The ABC’s of Nova Scotia Agriculture

Activities for elementary students
Growing Nova Scotia

The

ABC’s

of Nova Scotia Agriculture

Activities for elementary grade students

Prepared by Ilze Firminger for the
Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee
2007

For further information, please contact:
Agricultural Awareness Coordinator
4-H and Rural Organizations
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture
PO Box 550, Truro, Nova Scotia
B2N 5E3
Tel: (902) 893-6598 Fax: (902) 893-0244
Email: grantjd@gov.ns.ca
Web: www.gov.ns.ca/agri/agaware

Reprints (2009, 2011) made possible with support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.
Nova Scotia agriculture is a dynamic industry with many opportunities. The agriculture and agri-food industry is an integral part of the Nova Scotia economy and encompasses an immense array of activities from primary production to the consumer. Farmers across the province provide valuable employment opportunities and invest dollars and time into local communities. "The ABC's of NS Agriculture" complements "Growing Nova Scotia", which illustrates how Nova Scotia farmers continue to recognize the need for sustainable practices, to ensure their communities are healthy, economically viable places for their children and grandchildren to grow up in.

Nova Scotia farmers produce safe, quality food for our tables. They are leaders in progressive farming and are continually working to produce food using environmentally friendly practices. On the farm, in your grocery store, and everywhere in between, the agriculture and agri-food industry in Nova Scotia is taking advantage of the latest developments in research and technology to improve food quality, safety and freshness.

"The ABC's of NS Agriculture" is designed for grades Primary to three. It is an activity book which develops skills in language, math, art, science and health, while at the same time providing information about the agriculture of Nova Scotia. The pages can be copied for classroom use.

There is an "Answers" page at the back of the booklet. For more information, please see the contact information on the first page.
The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee is proud to present “Growing Nova Scotia - The ABC's of NS Agriculture”.

Thank you to all who contributed with information, ideas, art work and editing. A special thank you to the Women's Institute of Nova Scotia for the inspiration to do an agricultural ABC's book. The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee would also like to thank our financial sponsors:

- Agri-Futures Nova Scotia
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Growing Nova Scotia - The ABC's of NS Agriculture

Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia

Agri-Futures Nova Scotia
Agriculture and Agri-Food
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Canada

Growing Forward
A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

Nova Scotia
Check it out!
Nova Scotia produces more than 2.5 million bushels of apples each year!

Can you draw an apple tree with 10 apples on it?

Colour these apples:

- Red apple
- Yellow apple
- Green apple
Beef animals are used to provide your family with hamburgers and steaks.

Unscramble these words to find out what else is made from beef animals.

sharmslowsm ________
raycnos ________
oeshs ________
umg ________
dances ________

Checkmark ✓ the correct answers.

Beef is a good source of:

- [] fibre
- [] protein
- [] iron
- [] Vitamin C

Growing Nova Scotia - The ABC's of NS Agriculture
Bees

☑️ Check it out!
Blueberries and other fruits and vegetables need honey bees to pollinate the crops to provide food for us.

Can you get the bee to the blueberry blossoms?

Blueberries

☑️ Check it out!
The wild blueberry is Nova Scotia’s provincial berry and one of our most important crops.

If you ate 5 blueberries with each spoonful of cereal, how many blueberries will you have eaten after eating 3 spoonfuls of cereal?

Growing Nova Scotia-The ABC’s of NS Agriculture
Check it out!
Chickens produce eggs and meat for us to eat. Nova Scotian chickens eat grain. Their feed is usually a blend of wheat, corn and barley.
Carrots

Can you draw the animal that loves carrots below?

Hint: It has long ears!

✔ Check it out!

Carrots are vegetables that grow in the ground. They taste good fresh or cooked!

Carrots have Vitamin ____, which is good for your eyes!
Dairy cow

☑ Check it out!
One dairy cow can produce up to 100 glasses of milk every day!

Draw a line from the foods made from milk to the dairy cow. Put an X on the others!

Growing Nova Scotia-The ABC’s of NS Agriculture
A dairy cow’s milk can help make many other types of food. Try to find them in this puzzle.

CHEESE
BUTTER
YOGURT
ICE CREAM
CREAMERS
CHOCOLATE
MILK
Eggs

✔ Check it out!

One hen can lay up to 290 eggs each year.

Eggs are very fragile. Can you get the egg from the barn to your home?
Number the steps as you go!
A farm usually has buildings on the land. Can you draw in the farm house and some people?

A farm is a place where food is produced by growing crops or raising animals.
Fruit

Check it out!

Fruit is a delicious and healthy treat!

The fruit below is grown in Nova Scotia. You can colour the pictures and write the names on the line beside each one.

Circle the names of the fruit grown in Nova Scotia:

- bananas
- strawberries
- grapes
- blueberries
- pears
- pineapple
- coconut
- oranges

Name: ____________________

Growing Nova Scotia-The ABC's of NS Agriculture
Gg

Grocery Store

Check it out!
The food sold in grocery stores is grown on farms!

Can you name all the groceries in this bag?

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 

Growing Nova Scotia-The ABC's of NS Agriculture
Goats

Check it out!
Goats are raised to produce milk, meat and fibre. The milk can be made into cheese, and sweaters are made from the fibre.

Baby goats are called kids! Can you draw a kid beside this mother goat?

Greenhouse

These greenhouses need some cucumbers and tomatoes growing inside. Can you help and draw some?

Check it out!
Plants can be grown in plastic or glass greenhouses all year round.
Hay

Check it out!
Hay is grass and clover that has been dried. It is made into small square or large round bales for storage.

There are ___ round bales in this full load of hay.

Check it out!
Hay is fed to cattle, sheep, goats and horses.

Can you draw a farm animal eating hay?
Industry

Check it out!

Agriculture is a very important industry in Nova Scotia.

Connect the dots to see a machine that helps farmers and the agriculture industry. It is a ________________.
**Insects**

✅ **Check it out!**

Insects are very important to the farm. Some are pests, but others are helpful. Can you name these insects? Circle the helpful ones! You can draw some more insects too!

Mark the correct facts with a ☑, and x the ones that are wrong.

- ☑ honey is produced by insects
- ☑ insects are food for birds
- ☑ insects have 8 legs
- ☑ some insects eat harmful insects
Agriculture provides many jobs in Nova Scotia.

Check it out!

Draw a picture of YOU doing a job you would like to do in agriculture.
When cooking or eating food, first wash your hands carefully! Can you trace your hand here?

✅ Check it out!

The kitchen is where your family cooks your food from the farm.
Lamb

☑ Check it out!
A lamb is a baby sheep.
Sheep produce wool and meat.

Can you draw some green grass for this lamb to eat?
Machines

Check it out!

Farmers use many different kinds of machines.

Draw a line to match the pictures with the machine names:

1. Combine - harvests the crops
2. Tractor - pulls other machines and does other work on the farm
3. Planter - places seeds into the soil
4. Wagon - carries the crops
Maple Syrup

✓ Check it out!
In spring, farmers boil sap from the sugar maple and turn it into tasty maple syrup.

Try to find the hidden words.

COOKIE PANCAKES SYRUP LEAF SUCKERS TREE SAP
Nutrition

☑ Check it out!

Good nutrition is important for your health. To grow and be healthy, eat from the four food groups every day.

This sandwich has all the food groups. Colour it and find all these groups:
✓ Bread/Cereal
✓ Fruit/Vegetable
✓ Meat/Alternates
✓ Dairy
Orchard

☑ Check it out!
An orchard has many trees that produce fruit.

Oats

☑ Check it out!
Oats are a type of grain grown in Nova Scotia. The seeds are cleaned and rolled to make rolled oats.

Mark the fruit that grows in an orchard with a ✓, and mark the rest with an x.

☐ apple
☐ blueberry
☐ pear
☐ strawberry
☐ peach
☐ plum
☐ cherry
☐ raspberry

Circle your favourite foods made with oats.
cookies  breads  cereal  porridge  granola bars
Pigs

Check it out!

Ham, bacon, pork chops and ribs are some meats from pigs. Some medicines, leather and soap also come from pigs.

Can you name the products from pigs in this picture?

1. ________________________
2. ________________________
3. ________________________
4. ________________________
5. ________________________
6. ________________________
Potatoes

✓ Check it out!
Potatoes are vegetables that grow under the ground. Many of Nova Scotia’s potatoes are made into potato chips.

Can you draw a face on this pumpkin?

Unscramble some of the different ways to serve potatoes.

siref ________________
shamde ________________
kedab ________________
llopcsaed ________________
steduff ________________

Pumpkins

✓ Check it out!
Pumpkins are large fruit that grow on vines. They are used to make pies for Thanksgiving, and jack o’lanterns for Hallowe’en.
Quality

☑ Check it out!

Nova Scotia farmers produce safe, quality food. Quality means it is first class!

Draw some food that is grown in Nova Scotia, that YOU like to eat!
Roots

☐ Check it out!

Roots grow in the ground. They take in water and minerals from the soil. Sometimes they store food for the plant, which we eat as vegetables!

A bunny has eaten the tops off these root vegetables. Can you match them to the right name, and colour them?

___ turnip
___ radish
___ carrot
___ beet
Seeds

☑ Check it out!

Most plants start out as seeds. They need soil, water and sunshine to grow.
Can you match the job with the season?

- milking cows
- plowing snow
- making hay
- plowing the fields
- gathering eggs
- collecting maple sap

**Seasons**

☑ Check it out!

Some farm jobs change with the seasons, but some are done all year long.

- fall
- spring
- winter
- summer
- all year

**Strawberries**

☑ Check it out!

Strawberries are delicious berries that ripen in the summer. Some Nova Scotia farmers sell strawberry plants to the USA. In winter, many strawberries sold in our stores are from plants started in Nova Scotia.

Growing Nova Scotia-The ABC’s of NS Agriculture
Turkey

Check it out!

A turkey is a type of bird raised for meat. A lot of people eat turkey at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Draw in the vegetables that you like to eat with your roast turkey beside the one below.
Suppose you go to a U Pick strawberry farm with your family. Your Dad and Mom each pick 4 boxes of berries, your brother picks 1 box, and you pick 3 boxes. How many will you have all together? Circle the number of boxes each person picks, and count them!

☑ Check it out!
U Pick means "you pick your own". Fruit and vegetables are often sold like this.

Growing Nova Scotia-The ABC's of NS Agriculture
Vegetables

☑ Check it out!
Nova Scotia farmers grow more than 50 different kinds of vegetables.

Colour each vegetable, and circle the ones you like to eat.

- potatoes
- corn
- pumpkins
- tomatoes
- peas
- beans
Veterinarian

☑️ Check it out!
A veterinarian, or vet, is an animal doctor. Veterinarians help to keep all farm animals, as well as pets and zoo animals, healthy.
Can you draw some farm animals a vet might see?
Weather

✔ Check it out!
Weather is very important to farmers. Their crops need rain, sun and heat to grow. Winter's cold is a time for plants to rest. Most farm animals need protection from the weather.

What would you do if the weather was like this?
X-Ray

☑ Check it out!
An X-ray will go through skin and muscle and allows a vet or doctor to take a picture of bones or other items in the body.

Can you put an arrow beside the break in the bone seen in the x-ray below?

Check the items you think an x-ray would show a vet:

☐ things such as a nail, which a farm animal has accidentally swallowed
☐ how much milk a cow will give
☐ any broken bones
☐ what colour a lamb will be

Growing Nova Scotia-The ABC’s of NS Agriculture
You

✔ Check it out!
You and your family keep agriculture growing. When you buy local products you support Nova Scotia agriculture.

Draw your face below. Don't forget your hair and your ears!
Zucchini

☑ Check it out!
Zucchini is a type of summer squash. It is shaped like a cucumber. It can be fried, boiled or barbecued, and it tastes good!

You can colour this zucchini either green or yellow.
**Beef:** Unscramble: marshmallows, crayons, shoes, gum, candles. Checkmark: protein, iron

**Blueberries:** 15 blueberries

**Chicken:** chick

**Carrots:** Vitamin A

**Dairy:** Draw a line from: ice cream, milk, cheese, sour cream.

**Fruit:** Pictures are cherries, peach and apple. Circle grapes, pears, strawberries, blueberries.

**Grocery Store:** cheese, eggs, lettuce (or cabbage), milk (or juice), chicken (or turkey).

**Hay:** 14 bales

**Industry:** tractor

**Insects:** ant, lady beetle, caterpillar, grasshopper, butterfly. Circle ladybeetle. The only x is insects have 8 legs.

**Machines:** Tractor 2, Planter 4, Combine 1, Wagon 3.

**Nutrition:** bread - Bread/Cereal; tomato, lettuce - Fruit/Vegetable; sliced meat - Meat/Alternates; cheese slice - Dairy.

**Orchard:** ✓ apple, pear, peach, plum, cherry; x blueberry, strawberry, raspberry.

**Pigs:** ribs, chops, ham, bacon, paint, leather for football.

**Potatoes:** Unscrambled words are: fries, mashed, baked, scalloped, stuffed.

**Roots:** l to r: beet, carrot, radish, turnip

**Seasons:** milking cows - all year; plowing snow - winter; making hay - summer; plowing fields - fall or summer, gathering eggs - all year; collecting maple syrup - spring.

**U Pick:** 12 boxes.

**X-Ray:** check- things such as a nail, which a farm animal has accidentally swallowed; and any broken bones.