quality and food safety specialists were available for no-charge technical advice to help food business address small hurdles that were impeding their business growth.

We also focused on creating new training courses including one for quality assurance professionals and began developmet of a Nova Scotia-made food handlers course to be launched online in 2025-26.

Data gathering and making it accessible and useful for industry was a priority this year. In 2024-25 we partnered with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change to install more weather stations for producers. The Centre for Marine Applied Research at Perennia continued its valuable data collection under the Coastal Monitoring Program to inform aquaculture management, track climate change stressors and assist fisheries management decisions in Nova Scotia.

Our Agriculture specialist team continued its good work, having 881 interactions with industry and industry representatives and undertaking valuable applied research on pests and how producers can better manage them. We fully launched our Plant Health Lab and started offering testing for mycotoxins, a toxic substance that can be found in livestock feed crops.

In 2024-25 we completed the final year of the On-Farm Climate Action Fund for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada providing over \$2.28 million to farmers in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador for climate change projects. We also began working with three new commodity associations to develop sector-wide climate change adaptation strategies under the Climate Adaptation Leadership Program funded by the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change.

We supported local businesses getting products to market with our Food Ventures and Seafood Accelerator programs as well as our commercial seal work creating new pet treat products. And, work began on a major beef initiative with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture to make producers more profitable and produce more local beef for Nova Scotians.

Perennia is committed to providing exemplary support to our province's food sectors. We look forward to doing that in the most innovative, responsive and collaborative way possible now and in the future.

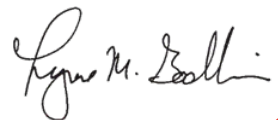
Minister

The Honourable
Greg Morrow



CEO

Lynne Godlien





Measuring Our Performance



Perennia has been supporting Nova Scotia's agriculture sector since 2001 and has expanded and evolved to include program delivery and services for quality and food safety, product development, analytical testing and seafood development. In 2022, we became a legislated crown corporation.

Our Mandate

Perennia is dedicated to supporting growth, transformation and economic development in the Nova Scotia's agriculture, seafood and food and beverage sectors.

This Accountability Report highlights how Perennia actioned the commitments outlined in its 2024-25 Business Plan

Knowledge and Applied Solutions



Priority: Build on our foundation of extending advice, information and knowledge sharing

Accomplishments

Initiative: develop a plan for adding a technical advice component to the Nova Scotia Seafood Accelerator Program

Outcome

In January 2025, Perennia launched Nova Scotia's first technical advice program for the seafood sector funded by the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

From January to March 2025, seafood companies reached out to Perennia's specialists 22 times seeking advice related to food safety, product quality, market access, regulatory interpretation, certification support and product development challenges. This program helps to build long-term industry capacity by supporting knowledge sharing and skills development to help seafood businesses make informed business decisions to achieve economic growth and diversification.

Initiative: continue to implement the Agriculture Production Extension Program for Nova Scotia farmers

Outcome

Perennia specialists and research technicians continue to deliver the Agricultural Extension Program for Nova Scotia farmers with funding from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture. In 2024-25, specialists had 881 individual interactions with farmers and industry representatives in person, on the phone, via text and email and video call. Topics ranged from general management and production advice, to pest and disease management recommendations.

In total, 54 events were held in person and online to share information and insights on agricultural production with a total of 1,587 participants. The team developed 203 educational resources including blog posts, fact sheets, podcasts and videos with total online views of over 27,000.



Initiative: prioritize awareness of our no-charge technical advice offering in product development and food safety

Outcome

In 2024-25, we focused on creating awareness of the availability of Perennia's food scientists and quality and food safety specialists to provide no charge technical advice by phone, email, text, video call or in-person under our various programs. At times, a quick call or visit can alleviate stress and barriers thus enabling a company to move forward with confidence and ease, meeting the renewed demands from customers, regulators and retailers.

In total, just under 450 technical advice queries were handled from farmers, harvesters, agrifood and seafood processors, regulatory bodies, provincial agencies, educational institutions, co-packers, commercial kitchens, packers and storage facilities.



Priority: Enhance ways for industry to access our resources and training opportunities

Accomplishments

Initiative: redesign our website with a more robust search function and account feature

Outcome

The foundation for the redesign of our main website (perennia.ca) was completed in 2024-25. In 2024-25 we made decisions on the future of several smaller, project-related websites that will be consolidated into our new Perennia website. We also determined how to redesign and consolidate online contact forms to determine the best way for clients to reach us and developed a plan for how all resources will be consolidated on the Perennia Academy.

The account feature was in place and being used on our Farm Data Tools website (farmdatatools.perennia.ca) and on the Perennia Academy (academy.perennia.ca) and will be across all our websites when the new perennia.ca is launched now in 2025-26.

Initiative: launch seven revised and two new food safety courses online, up to three new food safety courses specific to farmers, harvesters, and processors, and a new online course about developing a new food or beverage product

Outcome

In 2024-25 seven revised Food Safety Fundamental eLearning courses were launched on the Perennia Academy. These introductory courses educate food businesses on how to write and implement a food safety program in an informative and practical way. They also detail food safety plan basics, prerequisite programs and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point or HACCP plan development, where learners can work at their own pace and at their own convenience.

Two new eLearning courses were developed for employees working in agriculture and food businesses: Good Agriculture Practices for Employees and Good Manufacturing Practices for Employees. These courses assist owners, operators and quality professionals in educating front-line workers who work in the field, in a pack house or a processing or food production environment with the basic best practices in food production and handling. It is expected that these will be online in 2025-26 for people to purchase.

One new online course was developed on transitioning products from a local farmers' market to selling in retail stores with a focus on both product development and food safety considerations. This new course will be available online in 2025-26.

Initiative: enhance our capacity in adult education principles by having up to two team members get their certification in adult education

Two quality and food safety specialists mentored with our lead quality and food safety trainer to become lead trainers on future courses. They will be pursuing their certificate in adult education in the next few years.

Priority: conduct applied research to support the best possible decision making by businesses in agriculture and seafood

Accomplishments

Initiative: continue to conduct variety trials in field crops to provide objective results to help farmers make the best decisions for their farms regarding feed quality and yields

Outcome

Perennia continued its partnership in 2024-25 with the Atlantic Grains Council to conduct field and forage crop variety trials.

Trial results are used to develop crop variety recommendations for the various field crops for Nova Scotia farmers. The results are vital to ensure the varieties and cultivars for sale in the region are suited to our climatic and environmental conditions. This is particularly critical as our producers adapt to the impact of climate change.

In total, Perennia planted and collected performance data on 209 field crop varieties including silage corn, grain corn, barley, spring wheat, winter wheat and soybeans. In addition, we also conducted forage trials with 53 varieties including alfalfa, orchard grass, timothy, red clover and perennial grass. Some of the trials are done at partner sites but most were planted at the Perennia Field House, our 10-acre applied research site outside of Kentville.

Initiative: grow our field trial service line to support product registrations and make them available to Nova Scotia farmers

Outcome

The Perennia field trial service continued to see strong uptake in 2024-25 even with slightly fewer trials than the previous year.

This work is used by agricultural product companies to support product effectiveness and test registration claims. Regionally specific testing is required to support the registration of products for various crops with the goal of having them registered for use by farmers in Nova Scotia and the region.

This year, the team undertook 10 different product testing trials for the following crops: winter wheat, spring wheat, corn, wild blueberries, highbush blueberries and apples. Our work in 2024-25 led to two new registrations of fungicides for use in wild blueberries being approved for Nova Scotia growers.



Initiative: identify key industry benchmarks for livestock production and share with industry

Outcome

Perennia currently has three benchmarking projects in livestock production and supports the Atlantic Grains Council's Yield Enhancement Network (YEN). Data collection under these projects will support management changes to improve efficiency.

The Dairy Benchmarking Project has been ongoing since 2008. It currently includes seven producers using the full service and 20 part-time users. Producer participant meetings are held virtually and in person throughout the year.

Some of the key findings of the dairy benchmarking project are power and machinery represent 20 per cent of total farm cost and labour cost per cow varies by only five per cent between farms, regardless of herd size.

Perennia also has a Sheep Benchmarking Project that currently includes five of the larger sheep farms in the province. This was first full year for the project. Several in-person meetings were held, producer farm visits were conducted, and a webinar was presented for industry on digital record keeping options for sheep producers. It will take several years to collect enough information to support significant conclusions.

As part of the Nova Scotia Beef Initiative, Perennia started a production benchmarking program in 2024-25. Approximately 70 cow calf producers participated in the first five sessions held in December 2024 and January 2025. This production benchmarking work will continue into 2025-26.

A component of the YEN program is benchmarking production and collection of cost of production data. This was initially limited to wheat but was expanded in 2024-25 to other crops in the YEN project. This will increase industry's and Perennia's understanding of production and cost of production for all the major field crops grown in the province.



Initiative: continue collection of high-resolution temperature, dissolved oxygen and occasionally salinity data from coastal regions to expand the Coastal Monitoring Program to inform aquaculture management decisions, track climate change stressors and assist fisheries management decisions in Nova Scotia

Outcome

Through Perennia, the team at the Centre for Marine Applied Research (CMAR), continued to collect, manage, store and disseminate data of water quality parameters at 70 continuous monitoring locations around the province. This data is freely available at cmar.ca, the Canadian Oceans Observing System, the Ocean Tracking Network (acoustic detections), and the Nova Scotia Open Data Portal.

In 2024-25, CMAR focused on increasing collaboration with industry, organizations, and other government departments to expand the Coastal Monitoring Program and to support their specific initiatives. This included increased coverage in Cape Breton, additional deployments in novel areas supporting tracking of keystone, commercially important, and endangered species, and installing a sensor hub to monitor water quality parameters that impact the presence and prevalence of shellfish diseases.



Initiative: continue to conduct applied research as part of the Atlantic Tech Transfer Team for Apiculture (beekeeping)

Outcome

Perennia's Atlantic Tech Transfer Team for Apiculture (ATTTA) is a five-year program funded through industry support and the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership Program. The focus of ATTTA's work is honeybee health and pollination efficiencies.

In 2024-25, ATTTA completing the Maritime Varroa survey to get a better understanding of this mite's impact on destruction of honeybee colonies. The team delivered The Fundamentals of Beekeeping

Course in partnership with Dalhousie Agricultural Campus Continuing Education which introduced 13 new beekeepers to the beekeeping industry. Fifty-two blog posts were written with 35,000 views and 13 training events for new and developing beekeepers were conducted. ATTTA also conducted field trials on overwintering, pest and disease control and pollination efficiencies, and shared those results with industry. The team also represented the Atlantic region with national governing bodies of the honeybee industry.



Initiative: complete preliminary spatial suitability analysis for the Coastal Classification System to help identify potential areas for aquaculture development based on criteria important for fish welfare, environmental protection and consideration of other ocean users

Outcome

In 2024-25, CMAR continued to support the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture to help development of the Coastal Classification System – an online platform and supporting material to assess potential aquaculture development for four commercial aquaculture species in Nova Scotia.

The team prepared public multi-media communication materials about project processes and outcomes, established criteria, processed data, and developed a weighting and aggregation approach for incorporating data within the assessment.



Priority: provide timely testing solutions to reduce crop loss and get products to market

Accomplishments

Initiative: fully integrate Perennia's three testing labs to ensure efficient operations and consistent user experience

Outcome

In 2024-25, Perennia integrated all team members who provided lab services including cannabis, food and beverage and plant health. This collapsed silos and allowed for proactive cross-training and identification of cost savings for purchasing testing supplies and efficiencies in team tasks. It also supported discussions on what new tests could be offered to Nova Scotia agriculture and seafood companies.



Initiative: fully launch Plant Health Lab services to support Nova Scotia producers in having access to analytical test results in a timely manner to make the best possible crop management decisions

Outcome

The Plant Health Lab (PHL) and Perennia's Plant Pathologist are an integral part of the province's Agricultural Extension Program by supporting Perennia specialists with in-field diagnostics, offering fee-for service testing and expanding our research project capabilities relating to pests and diseases.

In 2024-25, PHL was fully launched offering diagnostic services focused on plant disease testing, viruses testing for grapes, raspberries and strawberries, and nematode testing.

The launch of a mycotoxin testing service to support the livestock sector through testing feed for contamination was a notable in 2025. Mycotoxins

are toxic substances produced by certain types of fungi that can contaminate various agricultural crops, particularly livestock feed crops. High levels of mycotoxins are detrimental to animal health. This was an innovative and low-cost test Perennia was able to offer Nova Scotia producers, saving them both time and money and accelerating their decision-making processes regarding feed.



Initiative: promote our ISO accreditation in cannabis testing to increase revenues

Outcome

The cannabis sector in Canada has undergone tremendous change, including consolidations and a proliferation of testing labs. While we continued to promote our cannabis services and ISO accreditation, revenues did not rebound to the levels anticipated.



Sustainability and Climate Change



Priority: Support Transforming byproducts and unmarketable agriculture and seafood products into marketable products

Accomplishments

Initiative: undertake development projects that focus on turning byproducts from food processing into market products or ingredients and encourage practical waste reduction in our food sectors

Outcome

Perennia, in partnership with the Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia and We'koqma'q First Nation (WFN), received funding through the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund to identify byproduct utilization opportunities for WFN's steelhead trout aquaculture operation. The goals of the project are to:

- characterize current byproduct generation utilization/disposal rates and associated greenhouse gas emissions
- develop product prototypes to support the commercialization of byproducts to reduce waste, reduce emissions and generate new economic streams from WFN trout.

This project is ongoing until August 2025.

Initiative: continue work on developing a commercial seal industry with a focus on pet food development and support full utilization of the resource

Outcome

In 2024-25, Perennia's work to build capacity in Nova Scotia's seal industry focused on the recruitment and training of new seal harvesters, supporting product development and analyzing and identifying viable market opportunities for a range of seal-based products.

Commercial and industry partners have been identified to support the transition from a pilot project into a full commercialization opportunity. Several pet food treat prototypes were developed, and the associated analysis is underway. Buyers have been identified for these products, so locally harvested and processed seal products could be on shelves in 2025.

Priority: Support the advancement of climate change adaptation and actively encourage innovative, sustainable and green production practices

Accomplishments

Initiative: deliver the final year of the three-year federal On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) program in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador to support best agricultural practices in reducing greenhouse gases and sequestering carbon

Outcome

The third and final year of OFCAF was successfully implemented with funding of over \$2.28 million provided to farmers in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador for climate change projects.

In 2024-25, 112 on-farm projects were completed, advancing sustainable agricultural practices in both provinces. The types of funded projects included increased use of cover cropping, increased adoption of rotational grazing, and improved nitrogen (N) management.

OFCAF also focused on educational outreach to ensure adoption of these practices. Over the past year, several series of in-person educational workshops featuring influential guest speakers and farmer-to-farmer sessions were held to assist producers and agronomists in understanding and implementing the best management practices (BMPs) to sequester carbon. These educational efforts have been pivotal in demonstrating how BMPs can effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon, leading to on-farm efficiencies and contributing to the overall sustainability and resilience of the agricultural sector in our region.



Initiative: deliver the second year of the four-year Climate Adaptation Leadership Program to work with commodity associations to develop plans to address climate change

Outcome

This year marked the second full year of this four-year program funded under the Province's Climate Action Plan through the Department of Environment and Climate Change. The program continued to work with the Wild Blueberry Association of Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Tree Fruit Association and the Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association to develop their climate adaptation plans to address changes in weather patterns and conditions, crop loss and infrastructure damage. Some of the major themes in developing the plans have been increasing industry's knowledge of climate change, advocating for stronger government support, research to identify climate adaptation practices and crop resiliency, and improving industry environmental and financial sustainability.



Initiative: implement the second year of a five-year Agriculture Environment Program with the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Outcome

This was the second year of the five-year Agriculture Environmental Program funded under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Program partners are the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture.

The Manure Management Guide was revised in 2024-25 to support recommendations for dealing with and utilizing manure; it will be released to industry in early 2025-26. The revised Nova Scotia Livestock Mortality Management Guidelines were also completed in 2024-25.

A continued focus for 2024-25 was exploring the HOLOS software developed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. HOLOS is a whole farm greenhouse gas (GHG) and carbon accounting tool and focuses on providing sustainable and environmentally sound

pathways for reducing emissions and building soil carbon. In 2024-25, Perennia partnered with a Nova Scotia dairy farm to conduct a GHG and carbon audit, with full results to be available in 2025/26. At that time, it will be determined if this initial work will be expanded to other farms.

Initiative: Address issues related to soils and their impact on crops by developing tools for industry to ensure the long-term sustainability of this vital resource

Outcome

All Perennia agriculture specialists provide advice to farmers in relation to production issues attributed to soil including nutrient deficiencies, pH issues, and certain soil property issues. In 2024-25 the soils map was revised on the Farm Data Tools website to increase ease of use.



Initiative: begin identifying resources and capacity needed to move industry from climate change mitigation to adaptation

Outcome

In 2024-25, we hired a Climate Change Specialist under the Climate Adaptation Leadership Program to work with the three commodity associations developing climate change adaptation plans. The specialist and Perennia's Manager of Horticulture also worked closely with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture to develop new resources and a new website (Climate Smart Farming) to share information on climate change risks and adaptation strategies by commodity (climatesmart.perennia.ca)

Through the Agriculture Extension Program, Perennia specialists continuously identify and address climate change related issues with producers, particularly regarding pests and diseases, irrigation and changing weather patterns and temperatures.

Perennia also supports Nova Scotia's agricultural weather station network. In 2024-25 Perennia installed 18 new stations around the province with funding from the Nova Scotia Departments of Agriculture and

Environment and Climate Change. Six additional will be installed early in 2025-26. These weather stations are the foundation for developing online weather and climate-related decision tools for farmers to make better production management decisions.



Initiative: conduct applied research on economically important pests including powdery mildew resistance in apples

Outcome

Through Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding, three applied research projects were conducted including powdery mildew resistance testing and field trials for apples, soil disinfestation for covered agriculture production like greenhouses, and anthracnose in strawberries.

These projects provide important production information that is shared with industry and directly supports advice our specialists give to growers.

Powdery mildew can significantly impact apple yield and quality and can make the fruit unmarketable or allow for the introduction of severe infections, thus decreasing revenues for farmers. This trial determined what fungicides are expected to maintain their current performance in treating powdery mildew. This is critical information for growers and can make a significant impact on production decisions and yields.

Anthracnose is a significant disease in strawberry production, impacting fruit, foliage, and overall plant health. Without effective fungicides to counteract anthracnose, these economically significant fresh fruit and nursery sectors can see a yield loss of up to 70 per cent. The results of the research, through testing over 100 anthracnose samples from across the province, indicated fungicides that are no longer effective in

controlling strawberry anthracnose and identifying some alternatives that showed efficacy in controlling the disease.

Anaerobic soil disinfestation is used in protected crop structures including greenhouses and is a method of soil treatment that aims to suppress soilborne pathogens, nematodes, and weeds by creating oxygen-deprived conditions in the soil. The reduction of pest and weed pressures in protected structures reduces the need for costly treatments and crop loss impacts during the growing season. In 2024-25, the final year of the project, focus was on assessing the efficacy of several biological-based pest control products that can be used within protected crop structures, which is of particular importance to small scale and organic-based operations.

Initiative: conduct climate change vulnerability assessments to support the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in planning to adapt to the impacts of climate change

Outcome

Four climate change vulnerability assessments were conducted in 2024-25, which included actionable recommendations to support Nova Scotia's marine-based industries:

- Finfish aquaculture
- Shellfish aquaculture
- Aquatic animal health
- Critical non-small craft harbour marine infrastructure

All documents will be publicly available at cmar.ca and dfa-climate-change.novascotia.ca



Products to Market



Priority: Support an increase in Nova Scotia's consumption of local products

Accomplishments

Initiative: offer product development and food safety advice and support through the Food Ventures and Seafood Accelerator programs

Outcome

The Seafood Accelerator Program helps Nova Scotia-based seafood companies adapt to the changing demands of today's markets by supporting the hiring of Perennia specialists to develop new products, overcome technical challenges with existing products, update food safety programs to comply with regulatory requirements and gain access to new markets. In 2024-2025, a total of \$88,032.39 was awarded for 27 projects. This program is funded by the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The Food Ventures Program helps Nova Scotia-based farms and food and beverage businesses grow their businesses and reach new markets by upgrading food safety certifications and training, and creating new and better products through testing, labelling, and reformulation. In 2024-25, a total of \$68,766.81 of funding was awarded to 52 projects. Specialists also had 76 technical advice interactions with food companies, and developed 57 resources including training, fact sheets, videos and webinars.



Initiative: Increase our food safety regulatory support capacity

Outcome

In 2024-25 we added one additional specialist to our regulatory food safety team. With this increased capacity our regulatory food safety team was able to spend more time on one-on-one technical support for

clients navigating the various federal and provincial regulations related to food and beverage production.

Initiative: work with government and industry partners to support all our food sectors to take advantage of emerging local institutional markets

Outcome

The main outcome for 2024-25 in institutional procurement was the design of supporting materials for the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture's tour of various agri-food businesses with government representatives responsible for procurement in their agencies and departments.

Initiative: provide support for new seafood ventures such as cultured seaweed, land-based aquaculture and pet food development

Outcome

Perennia has supported the emerging kelp aquaculture sector by coordinating nutritional, microbiological and heavy metal testing of samples to support product development for a range of kelp-based products. Perennia supported KelpFest 2024 by judging the new product showcase and providing business development advice to start-up companies looking to use kelp as an ingredient.



Initiative: Work with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture on a Nova Scotia Beef Initiative to produce more local beef for Nova Scotians**Outcome**

Perennia is responsible for the following four extension projects as part of the Nova Scotia Beef Initiative:

- Beef Industry Overview
- Beef Finishing Extension Material Development
- Cow Calf Benchmarking and Extension
- Beef Feeder Pilot Program

Perennia also provided support for the overall program, worked with the Community Pasture Program, and administered the Beef Abattoir and Processing funding program.

In 2024-25, the Beef Industry Overview was completed as was an investigative trip for producers to the United Kingdom in June 2024 to better understand finishing beef in a similar environment to Nova Scotia and the inclusion of high levels of forages in cattle diets. As a result of this visit, a specialist from the Harper Adams Institute in the United Kingdom came to Nova Scotia and did five presentations across the province and visited several farms sharing his knowledge.

Perennia staff completed several production and cost of production guides which will be available to industry in early 2025-26.



Initiative: Continue to offer mobile bottling and filtration services to the Nova Scotia wine and spirits' sector**Outcome**

During fiscal year 2024-2025 our mobile services team:

- provided mobile services to 10 Nova Scotia wineries/cideries
- filtered over 700,000 liters of Nova Scotia wine and cider products
- bottled over 12,000 cases of Nova Scotia wine products, which equates to 144,000 bottles of Nova Scotia wine

Initiative: Support the implementation of buy local initiatives as part of the Nova Scotia Loyal Program**Outcome**

Through specifically funded projects, Perennia helps the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Buy Local team in their key role of supporting the Nova Scotia Loyal Program, with a focus on promoting Nova Scotia's food and beverage sector.

A key initiative for the team was coordinating retail and industry efforts which included monthly product sampling at Sobeys stores, timed with Nova Scotia Loyal Week. Each campaign highlighted a specific Nova Scotia agricultural product, helping to raise consumer awareness and strengthen the presence of local items in a major retail environment. To date 15 tastings have been conducted at 20 select Sobeys and independent retail locations.

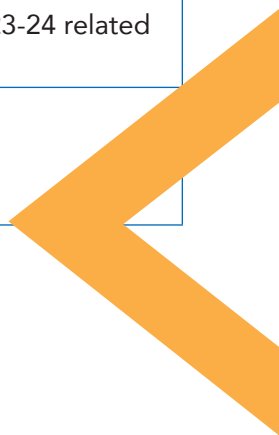
In addition to retail promotions, the team worked in partnership with key industry groups, including the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association, Horticulture Nova Scotia, Maple Producers of Nova Scotia, and the Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia. These partnerships supported seasonal promotions and public engagement campaigns aligned with the Nova Scotia Loyal brand. The Buy Local team also played a critical role in the transition of the former Buy Local web directory into the updated Nova Scotia Loyal website, ensuring the platform reflected a unified, accessible space for consumers to discover and connect with local producers (nsloyal.ca).

In 2024-25 the team also collaborated with other divisions within the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture to support business registration to the Nova Scotia Loyal platform at industry events and conferences. These outreach efforts helped expand the program's visibility and foster stronger connections between local businesses and the public. As of March 31, 2025, almost 1,000 businesses had registered for the Nova Scotia Loyal program. Through these initiatives, the NSDA Buy Local team continues to build momentum behind the Nova Scotia Loyal brand and reinforce the value of choosing Nova Scotia food and beverages.




2024-25 Performance Indictors

Indicator	Outcome
100 per cent completion of 2024-2025 deliverables for development and consulting projects that we have control over	We completed approximately 80 per cent of our deliverables as noted in project agreements. In some cases, project scope changed and/or equipment or supplies were delayed.
100 per cent of financial support available through Perennia managed programs dispersed to eligible farms and food and beverage processors	In 2024-25, we awarded 62 per cent of total project funds available to industry
Satisfaction level of 80 per cent or higher from participants in our training, field days, webinars and workshops	Average satisfaction level for our workshops, training, field days and webinars was 96 per cent
Support the development of 10 new or improved food and beverage products by the end of our agri-food and seafood accelerator programs	In 2024-25, eight food and/or beverage products were created or improved
Maintain number of industry interactions to provide technical advice in key activity areas	For interactions related to agriculture production there were 1066 in 2023-24 and 889 in 2024-25. This decrease was due to the increased interactions in 2023-24 related to Hurricane Fiona support.
Set baseline for measuring the impact of our work on businesses and sectors we work with	This is still being worked on



Financials

	2024-2025 Estimate	2024-2025 Actual	2024-2025 Variance
Program and Service Area	(\$thousands)		
Total Revenue	16,034	15,460	(574)
Organizational Support and Special Projects	7,551	6,498	(1,053)
Seafood Services	467	891	424
Centre for Marine and Applied Research	2,099	2,360	261
Agriculture Services	3,881	3,028	(853)
Quality and Food Safety Services	486	441	(45)
Product Development and Commercialization	1,128	1,191	63
Cannabis Lab	583	576	(7)
Total Gross Expenses	16,195	14,985	(1,210)
Annual Surplus / (Deficit)	(161)	475	(636)
TCA Revenue (included in Total Revenue)	20	209	189
Depreciation (included in Gross Expenses)	322	337	15
Expense Variance Explanation:			
Primarily related to lower project expenses on federal projects, lower costs associated with reduced consulting revenues, halt to restructuring with associated budgeted positions being unfilled, 3 FTEs on various leaves			
Revenue Variance Explanation:			
Primarily related to lower federal revenues, general consulting and cannabis testing revenues, offset by higher interest revenue on short term investments			
TCA Variance Explanation			
Equipment Grants related to Centre for Marine and Applied Research (\$101), Equipment (\$108)			
Capital grants are recognized in the revenue in the year received, related depreciation expenses are recognized over the useful life of the associated capital asset			



Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act

The Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act was proclaimed into law on December 20, 2011.

The Act provides for government employees to be able to come forward if they reasonably believe that a wrongdoing has been committed or is about to be committed and they are acting in good faith.

The Act also protects employees who do disclose from reprisals by enabling them to lay a complaint of reprisal with the Labour Board.

A Wrongdoing for the purposes of the Act is:

- a. a contravention of provincial or federal laws or regulations
- b. a misuse or gross mismanagement of public funds or assets
- c. an act or omission that creates an imminent risk of a substantial and specific danger to the life, health or safety of person or the environment, or
- d. directing or counselling someone to commit a wrongdoing

The following is a summary of disclosures received by Perennia:

Information Required under Section 18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2024-25
The number of disclosures received	0
The number of findings of wrongdoing	0
Details of each wrongdoing	0
Recommendations and actions taken on each wrongdoing	0



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