

FARM INDUSTRY REVIEW BOARD

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2025-2026



Chairperson's Message

Honourable Pleaman Forsey
Minister of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands
Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Forsey:

On behalf of the Farm Industry Review Board (the Board), I am pleased to present this annual performance report for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

The Board carries out two distinct regulatory and adjudicative functions established under provincial legislation. Under the **Natural Products Marketing Act**, the Board serves as a supervisory board with authority to oversee the operations of provincial commodity boards. Under the **Farm Practices Protection Act**, the Board adjudicates disputes by providing farmers who operate in accordance with normal farm practices with protection from nuisance complaints.

Reporting directly to the Minister of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands, the Board consists of appointed members with diverse backgrounds and experience and is supported by a full-time manager located in Corner Brook. The Board is classified as a category three government entity under the **Transparency and Accountability Act**. As such, the Board is required to submit annual performance reports outlining its success in achieving the objectives and indicators in its multi-year performance-based activity plan. This report outlines the accomplishments of the Board from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026.

As Chairperson, and on behalf of the Board, I accept accountability for the achievement of its objectives. My signature on behalf of the entire Board signifies the Board's accountability for the preparation of this report and the actual results reported.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Pike Farrell

Tammy Pike Farrell
Chairperson

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Overview

The Board was established in 2005 following proclamation of the **Natural Products Marketing Act** (NPMA). In addition to the creation of the Board, the Act allowed for the creation of three commodity boards in the province; the Dairy Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador (DFNL), the Chicken Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador (CFNL) and the Egg Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador (EFNL).

Under the NPMA, the Board consists of five to seven members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, one of whom is nominated by the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture (NLFA).

The Board reports directly to the Minister. Members are appointed for three-year terms and are eligible for reappointment. The Board is supported by one permanent employee, the Board Manager. All other members are volunteers and are reimbursed for expenses related to meetings and board duties.

As of March 31, 2026, the Board was comprised of the following:

Name	Title	Appointment Date	Expiry Date	Area
Pike Farrell, Tammy	Chairperson	2026/02/26	2029/02/26	East
Kennedy, Sarah	Vice-Chairperson	2026/02/26	2029/02/26	West
Bell, Sharon	Member	2024/07/26	2027/07/26	East
Wicks, Gerry	Member	2024/11/12	2027/11/12	East
Chatman, Krista	NLFA Member	2026/02/26	2029/02/26	East
Vacant ¹	Member			
Vacant ¹	Member			

¹ Position being advertised by the Public Service Commission.

The Board held nine meetings throughout the year and remuneration to Board members to attend meetings and associated training for the 2025-2026 fiscal year was approximately \$9,884. Travel expenditure for the Board staff totaled \$12,654 with no travel costs attributed to Board members.

Key Statistics:

Revenue Type	Description	2024-25 (million)	2025-26 (million)	Change Since 2024-25 (%)
Total Farm Cash Receipts	Receipts paid to farmers for products produced on the farm (excluding cannabis)	\$172.6	\$165.1	-4.4%
Total Supply Managed Farm Cash Receipts	The portion of cash receipts made to producers for dairy, eggs and chicken production.	\$133.9	\$137.0	2.7%
	Dairy	\$53.9	\$54.1	0.4%
	Eggs	\$25.9	\$26.5	2.3%
	Chicken (estimated)	\$54.1	\$56.4	4.3%

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0046-01, Farm cash receipts, quarterly (x 1,000).

* Due to source data timing, availability and revisions, figures may differ comparatively.

Farm Cash Receipts

Farm Cash Receipts (FCR), excluding cannabis, decreased 4.4 per cent in 2025-26 to \$165.1 million. This decline was mainly driven by lower crop receipts, as severe drought conditions led to widespread crop failures. Most of the crop categories recorded lower receipts in 2025-26 with significant decline seen in fruits and berries, which fell by 15 per cent to \$1.7 million. As a result, crop receipts decreased by 1.7 per cent to \$17.6 million.

Dairy and Poultry Production Receipts

Receipts from dairy production increased 0.4 per cent in 2025-26 to \$54.1 million. The increase was due to higher milk prices, as Statistics Canada reports the volume of production was unchanged from 2024-25 at 48.7 million liters. Production of butterfat increased by 10 per cent to 2.2 million kilograms, of which 60.4 per cent was used in the fluid market and 39.6 per cent in the industrial market.

Statistics Canada does not provide an estimate of FCR for chicken production for any of the Atlantic provinces. The CFNL reports production increased 2.2 per cent in 2025-26 to reach a record high of 18.4 million kilograms (eviscerated weight). Based on this increase in production from the CFNL and the Atlantic chicken value, the 2025-26 production value was estimated at \$56.4 million.

Farm cash receipts from egg production rose 2.3 per cent in 2025-26 to \$26.5 million as compared to the 2024-25 egg production which rose 3.8 per cent to 10.4 million dozen from 2023.

The three supply-managed commodities (i.e., dairy, chicken, and eggs) are the top three FCR generators of all the agricultural commodities, covering an estimate of 85 per cent of total cash receipts for 2025-26. This highlights the tremendous importance of supply management to this province's agriculture industry.

Lines of Business:

Based on legislative requirements, the Board has four lines of business as follows:

1. Supervisory Role
2. Appellate Role
3. Conflict Management Role (Farm Practices)
4. Signatory Role

Vision:

The vision of the Board is of a regulated but fluid marketing system which supports the growth and operations of a harmonious, sustainable farming environment through good governance, transparency and stakeholder engagement.

Mandate:

The Board is a regulatory and adjudicative body, responsible for general supervision of provincial agricultural commodity boards, and for hearing complaints from those aggrieved by board decisions, or by farm practices.

The mandate of the Board is set out in two statutes:

1. **Natural Products Marketing Act (NPMA)**
<https://www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/n02.htm>

The Board is responsible for general supervision of the operations of commodity boards created under this Act; hearing appeals filed by any person who is aggrieved by or dissatisfied with

orders, decisions or determination of the commodity boards; and acting as a signatory to Federal-Provincial agreements for supply-managed commodities.

2. Farm Practices Protection Act (FPPA)

<https://www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/f04-1.htm>

The Board is responsible for hearing complaints from persons aggrieved by odor, noise, dust or other disturbances arising from agriculture operations, and may also study and report generally on farm practices.

Contact Information:

For information about the Board, commodity boards, farm practices dispute resolution or the regulated marketing system in Newfoundland and Labrador, please contact us at:

Farm Industry Review Board

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Web: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/fal/agencies-boards-and-commissions/agriculture-and-lands/firb/>

This report is available in alternate formats. Please contact us at the above to request an alternate format.

Highlights and Partnerships

Throughout 2025-2026, the Board continued to work collaboratively with DFNL, CFNL, EFNL, industry partners, government departments, and national organizations to support sector growth, respond to emerging challenges, and oversee a regulatory framework that maintains fairness and balance across the agricultural industry.

As the provincial organization representing all agricultural commodities, the NLFA plays a key role in advancing the shared interests of producers through coordinated advocacy and collective action. To ensure these interests are reflected in Board discussions, one Board member is appointed to serve as the NLFA representative.

The Board maintains an ongoing relationship with the Minister and senior officials of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands, engaging on matters such as commodity board operations, legislative requirements, and organizational mandates. In its supervisory role, the Board also provides advice to the Minister on issues related to the administration and activities of the three commodity boards, CFNL, DFNL, and EFNL, established under the Natural Products Marketing Act (NPMA). This oversight helps ensure compliance with applicable legislation and supports the effective functioning of the boards.

Regular communication with CFNL, DFNL, and EFNL remains an important component of the Board's work. The Board offers guidance on the policies, procedures, and responsibilities outlined in the NPMA and, when required, provides direction and decisions related to governance matters, internal policies, procedural improvements, and legislative amendments.

The Board also participates in the National Association of Agricultural Supervisory Agencies (NAASA), an organization established in 1997 whose membership includes the Farm Products Council of Canada, the Canadian Dairy Commission, and provincial and territorial supervisory agencies from across the country. Through NAASA, members collaborate on supervisory best practices, share knowledge, and apply common principles for the oversight of commodity boards and related agencies. The association provides a valuable forum for discussing regional and national issues, fostering collaboration among jurisdictions, and supporting a regulatory environment that enables a strong and sustainable agricultural sector.

Report on Performance

The following objectives, as outlined in the 2023-2026 Activity Plan, have guided the Board in achieving its mandate in 2025-2026, which is the third and final year of the 2023-2026 planning period. As the focus of the Board remained the same for the planning period, the Board has reported on the same objectives and indicators in all three years. For more, please view the Plan at: <https://www.assembly.nl.ca/business/electronicdocuments/FIRBActivityPlan2023-2026.pdf>.

Issue 1: Effective and Transparent Self-Governance

Good governance ensures consistency, transparency and visibility. By creating clear, fair processes and guidelines, decisions will be administratively fair, comply with legislation/regulations and accordingly with sound marketing policy.

Objective: By March 31, 2026, the Board will have enhanced its self-governance practices.

INDICATOR	Results
Developed key governance tools (e.g., code of conduct, appeal policies and procedures, terms of reference, etc.) to support the efficient and transparent operation of the Board.	Final drafts of the revised and terms of reference which were approved by the Board in the previous year were implemented for use by the board in 2025-2026. These revised terms of reference help support the efficient and transparent operation of the Board.
Developed, implemented, and reviewed the Board's policies and procedures to clearly articulate to stakeholders how to engage with the Board.	In 2025-2026, the Board continued evaluating and refining its policies and procedures regarding the FPPA and the NPMA to ensure effective governance and compliance. The new policies and procedures were developed, finalized and implemented for future use.

Issue 2: Effective, Fair and Independent Resolution of Inquiries and Disputes

The Board provides support for both producers and the public of the province in instances where they are aggrieved by commodity board decisions or general farm practices. Another service provided by the Board involves keeping a registration of agricultural producers and associated maintenance of the farm registration system. Ensuring these services continue to serve all interested parties appropriately and effectively will be a key focus for the Board.

Objective: By March 31, 2026, the Board will have ensured that issues and disputes arising within its jurisdiction are resolved in a fair and timely manner, with clearly articulated processes and guidelines to follow.

INDICATOR	Results
Developed, implemented and reviewed the Board's appeal procedures and guidelines to facilitate stakeholder engagement and use of the Board's appeals process.	Throughout 2025–2026, the Board advanced its efforts to develop and implement a transparent and well-defined appeal procedure with appropriate timelines. In addition, to equip members with the competencies required for their adjudicative duties, the Board enrolled all members in adjudication training offered by the Council of Canadian Administrative Tribunals, thereby strengthening the fairness and integrity of the dispute-resolution process.

Developed, implemented, and reviewed criteria and guidelines for the registration process for agriculture producers.	During 2025–2026, the Board advanced its review of the registration process, undertaking a scan of similar frameworks in comparable jurisdictions. Completion and implementation of the final policies and revised registration process are anticipated for 2026–2027.
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Issue 3: Monitoring and Support of the Provincial Supply Management System

Under the NPMA, the schemes for the supply-managed commodity boards form the basis for how the commodity groups will market their respective commodities. The Board continues to provide support and direction to the commodity groups implementing their respective schemes; this monitoring provides support and structure for supply management in this Newfoundland and Labrador.

Objective: By March 31, 2026, the Board will have monitored and provided supports for the supply managed commodities system where appropriate.

INDICATOR	Results
Attended meetings of the National Association of Agricultural Supervisory Agencies and exchanged information with Federal and provincial supervisory boards regarding their respective marketing boards.	In 2025–2026, the Board Manager monitored national and provincial supply-management activities through NAASA meetings and regular communication with supply-management partners. This included reviewing annual reports and industry updates, which were shared with the Provincial Government and Board members. The Board also attended the annual meeting of the Atlantic Canadian supervisory boards with Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and its national body, the Farm Products Council of Canada (FPCC), to discuss regional issues and provide updates on national commodity groups.
Actively monitored issues and trends on provincial, national and international levels that affect the Province’s supply management environment; and facilitated information transfer among commodity boards, the Provincial Government, national supply management partners	During 2025–2026, the Board Manager oversaw the monitoring of provincial, national, and international supply-management issues and emerging trends. This was achieved through participation in federal commodity board meetings, engagement in NAASA meetings, and ongoing correspondence with national and provincial entities involved in the supply-management framework. Through these activities, the Board contributed to the effective dissemination of information among commodity boards, the

INDICATOR	Results
and other stakeholders, as appropriate.	Provincial Government, national supply-management partners, and other stakeholders.
Provided supports to commodity boards in addressing the ever-evolving environment of the supply management system and its requirements.	Throughout 2025–2026, the Board offered a range of supports to commodity boards in response to the ongoing evolution of the supply-management system. These supports included facilitating legislative amendments, providing clarification on the NPMA and associated commodity-board legislation, and reviewing commodity-board policies for consistency with relevant legislative and policy frameworks.

Opportunities and Challenges

The Board recognizes both the challenges and the opportunities present within the industry and affirms the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders. The Board remains committed to operating within its legislative mandate and to engaging constructively with stakeholders to support the development of a sustainable farming environment that reflects the interests of the public and the industry.

Opportunities:

The Board acknowledges the ongoing need to strengthen its communication and collaboration with commodity boards through consistent correspondence, active participation in board and industry meetings, the open sharing of valuable information, and continuous consultation to effectively fulfill its mandate. In this role, the Board serves as an important communication link between provincial commodity boards and the provincial government.

The Board also recognizes the value of establishing clear guidelines for stakeholders on how to engage with it when requesting that it exercise its authority under its enabling legislation. Doing so will support a fair and consistent process, provide clarity on required thresholds, and promote an informed understanding of potential outcomes.

Challenges:

The Board continues to experience significant challenges in attracting and retaining suitably qualified members. Although vacancies are publicly advertised and appointments are facilitated through the Public Service Commission, the Board has been unable to fill more than the minimum complement of five members required under the NPMA. Falling below this statutory threshold renders the Board unable to carry out its functions, thereby impeding its capacity to fulfill its legislative mandate.

The Board recognizes and supports opportunities for growth within the industry, while remaining mindful of the need to balance impacts on the broader sector and on consumers across the province. In supporting the development of marketing initiatives and secondary processing activities that contribute to the stability of supply-managed commodities, the Board must also ensure that commodity prices remain reasonable and that no undue hardship is placed on existing operations within the industry.