



# Growing Forward

A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

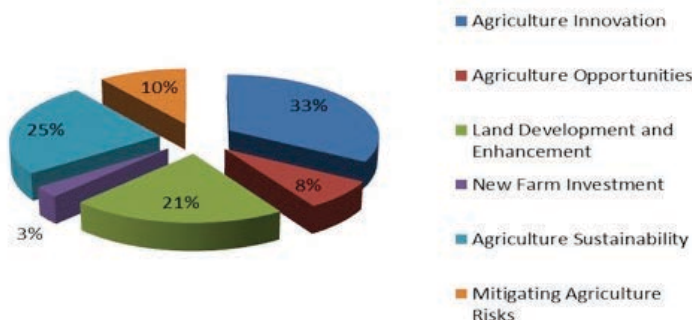
## HIGHLIGHTS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

On September 14, 2012, federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) Ministers of Agriculture reached agreement on the new five-year *Growing Forward 2* policy framework which came into effect April 1, 2013 and the *Growing Forward* policy framework expired. Here's a look back at our successes under *Growing Forward* that helped shape this new policy framework.

### OVERVIEW

- *Growing Forward* was a five-year (2008-2013) federal-provincial-territorial policy framework for the agriculture and the agrifoods sector to become more sustainable, competitive, and innovative.
- *Growing Forward* represented a national investment of \$1.3 billion cost-shared on a 60/40 basis between federal, provincial and territorial governments.
- In Newfoundland and Labrador, from 2009 to 2013, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Department of Natural Resources invested a total \$22.06 million in non-business risk management programs through *Growing Forward*.
- *Growing Forward* provided a suite of Business Risk Management (BRM) programs; AgriStability, AgriInvest, AgriInsurance, AgriRecovery, for protection from different types of production and financial losses. Approximately \$3.3 million in payments were provided to farmers over the five-year *Growing Forward* Program.
- Non-Business Risk Management programs in Newfoundland and Labrador were categorized under six primary programs: Agriculture Innovation Program, Agriculture Opportunities Program, Agriculture Land Development Program, New Farm Investment Program, Agriculture Sustainability Program and Mitigating Agriculture Risks.

### GROWING FORWARD INVESTMENT IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (2009-2013)



Agriculture Innovation	33%	\$7.36M
Agriculture Opportunities	8%	\$1.70M
Land Development & Enhancement	21%	\$4.66M
New Farm Investment	3%	\$0.61M
Agriculture Sustainability	25%	\$5.45M
Mitigating Agriculture Risks	10%	\$2.28M
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$22.06M</b>

## AGRICULTURE INNOVATION PROGRAM - \$7.36 MILLION

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The objective was to enhance the competitiveness, profitability and innovative capacity of the Newfoundland and Labrador agriculture and agrifoods industry, and to ensure the development of under-utilized agricultural resources.

*Investments have been made in 124 projects for the adoption of new technologies.*

### Projects funded include:

1. On-farm mechanization
2. Alternative energies
3. Improved production systems
4. Improved harvesting systems
5. Improved feeding systems
6. Secondary processing technology
7. Livestock monitoring systems



*Investments in innovative technologies have allowed producers to improve production and harvest a wide variety of crops more efficiently and cost effectively.*

### Lester's Farm Market Inc.

Under *Growing Forward*, a new 6,300 square foot vegetable handling and storage facility was constructed in 2010 at Lester's Farm Market Inc. The project created a more efficient supply chain operating from field to market. *"Without this funding, this project would have taken us a lifetime to accomplish. We have become more viable, competitive and sustainable,"* said Chris Lester.



### Lomond Cranberries Ltd.

*Growing Forward* provided funding for the investment in an innovative crop harvesting and handling system that allows a more rapid and efficient harvest and reduced plant damage. *"With the cranberry acreage we have in production, and what we plan on producing, this is a vital piece of equipment. They say time is money and this (innovation) saves us both,"* said Paul Lomond.

## AGRICULTURE OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM - \$1.70 MILLION

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The objective was to provide financial assistance to capture business and marketing opportunities and to enhance human resource development within the Newfoundland and Labrador agriculture and agrifoods industry.

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

*Growing Forward* invested a total of \$1.25 million in 95 business development projects in Newfoundland and Labrador. Projects funded included human resource development and training, business plan development, financial assessments, seminars/workshops and various research and development projects.

- Dairy Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador received funding to provide training to their members. There were 18 dairy farms that participated across the province. Dairy producers strongly agreed that the benefits of artificial insemination would enable their farms to achieve better genetics, improved milk production, healthier cows and decreased cost of production.

## MARKET DEVELOPMENT

*Growing Forward* invested a total of \$450,000 in 29 market development projects in Newfoundland and Labrador. Projects funded included agriculture awareness, farm market exhibits and market development, including website and marketing material.

### Agriculture in the Classroom

The Agriculture in the Classroom initiative, delivered by the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture, promoted a positive image of Newfoundland and Labrador agriculture to school-aged children and the public through various initiatives. The goals of the program were to:

- Build healthy living in schools and communities
- Promote careers in agriculture
- Increase public awareness
- Secure the future of food production
- Improve environmental sustainability
- Improve student knowledge of agriculture in Newfoundland and Labrador



## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

- Established Little Green Thumbs Program, with Container Gardening Kits in 10 schools reaching 2,000 students.
- Provided training for teachers to set-up and monitor the Little Green Thumbs program in schools.
- Produced four virtual farm tours to be used in schools and at various events throughout the province ([www.aitcnl.ca/farm-tours](http://www.aitcnl.ca/farm-tours)).
- Organized classroom readings for grade three students with local farmers and members of the agriculture industry to promote Ag Literacy week in 10 schools, reaching 1,000 students.
- Organized breakfast sessions promoting local agriculture products at 10 schools and reaching 2,000 students as part of Nutrition Month (March).
- Supported 10 exhibitions province-wide with a kids activity center reaching over 5000 visitors.
- Developed a website with links for virtual farm tours, agriculture career profiles and a newsletter ([www.aitcnl.ca/welcome](http://www.aitcnl.ca/welcome)).

## LAND DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT - \$4.66 MILLION

The objective was to maximize the productivity and availability of agricultural land in the province and to ensure the development of under-utilized land resources.

*Growing Forward* invested a total of \$4.66 million in 149 land development and enhancement projects in Newfoundland and Labrador.

PRIORITY AREAS	DESCRIPTION
Land Development on Mineral Soil	Funding for the clearing and enhancement of new agricultural land, which includes the removal of rocks and trees, minor field drainage and land levelling.
Renovation of Existing Productive Land	Funding for the improvement of agricultural land.
Peatland Development	Funding to support the development of new peatland throughout the province for agricultural production.
Peatland Maintenance	Funding to help maintain peatlands through excavation, rotovation, brush cutting, profiling and re-ditching.
Sub-Surface Drainage	Funding made available for the acquisition and installation of drainage equipment, including excavation and topographic surveys and tile and associated piping.

- To date, an additional 460 acres of new agricultural land has been developed and put into production.
- Agriculture land development equipment supported the development of several thousand acres in the province.
- Projects to develop new access roads enabled access to 168.5 acres of arable land.



## NEW FARM INVESTMENT - \$0.61 MILLION

The objective of this program was to address the unique challenges faced by new entrants, help ensure the development of under-utilized agricultural resources, encourage the establishment of new farm businesses and enhance competitiveness.

*Investments have been made in 18 new farm investment projects.*

### Funded projects include:

1. On-farm infrastructure and buildings
2. Storage facilities
3. On-farm mechanization
4. Farm succession initiatives and plans

### SUCCESS STORIES AND PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

#### RECON Inc. – Cranberry Producer

Under *Growing Forward*, the funding for a cantilevered boom sprayer enabled this farm to develop an integrated pest management program to enhance production in an environmentally sustainable fashion.

*“Growing Forward Program has been a great partner to our new farm venture. This funding will help our venture reach its goal of a sustainable farm much earlier.”* Wallace Reid, RECON Inc.

## AGRICULTURE SUSTAINABILITY - \$5.45 MILLION

The objective was to enhance environmental stewardship and food safety within the Newfoundland and Labrador agriculture and agrifood industry.

### ENVIRONMENT

#### Key priority areas included:

- Environmental Farm Planning
- Development of on-farm and regional environmental farm plans and scans
- Implementation of environmental action items

#### Environmental Farm Planning

This is a process where farmers can identify agri-environmental risks associated with the operation of their agri-business and institute best management practices with support from industry experts and reference materials. This acquired knowledge can then be used to create an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) detailing a list of agri-environmental risks on the farm and an appropriate action plan.

- To date, 530 farms have completed or updated environmental farm plans.
- \$450,000 was invested in Environmental Farm Planning.

#### Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)

This program incorporated a comprehensive set of BMPs to help farmers mitigate or eliminate on-farm environmental risks.

- *Growing Forward* invested a total of \$3.55 million in 96 projects including:
  - Manure management systems
  - Pest management systems
  - Waste management systems
  - Improved water supplies and artesian wells
  - Improved fuel storage
  - Run-off control systems

*"We have participated in the Environmental Farm Plan process since its inception. We still refer to the plan when making expansion decisions. We are proud to display the signs and make it known to our customers that we have an Environmental Farm Plan. It has helped build our reputation as a family that cares, not only for people but the environment in which we work."* Melvin J. Rideout, Rideout's Farm Inc.

### FOOD SAFETY

*Growing Forward* supported programs that facilitated the early adoption of food safety, quality and security systems which will enhance Canada's and Newfoundland and Labrador's food safety systems.

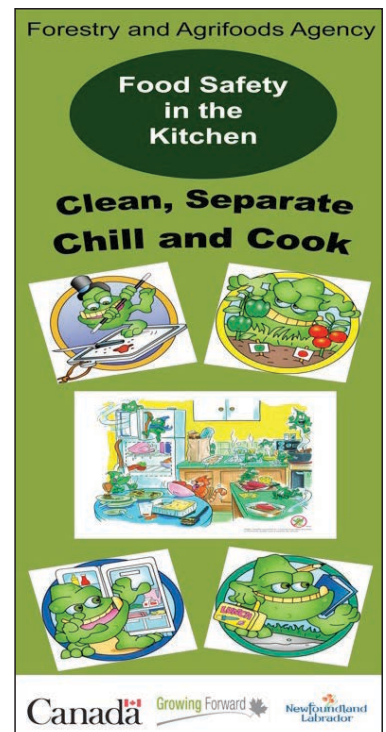


In Newfoundland and Labrador, investments were focused towards the following priority areas:

- Implementation of on-farm Good Manufacturing Practices
- On-farm and post-farm food safety advisory services
- Evaluation and implementation of food safety systems for agricultural processors
- Implementation of on-farm action items to enhance food safety systems and processes for farm operations

*Growing Forward* invested a total of \$1.46 million in 37 projects that included:

- Food safety upgrades and improvements for facilities
- Auxiliary power systems
- Vegetable storage systems, controls and sanitation equipment
- Refrigeration units
- Equipment and control units to improve milk storage
- Water treatment systems



### **Food Safety Training and Awareness Activities**

- Approximately \$601,000 has been invested in food safety training and awareness.
- 586 producers participated in food safety training programs.
- Food safety “Tool Kits” and resources materials have been developed and provided to farms.
- A trade show booth was developed for public interaction and for the distribution of food safety information at various industry events and trade shows.

## **MITIGATING AGRICULTURAL RISKS - \$2.28 MILLION**

The objective was to enable the agriculture and agrifoods industry to develop innovative solutions to manage risk and enhance the sector’s capacity to self manage risks pertaining to the environment, food safety, wildlife, plant and animal health and biosecurity threats.

*Investments have been made in 55 projects at a value of \$2.28 million to mitigate agricultural risks*

*“We have experienced, on average, losses of 30% of our cabbage and turnip crops to moose every year. After installing the first fence in the summer of 2009, we have experienced zero losses from moose.” Elaine Wells, Mixed Vegetable Farm on the West Coast of the Province.*



*Investments in simple technology and practices, such as wildlife exclusion fencing, were typical of cost-effective and non-intrusive solutions to minimize risks to agricultural production.*

**Projects funded include:**

- 1. Watering and irrigation systems
- 2. Frost control systems
- 3. Wildlife control fencing
- 4. Lighting and ventilation systems
- 5. Auxiliary power systems
- 6. Biosecurity – sanitation and disinfection systems
- 7. Improved animal housing, monitoring systems

**BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS - \$3.3 MILLION**

Business Risk Management (BRM) programs provided protection for different types of losses. Over *Growing Forward's* five-year span, federal and provincial governments paid out approximately \$3.3 million through AgriInvest, AgriStability, and AgriInsurance in Newfoundland and Labrador.

BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS		TOTAL PAYMENTS TO PRODUCERS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
<b>Agri-Invest</b>	Coverage for small income declines that allows for investments that help mitigate risks or improve market income	<b>\$788,375</b>
<b>Agri-Stability</b>	Coverage for large margin declines caused by circumstances such as low prices and rising input costs	<b>\$2,127,090</b>
<b>Agri-Insurance</b>	Insurance protection against production losses that result from specified natural perils	<b>\$405,787</b>

