Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

2025 to 2026 Departmental Results Report

The Honourable Marjorie Michel, P.C., M.P. Minister of Health

Canada

© His Majesty the King in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Health, 2026

Catalogue Number: A101-12E-PDF

ISSN: 2561-0775

Aussi disponible en français sous le titre : *Rapport sur les résultats ministériels de l'Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments 2025 à 2026*

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's 2025 to 2026 Departmental Results Report

Contents:

- At a glance
- From the Minister
- Results: what we achieved
  - Core responsibility 1: Safe food and healthy plants and animals
  - Internal services
- Spending and human resources
  - Spending
  - Funding
  - Financial statement highlights
  - Human resources
- Supplementary information tables
- Federal tax expenditures
- Corporate information
- Definitions

At a glance

This departmental results report details the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) actual accomplishments against the plans, priorities and expected results outlined in its 2025 to 2026 Departmental Plan.

These results align with the priorities outlined in the May 21, 2025, mandate letter from the Prime Minister, as well as with the CFIA's vision, mission, raison d'être and operating context.

Mandate

Mitigating risks to food safety is the CFIA's highest priority, and the health and safety of Canadians is the driving force behind the design and development of CFIA programs. The CFIA, in collaboration and partnership with industry, consumers, and federal, provincial and municipal organizations, continues to work towards protecting Canadians from preventable health risks related to food and zoonotic diseases.

The current and future economic prosperity of the Canadian agriculture and forestry sectors relies on a healthy and sustainable animal and plant resource base. As such, the CFIA is continually improving its program design and delivery in the animal health and plant resource areas to minimize and manage risks. To protect the natural environment from invasive animal and plant diseases and plant pests, the CFIA also performs extensive work related to the protection of environmental biodiversity.

Vision

To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

Mission

Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

Statement of values

Employees of the CFIA:

- value scientific rigour and professional and technical competence, which play a crucial role in the agency's decision making
- do not manipulate science to achieve a desired outcome but acknowledge that other factors must be considered in decision making
- recognize the reputation and credibility of the agency is vital to delivering its mandate and behave, internally and externally, in a way that trust is preserved
- are proud of the contributions made to the quality of life of Canadians and value dedication and responsiveness from all employees' day to day and, particularly, during an emergency
- value competent, qualified, and motivated personnel, whose efforts drive the results of the agency
- value the perspectives of the stakeholders who are affected by the agency's decisions to develop effective policies and strategies
- maintain regulatory independence from all external stakeholders and have the courage to make difficult and potentially unpopular decisions and recommendations, free from personal bias
- are committed to their physical and psychological well-being

Operating context

The CFIA operates within a context that is changing rapidly because of environmental, domestic, international, and economic influences. For example, Canada's food, animals, and plants are significantly affected by current environmental changes. Water quality and levels are decreasing, animal migration patterns are changing, and new pathogens and invasive pests are being introduced into our environment. The economy is impacted by shifting trade and commerce patterns, which also present opportunities and challenges to the regulatory environment.

To adapt to these and other challenges and to capitalize on opportunities, the CFIA monitors and adjusts its resources, including human resources, and ensures its employees have the skills, tools, and processes to deliver on the agency's mandate. The agency also fosters partnerships that will support the ability to rapidly and effectively prevent, detect and respond to emerging global and domestic trends in its operating context. Leveraging domestic and international relationships is also key to maintaining cooperation and enhancing best practices, and to fostering innovative approaches in the delivery of the CFIA's mandate.

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA continued its efforts to prepare for, respond to, and prevent emergencies related to Canada's food, animals, and plants to support a regulatory framework that is responsive to the needs of industry and to strengthen collaboration with scientific and international partners to protect the people of Canada from preventable health risks related to food illnesses and zoonotic diseases.

Key priorities

The CFIA identified the following key priorities for 2025 to 2026:

Keeping Canadians' food safe and protecting animal and plant resources

- Advanced the agency's regulatory modernization agenda to support growth, innovation, and market access in the food, plant, and animal sectors, while reducing red tape for Canadian industry by streamlining processes and updating outdated requirements
- Strengthened Canada's emergency preparedness for emerging diseases, such as African swine fever (ASF), by using the latest science and risk information to support evidence-based decision making if an outbreak occurs
- Responded quickly to food safety incidents, including a nationwide recall of pistachios and pistachio-containing products, as well as animal and plant health emergencies, such as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and potato wart, to protect Canadians, the food system, the environment, and the economy
- Provided stakeholders with tools such as an updated food industry labelling tool, resources, and services to help them understand and meet compliance requirements, including online guidance materials, consultations and engagement activities, public opinion research, social media, and advertising campaigns, which helps Canadian businesses meet food safety standards and keeps food in Canada safe

Enabling businesses to contribute, grow, and support Canada's economy

- Resolved market access issues to help Canadian products gain, regain, maintain, and enhance access to export markets, including notable accomplishments such as regaining access to a market closed for over 20 years, allowing Canadian producers to continue to trade in international markets
- Worked with industry to improve service delivery and help businesses access new and diverse export markets, while also strengthening Canada's internal trade opportunities
- Facilitated trade by using science-based regulations and international cooperation, supporting Canada's market expansion and diversification
- Worked with partners in science and standards-setting, earning global recognition and helping Canadian products meet international requirements while maintaining confidence in Canada's regulatory system
- Increased mutual recognition with trusted Canadian and international partners by streamlining and modernizing digital systems that support the trade of Canadian agriculture, agri-food, fish and seafood, and forestry products

Valuing and investing in our people

- Promoted a workplace that is inclusive, fair, and accessible, including the launch of the Ombuds office where employees can raise concerns about equity, diversity, and inclusion without fear of reprisal
- Invested in modern technology and laboratory infrastructure to improve inspection activities and strengthen preparedness for emerging risks
- Launched the National Veterinary Update program to support continuous learning for the agency's veterinarians
- Empowered staff to grow, lead, and innovate by providing opportunities, such as the Leadership Development Program for Black Employees, that attract, retain, and develop a strong workforce that can continue to support Canada's food, plants, animals, people, and economy

Highlights for the CFIA in 2025 to 2026

Food sold in Canada is safe and accurately represented to Canadians

The CFIA plays an important role in supporting Canada's ability to trade, although many Canadians may not realize the extent of its work. Canada's agriculture and food exports depend on a strong and trusted regulatory system. Over the past year, the CFIA continued its review of the *Safe Food for Canadians Act* (SFCA) and its regulations to make sure they continue to strengthen food safety and consumer protection oversight across all food commodities. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA modernized its regulatory framework, reducing red tape and supporting Canadian businesses to bring products to market faster while continuing to provide consumers with safe, high-quality food.

The CFIA operates in a challenging environment. Factors such as high-profile food recalls, misinformation on social media about the agency's role, and large outbreaks of animal diseases can affect public trust in the CFIA as a regulator and source of information. Lower trust can make it harder to achieve voluntary compliance and industry cooperation. To address this, the CFIA worked closely with Canadian industries and supported international trade through import and export oversight and pre-border controls. The agency also focused on strengthening compliance and enforcement through risk-informed oversight and digital-friendly rules. New tools were launched in 2025 to 2026 to help industrybetter understand and compare regulatory requirements, along with improvements to food labelling and risk-based decision making to protect Canadians from potential food safety hazards. The agency also addressed food fraud by enhancing detection, prevention, and response measures in collaboration with its partners to make sure food is represented correctly, and consumers can trust the products they purchase in Canada.

As disease outbreaks become more frequent, larger, and more serious, the CFIA is more likely to deal with complicated and widespread emergencies involving pests and diseases that spread easily and can affect many kinds of animals and plants and may also threaten human health. The CFIA strengthened its emergency management and preparedness measures that helped the agency act early and quickly to better protect food, plants and animals. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA responded to *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), *Salmonella*, and *Listeria monocytogenes* (*Listeria*) outbreaks across Canada and proficiently managed nationwide food recalls, including the high-profile recall of pistachios and pistachio-related products from Iran. The response to these events

showed the effectiveness of the CFIA's established response process and its ability to assess risks accurately, focus resources where they are needed most, and respond quickly when threats arise to keep Canadians, plants, animals, and the environment safe.

Plant and animal resources are protected from diseases and pests and are safe for Canadians and the environment

Climate change is increasing risks to food safety, plant and animal health, and trade. Warmer temperatures, changing seasons, and more extreme weather create conditions that allow harmful pathogens, pests, and diseases to spread more easily, threatening crops, livestock, and Canadian industries. Keeping Canada's plants and animals healthy and free from harmful pests or diseases is an important part of the CFIA's mandate to safeguard the country's agriculture and food systems. This includes stronger border controls and import oversight, starting with public awareness and pre-border controls, such as permits and import restrictions, followed by inspections. These actions help prevent the introduction of foreign animal diseases and plant pests into Canada, protecting the Canadian economy, plants, animals, and the environment.

Canada’s ongoing threats of invasive pests, serious animal diseases. and simultaneous or prolonged outbreaks can put pressure on the CFIA’s resources and disrupt essential services. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA strengthened its prevention and response plans for contagious aquatic animal diseases like multinucleate sphere unknown (MSX) and parasitic disease in oysters caused by *Perkinsus marinus* (Dermo), and other contagious diseases like foot and mouth disease (FMD), HPAI, and ASF, that threaten Canada's animal resources. These diseases could have serious impacts on Canada's dairy, beef, pork, and poultry sectors and their continued ability to access domestic and international markets. The measures taken by the CFIA help protect Canada’s food and animal resources and support the economy.

The CFIA strengthened partnerships with provinces, territories, Indigenous partners, academia, and industry to proactively share information and provide technical cooperation on measures that raise awareness and help manage disease outbreaks. These efforts help protect Canada’s food supply and support the health of plants, animals, and people.In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA used improved technology and data analytics to show, assess, and triage information about emerging threats, with a focus on high-risk areas and the growing spread of harmful plant pests, such as emerald ash borer (EAB). The agency developed solutions that supported competitive growth in Canada and improved access to international markets for Canadian businesses.

Canadian food, plants and animals and their associated products can be traded internationally

The CFIA plays an important role in supporting Canada’s ability to trade food, plant, and animal products around the world. The agency is responsible for negotiating technical market access requirements for the import and export of agriculture, agri-food, fish and seafood, and forestry products. Changes in global trade and international politics that affect how countries trade, global conflicts, trade barriers, and more complicated rules that are not based on science can create risks for Canada’s economy and its ability to trade. The strength of the regulatory system, alignment to international standards, and the international reputation Canada has built for science-based

regulation and oversight plays a critical role to support these trade opportunities for Canda's agriculture, fish and seafood, and forestry sectors and grow the Canadian economy.

As businesses and technology continue to evolve, CFIA stakeholders face increasing pressure to keep up, and the agency needs to be ready to meet changing administrative and technical demands. The CFIA's work to modernize digital trade services by streamlining the digitalization of export and import processes supported Canadian businesses. These improvements made services more timely and reliable, helping Canadian businesses compete more effectively in global markets. Over the course of 2025 to 2026, the CFIA worked to support exports of agriculture, agri-food, forestry, and fish and seafood products to over 190 countries, which included resolving market access issues and improving trade diversification by facilitating entry to new and emerging markets while maintaining access to key trading partners. The agency also used Canada's recognized negligible bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk status to regain access to a key Indo-Pacific market closed to Canadian beef for over two decades and grow Canada's economy in this sector.

In 2025 to 2026, the agency also supported interprovincial trade by reducing regulatory barriers and improving access to domestic markets for Canadian food businesses. This was done by improving awareness and understanding of the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* (SFCR), enabling more businesses to obtain licences and expand trade across provincial and territorial boundaries, as well as internationally, to support Canadian products and businesses.

Total actual spending (including internal services): $1,000,878,417

Total full-time equivalent staff (including internal services): 6,236

For detailed information on the CFIA's total spending and human resources, read the Spending and human resources section of this report.

Summary of results

The following provides a summary of the results the department achieved in 2025 to 2026 under its "core responsibility" (its main area of activity).

Core responsibility 1: Safe food and healthy plants and animals

Actual spending: $811,649,157

Actual human resources: 5,152

Progress against the agency's core responsibility, safe food and healthy plants and animals, is measured through three departmental results and 15 programs. Actual results reflected the reality of the CFIA's risk management approach to working in an environment that is rapidly evolving due to a changing climate, increasing geopolitical instability, and shifting public beliefs. In 2025 to 2026, the agency focused its resources on the areas of highest risk and delivered its programs in a more responsive and agile way.

Departmental Result 1: Food sold in Canada is safe and accurately represented to Canadians

The CFIA maintained a strong, science-based food safety system, with risk-based inspections and oversight across domestic and imported food. In 2025 to 2026, 93% of inspected food establishments addressed compliance issues upon follow-up or were brought into compliance, an increase of 8% in comparison to 85% in 2024 to 2025, demonstrating an improvement in compliance rates following the agency's efforts to support businesses with better tools, resources, and services. The total number of higher risk food recalls increased in 2025 to 2026, including some higher profile recalls such as the *Salmonella* outbreak in pistachios, while the confidence of Canadians who agree that the CFIA helps make sure that food sold in Canada is safe increased to 84% in 2025 to 2026.

Departmental Result 2: Plant and animal resources are protected from diseases and pests and are safe for Canadians and the environment

The CFIA safeguards animal health through early detection, surveillance, and rapid response to diseases. The agency protects plant health and ecosystems by mitigating the spread of invasive pests and plant diseases, protecting forests, crops, and biodiversity.

The CFIA made efforts to manage inspections in the face of increasing complexity, volume, and origins of plant imports to Canada. In 2025 to 2026, three new foreign plant pests established themselves in Canada, one likely a result of frequent trade between Canada and the United States and two introduced through imports from outside North America. In an increase from the previous year, 25 of 32 regulated plant pests that had previously entered and established in Canada were controlled by CFIA actions as planned.

The unprecedented number of confirmed avian influenza outbreaks across Canada resulted in a significant increase in disease detections reaching 38.5 confirmed cases per 100 investigations in 2025 to 2026. Throughout this period, the CFIA delivered disease response activities at premises infected with HPAI, including the establishment of primary control zones. Outcomes from epidemiological investigations were compiled and communicated to stakeholders to support awareness and response efforts. The CFIA made sure the health of animals, animal products, and by-products entering Canada are healthy and disease free, with 99% in compliance with Canadian regulations and relevant international agreements in 2025 to 2026. In voluntary terrestrial compartment programs designed to protect the Canadian herd, 74% of Canadian producers kept or improved their status.

Departmental Result 3: Canadian food, plants and animals and their associated products can be traded internationally

The CFIA supported Canada's economy by enabling Canadian businesses to grow, helping to open new markets, and maintaining access for international and domestic trade. The CFIA is Canada's only regulatory body that facilitates the export of food, animals, and plants and their associated products. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA maintained and expanded trade in existing markets, as well as gained and regained new trade opportunities for Canadian commodities based on the understanding, acceptance, and confidence of Canadian regulatory systems for food, plant, and animal health. The result of 127 markets gained, regained, expanded, and maintained exceeded the target of 75 markets, proving the CFIA's critical role in supporting market access for Canada's

agriculture, agri-food, fish and seafood, and forestry sectors. This represents an increase of approximately 40% when compared to the access facilitated to 92 markets the previous year.

For more information on the CFIA's activities related to safe food and healthy plants and animals read the 'Results – what we achieved" section of this report.

From the Minister



The Honourable Marjorie Michel, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health

As the Minister responsible for the CFIA, I am pleased to present the CFIA's Departmental Results Report for 2025 to 2026.

The CFIA provides essential services to all Canadians. Its employees work in farm fields, laboratories, food manufacturing facilities, border crossings, and offices across the country inspecting food and livestock feed for safety risks, protecting plants from pests and invasive species, and preventing and responding to animal diseases that could threaten animal and human health in Canada.

As Canada's largest scientific regulator, the CFIA uses a rigorous science-based approach to safeguard Canada's food, plants and animals. At the same time, the CFIA contributes to the development of international standards and facilitates international trade for Canada's high-quality agricultural and forestry products.

It was a pivotal year for the CFIA, and this report demonstrates how the agency delivered on its mandate and contributed to the Government of Canada's agenda to help build a stronger economy for Canadians. The agency continued to modernize and transform how it delivers programs by reducing unnecessary red tape for Canadian businesses, enabling Canadian products to reach new and growing international markets, increasing trade opportunities, and helping remove barriers to internal trade within Canada.

Protecting Canadians remained front and centre for the agency with continued surveillance, verifications, inspections, and investigations related to food safety risks and food fraud. This included taking decisive enforcement action when businesses or individuals did not comply with federal rules put in place to protect Canadians and plant and animal health.

The agency is also contributing to the development of the National Food Security Strategy, which will make it easier for Canadians to access affordable and nutritious food and build Canada's resilience and capacity to meet domestic needs.

On the global stage, the CFIA maintained its reputation as a trusted partner through scientific collaboration, and recognition of its strong food safety system and animal disease management.

All these efforts combined helped to safeguard Canada's agricultural and forestry sectors, support access to markets, and maintain the safety of our food supply.

I encourage everyone to read this report to learn more about the CFIA's important work as a global leader in protecting Canada's animals and plants and maintaining one of the world's safest food systems.

The Honourable Marjorie Michel, P.C., M.P.

Minister of Health

Results – what we achieved

Core responsibilities and internal services

- Core responsibility 1: Safe food and healthy plants and animals
- Internal services

Core responsibility 1: Safe food and healthy plants and animals

In this section

- Description
- Quality of life impacts
- Progress on results
- Details on results
- Key risks
- Resources required to achieve results
- Related government priorities
- Program inventory

Description

Protecting Canadians by safeguarding Canada's food system and the plant and animal resources on which we depend and supporting the Canadian economy through the trade of Canadian goods.

Quality of life impacts

Canada's Quality of Life Framework guides the CFIA's strategic approach by focusing on outcomes that matter most to Canadians, supporting evidence-based decision making, and enabling inclusive, sustainable growth. Within this framework, the CFIA contributed to the following domains:

- "Good Governance", by supporting confidence in institutions and reinforcing Canada's place in the world through the administration of a trusted, science-based regulatory system that protects food safety and plant and animal health, while enabling responsive and transparent governance
- "Prosperity", by supporting economic growth through technical cooperation and a modern regulatory approach that enhances market access and supply chain resilience
- "Environment", by supporting sustainable practices and waste management, including implementing waste diversion programs and using green procurement purchasing agreements, thereby furthering the greening of the agency's assets and promoting responsible consumption

- "Health", by contributing to the protection of human health through the prevention, detection, and control of zoonotic and foodborne diseases, thereby reducing public health risks associated with animal-to-human disease transmission

Progress on results

This section details the department's performance against its targets for each departmental result under Core responsibility 1: safe food and healthy plants and animals.

Table 1: Food sold in Canada is safe and accurately represented to Canadians

Table 1 shows the target, the date to achieve the target and the actual result for each indicator under safe food and healthy plants and animals in the last three fiscal years.

Departmental Result Indicators	Target	Date to achieve target	Actual Results
Percentage of food establishments that have addressed compliance issues upon follow-up or were brought into compliance, by year	At least 85%	March 31, 2026	2023 to 2024: 79.5% 2024 to 2025: 85.8% 2025 to 2026: 93%
Percentage of higher risk food recalls that occurred prior to an adverse effect being reported to the CFIA, by year	At least 84%	March 31, 2026	2023 to 2024: 92.1% 2024 to 2025: 71.9% 2025 to 2026: 80.8%[1]
Percentage of Canadians who agree that the CFIA helps ensure that food sold in Canada is safe, by year	At least 70%	March 31, 2026	2023 to 2024: 72% 2024 to 2025: 82% 2025 to 2026: 84%

Table 2: Plant and animal resources are protected from diseases and pests and are safe for Canadians and the environment

Table 2 shows the target, the date to achieve the target and the actual result for each indicator under safe food and healthy plants and animals in the last three fiscal years.

Departmental Result Indicators	Target	Date to achieve target	Actual Results
Number of foreign plant pests that have entered and established themselves in Canada	Exactly 0	March 31, 2026	2023 to 2024: 1 2024 to 2025: 0 2025 to 2026: 3[2]

[1] In 2025 to 2026, the number of higher risk recalls increased by 31.5% from 89 recalls to 130 recalls when compared to the previous year. The proportion of recalls associated with reported illnesses also increased, resulting in the target not being met in 2025 to 2026. Several major recalls and outbreaks occurred during this period, including *Salmonella* in pistachios and pistachio-containing products, *Salmonella* in salami and cacciatore products, *E. coli in* pizza pops, and *Salmonella* in imported pastries. Media coverage of these high profile recalls and outbreaks can increase consumer awareness and reporting of food-related illnesses, which may have contributed to the increase in recalls associated with reported illnesses.

[2] As the detections of *Monilinia polystroma* (Asiatic brown rot in stone fruit) in Quebec and *Cameraria ohridella* (horse chestnut leaf miner) in British Columbia were the first in North America, it is anticipated that they were

Departmental Result Indicators	Target	Date to achieve target	Actual Results
Percentage of regulated plant pests that had previously entered and established in Canada and whose spread (other than what would be expected by natural spread) was successfully limited by CFIA control programs, by year	At least 95%	March 31, 2026	2023 to 2024: 81.3% 2024 to 2025: 71.9% 2025 to 2026: 78%[3]
Percentage of plant inputs, products and by-products that comply with Canadian regulations and relevant international agreements, by year	At least 95%	March 31, 2026	2023 to 2024: 90.5% 2024 to 2025: 90.5% 2025 to 2026: 95.6%
Percentage of animal inputs, products and by-products that comply with Canadian regulations and relevant international agreements, by year	At least 95%	March 31, 2026	2023 to 2024: 98.5% 2024 to 2025: 99% 2025 to 2026: 99%
Percentage of Canadian producers that have maintained or improved their status in programs designed to protect the health of animals, by year	At least 95%	March 31, 2026	2023 to 2024: 97% 2024 to 2025: 86% 2025 to 2026:74%[4]
Rate of confirmed animal disease outbreaks per 100 investigations conducted by the CFIA to limit the impact of animal health diseases within Canada, by year	At most 3	March 31, 2026	2023 to 2024: 27 2024 to 2025: 37.5 2025 to 2026:38.5[5]

most likely introduced with imports from elsewhere. *Phytomyza gymnostoma* (Allium leaf miner) was detected in Ontario. This pest is present in the United States and *Allium* spp. is frequently traded between Canada and the United States, which may have contributed to its entry and establishment. Volume, origin, and complexity of imports have continued to increase but without a commensurate increase in support for surveillance and import inspections.

[3] Of 32 plant pests, 25 were successfully controlled as planned. However, the following seven pests that had previously entered and established in Canada were not successfully contained: potato wart (increase in the number of restricted fields to expand outside the current restricted area), Japanese beetle (detected in Newfoundland and outside the regulated area in British Columbia), EAB (detected outside established regulated areas in Surrey, British Columbia, in Bonaventure, La Tuque, Clermont and La Malbaie, Quebec, and in Hants and Cumberland County, Nova Scotia), hemlock woolly adelgid (detections in Scarborough and Norfolk County, Ontario and Bedford and Halifax, Nova Scotia), brown spruce longhorn beetle (two detections outside regulated area in the Beauce-Sartigan regional county municipality, Quebec), Japanese stiltgrass (Niagara, Ontario), and spongy moth (outside the regulated area in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, and Newfoundland).

[4] 74% of producers participating in CFIA's compartment programs maintained or improved their participant status in 2025 to 2026. However, the overall target was not met because participation declined in the voluntary chronic wasting disease (CWD) and scrapie programs. Enrollment in these programs is influenced by market and industry factors that are outside the CFIA's control.

[5] The ongoing infection pressure from wild bird HPAI spillover into domestic poultry (since December of 2021) is the reason the indicator did not meet its target. The result value for 2025 to 2026 is 38.5, which reflects the unprecedented number of avian Influenza cases that have been confirmed.

Table 3: Canadian food, plants and animals and their associated products can be traded Internationally

Table 3 shows the target, the date to achieve the target and the actual result for each indicator under safe food and healthy plants and animals. in the last three fiscal years.

Departmental Result Indicators	Target	Date to achieve target	Actual Results
Number of international markets that are opened or maintained based on CFIA activities, by year	At least 75	March 31, 2026	2023 to 2024: 78 2024 to 2025: 92 2025 to 2026: 127

The Results section of the Infographic for the CFIA on GC Infobase page provides additional information on results and performance related to its program inventory.

Details on results

The following section describes the results for safe food and healthy plants and animals in 2025 to 2026 compared with the planned results set out in the CFIA's departmental plan for the year, organized by theme.

1. Keeping Canadians' food safe and protecting our animal and plant resources

Canadians and the economy depend on the CFIA to maintain a science-based regulatory framework that can adapt quickly to change. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA made progress on its commitment to modernize the regulatory framework for food, plant, and animal health. The CFIA also strengthened its emergency management toolkit. CFIA inspectors actively monitored industry activities to confirm compliance with Canadian standards and regulations. Inspectors focused on strengthening the use of enforcement actions, access to digital tools, and improving consistency across inspection activities. Canadians and industry were informed of their responsibilities through public education, stakeholder engagement, and informative tools. Collectively, these efforts reinforced the CFIA's ability to proactively manage risks and supported the continued safety of Canada's food supply while protecting the health of animal and plant resources.

1.1 Modernizing the CFIA's regulatory framework for food, plant, and animal health

The CFIA operates within a complex regulatory framework and administers and enforces 10 different acts and over 20 regulations. This framework is continuously updated and modernized to improve regulations that are internationally recognized and grounded in science and innovation. Modernizing regulations improves consistency, supports industry innovation, and strengthens the competitiveness of Canadian businesses. Regulations will remain agile and responsive to the needs of Canadians and Canadian businesses.

Reducing red tape and modernizing the regulatory framework

As part of the Government of Canada's Red Tape Review, in 2025 to 2026, the CFIA published its Progress Report on Red Tape Reduction. This report identified 26 total actions, including regulatory, policy, guidance, and legislative, focused on reducing unnecessary red tape and supporting the economic competitiveness and resilience of the agriculture and agri-food sector.

Since the publication of the report, the agency has made significant progress in developing regulatory reforms, particularly in areas that remove unnecessary and prescriptive rules, support international alignment, provide increased flexibility, and increase digitalization. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA:

- delivered a major omnibus regulatory package that made a series of targeted amendments which removed prescriptive requirements, gave businesses more flexibility, and created a fairer system for Canadian producers
- expanded electronic phytosanitary export certificates to streamline exports of agricultural and forestry products, such as grain and lumber to Mexico, which shortened the transfer time of certificates from hours or days to around 15 minutes
- updated the susceptible species list of aquatic animals to their current disease status and risks
- reduced the withdrawal period for six chicken vaccines to meet the needs of Canadian producers by enabling them to provide a vaccine booster closer to the age of slaughter
- updated the list of primary fertilizer and supplement materials to exempt more low-risk fertilizer products from pre-market registration, speeding up access to low-risk products

Collectively, these actions reduced red tape, which helps the agency better serve Canadians, support innovation, and strengthen the competitiveness of the agriculture and agri-food sector.

Regulatory modernization initiatives in 2025 to 2026 included:

- amendments to the *Compensation for Destroyed Animals and Things Regulations* that increase the maximum amounts of compensation for cattle to better reflect current market values
    - supports the CFIA's ability to respond swiftly to outbreaks while reducing barriers to effective disease management by providing access to proper compensation for livestock owners when animals must be destroyed for animal health protection, which encourages early reporting and cooperation in disease control
- amendments to the *Plant Protection Regulations* that strengthen the CFIA's ability to safeguard Canada's agriculture, forests, and natural environment from plant pests by introducing greater regulatory flexibility, reducing administrative burden, and helping the adoption of digital processes
    - removes the automatic requirement for hard copies of electronically submitted documents, incorporating by reference domestic movement prohibitions and restrictions, updating wording to support future electronic exchange of phytosanitary certificates, and repealing outdated and spent regulations that removed unnecessary rules without compromising health and safety

- amendments to the Common Names for Ingredients and Components document for milk ingredients and modified milk ingredients, which were incorporated by reference in the *Food and Drug Regulations*, and aim to enhance clarity and consistency in food labelling for dairy ingredients and support informed consumer choice and regulatory alignment
- modernizing Parts I, III, and IV of the *Seeds Regulations*, including a consultation on future-proofing Canada's regulations
- finalizing amendments to the *Plant Breeders' Rights Regulations* that will strengthen protections for plant breeders, drive innovation and competitiveness across Canada's agricultural sectors, and enhance food security through climate-resilient and high-yielding plant varieties

Food labelling for industry

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA updated the Industry Labelling tool to help businesses compare past and updated regulatory references following amendments to the *Food and Drug Regulations*. Updates to the tool reflect new regulatory requirements, policy changes, and clarifications to existing requirements. These updates included:

- added amendments to the SFCR related to labelling and grading requirements for fresh fruits and vegetables
- added amendments to the Common Names for Ingredients and Components document incorporated by reference in the *Food and Drug Regulations* related to milk ingredients and modified milk ingredients
- clarified existing regulatory requirements based on reports from the CFIA, Health Canada, and industry to support consistency in regulatory enforcement, interpretation of labelling rules, and compliance for fair market practices for shipping containers and health claims
- provided updates for the omnibus regulatory package to address concerns in line with the Government of Canada's red tape reduction commitment

The amendments provide a clear and streamlined framework for food compositional standards, microbiological criteria, and analytical methods. The tool makes the regulatory framework more adaptable, enabling faster responses to emerging food safety issues while helping industry stay in compliance to support public health and strengthen trust in Canada's food system.

1.2 Enhancing emergency management and preparedness

Proactive and prompt action is key to protecting Canada's food, plant, and animal resources. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA strengthened emergency preparedness and response capacity by working with federal, provincial, territorial, and industry partners to address emerging risks and respond to incidents affecting food safety and animal and plant health.

The CFIA responded to foodborne illness outbreaks, implemented control measures to limit the spread of animal diseases, and took regulatory actions to manage plant pests and aquatic animal diseases.

Measures to protect Canada from plant pests and diseases

To protect plant health, efforts focused on managing risks related to pests and diseases, including the brown spruce longhorn beetle, Japanese beetle, the hemlock woolly adelgid, jointed goatgrass, EAB, and potato wart. Of 32 plant pests, 25 were successfully controlled as planned. However, the following seven pests that had previously entered and established in Canada were not successfully contained:

- potato wart, due to an increase in the number of restricted fields to expand outside the current restricted area
- Japanese beetle, which was detected in Newfoundland and outside the regulated area in British Columbia
- EAB, which was detected outside the established regulated areas in Surrey, British Columbia, in Bonaventure, La Tuque, Clermont and La Malbaie, Quebec, and in Hants and Cumberland County, Nova Scotia
- hemlock woolly adelgid, which was detected in Scarborough and Norfolk County, Ontario and Bedford and Halifax, Nova Scotia
- brown spruce longhorn beetle, which had two detections outside the regulated area in the Beauce-Sartigan regional county municipality, Quebec
- Japanese stiltgrass, which was detected in Niagara, Ontario
- spongy moth, which was detected outside the regulated area in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, and Newfoundland

To address these and other issues, in 2025 to 2026, the agency:

- published and implemented a guide for setting up domestic and import phytosanitary requirements for high-risk plant pathways to slow the introduction and spread of spotted lanternfly, while improving clarity and predictability for regulated parties
- imposed restrictions and conducted surveillance to watch pest spread and support early intervention following detections of the brown spruce longhorn beetle in Quebec
- supported Japanese beetle eradication efforts in British Columbia and Newfoundland and Labrador through surveillance, movement controls, coordinated communications, trapping, and technical ability
- applied movement restrictions under the *Plant Protection Act* upon confirmed detections of hemlock woolly adelgid in the Halifax Regional Municipality and Bedford in Nova Scotia, and Toronto and Norfolk in Ontario

The CFIA also conducted ongoing surveillance to inform adjustments to regulated areas:

- declared two Ontario sites eradicated of jointed goatgrass after five consecutive years of negative survey results, bringing the total to nine out of ten sites eliminated since 2017 of this invasive species that impacts Canadian producers through a combination of reduced yields, costly seed cleaning, and increased control costs
    - monitored the last remaining site and support full provincial eradication, expected by 2029, including scientific advice, assessment, and treatment options to prevent further spread

- confirmed more detections of EAB in Nova Scotia, expanded regulated areas in British Columbia to restrict the movement of ash materials and firewood, and supported the long-term management plan with domestic and international partners

In 2025 to 2026, the detection of potato wart in Prince Edward Island highlighted the importance of proactive surveillance and response measures to help protect Canada's potato sector and maintain market confidence. Positive findings in samples from one field triggered official reporting and trace-back and trace-out investigations to assess potential spread, inform targeted sampling and response activities, and support risk management measures. The CFIA also developed a new National Potato Wart Response Plan in 2025 to 2026, replacing the 2009 Potato Wart Domestic Long-Term Management Plan. This update was developed through engagement with growers, provinces, and trading partners. It strengthens Canada's approach to help contain, control, and prevent the spread of potato wart, while supporting industry and continued market access.

Measures to protect Canada from animal diseases

Canadian oysters are valued not only as a premium food product, but as aquatic animals that have an important role in marine ecosystems. Oysters improve water clarity through filter feeding, create habitats for other aquatic animals, and form reefs that help stabilize shorelines. Dermo and MSX are serious diseases affecting the growth and survival of cultured and wild oysters. Although they pose no risk to food safety or human health, these diseases are a growing risk for aquatic animal health and are a threat to Canadian aquatic ecosystems and the aquaculture economy, worth over $1.3 billion in 2024. The agency designated Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Quebec as areas where MSX and Dermo are present or likely to be present and implemented movement controls under the Domestic Movement Control Program. The program restricts the movement of oysters not ready for commercial sale outside these areas, while allowing commercially ready oysters to be marketed, and streamlining movements within regions. Following the first detection of MSX and Dermo in Atlantic Canada, more detections in Eastern Canadian provinces and Newfoundland and Labrador prompted the CFIA to coordinate surveillance, traceability activities, oyster movement controls, and ongoing testing in collaboration with provincial and federal partners. The CFIA continues surveillance and engagement with industry, Indigenous communities, and harvesters to support disease management and reduce the risk of further spread.

Scrapie is a deadly disease that affects sheep and goats. It can take years before signs of the disease appear, and there is no treatment or vaccine available at this time. Symptoms of this disease develop slowly, so animal owners may not know their flock or herd is infected. Healthy animals can become infected through contact with affected animals or contaminated environments. Over time, scrapie can cause significant losses for Canadian producers, especially in flocks or herds with many animals that are vulnerable to the disease. The movement or sale of infected animals can also spread the disease to other flocks and herds. The CFIA has measures in place to help prevent scrapie from further entering and spreading in Canada. In 2025 to 2026, the agency launched a pilot project to assess genetic resistance in scrapie-positive goat herds meeting specific criteria, contributing to national knowledge on resistant genotypes. This initiative supports evidence-based approaches to disease control and ongoing efforts to eradicate scrapie in Canada,

and contributed to protecting Canada's food system, safeguarding animal health, and maintaining market access and public confidence.

Building the emergency response toolkit for animal health

Canada's ability to respond quickly and effectively to animal disease emergencies relies on being operationally ready. Having a toolkit ready when needed helps to protect animal health, maintain market access, and support the resilience of the agricultural sector. Surveillance and testing are key elements in the emergency response toolkit and enhance Canada's capabilities to respond to animal health threats. Timely and coordinated emergency management requires a collaborative approach to effectively control disease spread and limit the impacts of an outbreak. Collaboration with government and Indigenous partners, and industry strengthen Canada's capacity to detect, prevent, and respond to animal disease risks. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA:

- enhanced preparedness for ASF with $6.1 million in funding from the Government of Canada to verify industry compliance with regulatory requirements through inspection activities, laboratory testing, field surveillance, and the CanSpotASF mobile application
- advanced response planning with national partners, including Animal Health Canada, the Canadian Cattle Association, and the Canadian Council of Chief Veterinary Officers, on simulation exercises for large-scale outbreaks of animal diseases and the development of the Canadian Animal Disease Spread Simulation Model to assess potential outbreak scenarios and response strategies
- launched a webpage listing CFIA-approved external laboratories for animal health testing, which improves identification of approved laboratories for a range of tests, supporting access, operational efficiency, and surveillance capacity
- updated disease-specific response strategies and operational guidance documents for high-impact diseases such as FMD, ASF, and HPAI to support the implementation of quarantine and movement controls, zoning, surveillance, and humane depopulation measures
- strengthened diagnostic surveillance capacity through updates to the Accredited Veterinarian Manual Modules 13.4 and 13.5 to reflect 2026 national standards, including revised surveillance requirements, alignment with the United States export conditions, and updated program administration by region, supporting early detection of chronic wasting disease (CWD) and enhanced national surveillance coordination
- developed detailed destruction and carcass disposal plans, including resource assessments, timelines, and cost estimates
- validated animal health emergency contingency plans before the 2025 G7 Leaders' Summit through participation in three emergency exercises, including two virtual and one in-person exercise, enhancing preparedness, coordination, and response capacity

These actions integrate operational guidance, disease-specific response plans, risk assessment tools, and scientific risk assessments that support evidence-based decision making during disease outbreaks. Together, these actions strengthened Canada's ability to prepare for and respond to animal disease emergencies while supporting the protection of animal health, market access, and the stability of Canada's food system.

In 2025 to 2026, the Saskatchewan Research Council, the University of Guelph, GenoChemia Biotechnologies Inc., and BioScision Diagnostics were approved to conduct *Trichinella* testing, while the CFIA Saskatoon laboratory remained the national reference laboratory, providing confirmatory testing and technical support. These measures expanded testing capacity and accessibility for domestic and international trade programs and supported detection of priority diseases including ASF, HPAI, BSE, CWD, FMD, and trichinellosis, reinforcing confidence in Canada's animal health system and export markets.

During the year, the CFIA conducted investigations and implemented control measures to manage animal disease incidents, including bovine tuberculosis and Newcastle disease, applying quarantine, movement controls, and other regulatory measures to limit impacts. Early detection of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex in dairy cattle remained critical to protecting animal health and public health, maintaining market access, and preventing disease spread within and between herds. In one case, the affected herd was placed under quarantine and approximately 300 animals were humanely disposed of. Ongoing investigations will inform further testing, traceability, and disease control measures. Milk from the quarantined farm remained safe for consumption following pasteurization.

Using digital tools to respond to animal health emergencies

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA modernized Canada's response to animal health emergencies using digital tools. These investments improved access to reliable, real-time information, reduced response costs, and strengthened analytical capacity during disease investigations, enabling evidence-based decision making.

By enhancing its digital capabilities, the CFIA improved its ability to detect emerging risks earlier, support timely decisions, and coordinate emergency response activities with federal, provincial, territorial, and industry partners through:

- expanding the Traceability National Information Portal by incorporating all provincial premises identification data to strengthen traceability, disease control, and emergency response activities, while improving information-sharing with provinces during animal disease emergencies
- increasing industry awareness through publications of a fact sheet on proposed livestock traceability regulatory updates, supporting transparency and informed engagement
- continuing development of the Canadian Animal Disease Integrated Application, improving data capture, storage, and consolidation so emergency response teams and partners can exchange information more efficiently during animal health incidents
- modernizing HPAI surveillance approaches, reducing testing requirements and costs for producers while maintaining effective disease monitoring and supporting market access
- enhancing surveillance in response to bovine tuberculosis cases identified in 2024 and 2025, including monitoring 243 at-risk cattle herds to prevent further disease spread and support the maintenance of Canada's bovine tuberculosis-free status and international market access for Canadian cattle and beef products

These efforts strengthened the CFIA's digital foundation for emergency management, enabling more integrated surveillance and investigation activities, faster response times, and more

coordinated action. This enhanced Canada's ability to mitigate animal health risks, maintain market access, and support a resilient agriculture sector.

Animal disease investigations and response activities

Animal diseases in Canada, such as CWD, equine infectious anemia and HPAI, were confirmed through investigations. These investigations and early detection helped protect animal health, maintain market access, and sustain confidence in Canada's animal health system. Ongoing HPAI outbreaks continue to be a major contributor to the agency's disease response activities. Detections in domestic poultry and wild birds require ongoing surveillance, movement controls, and coordinated response measures. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA certified and recertified containment laboratories across Canada to support diagnostic and research activities involving the HPAI virus and updated biosafety guidance in collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada to strengthen laboratory safety practices.

The CFIA implemented disease control measures, including primary control zones, movement restrictions, surveillance testing, and targeted epidemiological investigations to help limit disease spread and protect animal health. Rapid response activities supported timely containment following confirmed detections and helped reduce the risk of further disease spread. Outreach and awareness activities with producers, industry, government, and academic partners supported improved biosecurity awareness, early detection, and coordinated emergency response efforts. Other diseases confirmed through investigations included infectious salmon anaemia, viral haemorrhagic septicaemia, MSX, Dermo, rabies, Newcastle disease, cysticercosis, and bovine tuberculosis. These investigations supported timely disease control actions and helped protect animal health, maintain market access, and sustain confidence in Canada's animal health system.

Responding to HPAI in Canada

The CFIA received $27.9 million in funding in 2025 to 2026 to respond to the ongoing outbreak of HPAI in poultry and wild birds, preparedness measures for HPAI in dairy cattle, and to continue timely emergency response efforts. The agency responded to the ongoing outbreak of HPAI, which is one of the most significant animal disease events affecting Canada's poultry sector in recent years. In 2025 to 2026, the number of animal disease outbreaks relative to the number of animal disease investigations conducted by the CFIA for regulated foreign animal disease and domestic disease under eradication programs was 38.5, which is significantly higher than the target goal of at most 3. The ongoing infection pressure from wild bird HPAI spillover into domestic poultry since December 2021 is the reason the agency did not meet its target and reflects the unprecedented number of avian influenza cases that have been confirmed. Working with federal, provincial, and territorial partners, industry, Indigenous partners, and other organizations, the CFIA implemented surveillance, containment, and control measures to limit the spread of the virus and mitigate impacts on the poultry sector, including production losses, business disruptions due to movement restrictions, and potential trade impacts.

The CFIA enhanced monitoring and response activities to support early detection and rapid containment, including disease investigations, quarantine and movement restrictions, and the

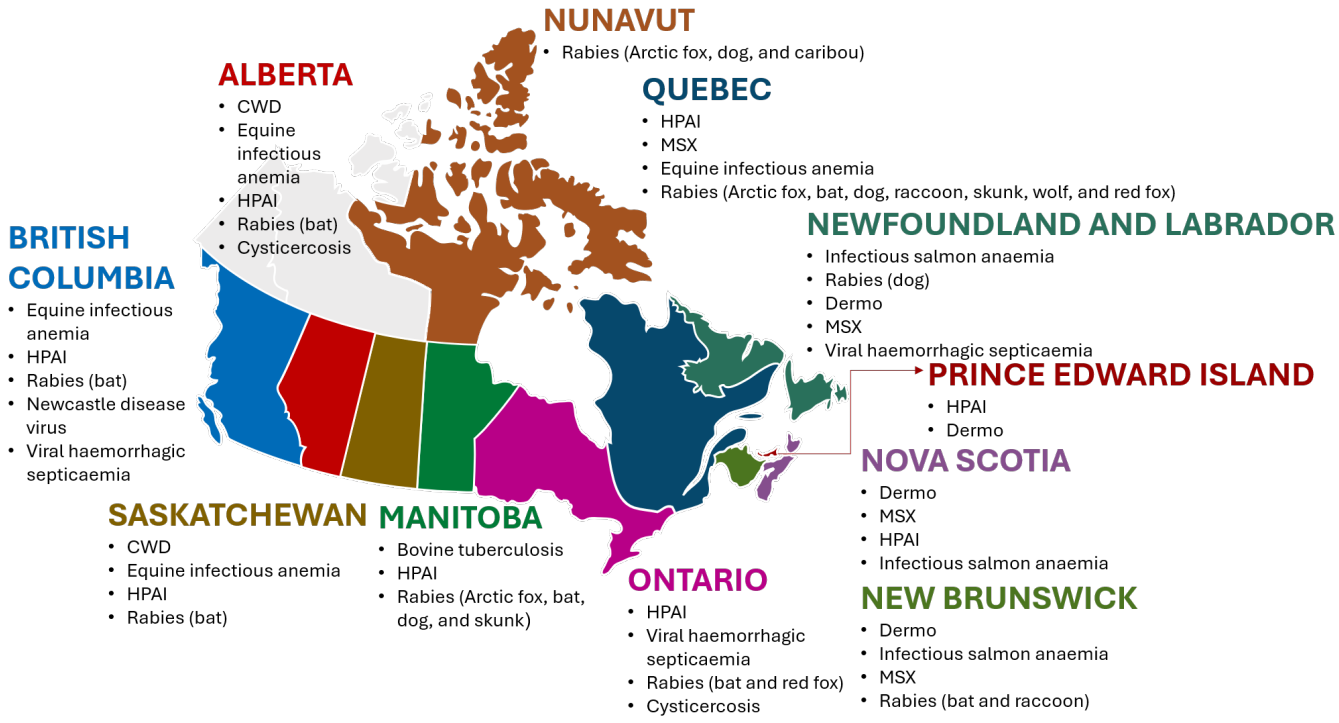
humane depopulation of infected flocks. In 2025 to 2026, the agency responded to 95.6% of HPAI outbreaks within 24 hours. Ongoing testing and surveillance supported the early detection of cases and timely response, helping to limit further transmission.

As part of its HPAI surveillance activities, the CFIA tested 100% of planned samples collected under the national HPAI surveillance program. This testing supported the early detection and monitoring of HPAI in domestic and wild bird populations, enabling timely risk assessment and response measures to help protect animal health and limit disease spread.

The agency also implemented ongoing precautionary measures in response to HPAI detections in dairy cattle in the United States, such as import testing requirements and enhanced domestic surveillance, while strengthening preparedness and coordination with partners, including the Canadian Council of Chief Veterinary Officers.

These actions contributed to limiting the spread of HPAI in Canada, supporting business continuity for the poultry sector, and maintaining domestic and international confidence in Canadian poultry products.

Figure 1: Federally reportable animal disease detections for aquatic and terrestrial animals in Canada in 2025 to 2026



Source of rabies data: "Rabies in Canada" (CFIA website)

Building the emergency response toolkit for plant health

Strong surveillance, prevention, and risk-based plant health measures supported the CFIA to detect three new foreign plant pests in Canada in 2025 to 2026. Detections of Asiatic brown rot in stone fruit in Quebec and horse chestnut leaf miner in British Columbia were the first in North America, and the entry and establishment of allium leaf miner in Ontario was likely due to frequent trade between Canada and the United States. *Phytomyza gymnostoma*, commonly known as allium leaf miner, was detected in Ontario and is present in the United States. *Allium spp*. is frequently traded between Canada and the United States, which may have contributed to its entry and establishment. Volume, origin, and complexity of imports have increased but without an equal increase in support for surveillance and import inspections. The agency imposed movement restrictions to mitigate the risk of spread and to provide additional time to assess the impacts to other regions in Canada. Inspection activities, including field sampling, laboratory analysis, and targeted inspections of nurseries and greenhouses, supported the early detection of plant pests and diseases and timely response actions. To further strengthen Canada's plant health protection, the CFIA advanced an integrated emergency response toolkit that brings together science, digital tools, and risk-based approaches. Collaboration with provincial partners, industry, and international organizations supported coordinated and effective responses to plant health risks.

Key components of the plant emergency response toolkit in 2025 to 2026 include:

- strengthened surveillance programs targeting high-risk pests such as potato wart, potato cyst nematode, and invasive species like EAB
- enhanced laboratory diagnostic capacity to support rapid identification of plant pests and pathogens
- conducted scientific risk assessments and analysis to support risk-informed sampling, surveillance, and response activities for regulated potato pests, helping protect domestic seed potato and support Canada's zero-tolerance pest management approach
- improved traceability and data systems to support plant movement tracking and rapid containment measures
- prioritized high-risk sites and pathways using risk-informed inspection and compliance tools
- implemented risk-based import inspection and surveillance activities targeting high-risk plant commodities and pathways associated with the introduction of invasive plant pests
- updated emergency response plans developed in collaboration with provinces, industry, and international partners such as the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO)
- assessed potential pest incursions and response strategies using simulation exercises and scenario planning
- supported national readiness and consistent response approaches through ongoing training and engagement with partners

These efforts strengthened Canada's ability to detect and respond to plant health risks, reduce potential economic impacts, and maintain market access for Canadian agricultural products.

Using digital tools to respond to plant health emergencies

The CFIA modernized its plant health programs by implementing digital tools that strengthen surveillance, inspection, and response capabilities. These investments supported a risk-based approach that improved data collection, integration, and analysis across inspections, laboratories, and traceability systems.

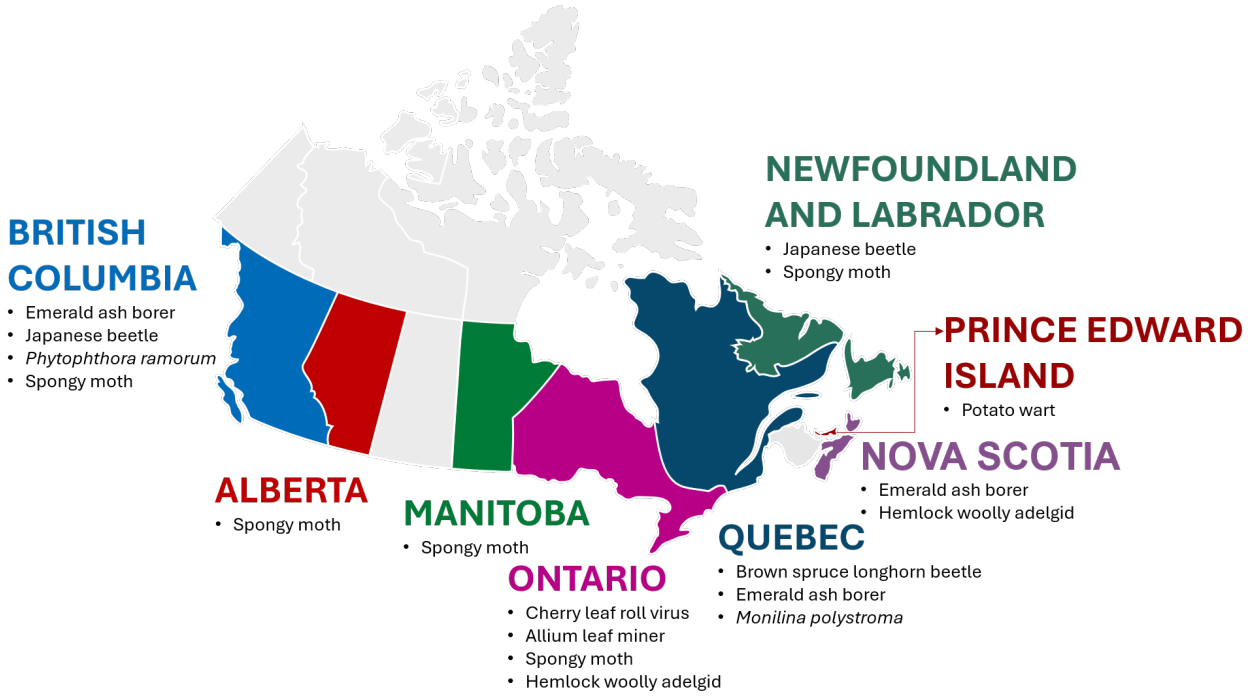
The CFIA used risk modelling and horizon scanning tools to support early detection and preparedness for emerging plant pest risks. Through scientific literature monitoring, climate projections, and quantitative modelling, the agency updated pest risk assessments to help identify areas of Canada most at risk and support timely, science-based prevention and mitigation measures.

Key achievements in 2025 to 2026 included:

- enhanced digital inspection tools to support real-time data entry, reporting, and risk-based decision making in the field
- improved integration of laboratory and surveillance data through laboratory information systems, accelerating detection and response to plant health risks
- expanded use of mapping and geospatial tools to track pest detections, visualize high-risk zones, and support containment efforts
- implemented pilot projects using remote inspection technologies, including remote imaging for plant pest identification, demonstrating potential to modernize oversight across programs
- continued development of traceability systems to monitor plant and plant product movements and support outbreak response
- strengthened data analytics capacity to guide risk prioritization, program planning, and resource allocation
- increased collaboration and information sharing with provincial and international partners through digital platforms

These advancements strengthened the CFIA's ability to detect and respond to plant health risks, reduce potential economic losses, maintain market access, and support resilient Canadian agricultural systems. They also supported the agency's digital modernization by using automated and data-driven tools to improve risk-based decision making, inspection oversight, and operational efficiency. Through enhanced data integration, risk modelling, and digital inspection tools, the CFIA strengthened its capacity to identify and prioritize imports posing a high risk of introducing plant pests into Canada. In 2025 to 2026, 22.3% of imports inspected by the CFIA were identified as posing a high risk of introducing plant pests into Canada, helping focus inspection resources where they are most needed.

Figure 2: Federally reportable plant diseases and invasive species detections in Canada in 2025 to 2026



Detecting and taking action on emerging food safety risks

The CFIA strengthened its ability to detect and respond to emerging food safety risks through enhanced surveillance, laboratory testing, and collaboration with domestic and international partners. The agency maintained a high level of readiness to respond to foodborne illness outbreaks and emerging hazards affecting food safety and animal and plant health. In 2025, the CFIA took 30,168 samples of food to test for chemical contaminants such as allergens, microbiological contamination such as *E. coli,* and for composition or authenticity of ingredients. Through targeted inspection activities and risk-based oversight, the CFIA improved its ability to identify and mitigate risks associated with high-risk commodities, including imported foods, helping to protect the health of Canadians and maintain confidence in the food system. The agency developed a risk-informed tool for imported fish inspections, combining machine learning and structured randomization to support national surveillance plans. Pre-pilot testing on imported shrimp demonstrated effectiveness in shipment selection. This work strengthens proactive risk identification for imported seafood and supports the integrity of Canada's food safety surveillance system.

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA recommended precautionary closure of shellfish harvest areas in southern New Brunswick following detections of paralytic shellfish toxin. As precautionary measure, harvest area closures may be recommended before toxin levels reach regulatory limits to protect public health.

Strengthening viral food safety detection in Canada

Foodborne viruses, including norovirus infection and hepatitis A, contribute to over one million illnesses annually in Canada, underscoring the importance of early detection and scientific capacity.

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA strengthened its capacity to detect and respond to viral foodborne risks through laboratory testing, surveillance, and collaboration with domestic and international partners. Over the decade, the National Reference Centre for Foodborne Viruses has conducted more than 21,000 analyses, supported over 25 food safety investigations, and contributed to scientific research and international collaboration. These activities have strengthened Canada's capacity to detect viral contaminants and support prompt outbreak response.

The CFIA applied a proactive, science-based approach to risk management by leveraging advanced laboratory diagnostics, genomics, and data analytics. Inspectors conducted oversight across federally and provincially registered establishments, including slaughterhouses and food processing facilities, with particular attention to high-risk sectors such as fresh produce, dairy, meat, grain, and fish and seafood. Collaboration with government, academia, Indigenous partners, and industry supported early identification and assessment of emerging threats, including those related to global supply chains and environmental changes.

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA supported over 100 unplanned sampling and testing requests linked to illness outbreaks, consumer complaints, inspections, and food safety investigations. Testing addressed a range of hazards, including Listeriosis, Salmonellosis, pathogenic *E. coli* infection, undeclared allergens, and nutrient overfortification. Laboratory capacity allowed for rapid analysis of food and environmental samples, supporting timely risk assessment and response to food safety incidents.

The CFIA continued to provide timely information to Canadians about food safety risks. In 2025 to 2026, 97.5% of public warning for high-risk food recalls were issued within 24 hours of a recall decision, supporting rapid risk communication and helping consumers take prompt action to protect their health.

As part of Budget 2025, the CFIA received $1.2 million in funding to support preparations for the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup 2026. In 2025 to 2026, the agency used this funding to implement enhanced inspection and monitoring measures for food, plant, and animal products entering Canada, including a focus on high-risk imports and strengthened coordination with border and international partners to ensure compliance with Canadian safety standards and reduce the risk of introducing pests, diseases, or contaminants.

Key achievements in 2025 to 2026 include:

- responded to a multi-provincial *E. coli* O26 outbreak through coordinated investigations and traceback activities, resulting in high-risk food recalls and national food recall warning for products that could potentially cause serious adverse health consequences

- conducted a recall of arrowroot biscuits due to potential contamination with soft plastic and paper, supported by a technical risk assessment and issuance of a food recall warning to protect consumers
- implemented risk-based recalls and control measures following identification of food safety risks in federally regulated food products, including microbiological contamination, undeclared allergens, and foreign material hazards, helping remove affected products from the marketplace, reduce potential health risks, and maintain consumer confidence in Canada's food safety system
- enhanced surveillance and inspection of imported foods, with continued focus on high-risk commodities and strengthened regulatory cooperation with international partners
- increased use of advanced laboratory diagnostics, including molecular and genomics-based methods, to detect microbial and chemical hazards in food
- strengthened data integration and analytics capacity to support timely decision making and risk prioritization
- provided timely responses to 100% of requests from the Canada Border Services Agency and Health Canada, supporting the oversight of imported agricultural material and foods

These efforts contributed to a more agile and responsive food safety system, enabling the CFIA to better anticipate, detect, and mitigate emerging risks while supporting public health, consumer confidence, and international trade.

Threats to food safety

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA monitored and addressed a range of evolving food safety threats driven by increasingly complex global supply chains, climate change, and emerging food safety risks including pathogens such as *Salmonella*, *Listeria*, and emerging viral strains. Contaminants included pesticide residues, veterinary drug residues, and heavy metals. The growing volume and diversity of imported foods, combined with shifting environmental conditions, increased the risk of contamination, food fraud, and economically motivated adulteration, requiring ongoing vigilance and a coordinated, risk-based approach to oversight.

To mitigate these risks, the CFIA used modern testing tools, advanced data analytics, and worked with domestic and international partners to detect and respond quickly to potential food safety issues. The agency focused on high-risk foods, including fresh produce, meat, seafood, and dairy, where contamination events can impact public health. In 2025 to 2026, CFIA inspections, sampling, and monitoring helped detect food safety hazards and timely recalls of food made in Canada. Enhanced inspection, sampling, and laboratory testing activities improved the agency's ability to identify food safety risks and act quickly to protect consumers and maintain confidence in Canada's food safety system. The agency also enhanced traceability and information-sharing systems, making it faster to identify the source of contamination and respond effectively. Together, these activities protected public health, maintained confidence in the food supply, and ensured the integrity of domestic and imported food products. Throughout 2025 to 2026, Canadians expressed confidence in the CFIA's role in helping ensure the safety of food sold in Canada.

Figure 3: Process of a food recall in Canada



1.3 Strengthening compliance and enforcement through risk-informed oversight and digital-friendly services

As a regulator, the CFIA establishes rules for Canada's food, plant, and animal sectors that Canadians rely on every day. The agency also has the responsibility to verify compliance with these rules and take appropriate action when they are not followed.

Figure 4



How the CFIA increases awareness of its regulations and activities

The CFIA is committed to promoting and facilitating compliance. Compliance is monitored through the Automated Import Reference System (AIRS), helping prevent enforcement incidents and support national biosecurity.

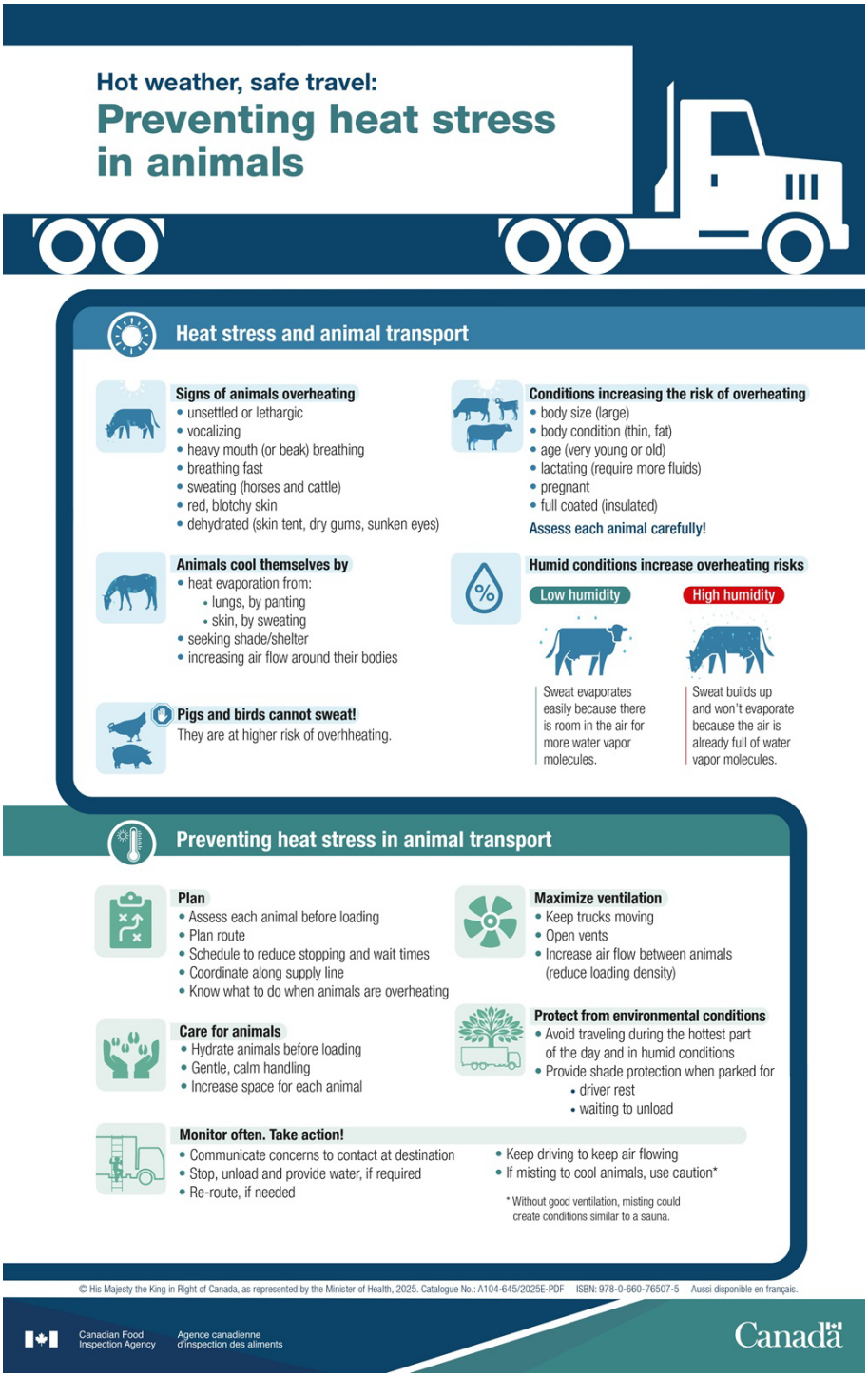
In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA:

- provided guidance and solutions to common certification barriers, improved awareness and efficiency for veterinarians and clients in the pet export process, and established a foundation for ongoing engagement and collaboration in animal health and export compliance
- increased awareness through publication of a new infographic on of heat stress risks in animals and promoted safe transportation practices, which strengthen compliance, reduce animal suffering, and support responsible industry practices nationwide
- released and promoted a national video series showcasing farm-level crop biosecurity standards and producer guides, initiated targeted industry consultations to update standards associated with evolving pest risks, technologies, and practices, and strengthened collaborative partnerships to improve crop biosecurity nationally in collaboration with the Canadian Plant Health Council

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA launched a maintenance page for the agency's external systems such as the Automated Import Reference System Verification Service, AIRS, and the CFIA Shipment Tracker, with phased rollouts planned for additional services. This central platform improves user experience and strengthens the CFIA's proactive communication with industry and partners. External stakeholders can now quickly access information about planned maintenance, in-

progress updates, and contingency plans, reducing uncertainty and supporting uninterrupted trade and regulatory compliance.

Figure 5



The CFIA helps people in Canada understand their role in protecting Canada's plant and animal resources by raising public awareness on priority issues. Public awareness of the agency's activities has steadily increased over the last five years, with recognition rising in 2025 to 2026 from 10% to 25% of food-related activities, from 4% to 17% of plant-related activities, and from 3% to 16% of animal-related activities. As part of the agency's proactive efforts to inform and protect Canadians, the CFIA launched targeted advertising campaigns and released informative tools to highlight priority issues, including:

- helping Canadians make informed choices by raising awareness about food labels, best before dates, allergens, and educating consumers on how to accurately interpret claims like "Product of Canada", "Made in Canada", and "100% Canadian" through the Shop Safe, Shop Smart mobile-friendly webpage
- improving awareness and understanding of food safety risks and recall processes to support informed consumer decision making and reduce exposure to potential health risks through the Food Recalls Unwrapped campaign
- helping new and emerging food businesses succeed by promoting the rules that apply to import food into Canada, or prepare food that will be exported from Canada or traded from one province or territory to another
- teaching small-scale producers and veterinarians how they can keep their farm, animals, and themselves healthy and safe through the Healthy Habits, Healthy Animals campaign
- promoting the agency's National BSE Surveillance Program, which is in place to catch the re-emergence of BSE in Canadian cattle and meets international standards set by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), and allows Canada to maintain its negligible risk status for BSE
- increasing awareness for international travelers with dogs on the requirements for entry into other countries and back into Canada
- informing international travelers, including those entering Canada for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, of import requirements for food, plant, and animal products to prevent the introduction of diseases like ASF
- promoting actions outdoor enthusiasts can take to stop the spread of invasive species, including soil-borne pests, through the "Ditch the Dirt" campaign
- increasing awareness of spotted lanternfly to slow its introduction and spread into Canada
- sharing materials and resources for veterinarians, pet owners, and livestock owners on how to help minimize the risk of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in animals
- highlighting the connections between human, animal, and plant health and emphasizing how they are all part of a single, integrated One Health system to mark the International Day of Plant Health

Penalties for mislabelling products as Canadian

Canadians have been clear that they want to support Canadian businesses and buy Canadian products. Accurate origin labelling creates a fair marketplace that benefits both consumers and businesses. Consumers deserve origin labels they can trust so they can make informed choices, which is why the CFIA is protecting consumers from misleading food labels and advertisements. Between April 1, 2025, and March 16, 2026, the agency has issued $47,000 in financial penalties to businesses for inaccurate or misleading country of origin claims. In addition to responding to complaints, the agency conducted inspections to verify origin claims on labels and

advertisements, including in-store signage. The CFIA:

- raised awareness of the importance of accurate labelling and reminded businesses of their regulatory responsibilities
- reviewed labels and business processes
- issued inspection reports and requests for corrective action
- verified corrective actions are in place to prevent future non-compliance
- took enforcement actions

The CFIA selects appropriate compliance and enforcement actions based on a range of considerations including the degree of risk, the harm caused by the non-compliance, the compliance history of the regulated party, whether there is negligence or intent to violate federal requirements, and responsiveness to resolving the issue. The CFIA takes labelling issues seriously and is directly addressing the growing concern with Canadian food businesses over inaccurate and misleading origin claims.

Taking action on non-compliance

Despite the agency's efforts to raise awareness and promote the rules, there are still occasions where CFIA inspectors need to act when regulated parties are non-compliant with the rules. Enforcing regulations ensures integrity in food safety documentation, deters non-compliance, and protects the safety and traceability of food in Canada. As part of the CFIA's enforcement actions toolbox, inspectors issue letters of non-compliance and have meetings with regulated parties, as required, for lower severity non-compliances. For more serious cases, penalties are issued and licences are suspended. These actions are key to maintaining Canada's high regulatory standards under the SFCA and SFCR. The agency will continue to take appropriate enforcement action wherever necessary to mitigate risks, prevent repeat violations, and maintain public trust. In 2025 to 2026, a total of 312 notices of violation were issued, of which 183 included a penalty worth over $1.7 million. In 2025 to 2026, the agency served:

- 169 administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) for animal health related non-compliances, with fines totaling $683,400
    - the most common violations involved humane transportation, including the transportation of unfit animals, transportation of compromised animals, and exposure to weather or inadequate ventilation, which accounted for over half of the animal health related-AMPs issued
- 182 AMPs for food safety related non-compliances, with fines totaling $740,300

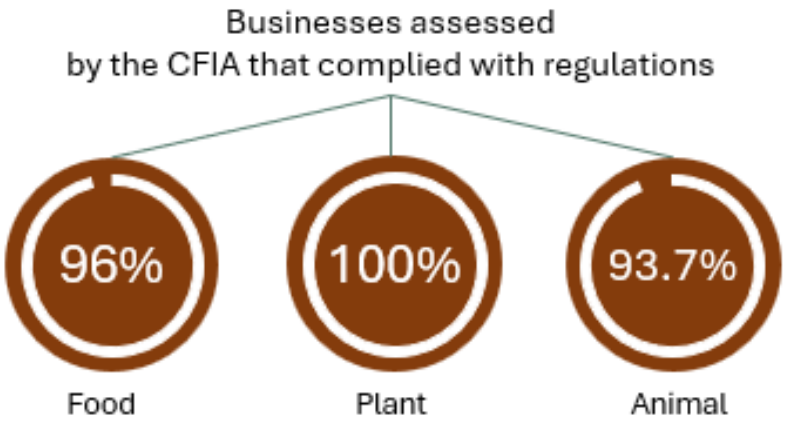
In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA:

- issued a $10,000 Notice of Violation with Penalty for falsifying records
- suspended 25 and cancelled four licences for non-compliance related to the SFCR
- issued 12 letters of non-compliance and 22 notices of violation, with and without penalties, for animal health violations in Ontario
- issued 23 letters of non-compliance for food safety violations
- issued two notifications of charges laid bulletins for violations under the *Health of Animals Act*, *Health and Animals Regulations*, and the SFCR

- issued one prosecution bulletin for violations under the *Food and Drugs Act*

These actions demonstrate the agency's commitment to enforce its regulations when regulated parties fail to address significant non-compliances. By empowering regulated parties to make informed decisions, the CFIA fosters a culture of shared responsibility, where businesses and individuals actively contribute to maintaining Canada's high standards for food safety, environmental protection, and economic resilience. These efforts help prevent problems before they arise, maintain strong international trade partnerships, and reduce the need for enforcement measures. In 2025 to 2026, 100% of inspected plant businesses, 93.7% of animal health businesses, and 96% of food establishments were following CFIA regulations after follow-ups, which shows the value of compliance promotion and inspection activities. To promote compliance, the CFIA began posting information about AMPs issued online and on social media, including the company to which they were issued, the violation, and penalty amount.

Figure 6



How the CFIA tackles food fraud and misrepresentation

As part of its food fraud and misrepresentation initiative, the agency conducts advertising and social media campaigns to inform consumers about fraudulent or misrepresented food products. In October 2025, the food misrepresentation testing and assessment page was published. This page summarizes some of the types of sampling that the CFIA conducts, a description of what is being assessed, and the associated assessment criteria used to detect food misrepresentation. This information promotes compliance by sharing with industry analytical techniques they can use to ensure their products and ingredients are not adulterated.

The food fraud initiative also includes oversight and enforcement for higher-risk products, and control measures and enforcement actions when non-compliance occurs. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA published its Food Fraud Annual Report, highlighting actions that prevented nearly 140,000 kilograms (kg) of misrepresented food from being sold in Canada, including:

- 8,050 kg of misrepresented fish
- 10,027 kg of adulterated honey

- 37,300 liters (L) of adulterated olive oil
- 1,059 L of adulterated other expensive oil
- 141 kg of adulterated grated hard cheese
- 384 L of adulterated fruit juice

In February 2025, the "Buy Canadian" movement gained popularity. This led to interest in Canadian content claims on food labels and advertisements such as “Product of Canada” and “Made in Canada”. Consumers wanted to understand the different claims and symbols so they could support Canadian businesses. To address this growing demand, the CFIA published a quick reference guide on how to identify Canadian food.

Delivering effective and modern services

The CFIA is committed to expanding Canada's digital services beyond its current markets to support diversification with new and emerging trading partners. Key findings from recent data include that 66% of federally regulated businesses use the CFIA or Government of Canada website to get information on food safety regulations, of which:

- 89% found the information they were looking for
- 82% of regulated parties find information somewhat easy to find
- 96% found the information is at least “somewhat well” understood

To address evolving needs, the agency accelerated the modernization and digitalization of its programs, enhancing tools and systems to better align with the industry requirements and optimize internal operations. Additional services were digitalized in 2025 to 2026, increasing the volume of permissions issued through the agency’s online systems compared to previous reporting years, with:

- 28 out of 40 plant registration services digitalized through My CFIA, for a total of 94.6% of plant permissions issued
- 95.2% of animal permissions issued
- 94.9% of food permissions issued

Digitalization of export certificates provides efficient, safe, and secure government-to-government document transfer. Digital or electronic certificates (e-certs) modernize agricultural trade by replacing slow, paper-based certificates with faster, more secure digital ones. It reduces delays, errors, and fraud while strengthening resource protection and border confidence. For trading partners, e-certs provide increased confidence in Canadian export certificates and expedited trade transactions through secure exchange of certification information. The use of e-certs positions industry as a fast and reliable supplier to international markets through expedited, simplified, and increased reliability of export certificates. E-certs enable industry to pivot products to markets to maintain or increase competitiveness and viability and save time and resources for picking up paper certificates from CFIA local offices or awaiting courier services. Overall, e-certs lower costs, improve efficiency, and align trade with international best practices. This facilitates negotiations and acceptance of terms with trading partners. As the CFIA’s e-certification project has concluded, the agency increased the number of digital export certificates from 1.3% in 2020 to 2021 to 6.9% in 2025 to 2026, with over 17,000 export certificates being issued through the agency’s online Digital Service Delivery Platform this year. Moving forward, the agency will be able to leverage and expand

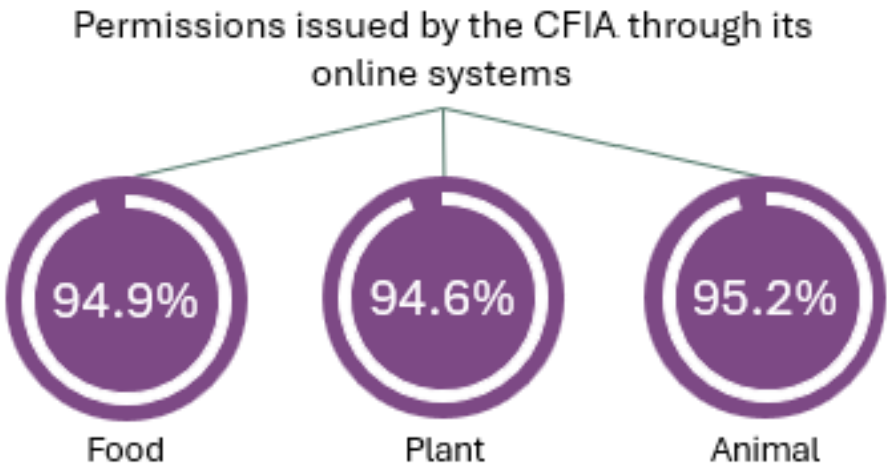
digital export transmission to other countries. E-certs are critical for verification of acceptable imported and exported products. E-certs also provide the CFIA with better data to support risk informed decision-making and resource alignment.

The agency modernized its digital trade services through the digitalization of import and export processes and leveraging new technologies to enhance service delivery. Following the successful implementation of electronic phytosanitary certification (ePhyto) with the United States, the CFIA expanded this approach in 2025 to 2026, to include grain and grain products exported to Mexico in response to new import requirements from Mexico's National Plant Protection Organization. These improvements support over $1 billion in trade each year and make the process faster, more transparent, and easier for businesses to access, while reducing administrative burden. They also help to ensure that export certificates are issued quickly, enabling Canadian exporters to compete more effectively in global markets. As of April 1st, 2026, ePhytos are required for all grain and grain products exported from Canada to Mexico and are readily accessible for all other plants and plant products. This transition modernizes the CFIA's export certification services and strengthens international cooperation while supporting continued market access and trade diversification. Of the external and internal users of the CFIA's online systems, in 2025 to 2026, client satisfaction with the agency's online services was rated on average as "great". This reflects strong user satisfaction and supports the Government of Canada's Policy on Service and Digital, which promotes regular service reviews and a focus on client experience.

Figure 7



Figure 8



In September 2025, the CFIA launched digital applications for 1,600 participants across various plant programs to enhance trade and environmental risk management with robust, real-time data and improve user experience for CFIA employees and industry. The agency developed videos, guides, and tools to support employees and successfully onboarded regulated parties, laying the groundwork for full digital service delivery across all plant programs and demonstrating the CFIA's commitment to service modernization.

Cost recovery modernization

The CFIA modernized its cost recovery regime to better align fees with current service delivery, improve transparency for clients, and support consistent application of fees for services that provide a direct benefit to users.

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA made significant progress by:

- publishing the removal of obsolete and redundant fees from the CFIA Fees Notice in *Canada Gazette*, Part I
- publishing a new licensing cost recovery model and fee in *Canada Gazette*, Part I
- consulting stakeholders on options to modernize Plant Breeders' Rights fees
- reporting on service fee performance in accordance with the *Service Fees Act*
- supporting client's management of emergency pests through fee remissions
- adjusting applicable fees for inflation in accordance with the *Service Fees Act*

The CFIA also leveraged technology and data analytics to strengthen internal controls and develop interactive dashboards that improve access to financial information and support more informed management of fee-based services.

By modernizing its approach to cost recovery, the CFIA ensures fees remain aligned with the services provided, while improving transparency, consistency, and predictability for clients.

At the start of 2025 to 2026, the CFIA launched a new program to improve the quality and consistency of inspections in meat establishments, with plans to expand to other food commodities over time. The new program supports data collection and analysis for systemic issues more effectively and improves inspection processes. It also provides first-hand observation of inspectors and veterinarians to assess their knowledge of program requirements, inspection decision making, and ability to conduct inspections in accordance with operational guidance. To support this work, the CFIA developed new tools such as training, standard operating procedures, worksheets, and custom software applications.

Food safety controls on high-risk products

In 2025 to 2026, the number of higher risk recalls increased by 31.5% from 89 recalls to 130 recalls when compared to the previous year. The proportion of recalls associated with reported illnesses also increased, resulting in the target not being met in 2025 to 2026. Several major recalls and outbreaks occurred during this period, including *Salmonella* in pistachios and pistachio-containing products, *Salmonella* in salami and cacciatore products, *E. coli in* pizza pops, and *Salmonella* in imported pastries. Media coverage of these high profile recalls and outbreaks can increase consumer awareness and reporting of food-related illnesses, which may have contributed to the increase in recalls associated with reported illnesses. The CFIA implements controls and testing requirements to reduce exposure to these food safety risks and protect public health. These measures prevent potentially contaminated products from entering the Canadian marketplace and strengthen oversight of products through targeted testing, recalls, and compliance verification. In 2025 to 2026, after follow-up, 93% of food establishments corrected their issues after CFIA inspectors found non-compliance. This result is up from 79.5% the previous year, demonstrating that with an increased focus on compliance promotion and enforcement, overall compliance is improving.

Figure 9



of higher risk food recalls occurred prior to an adverse effect being reported to the CFIA

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA, Health Canada, and the Public Health Agency of Canada actively collaborated to manage an outbreak of *Salmonella* in various pistachio and pistachio-containing products from Iran. This food safety event resulted in hundreds of product recalls, one of the largest recalls associated with a single contamination issue and was linked to numerous human

illnesses and hospitalizations. The agency collaborated with international partners, including the United States, the European Union, the International Food Safety Authorities Network, and the responsible Iranian federal authority, to gather information on food safety issues relating to pistachios. The CFIA acted by:

- developing and implementing a communications strategy targeting food businesses along the supply chain by issuing a series of messages to implicated licence holders directly through the My CFIA portal, publishing news releases and industry notices on its website, and regularly refining information on the investigation and recall web pages
- supporting Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada in their efforts to reach consumers with key messages through their public health notices
- implementing a temporary import restriction and licence conditions for pistachio importers and domestic licence holders who prepare or handle pistachios
- sampling and testing approximately 250 imported pistachio samples linked to this food safety event
- creating a food safety investigation webpage that contained all recalls and information related to the outbreak to ensure consumers were able to quickly and easily access information
- issuing two news releases advising the public and media of import restrictions to protect consumers from further contaminated pistachios reaching store shelves from Iran
- issuing a notice to industry on new control measures for SFC licence holders

The CFIA's response to the outbreak provided the foundation for risk informed oversight, strengthened compliance and enforcement activities, and maintained the protection of public health during a significant national food safety incident.

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA conducted research to assess factors affecting the growth of *Listeria* in enoki mushrooms following outbreaks and recalls associated with imported products. The research improved understanding of food safety risks related to temperature and growth substrates and will help inform industry practices, regulatory decision making, and risk mitigation measures that support the CFIA's risk-based oversight activities.

In January 2026, the CFIA published a report presenting the results from a six-year study on the bacterial pathogens and indicators in powdered infant formula. A targeted survey analyzed 898 samples of powdered infant formula for the presence of *Cronobacter*, *Salmonella,* and Enterobacteriaceae, which is used as an indicator of the hygienic and sanitary conditions of the food supply chain from production to the point of sale, and found 99.7% of the samples satisfactory. The CFIA conducted appropriate follow-up activities, and food recalls were issued by industry. Overall, the survey results indicate that powdered infant formula sold in Canada is generally safe for consumption. All results are used to inform risk management decisions and support program design and re-design to ensure that powdered infant formula is safe to be consumed by newborns and infants in Canada.

The agency's actions related to these high-risk products supported the broader outbreak response and strengthened food safety controls, ensured unsafe food was removed from store shelves, protected Canadians, and reinforced consumer confidence in the safety of the food supply as 88% of consumers are confident food sold in Canada is safe.

Import controls to prevent the spread of animal diseases

Updating import requirements helps keep diseases out of Canada and protects plant and animal resources and related industries. Clear and enforceable import controls support Canada's biosecurity framework and safeguard domestic production. To align with the WOAH, the CFIA held a public consultation for the modification of the susceptible species of aquatic animals list from September 19 to December 18, 2025. This was the first of a planned series of consultations on modifications to the susceptible species of aquatic animals list. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA updated the susceptible species list and AIRS to reflect revised import requirements for species susceptible to *Perkinsus spp*. Shipments not meeting the updated requirements are subject to removal or disposal at the importer's expense, reinforcing Canada's risk-based approach to aquatic animal health protection.

Clarifying federal and provincial jurisdiction in suspected import situations also supports effective biosecurity oversight and helps prevent the spread of misinformation that could undermine public confidence. Protecting pollinators, including bees, is essential to Canada’s ecosystems, agriculture, and food supply. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA collaborated with the Newfoundland Provincial Apiarist and provincial partners to assess reports of a suspected bee import incident situation. This clarified roles and responsibilities and confirmed that no verified import incident had occurred. A coordinated response was initiated to provide clear guidance on jurisdictional protocols for port-related scenarios and to address misinformation circulating publicly, reinforcing a consistent and risk-based approach to bee health oversight. Newfoundland remains free of varroa mite and maintaining this disease-free status is critical to protecting local pollinator health and preserving access to unique markets.

Risk-based inspection models

A logic model is a graphical depiction of a service, program, policy, or initiative which depicts its activities, outputs, and intended outcomes. The CFIA's science-based risk-assessment models prioritize, assign, and schedule inspection activities that strengthen international food safety systems, support safe trade, and ensure that food imported into Canada meets robust, risk-based standards. Supporting partner countries in adopting risk-based inspection models contributes to strengthening bilateral relationships and supporting science-based regulatory alignment, which facilitates trade cooperation and contributes to smarter, more proactive decision making in protecting Canada's food supply.

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA successfully:

- hosted its first African technical delegation, showcasing the Establishment Risk Assessment-Food, Importer Risk Assessment, and Work Tasking logic models and Canada's laboratory infrastructure
- demonstrated international leadership in food safety risk analysis by presenting its risk-based food establishment models at a joint World Health Organization (WHO) and Pan-American Health Organization seminar, generating strong engagement and interest from regional partners and advancing knowledge transfer to support more consistent, risk-based inspection systems that contribute to safer internationally traded food

- improved alignment of inspection activities with national priorities and enhanced inspector's user experience for the Work Tasking logic model to support consistency across regions and ensure inspection resources are focused on higher-risk activities

These actions fostered international adoption and adaptation of Canadian risk-based approaches, improved efficiency and effectiveness in protecting Canadians from food safety hazards, improved risk management decisions to prevent unsafe foods from reaching the marketplace and enhanced the agency's ability to respond to emerging risks, reinforcing CFIA's reputation as a global regulatory leader.

Inspector General's report

In 2025 to 2026, the agency developed and advanced a comprehensive action plan in response to the Inspector General's review of plant-based manufactured food establishments.

The CFIA took action by:

- inspecting more than 1,600 manufactured food establishments
- strengthening licensing conditions for new and renewed licences
- increasing outreach to businesses so they clearly understand their responsibility to produce safe food
- providing practical guidance, resources, and toolkits
- taking stronger enforcement action when businesses did not comply with requirements, including detaining products, suspending or cancelling licences, and issuing fines and penalties
- strengthening risk assessment models and how risk information is used to identify the highest risk facilities by analyzing more historical data, monitoring trends, and improving data quality

These actions strengthened Safe Food for Canadians (SFC) licensing controls, inspection oversight, regulatory compliance promotion, enforcement, and risk modelling, which further improved Canada's food safety system.

2. Enabling businesses to contribute, grow, and support Canada's economy

Canada faces a complex array of pressures, from evolving trade dynamics that affect food supply and economic resilience to emerging threats in the form of food-related risks, animal diseases, and plant pests. To ensure that Canadian businesses can contribute, grow, and support Canada's economy in this global landscape, the agency gained, regained, expanded, and maintained market access and addressed technical barriers with trading partners. CFIA inspectors reinforced Canada's reputation as a reliable supplier of safe, high-quality food, agricultural and forestry products. Digital service delivery was improved, including online licencing, permissions, and export certification systems. Together, these efforts help ensure that the Canadian food supply is safe and continue to protect Canada's plant and animal resources, while enabling international market access for Canadian businesses through regulatory alignment, responsiveness, and global collaboration.

2.1 Removing regulatory barriers while maintaining safety

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA supported access to global markets and ensured that food, plant, and animal products met international trade requirements. Through science-based regulations, certification, and oversight, the agency maintained high food safety standards and the confidence of trading partners.

In a global trade environment characterized by increasing complexity and uncertainty, the CFIA helped Canadian businesses access, expand, and diversify into international markets by resolving trade barriers and enabling exports, including regions such as the Indo-Pacific, Africa, Middle East, and Latin America. The CFIA helped resolve 127 market access issues in 2025 to 2026, allowing Canadian producers to trade in those markets and included maintaining access to 38 markets, expanding access in 18 existing markets, and gaining access for 71 new markets, including five regained. This was achieved through technical negotiations, international engagement, and regulatory cooperation with trading partners. These efforts strengthened trade resilience and reduced the impact of global disruptions.

These efforts supported economic growth, strengthened supply chain resilience, and maintained international confidence in Canadian products, contributing to the competitiveness of Canada’s agriculture, agri-food, and forestry sectors and the livelihoods of producers and exporters.

Facilitating market access and supporting trade diversification

The CFIA facilitated market access and made progress on the Government of Canada’s trade diversification objectives by maintaining the confidence of trading partners, promoting Canadian regulatory standards, and supporting international trade. In 2025 to 2026, the agency supported market access for Canada’s agriculture and agri-food exports to the Indo-Pacific regions. Exports to the region were valued at $20.4 billion, contributing to a cumulative export value of $87.5 billion between 2022 and 2025. The CFIA also worked closely with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Global Affairs Canada, and Natural Resources Canada, as well as international and Indigenous partners and industry, to resolve market access issues and support exports of agriculture, agri-food, and fish and seafood products to over 190 countries, generating $101.2 billion in 2025, representing an increase from $100.3 billion in 2024. In addition, the CFIA supported the export of Canadian wood and wood products, valued at $17.1 billion in 2025, reaching over 130 destinations. This represents an increase of $1.5 billion as compared to the export value of $15.6 billion the previous year.

The United States is Canada's largest agri-food trading partner where 61.8% of Canadian agriculture and seafood valued at $62 billion is exported to the United States and 52.5% of Canada’s imported agriculture and seafood valued at $39.6 billion come from the United States. Disruptions to services can affect export certification, import clearance, negotiations, and regulatory collaboration. During the United States shutdown in 2025 to 2026, the CFIA established direct contact with unaffected officials to maintain urgent communications, closely monitored impacts on trade and certification services, and maintained operational awareness to minimize disruptions for Canadian exporters and importers. These efforts demonstrated the CFIA's commitment to supporting trade continuity.

Exports

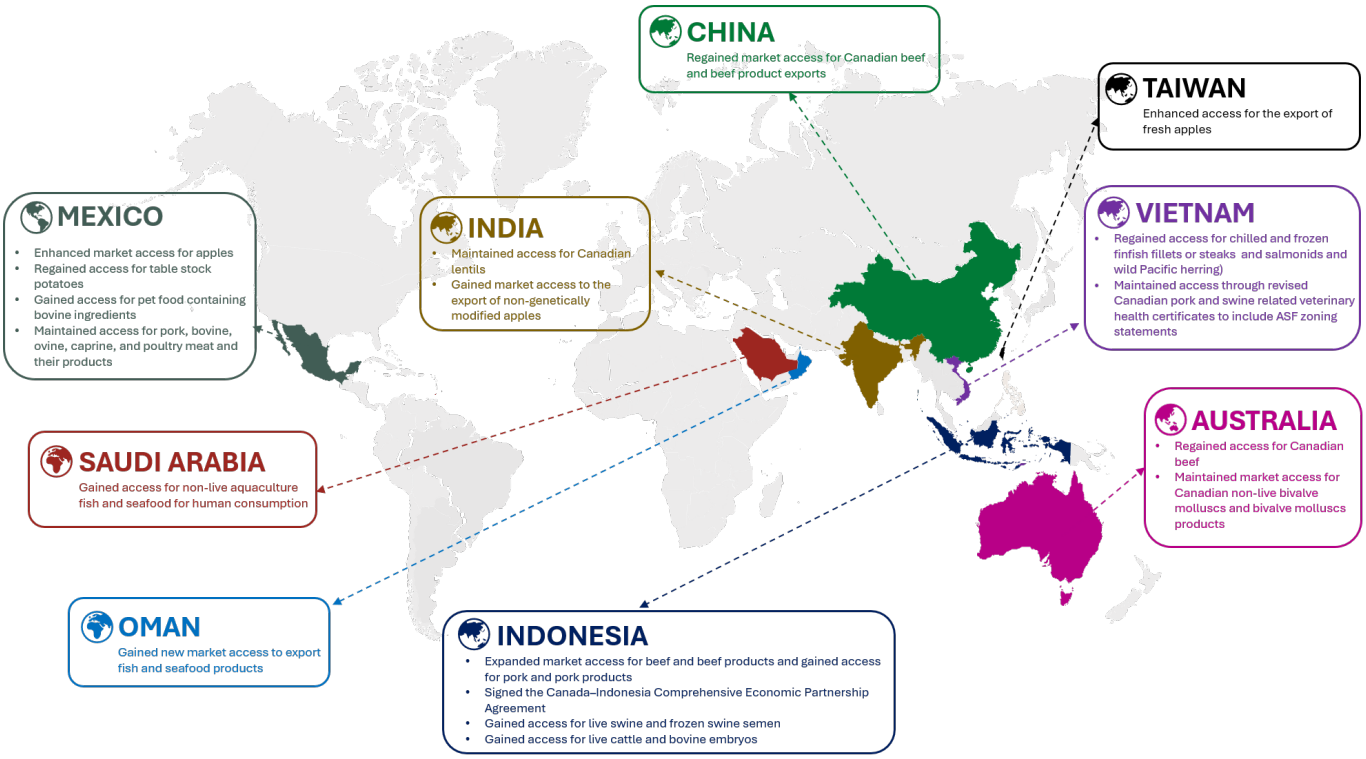
Maintaining integrity and transparency in export certification ensures continued access to high-value markets, protects Canada's reputation as a trusted global partner, and mitigates trade risks. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA's activities facilitated gaining, regaining, expanding or maintaining 127 international markets. An additional 35 markets were facilitated, representing an approximately 40% increase from the access to 92 markets facilitated in the previous year. Notable export markets gained, regained, expanded, or maintained by the CFIA in 2025 to 2026 include:

- Australia
    - regained access to a key Indo-Pacific market closed since 2003 for Canadian beef, leveraging Canada's recognized negligible BSE risk status and rigorous regulatory framework to support negotiations, strengthen international partnerships, make progress on trade diversification efforts, support resilient supply chains and economic growth as a major global beef exporter
        - the reopening of this market presents a valuable opportunity for Canadian exporters as Australia's imports of beef and beef products were valued at almost $150 million in 2025
    - maintained market access for Canadian non-live bivalve molluscs and bivalve molluscs products, valued at $4.5 million in 2025
- China
    - regained market access for Canadian beef and beef product exports, lifting the suspension, which had been in place since December 2021
        - in 2025, China's global imports of beef and beef products were valued at approximately $40 billion
- India
    - signed guidelines recognizing the pest management system approach for Canadian lentil exports, supporting exports valued at $359 million in 2025 and representing 20% of Canada's market share, and is expected to save the pulse sector approximately $25 million annually and increase trade efficiency
    - gained market access for the export of non-genetically modified apples
        - in 2025, India imported apples globally valued at $527 million
- Indonesia
    - expanded market access for beef and beef products and gained access for pork and pork products, which supports sector growth, and strengthens Canada's presence in the Indonesian market as Canada's sixth-largest agri-food and seafood export market, valued at $1.2 billion in 2025
    - enhanced market access with the signing of the new Canada-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement on September 24, 2025, Canada's first-ever bilateral trade agreement with an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) country, paving the way for greater trade in the agri-food sector
    - gained access for live cattle and bovine embryos, where Indonesia's global imports for these products were valued at around $870 million in 2025
    - gained access for live swine and frozen swine semen where, in 2025, Indonesia's global imports for these commodities were valued at around $7 million

- Mexico
    - enhanced market access for apples from Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick
    - regained access for table stock potatoes from Alberta and Quebec
        - the value of Canadian potato and potato product exports globally grew by 2% year over year to exceed $3.7 billion the previous year, showcasing the strength, quality, and global appeal of Canadian-grown produce
    - gained access for pet food containing bovine ingredients
    - maintained access for pork, bovine, ovine, caprine, and poultry meat and their products
        - in 2025, Canadian pork and beef exports to Mexico were valued at over $1 billion
    - gained market access processed egg exports for human consumption
- Oman
    - gained new market access to export fish and seafood products, providing an opportunity for Canadian exporters to benefit from Oman's imports of fish and seafood products, which were valued at over $200 million globally in 2024
- Saudi Arabia
    - gained access for non-live aquaculture fish and seafood for human consumption
        - in 2025, Saudi Arabia's global imports of fish and seafood were valued at over $1 billion
- Taiwan
    - enhanced access for the export of fresh apples from all Canadian provinces
- Vietnam
    - regained access for chilled and frozen finfish fillets and steaks, including wild and farmed salmonids and wild Pacific herring, which strengthens Canada's position in the growing Vietnamese seafood market worth approximately $5 million annually
    - maintained access to Canadian exports of pork and pork products and live swine, valued at approximately $22 million in 2025, through revised Canadian pork and swine related veterinary health certificates to include ASF zoning statements

These results support international market access for Canadian agriculture and reinforce Canada's reputation as a trusted trading partner. The CFIA's market access successes in 2025 to 2026 support the objectives outlined in Budget 2025 to grow agri-food exports and secure, expand, and restore market access for Canada's agriculture sector.

Figure 10: Notable markets gained, regained, expanded, and maintained by the CFIA in 2025 to 2026



Supporting interprovincial trade to boost business growth and advance reconciliation

Only 47% of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) viewed the CFIA as very transparent, compared to 61% of large companies, highlighting an opportunity to strengthen engagement and communication with smaller businesses. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA supported interprovincial trade by reducing regulatory barriers and improving market access for food businesses, particularly SMEs. Through collaboration and tailored regulatory guidance, businesses were able to expand their operations and reach new markets. For example, an Ontario-based soymilk processor obtained a federal licence to process Canadian-grown soybeans for domestic and international markets, contributing to significant sales growth. With support from the CFIA Concierge Service, an Alberta grocer secured a federal licence that enabled the distribution of store-made products to retail locations across Western Canada. The CFIA also connected a small-scale meat producer with a federally licensed abattoir in Quebec, allowing the business to access Ontario markets and expand beyond its home province.

How the CFIA supports small and medium sized businesses

The agency is committed to helping food businesses expand across Canada by removing barriers and supporting interprovincial trade. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA launched its Concierge Service gives businesses one-on-one guidance and support to help prepare and navigate the SFC licensing process. The agency tailors its approach so the information and services received match business needs.

The CFIA supports SMEs to sell food across provincial borders by:

- assessing readiness to apply for a licence
- scheduling one-on-one virtual meetings to better understand business needs and concerns
- providing tailored guidance to help begin the licensing process
- offers support, as needed, to address questions and concerns

Federal licensing helps SMEs build trust with customers, access new markets, and stand out from the competition.

The CFIA issues more than 20,000 Safe Food for Canadians licences to businesses involved in importing, exporting, or trading of food, across provinces and territories. These licences cover a wide range of products, including manufactured foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, fish, meat, and processed products, reflecting the diversity of Canada's food system. Manufactured foods account for approximately 60% of the licences, while fresh fruits, vegetables and fish together account for over 35%. This licencing framework supports oversight across nine food sectors and lets businesses operate across jurisdictions while maintaining consistent food safety standards. Recognizing the complexity of Canada's multi-jurisdictional food regulatory framework, the agency:

- improved awareness and understanding of the SFCR, enabling more businesses to obtain licences and expand trade across provincial and territorial boundaries and internationally
- provided tailored guidance and outreach to support businesses, particularly SMEs, in obtaining SFC licences and expanding into interprovincial and export markets
- introduced business support measures, including a concierge service and a new business enablement function, to help regulated parties better understand federal requirements, improve regulatory clarity, and support businesses seeking to expand into interprovincial and international markets
- progressed the Ready to Grow pilot with Ontario to support provincially licensed meat businesses in preparing to transition to the federal system, and advanced the Ontario-Quebec Slaughter Service Pilot to help address slaughter capacity gaps in underserved regions through a proposed regulatory amendment

These efforts improved market access for Canadian businesses, supported economic growth in the agri-food sector, and advanced reconciliation through increased opportunities for Indigenous communities to participate in domestic food trade. This work created a more integrated and accessible domestic market while maintaining consistent food safety standards.

***United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA) Action Plan**

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA advanced reconciliation and support the rights of Indigenous Peoples in alignment with the UNDA Action Plan. This work builds on existing obligations, including the duty to consult under the *Constitution Act* and the Cabinet Directive on the Federal Approach to Modern Treaty Implementation, and supports a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to advancing reconciliation.

Under Inuit Priority 12 of the UNDA Action Plan, the CFIA collaborated with Inuit partners and Treaty Organizations to co-develop options for a framework to support the processing, sale, and trade of Inuit country foods within Inuit Nunangat. This work included engagement and collaboration to better understand regulatory barriers, identify opportunities to support safe and sustainable food systems, and ensure that approaches reflect Inuit knowledge and priorities.

These efforts contributed to ongoing implementation of the UNDA Action Plan by supporting increased participation of Inuit communities in domestic food trade, improving access to culturally appropriate food systems, and exploring opportunities to expand market access for Inuit country foods in a manner that respects Indigenous rights and supports economic development.

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA implemented commitments under Chapter 3: Inuit Priorities of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan through collaborative engagement with Inuit partners and other government departments, including Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Working in partnership with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the agency contributed to the development of an Inuit-led scoping paper outlining Inuit priorities and expectations related to the processing, sale, and domestic trade of Inuit traditional and country foods. The CFIA also participated in regional engagement and knowledge exchange sessions and completed key action items under the 2025 to 2026 action plan, strengthening relationships, improving understanding of Inuit priorities, and informing future regulatory and policy options.

The CFIA collaborated with industry, provincial and territorial governments, and federal partners, including Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, to amend the SFCR to remove mandatory grading requirements for fresh fruits and vegetables destined for manufacturing, processing, or preserving when traded interprovincially. This initiative reduced regulatory burden and increased operational flexibility for industry while maintaining food safety and consumer protection requirements. The amendment supported more efficient movement of products across provincial boundaries. In 2025 to 2026, the agency worked on initiatives to increase internal trade of food, including work on internal trade pilots, contributing to the development of the *Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act* food provisions, and developing a regulatory proposal for addressing regional shortages of slaughter capacity. This was supported in part by $4.3 million over three years from 2025 to 2028 in funding announced in the 2024 Fall Economic Statement to increase internal trade activities.

The importance of WOAH compliance for trade enablement

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA maintained Canada's compliance with international animal health standards established by the WOAH through science-based import controls, inspections, and national surveillance activities. As a result, Canada maintained its WOAH negligible risk status for BSE, and disease-free status for classic swine fever, African horse sickness, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, peste des petits ruminants, and FMD. These internationally recognized official statuses helped sustain international confidence in Canada's animal health system and supported continued market access for Canadian animal and animal products.

Canada's BSE surveillance program, updated in March 2025 to align with revised WOAH standards, supported the continued recognition of Canada's negligible risk status for BSE and ongoing access to international markets for bovine products. The BSE program applies targeted, risk-based surveillance to support early detection and ongoing monitoring, in collaboration with veterinarians, producers, and industry. Together, these activities reinforced confidence in Canada's animal health system, supported sustained trade in cattle and bovine products, including access to major beef export markets that increased 14% from $7.1 billion in 2024 to nearly $8.1 billion in Canadian in 2025, and contributed to the stability and competitiveness of Canada's agriculture sector.

Figure 11



Canada's "negligible risk" status for BSE maintained on the World Organisation for Animal Health disease risk status lists

Efforts to safeguard market access in the event of ASF

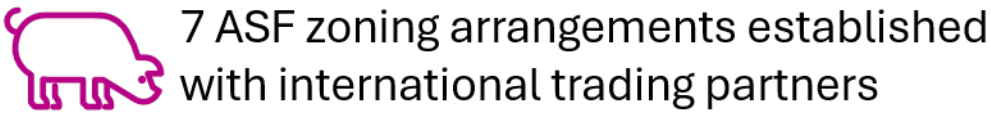
In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA advanced efforts to safeguard market access for Canadian exports in the event of an animal disease introduction. Recognizing the significant risk that ASF poses to Canada's pork industry, the agency strengthened preparedness and response measures to support business continuity. While ASF does not pose a risk to human health, it is a contagious animal disease that could have significant impacts on Canada's pork sector and broader economy. An outbreak would immediately impact Canada's ability to export pork and pork products. Canada is the world's seventh-largest pork producer and fourth-largest pork exporter. It is estimated that the Canadian hog sector contributes an estimated $24 billion to the Canadian economy and supports roughly 100,000 jobs.

The CFIA worked with trading partners in Asia to implement ASF zoning arrangements and export certification provisions for Canadian pork products. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA established new zoning arrangements with the United Arab Emirates and the Philippines, bringing the total number of ASF zoning arrangements to seven, including the United States, the European Union, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Vietnam. These efforts supported the development of science-based regional approaches that would allow trade to continue from disease-free areas in the event of an outbreak.

Communications and partner engagement increased awareness and understanding of Canada's ASF zoning arrangement and their role in maintaining trade continuity during an ASF event. These actions contributed to reducing the risk of widespread trade disruptions, maintaining confidence in

Canada's animal health system, and supporting continued access to international markets for Canadian pork exports.

Figure 12



2.2 Facilitating trade through science-based regulations and international cooperation

Canada's participation in international fora is imperative for influencing international standards for food and animal and plant health that are consistent with Canada's regulatory approaches and contribute to a predictable trading environment. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA played a leadership role in key international standards-setting bodies, including the Codex Alimentarius Commission, IPPC, and the WOAH. Here, the agency contributed to and advocated for the development of science-based international standards and guidance, supporting safe trade while protecting human, animal, and plant health. The CFIA's leadership helped Canada shape global approaches to priority issues, including AMR, food safety modernization, plant pest prevention, and the management of transboundary animal diseases such as ASF, BSE, FMD, and HPAI. Ensuring continuity of trade, export certification, and import services helps protect Canadian businesses, maintain market access, and supply chain stability.

Engagement in international standards-setting organizations

Continued engagement in international organizations reinforces Canada's reputation as a trusted trading partner and science-based regulator, while improving food safety, animal and plant health, and economic objectives. Canada's engagement helps shape science-based international standards that underpin market access and ensures international rules are consistent with Canada's regulatory programs. These contributions directly support Canada's food and plant and animal health systems and the competitiveness of its sectors.

To promote science-based approaches and improve regulatory harmonization with other countries while ensuring that Canada's positions and industry's needs are considered, in 2025 to 2026, the agency:

- led Canada's delegation at the 92nd WOAH General Session where resolutions were adopted to improve animal health and welfare worldwide as well as international standards on terrestrial and aquatic animal disease
- co-led Canada's participation and engagement at the Codex Alimentarius Commission with Health Canada to progress Canadian objectives on key areas including equivalence, food fraud, digitalization of national food control systems, and commodity standards
- led Canada's participation at the IPPC, ensuring Canadian science and regulatory approaches influence decisions aimed at preventing the introduction and spread of plant pests and promoting appropriate measures for their control while facilitating trade

- hosted the 48th NAPPO meeting, the main forum during which national plant protection organizations and plant health industry groups of Canada, United States, and Mexico come together to discuss innovative and collaborative solutions to plant health challenges

These efforts resulted in increased alignment between international and domestic regulatory frameworks, enhanced transparency and predictability in global trade, and improved market access for Canadian agricultural and food products. The CFIA's continued participation ensures that international standards are consistent with Canadian science and regulatory approaches, while safeguarding consumer health and Canada's trade interests. The agency's contributions also supported timely responses to emerging risks and reduced the likelihood of unjustified trade restrictions.

Strengthening compliance through international technical cooperation

As part of its pre-border control measures, the CFIA collaborated with trading partners to identify and address food, animal, and plant health risks before products entered Canada. Through targeted outreach and technical engagement, the agency promoted Canadian import requirements and increased awareness among foreign governments and industry. This contributed to better compliance with Canada's regulatory framework and reduced the likelihood of non-compliant imports and associated risks to food safety and biosecurity.

The CFIA collaborated with partner countries to improve import compliance and enforcement outcomes. This included sharing technical expertise, particularly with emerging economies, so they can better meet import requirements. By addressing gaps in regulatory systems and inspection practices, these activities supported the consistent application of standards and reduced sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) risks at the source.

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA delivered technical and regulatory cooperation activities in animal health, plant health, and food safety, with a focus on priority regions, including the Indo-Pacific. This included sharing best practices on risk-based inspection approaches, providing training on Canada's regulatory requirements, hosting in-person and virtual delegations, and clarifying import conditions to facilitate compliance. The agency:

- collaborated with the Philippines, focusing on plant health, capacity building, scientific and regulatory innovation, and knowledge exchange
- delivered an international presentation with Health Canada to Thailand on Canada's new front-of-package labelling requirements and compliance and enforcement, contributing to international cooperation and compliance with Canadian regulations
- shared expertise and knowledge on zoning, preparedness, and business continuity with partners in the United Arab Emirates, supporting Canada's agricultural trade interests
- delivered the fourth Indo-Pacific seminar on the CFIA's regulatory framework for plants, animals, and food, giving delegates from Cambodia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, and the Philippines the opportunity to participate in workshops and site visits to learn about the CFIA and Canada's SPS regulatory frameworks

- attended the 15th Quarantine Regulators Meeting to engage with regulatory partners in the Indo-Pacific region to improve market access issues, regulatory cooperation, negotiate ASF zoning arrangements and diversify trade with trading partners in the context of United States and China tariffs
- progressed several plant health market access priority files for Canada, including potatoes, apples, and ePhyto arrangements with Mexico
- delivered 20 technical cooperation and capacity building activities to countries from Latin America and the Caribbeans, Africa, and the Indo-Pacific region, though delivery of webinars, in-person workshops, study tours, and information exchange
- collaborated on the multi-year Global Affairs Canada-funded Safe Food for Growth project from 2019 to 2026, which sought to enhance access to safe, affordable, and competitive agri-food products and improve the wellbeing of consumers as well as other agri-food sectors in Vietnam
- hosted a collaborative workshop with the ASEAN countries in collaboration with Vietnam to discuss and better understand the needs of the region in terms of technical and regulatory cooperation
- hosted a delegation from Rwanda and Uganda for a workshop on the Canadian Establishment-Based Risk Assessment model, sharing Canada's experience and lessons with the model for the development of similar models in Rwanda and Uganda

These efforts strengthened agricultural relationships, enhanced mutual understanding of regulatory systems, and supported the maintenance and expansion of safe, two-way trade. These engagements promote transparency and a shared understanding of Canada's regulatory requirements, helping to reduce potential trade friction and support market access.

SPS measures

SPS measures are regulatory controls applied to protect human, animal, or plant health and can take many forms. This includes requiring products to come from a pest- or disease-free area, inspecting products to verify that they meet Canada's food safety requirements, and permitting the use of only certain additives in food. The CFIA provides technical expertise, co-leads the negotiation and implementation of SPS measures in free trade agreements (FTAs), and supports the resolution of trade related disputes.

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA continued its role of co-leading negotiations of obligations on SPS Chapters in Canada's FTAs with Global Affairs Canada to address and prevent international trade issues. The CFIA also led Canada's implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) SPS Agreement and represented Canada on all SPS matters related to food safety, animal and plant health at the WTO SPS Committee. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA advocated for science-based trade rules that prevent unjustified barriers to trade and supported predictable trade while safeguarding Canada's right to regulate by:

- leading Canada's delegation at the three WTO SPS Committee meetings and providing expertise on topics such as AMR, import controls, zoning for animal diseases, and science-based approaches to pest and disease risk

- leading Canada's participation at the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) SPS Committee
- co-chairing, with Global Affairs Canada and the Government of Peru, the Accession Working Group on SPS for Costa Rica's Accession to the CPTPP
- delivering Establishment Risk Assessment Model workshops to international regulators, which led to the adoption of similar risk assessment models in several developing countries and strengthened international food safety collaboration and relationships on SPS practices

This work strengthened CFIA's position as a global leader in risk assessment modeling and SPS standards and contributed to food safety and security for imports to Canada.

Compliance and enforcement of SPS measures

The CFIA is responsible for export certification of food, animal, and plant products to meet importing countries' requirements, as well as the response to notifications of non-compliance. The agency reviews and analyses foreign regulations and amendments from the WTO or direct negotiations with trading partners and works with industry and exporters to facilitate the implementation of the requirements in a timely manner to minimize disruptions in trade and non-compliance. The agency is also responsible for the response to notifications of non-compliance. Follow up and implementation of timely corrective actions are crucial to the integrity of Canada's certification systems and maintenance of Canada's reputation.

Import restrictions

The CFIA safeguards Canada's human, plant, and animal populations and maintains compliance with international standards and trade obligations through the application of import controls before, at, and after the border. These controls protect Canada's livestock sector from highly contagious diseases that could have significant economic and trade impacts. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA supported the safe resumption of trading in susceptible animals and related animal products, and by-products with Germany while continuing to protect Canadian livestock from FMD. This risk-based approach demonstrates the agency's role in maintaining biosecurity and managing import controls to prevent the introduction of diseases such as FMD into Canada.

Import controls also safeguard the credibility of Canadian export markets by ensuring imported products meet stringent food safety, and plant and animal health standards. In 2025 to 2026, the agency updated import requirements after Italy, France, and Spain reported lumpy skin disease outbreaks to the WOAH and Switzerland introduced vaccination. Through risk-based negotiations, Switzerland and Italy agreed to new mitigation conditions that allow the safe resumption of imports for some unpasteurized specialty cheeses, supporting continued trade while safeguarding Canada's cattle industry.

In 2025 to 2026, the agency protected Canada's animal health status and maintained the integrity of the import control system for:

- ghee and butter oil from India, which remains prohibited unless they meet CFIA import requirements

- equine stem cells from the United States by placing new conditions requiring United States Departmental of Agriculture export certificates
- blood products from New Zealand by updating import permit and certification requirements that strengthen Canada's protection against animal diseases, including Japanese encephalitis, tuberculosis, brucellosis, and bluetongue
- fur-bearing animal feeds by preventing the importation of potentially contaminated mink and fox feeds
- pet food products from China that fall outside Canada's approved eligibility list by identifying and declining multiple import permits requests, which reinforces certification requirements and ensures that only authorized products are certified for export
- uncooked pork and raw porcine byproducts from Spain, which were halted temporarily while the CFIA reviewed the measures taken
    - as of December 17, 2025, Canada recognized regionalization for ASF in Spain and imports from free zones were re-opened with the implementation of additional certification and import permits due to the changed disease status
- raw inedible animal products and by-products from Poland by negotiating a new multi-species import certificate that clarifies the CFIA's import requirements for these commodities, including approval of intermediate facilities handling animal by-products, and applies updated stringent requirements for porcine and avian commodities due to current animal disease conditions in Poland
- raw inedible poultry by-products from Chile by negotiating export certification after successful evaluation and recognition of their HPAI zoning, opening the market to this new commodity while protecting Canada against the introduction of avian diseases
- pistachios and pistachio products from Iran by placing an import restriction and two licence conditions that affect pistachio importers and all licence holders who prepare or handle pistachios

These actions strengthened the CFIA's oversight and enhance Canada's biosecurity framework and provided regulatory clarity to importers to prevent disease introduction from imported products and protect Canada’s plant and animal populations.

Foreign audits of Canada's food safety, and plant and animal health systems

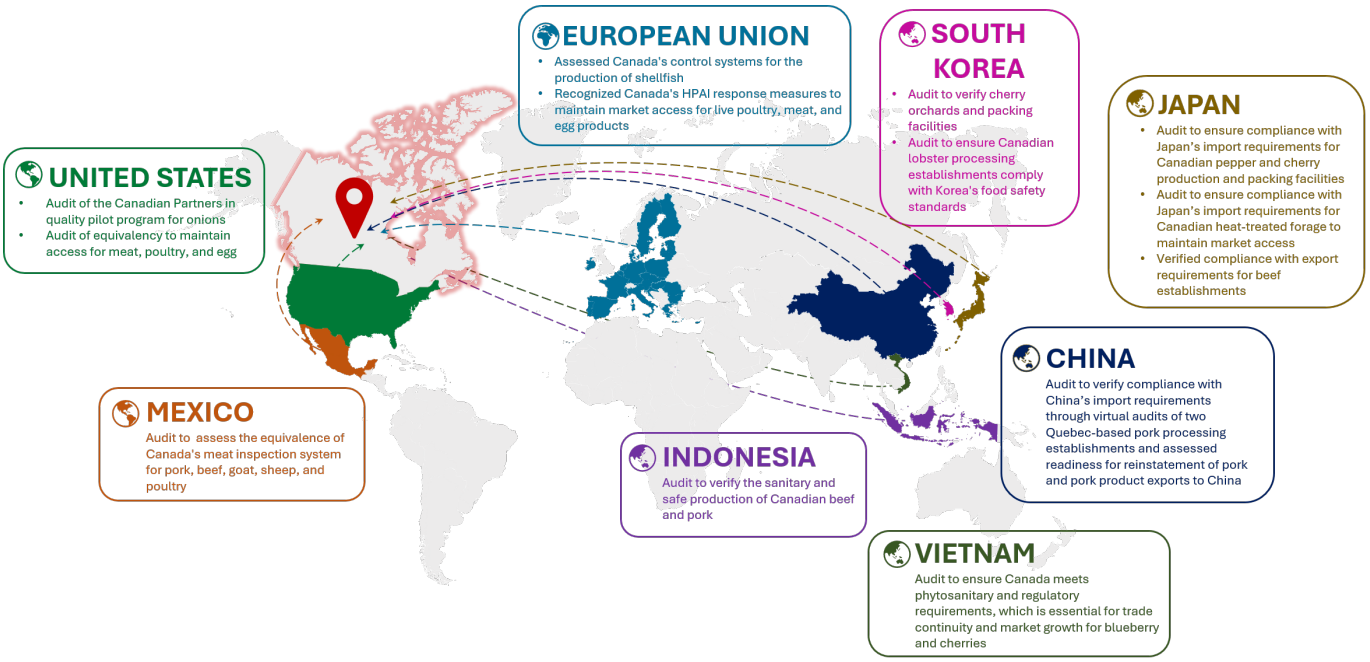
International audits support oversight of Canadian standards and regulations and promote a shared understanding of Canada’s regulatory framework among trading partners. Competent authorities from other countries periodically audit Canada's food, animal, and plant health inspection systems to maintain access by verifying compliance with their own regulatory requirements or provide new access to export Canadian products to their markets. The CFIA's role in supporting international trade through proactive audits and regulatory oversight protects Canada's reputation as a reliable supplier of safe, high-quality food, plant, and animal products.

In 2025 to 2026, the agency hosted audits of food, plant, and animal control systems by foreign competent authorities to help gain, re-gain, enhance, and maintain market access opportunities for Canadian products. Audits from other countries and regions are essential for maintaining market access for products such as live poultry, meat, and egg products, valued in 2025 at approximately $7 million to the European Union and $1 billion to the United States, and for upholding Canada's recognition agreement for HPAI. In 2025 to 2026, successful audits that contributed to Canada’s industry growth and trade diversification included those completed by:

- China
    - verified compliance with China’s import requirements through virtual audits of two Quebec-based pork processing establishments and assessed readiness for reinstatement of pork and pork product exports
        - in 2025, China was the fifth largest market for Canadian pork valued at $355 million
- European Union
    - recognized Canada's HPAI response measures to maintain market access for live poultry, meat, and egg products
    - assessed Canada's control systems for the production of shellfish, which allowed Canada to maintain market access for shellfish exports under the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement
- Indonesia
    - verified the sanitary and safe production of Canadian beef and pork to support market access for Canadian exporters, allowing Canada to expand market access for a number of Canadian beef and pork establishments and gain system approvals for live cattle, live swine, swine semen, and bovine embryos
- Japan
    - ensured compliance with Japan’s import requirements for Canadian pepper and cherry production and packing facilities, as well as heat-treated forage, to maintain market access
    - verified compliance with export requirements for beef establishments, reinforcing Canada's science-based regulatory framework and supporting continued access to the Japanese market as Canada's second-largest beef export market by volume
- Mexico
    - assessed the equivalence of Canada's meat inspection system for pork, beef, goat, sheep, and poultry
- South Korea
    - verified cherry orchards and packing facilities to maintain market access for fresh cherries from British Columbia valued at $13.7 million in 2025
    - ensured Canadian lobster processing establishments comply with Korea's food safety standards and supporting ongoing export eligibility
- United States
    - demonstrated equivalency to maintain access to Canada's largest export destination for meat, poultry, and egg products, worth approximately $4.2 billion annually, and ensured continued consumer confidence in Canadian products and alignment with international safety standards
    - ensured that Canadian onions meet United States import requirements, which maintains market access for high-volume exports worth $76 million in 2025, supports international recognition, and reduces inspection duplication, laying the groundwork to expand the pilot program to potatoes and strengthen trade efficiency and market access
- Vietnam
    - ensured Canada meets phytosanitary and regulatory requirements, which is essential for trade continuity and market growth and supports blueberry and cherry exports valued at $118,000 and $4.5 million respectively in 2025

These audits reinforced international confidence in Canada's food safety and plant and animal health system and disease response measures. They also supported stronger bilateral collaboration and Canada's ability to meet international standards, enabling gains, maintenance, and expansion of Canadian exports, support for industry growth, and diversification of trade.

Figure 13: Foreign audits of Canadian food, plant, and animal systems in 2025 to 2026



Outgoing audits to other countries

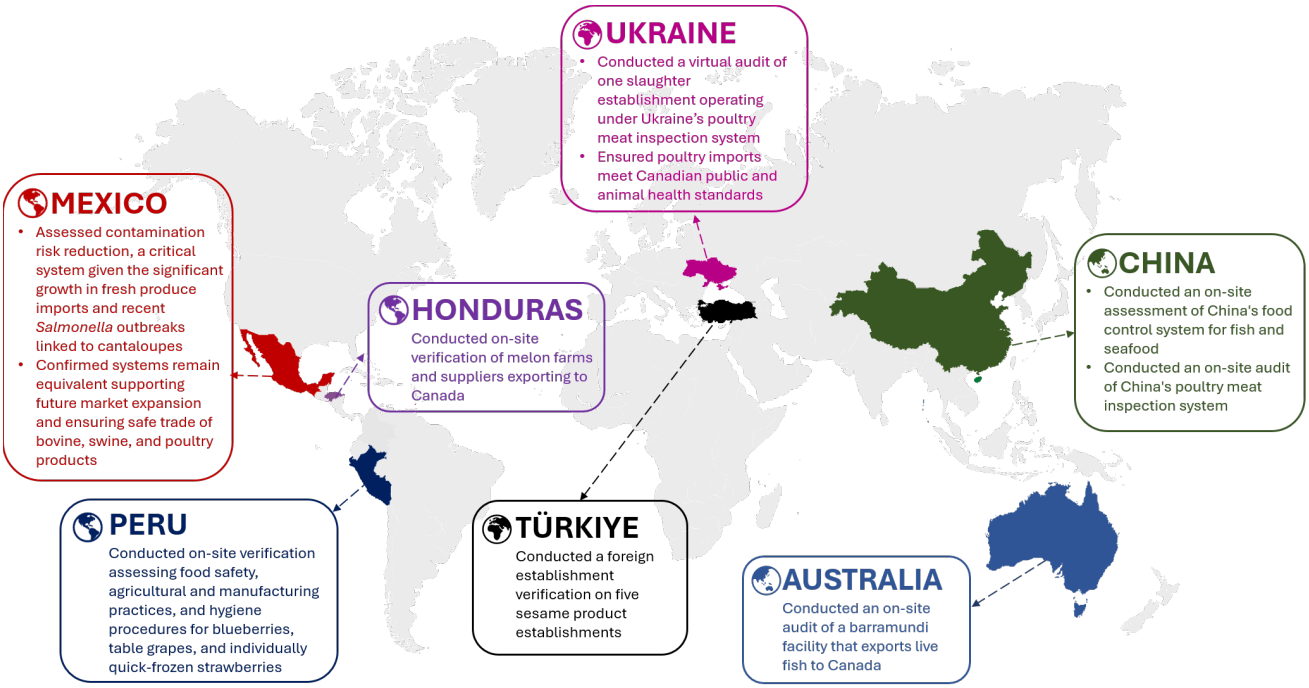
The CFIA also audits its trading partners systems to safeguard Canada's people, environment, and its food, plant, and animal supply. Assessing food safety controls helps mitigate risks from high-risk imports like sesame and pistachios, ensuring that products entering Canada are safe and compliant, thereby protecting consumers and maintaining confidence in the food supply. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA conducted foreign establishment verifications in three countries and one foreign systems assessment. The agency engaged with competent authorities and industry in the following countries to gather critical information on food safety, traceability, and exports to strengthen oversight of high-risk imports, support risk-based decision making, and enhance consumer protection in Canada:

- Australia
    - conducted an on-site audit of a barramundi facility that exports live fish to Canada for aquaculture and research use to facilitate imports into Canada without requiring the CFIA’s resource intensive post-import quarantine measures
- China
    - conducted an on-site assessment of China's food control system for fish and seafood and published a report on the finding that strengthened regulatory cooperation and renewed a positive foundation for ongoing technical collaboration as Canada's second-largest supplier of fish and seafood with approximately 201,000 tonnes valued at $1.7 billion imported between 2021 and 2023

    - conducted an on-site audit of China's poultry meat inspection system, including visits to slaughter and processing establishments, to ensure Canadian poultry inspection system standards were met
        - additionally conducted audits on China’s two natural casing facilities to verify traceability and processing controls
- Honduras
    - strengthen oversight of fresh melon imports and supported measures to mitigate food safety risks, including those associated with *Salmonella*, by confirming that establishments follow controls aligned with the SFCR
- Mexico
    - confirmed systems remain equivalent, which allowed 58 approved establishments to continue exporting to Canada and supported future market expansion, ensured safe trade of bovine, swine, and poultry products, protected Canadian consumers, and maintained continuity in a key $330 million trading relationship
    - assessed contamination risk reduction, a critical system given the significant growth in fresh produce imports and recent *Salmonella* outbreaks linked to cantaloupes, and strengthened assurances that fresh produce exported to Canada meets Canadian food safety requirements
- Peru
    - conducted on-site verification of six establishments and three fields, assessing food safety, good agricultural and manufacturing practices, and hygiene procedures for blueberries, table grapes, and individually quick-frozen strawberries, ensuring that high-volume imports of fresh and minimally processed fruits meet Canadian safety standards, protecting consumers and maintaining confidence in the imported food supply
- Türkiye
    - conducted a foreign establishment verification on five sesame product establishments to validate the implementation of food safety controls and engage with competent authorities and the pistachio industry, which mitigates risks from high-risk imports like sesame and pistachios to ensure that products entering Canada are safe and compliant, thereby protecting consumers and maintaining confidence in the food supply
- Ukraine
    - ensured poultry imports meet Canadian public and animal health standards, supporting Ukraine's poultry industry and establishing a framework for adding new foreign establishments to Canada's eligible exporter list
    - conducted a virtual audit of one slaughter establishment operating under Ukraine’s poultry meat inspection system

These assessments informed the CFIA's import oversight and risk management decisions, identified potential improvements, and strengthened assurances that products exported to Canada meets Canadian food safety requirements.

Figure 14: Global audits and evaluations conducted by the CFIA



2.3 Driving innovation and strengthening partnerships

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA leveraged its role as a leading science-based regulatory agency to protect food safety and plant and animal health through rigorous, evidence-based decision making. The agency strengthened collaboration with academia, federal partners, and domestic and international organizations to support science-driven, adaptable, and resilient regulatory systems. The CFIA also improved innovation in regulatory science through the development and application of genomics and bioinformatics, food safety foresight, and other science-based tools that strengthen risk detection, diagnostic capacity, emergency preparedness, and evidence-based decision making. These partnerships enhanced knowledge sharing, scientific collaboration, and regulatory cooperation across the agriculture and agri-food sector, supporting sustainable growth while enabling CFIA employees to effectively protect Canadians and Canadian interests.

The CFIA improved scientific collaboration in key areas, including laboratory diagnostics, surveillance, biosecurity, and risk assessment, supporting public health, facilitating safe trade, and maintaining confidence in Canada's food system.

Advancing scientific cooperation and collaboration

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA enhanced scientific cooperation and collaboration with academia, Indigenous partners, science-based organizations, federal and provincial partners, and international counterparts. These partnerships supported the harmonization of scientific approaches, enhanced knowledge sharing, and improved the agency's ability to respond to emerging risks.

The agency engaged with regional and international partners through forums such as the Pacific Northwest Economic Region 2025 Annual Summit, where CFIA staff delivered presentations and

collaborated with regional leaders on HPAI, ASF, and invasive wild pigs. This engagement strengthened bilateral relationships, supported collaborative approaches to transboundary animal disease preparedness, and highlighted the role of innovation and emerging technologies in addressing shared challenges related to animal health, biosecurity, and One Health priorities.

FMD is one of the most significant transboundary animal diseases and a major economic threat to Canada's animal agriculture sector, with potential outbreak impacts estimated between $22 billion and $75 billion. Budget 2023 provided $57.5 million over five years, with $5.6 million ongoing, to support the establishment of Canada's first domestic FMD vaccine bank and strengthen outbreak preparedness through innovative vaccine stockpiling and rapid deployment approaches. In 2025 to 2026, following a competitive procurement process led by Public Services and Procurement Canada on behalf of the CFIA, contracts were awarded to suppliers to develop and stock multiple FMD vaccine products. During the year, multiple vaccine antigen concentrates covering several prevalent FMD stereotypes were secured and made available to support rapid vaccine production in the event of an outbreak. The initiative complements Canada's existing access to vaccines through the North American FMD Vaccine Bank and enhances Canada's capacity for the rapid deployment of vaccines in the event of an outbreak. These efforts strengthened national emergency preparedness and response capacity for one of the world's most significant transboundary animal diseases, helping protect animal health, support market access and trade, and reduce the potential economic impacts of an outbreak on Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector.

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA strengthened international regulatory collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Kingdom's Veterinary Medicines Directorate in December 2025. The agreement establishes a framework for increased regulatory cooperation and information sharing on the oversight of veterinary biologics, including vaccines, through shared scientific expertise and greater alignment of regulatory approaches. This collaboration improved the efficiency of approval processes, supported timely access to veterinary biologics, reduced regulatory burden, and strengthened animal health and public confidence.

The agency contributed scientific expertise to international food safety foresight initiatives led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), supporting the use of innovation risk intelligence and foresight approaches to anticipate emerging food safety challenges. The CFIA participated in a FAO workshop in April 2025 on the role of food safety foresight in building resilient food systems and contributed to the resulting Food Safety Foresight Report, released in September 2025. CFIA experts also participated in an international webinar in December 2025 on advancing food safety preparedness and anticipation, supporting international knowledge sharing on emerging food safety risks and foresight approaches. These activities supported the application of foresight methodologies and horizon-scanning approaches to better anticipate emerging food safety risks and inform future regulatory decision making. The agency also collaborated with domestic partners and industry to support preparedness for the anticipated regulatory changes and help mitigate potential trade and operational impacts on Canadian exporters.

Key results included:

- strengthened international collaboration on high-containment laboratory practices by co-chairing the Biosafety Level 4 Zoonotic Laboratory Network with the United States Department of Agriculture
- support for disease-focused coordination and preparedness efforts for animal diseases such as FMD, ASF, and HPAI in collaboration with Animal Health Canada
- enhanced federal, provincial, and territorial collaboration on animal health priorities through co-leadership of the Canadian Council of Chief Veterinary Officers
- improved collaboration on plant health surveillance, biosecurity, and emergency management through partnerships with the Canadian Plant Health Council and the Canadian Plant Health Information System
- support for international scientific projects through Euphresco to improve early detection of emerging plant pests and facilitate safe trade
- contributions to international collaboration supporting implementation of the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety from 2022 to 2030 by improving foodborne disease surveillance, contamination monitoring, data sharing, and risk-based decision making
- maintained 22 signed agreements with Indigenous communities for the testing of marine biotoxins, enhancing participation in monitoring activities and knowledge sharing
- expanded shellfish marine biotoxin testing and monitoring to 65 Indigenous harvest sites, exceeding the target of 40 sites and supporting safer access to shellfish for food, social, and ceremonial purposes

These efforts strengthened Canada's science-based regulatory system, supported innovation and collaboration across sectors, and enhanced the CFIA's ability to anticipate and respond to complex food safety, animal health, and plant health challenges.

Cultivating a future where Canadian agriculture thrives

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA supported a strong and resilient agriculture sector through activities under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP). In collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and provincial and territorial partners, the agency supported businesses in implementing biosecurity measures and developing assurance systems to demonstrate compliance with domestic and international market requirements.
The Sustainable CAP, a $3.5 billion, five-year federal, provincial, and territorial agreement from 2023 to 2028, supports the competitiveness, innovation, and resilience of Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector. Through this partnership, the CFIA contributed to strengthening industry capacity to prevent and manage risks, enhance market readiness, and support sustainable growth.

These efforts helped improve biosecurity practices, support market access, and strengthen the sector's ability to respond to evolving risks and opportunities in domestic and global markets.

How a One Health approach helps build collaboration

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA applied a One Health approach to strengthen collaboration across sectors, recognizing the interconnected nature of human, animal, plant, and environmental health. Through partnerships with federal departments, provinces and territories, international organizations, academia, and industry, the agency enhanced coordination, information sharing, and the use of scientific expertise to address complex and evolving health risks.

The CFIA collaborated with partners in Canada and internationally to integrate a One Health lens into activities related to surveillance, diagnostics, and emergency response. Work was completed on the Genomics and Bioinformatics Action Plan, supporting improved coordination, the centralization of key functions, and the integration of genomics and bioinformatics across the CFIA laboratory network.

Providing leadership and technical expertise in international for the CFIA:

- collaborated with the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System, to support coordinated surveillance and diagnostics activities
- participated in five National Farm Animal Care Council Code of Practice revision committees for beef cattle, equine, pigs, sheep, chickens, turkeys, and breeders to farm animal care and welfare across Canada
- served as Chair of the IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures from 2023 to 2025, improving phytosanitary standards and strengthening global collaboration to protect plant resources and facilitate safe trade

These collaborations supported more effective use of resources, strengthened scientific capacity, and improved the agency's ability to detect and respond to risks that can impact food safety, animal and plant health, and public health, including cross cutting issues such as AMR.

Taking action on AMR

AMR posed a significant public health risk in 2025 to 2026, affecting humans, animals, and the environment. As a global priority identified by the WHO, AMR occurs when microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites develop resistance to antimicrobial treatments, reducing their effectiveness.

The CFIA worked in collaboration with Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to support the implementation of the Pan-Canadian Action Plan on AMR. Through this work, the agency coordinated efforts to promote responsible antimicrobial use in animal production and support science-based decision making.
In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA achieved results that included supporting improved access to alternatives to antimicrobials in animal production, including vaccines, contributing to the establishment of baselines and measurable targets to reduce antimicrobial use, and developing and delivering educational materials for veterinarians on the appropriate use of medicated livestock feed.

These efforts contributed to strengthening Canada's response to AMR, supporting responsible antimicrobial use, and protecting the health of animals, humans, and the environment.

Key risks

Key Risks for safe food and healthy plants and animals

The CFIA's risk environment became more complex than usual this past year. In addition to responding to overlapping emergencies such as animal disease outbreaks, invasive pests, and issues caused by climate change such as increasing zoonotic disease risks and supply chain volatility, the agency had to contend with more challenges. This included shifts in the global trading environment, contending with waning public trust, and safeguarding Canada's increasingly complex food system with static resources. Key risks for 2025 to 2026 include:

Risk: Shifts in the global trading environment

The continued growth of the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector is heavily reliant on global trade as Canada is one of the world's largest food exporters. Shifts in the global trade environment pose risks to Canada's economy and its ability to support trade, arising from factors such as supply chain disruptions and increased prevalence of animal and plant diseases and plant pests. Other types of trade risks include geopolitical changes that affect traditional trading regimes, global conflicts, trade protectionism, and increasingly complex non-tariff barriers challenging the established science and rules-based trading system. For the CFIA, food safety, biosecurity, and regulatory credibility are no longer just domestic protections, they are central pillars of Canada's trade competitiveness.

Examples of the CFIA's risk responses:

- implemented strategies to prevent market disruptions and safeguard trade continuity
    - established an FMD vaccine bank to mitigate prolonged market disruptions to trade should an outbreak occur
    - maintained and established zoning arrangements to protect trade continuity from emerging or ongoing animal diseases
- provided technical expertise, in partnership with other federal government departments and industry, to facilitate gaining, regaining, expanding, and maintaining markets
- participating in international standards-setting bodies to influence the development of science-based standards that improve predictability, facilitate trade, and support the Canadian economy

Risk: Climate change

Climate change is increasing risks across food safety, plant and animal health, and trade. Warmer temperatures, shifting seasons, and extreme weather create conditions that allow harmful pathogens, pests, and diseases to spread more widely and intensify, threatening crops, livestock, and industries like fruit and wine production.

It also changes disease patterns in both land and aquatic animals, increases contact between wildlife, livestock, and humans, and raises the risk of zoonotic diseases. While not creating entirely new risks, climate change amplifies existing ones, increasing pressure on the CFIA to monitor and respond. Additionally, extreme weather can damage infrastructure, disrupt inspection, and laboratory services.

Examples of the CFIA's risk responses:

- updated the agency's climate change risk and vulnerability assessment by considering new scientific information, using artificial intelligence to challenge the CFIA's identification of risks, and conducted a foresight exercise to anticipate cascading effects of climate change and identify adaptation measures
- integrated climate change considerations into its policies, strategies, and planning through the Cabinet Directive on Strategic Environmental and Economic Assessment
- enhanced climate data accessibility, knowledge, and expertise by utilizing risk analysis tools and collaborative platforms to share and receive data on pest management and biosecurity
- collaborated with other federal departments, provinces and territories, Indigenous partners, and industry on how to best manage and predict emerging risks and vulnerabilities
- implemented the Greening Government Strategy through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, committing to transition to net-zero carbon, and climate-resilient operations
- operationalized the CFIA Centre for Plant Health, which will improve the agency's capacity to respond to climate-related plant pests and diseases incursions
- assessed how interconnected impacts could be managed through a One Health approach

Risk: Multiple concurrent emergencies

Global trade and climate change are increasing the frequency, scale, and severity of animal and plant disease outbreaks. This raises the likelihood that the CFIA will face more complex and widespread emergencies involving highly transmissible pests and diseases that affect multiple species and pose growing risks to human, plant, and animal health. For example, the CFIA continues to respond to a multi-year outbreak of HPAI, affecting poultry, wildlife, and domestic mammals and people, and could present risks of further interspecies transmission, potentially leading to economic impacts in new livestock sectors and more significant public health consequences for Canadians.

Ongoing threats include invasive pests and serious animal diseases, as well as zoonotic risks. Concurrent or prolonged outbreaks such as avian influenza can strain CFIA resources and disrupt essential services. Additional external emergencies not within the scope of the CFIA’s mandate, like natural disasters or human disease outbreaks, further compound these challenges.

Examples of the CFIA's risk responses:

- developed tools and strategies in collaboration with key partners to confirm that roles and responsibilities for large-scale, multi-jurisdictional responses are clear and that necessary resources are available
- leveraged intelligence-gathered from recent plant and animal health responses to refine emergency management preparedness and approaches
- examined options for federal vaccination strategies for certain highly transmissible animal diseases and implemented a FMD vaccine bank to better mitigate potential outbreaks

- prioritized resources to sustain capacity for managing concurrent emergencies while maintaining delivery of its mandate, such as food safety inspections, import inspections, and export certification activities
- maintained strong domestic and international partnerships to share intelligence on emerging risks, improve tactics for identifying and assessing risks, and find new ways to use risk intelligence effectively

Risk: Erosion of public trust in the CFIA as a regulator and credible source of information

The rising trend of reduced trust in government, recent high-profile food recalls, social media misinformation on CFIA overreach, humane transportation and food safety, pushback on proposed regulations, and large-scale outbreaks of animal diseases, may contribute to reduced trust in the CFIA as a regulator and credible source of information. A lack of understanding of the CFIA's responsibilities and duties also plays a part, and the known reduction in staffing creates an impression of weak oversight. Public opinion research shows that an increasing number of consumers cite concerns over decreasing transparency about food ingredients, manufacturing practices, price inflation, and reduced concern for organizational responsibilities and accountabilities.

This erosion of trust may reduce voluntary compliance and industry cooperation and lead consumers to disregard food safety guidance, increasing the risk of unsafe practices and the spread of plant and animal diseases, particularly through behaviors like ignoring recalls or purchasing from unregulated sources.

Examples of CFIA risk responses:

- promoted openness and transparency through proactive and timely public communications to mitigate misinformation and raise awareness of the agency as a credible source of information, including its ongoing commitment to Open Science initiatives through regularly publishing scientific data and information to help improve transparency, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing
- consulted on issues of interest to Canadians and industry
- monitored current and emerging risks while planning mitigation strategies as part of the CFIA's food fraud initiative
- leveraged public opinion research to help the CFIA better meet the needs of Canadians and industry and maximize the effectiveness of its communications
- conducted marketing and advertising campaigns to promote awareness of regulations and best practices, such as informational campaigns on the difference between best before and expiration dates of food products

Risk: Delayed technical and physical infrastructure modernization

As the pace of business and technological advancements increases, there is pressure to adapt, and the CFIA needs to be ready to meet changing administrative and technical needs. Aging physical and information technology (IT) infrastructure and limited funding may contribute to inefficient business service delivery. Limited modernization and funding are in part due to shifting priorities to address emerging issues or respond to emergencies. In the event CFIA IT platforms

cannot be replaced or renewed in a timely manner, it may lead to internal and external business disruptions. Furthermore, limited modernization of data-enabled services and decisions may lead to reduced productivity and less effective decision making. These disruptions have the potential to drive related CFIA risks, such as loss of public trust in the CFIA as a regulator.

Insufficient investment in aging infrastructure poses a significant risk of unplanned building or equipment failures, which could lead to facility shutdowns or downtime. Such disruptions would interrupt critical CFIA activities, including supporting trade, enabling science-based decision making, conducting surveillance to protect Canada's plant and animal resources, and safeguarding food.

Examples of CFIA risk responses:

- adopting strategies to promote digital transformation and modernize the agency's digital services and data management plans, including:
    - aligning with the 2023 to 2026 Data Strategy for the Federal Public Service
    - developing the CFIA 2025 to 2028 Data and Analytics Strategy
    - refreshing the CFIA Digital Strategy
- improving digital tools such as the Digital Service Delivery Platform to enhance usability for CFIA inspectors and client-service delivery
- continuing to implement recommendations under the agency's Real Property Management Plan to improve the asset condition of the agency's facilities, including addressing climate impacts by enhancing facility resilience and sustainability
- continuing partnership with Laboratories Canada to modernize CFIA laboratory facilities with advanced equipment and carbon-neutral, green operations

Resources required to achieve results

Table 4: Snapshot of resources required for safe food and healthy plants and animals

Table 4 provides a summary of the planned and actual spending and full-time equivalents required to achieve results.

Resource	Planned	Actual
Spending	$737,075,981	$811,649,157
Full-time equivalents	5,175	5,152

The Finances section of the infographic for the CFIA on GC Infobase page and the People section of the infographic for the CFIA on GC Infobase page provide complete financial and human resources information related to its program inventory.

Related government priorities

This section highlights government priorities that are being addressed through this core responsibility.

Gender-based Analysis Plus

The CFIA remained committed to improving equity and diversity considerations in all areas of work as part of the core responsibility to safeguard Canada's food, animals, and plants. This includes

Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) to verify that its policies, strategies, and planning affect vulnerable populations such as children, pregnant women, immunocompromised, and older adults. In alignment with the Quality of Life indicators, the *Canadian Gender Budgeting Act*, and the Gender Results Framework, the agency continued to integrate GBA Plus across its policies, programs, and services to ensure that outcomes are inclusive and fair for everyone in Canada.

Building on progress achieved through the multi-year GBA Plus Data Collection Strategy, the agency focused on strengthening its capacity to collect, analyze, and apply disaggregated demographic data, thereby improving the evidence base for informed decision making, enhanced performance measurement, and transparent monitoring and reporting on program impacts to fulfill reporting obligations.

To support this work, in 2025 to 2026 the CFIA:

- expanded access to targeted GBA Plus training and hosted interactive workshops and seminars to build organizational capacity across the agency
- provided updated guidance materials and analytical tools to ensure consistency and rigour in applying GBA Plus across all program areas
- integrated qualitative and quantitative indicators that measure how the agency's programs contribute to equity, inclusion, and accessibility outcomes under the Gender Results Framework
- aligned performance tracking with Quality of Life domains (health, environment, and good governance) and Sustainable Development Goals

Overall, these initiatives improved the agency's ability to identify risks and begin to promote equitable outcomes for all Canadians.

United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

The CFIA remained steadfast in its commitment to safeguarding food, animals, and plants, thereby enhancing the health and well-being of Canadians, the environment, and the economy. Through the ongoing delivery of its mandate, the CFIA contributed meaningfully to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by supporting key United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focused on safeguarding public health, protecting natural resources, and promoting fairness and inclusion across communities, and goals under other sustainable development strategies, such as the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS), Canada's National Adaptation Strategy (NAS), and Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy using the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA furthered its support of the following SDGs and associated domestic SDGs:

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

- **FSDS Goal 2:** Support a healthier and more sustainable food system
- **NAS Health and well-being Objective 3**: People are protected from urgent climate-related health risks such as extreme heat, infectious diseases, wildfire smoke, foodborne hazards and impacts to traditional foods, poor mental health outcomes, and others
    - By monitoring food product content compliance, protecting food production from plant diseases, pests, and invasive species, enhancing food security through control of terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases, and managing food recalls efficiently to safeguard the food supply, the CFIA contributed to healthy, varied, and plentiful food for Canadians.

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- **NAS Health and well-being Objective 3**: People are protected from urgent climate-related health risks such as extreme heat, infectious diseases, wildfire smoke, foodborne hazards and impacts to traditional foods, poor mental health outcomes, and others
- **KMGBF Target 11**: Ecosystem services and functions
    - Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as regulation of air, water, and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.

      Through ongoing efforts to protect Canadians from diseases transmitted from animals to humans, the CFIA promoted healthy lives for all age group.

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- **FSDS Goal 6**: Ensure clean and safe water for all Canadians
- **KMGBF Target 7**: Pollution and biodiversity
    - Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and also preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.

      By enforcing accurate labelling and compliance under the *Fertilizers Regulations*, the agency supported sustainable management of water resources and environmental protection.

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

- **FSDS Goal 10**: Advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and take action to reduce inequality
    - By advancing the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and applying GBA Plus in developing and administering regulations, programs, and services, the CFIA fostered equal opportunities and strives to reduce inequalities.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

- **FSDS Goal 12**: Reduce waste and transition to zero-emission vehicles
    - By implementing waste diversion programs and using green procurement purchasing agreements, the CFIA furthered the greening of its assets and lead the way in responsible consumption.

SDG 13: Climate Action

- **FSDS Goal 13**: Take action on climate change and its impacts
    - By implementing the Greening Government Strategy, the CFIA reduced greenhouse gas emissions and advanced net-zero carbon and climate-resilient operations, which included execution of the agency's Real Property Management Strategy.

SDG 15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

- **FSDS Goal 15**: Protect and recover species, conserve Canadian biodiversity
- **NAS Nature and biodiversity Objective 2**: The ecosystem most affected by climate change are monitored, restored and managed to ensure their continued viability and adaptive capacity
- **KMGBF Target 6**: Invasive alien species
    - Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent by 2030, and eradicating or controlling invasive alien species, especially in priority sites, such as islands.

      By actively managing invasive species and protecting Canada's plant and animal resource base, the CFIA contributed to the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, forests, and biodiversity.

The CFIA integrates sustainable development principles into all aspects of its work to support a healthier, more resilient Canada.

More information on the CFIA's contributions to Canada's Federal Implementation Plan on the 2030 Agenda and the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy can be found in our Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy.

Artificial intelligence

The CFIA introduced approved artificial intelligence (AI) tools and protocols in 2025 to 2026, reducing risks of data breaches, misuse, and misinformation, while increasing efficiency in unclassified tasks.

An agentic artificial intelligence has been developed at the CFIA to reduce the administrative burden related to identification of import requests, and document management in support of the work performed in this area. The solution will allow for automatically identifying relevant emails and saving their information and tombstone data within the modern enterprise document management system. This will also allow the decommissioning of a legacy document management system and will represent better user experience for inspectors as well.

The agency has also made strides in ensuring its employees can use CFIA-approved AI tools and understand the risks of using them. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA approved the use of Microsoft Copilot Chat and made it available to all employees and launched the CFIA AI Hub on SharePoint. Additionally, guidelines were developed for the responsible use of Generative AI, and security considerations when using AI tools were published, for employees to consider when using AI to ensure the safety of sensitive information.

The continued adoption of AI is enabling the CFIA to become more efficient, predictive, and responsive. It helps to optimize operational resources and provides regulatory and analytical benefits which ultimately improves the services to industry. Budget 2025 was approved and will provide $76 million over five years, starting in 2026, with $31.3 million in remaining amortisation, to the CFIA to support modernised digital trade tools and services and integrate artificial intelligence into internal processes.

Program inventory

Safe food and healthy plants and animals is supported by the following programs:

- Setting Rules for Food Safety and Consumer Protection
- Food Safety and Consumer Protection Compliance Promotion
- Monitoring and Enforcement for Food Safety and Consumer Protection
- Permissions for Food Products
- Setting Rules for Plant Health
- Plant Health Compliance Promotion
- Monitoring and Enforcement for Plant Health
- Permissions for Plant Products
- Setting Rules for Animal Health
- Animal Health Compliance Promotion

- Monitoring and Enforcement for Animal Health
- Permissions for Animal Products
- International Standards Setting
- International Regulatory Cooperation and Science Collaboration
- Market Access Support

Additional information related to the program inventory for safe food and healthy plants and animals is available on the Results page on GC InfoBase.

Internal services

In this section

- Description
- Progress on results
- Resources required to achieve results
- Risk and compliance process
- Contracts awarded to Indigenous business

Description

Internal services are the activities and resources that support a department in meeting its corporate obligations and delivering its programs. The 10 categories of internal services are:

- acquisition management services
- communications services
- financial management services
- human resources management services
- information management services
- information technology services
- legal services
- material management services
- management and oversight services
- real property management services

Progress on results

This section outlines the agency's performance in achieving results and meeting targets for its internal services.

1. Valuing and investing in people

The CFIA is a large and complex organization, with employees working across the country in laboratories, farms, processing plants, and ports of entry. The agency's work protects Canadians every day as they sit at their tables, knowing the food they eat is safe for their families. The CFIA invests in its employees, striving to offer a modern, healthy, and supportive workplace. Operating

in a demanding environment, CFIA inspectors, veterinarians, scientists, analysts, policy experts, and operational teams have a wealth of knowledge and a deep dedication to serving Canadians. Their professionalism, integrity, and judgment used in day-to-day work are the foundation of the CFIA's international reputation for excellence.

1.1 Fostering a safe, inclusive, and supportive workplace

The CFIA provides a safe, inclusive, and accessible workplace that reflects the diversity of Canadians and fosters a respectful environment, enabling employees to grow, adapt to change, and deliver excellent service.

The Accessible Canada Act requires federal organizations to identify barriers in certain areas and explain how these barriers will be eliminated. In affirming our commitment to the *Accessible Canada Act* and the Accessibility Strategy for the Public Service of Canada while supporting the CFIA's Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan, the agency released its 2026 to 2028 Accessibility Plan. This plan works towards creating an inclusive, barrier-free workplace which is respectful of the diverse needs of all Canadians and promotes the Government of Canada's vision of becoming the most accessible and inclusive public service in the world.

Strengthening our values and ethics

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA launched an updated Code of Conduct, which came into effect on June 20, 2025, reinforcing expectations for ethical behaviour across the agency. The updated Code introduced enhanced guidance, access to confidential support through the new Ombuds Office, and additional ethics tools.

To support accountability and transparency, the CFIA also released its first Annual Report on Management of Misconduct and Wrongdoing. Together, these initiatives strengthen ethical standards, reporting mechanisms, and trust across the agency.

The CFIA progressed on equity, diversity, inclusion, and reconciliation through targeted initiatives supporting Black, Indigenous, and racialized employees. These actions strengthened access to learning, tools, and career development opportunities across the agency. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA:

- developed and launched a formal Action Plan to Support Black Employees, which improved mentorship, sponsorship, and language training support, and strengthened accountability for inclusive leadership and workplace equity
- co-led the Building the Pipeline initiative in partnership with the Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada, Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada, and Shared Services Canada to support leadership development and career progression for Black employees across the federal public service

- launched the Indigenous Connections hub, providing employees with a single access point for Indigenous science, policy, human resource contacts, and cultural awareness resources
- promoted the Diverse Selection Board Member Inventory to managers leading staffing processes, supporting the development of tools and guidance to reduce bias and barriers in hiring
- led consultations with the agency's neurodivergent employees and implemented concrete actions based on feedback gathered through Accessibility Plan consultations and discussions with the Infinity Network about staffing challenges faced by the neurodivergent community
- took deliberate actions to support the Clerk and Deputy Minister Employment Equity Champions' direction for departments and agencies to protect and build on gains achieved in representation, including expanding the scope of Employment Equity group consideration to include Black people and Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, and additional sexually and gender-diverse people (2SLGBTQI+)
- selected as one of Canada's Top Employers for Young People, National Capital Region's Top Employers, and Canada's Best Diversity Employers in 2025
- provided tools and learning resources to strengthen understanding of Indigenous cultures and histories by launching the Indigenous Cultural Sensitivity and Awareness Roadmap along with a system to track employee participation

1.2 Prioritizing employee training, digital skills, and recognition

The CFIA continued investments in training, coaching, digital tools, and career development to support employee growth and service delivery. These efforts help employees build skills and deliver effective services to Canadians.

CFIA veterinarians play a critical role in protecting animal health, food safety, animal welfare, and international trade. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA launched the National Operations Veterinary Update program to provide ongoing professional development, including updates on regulations, emerging diseases, and scientific developments. The initiative was developed collaboratively with agency veterinarians, union partners, and subject matter experts to support continuous learning and professional wellness and enhance confidence and competencies in core regulatory and global areas in animal health.

1.3 Empowering staff to grow, lead, and innovate

To ensure effective service delivery, CFIA employees must have the necessary tools, training, technology, and resources they need to succeed. This includes supporting the Government of Canada's goal of building a more inclusive workforce through recruitment, retention, and career development strategies.

Strengthening Inclusive Science

Building institutional capacity for inclusive science strengthens collaboration, improves decision making, and ensures that science-based policies and programs reflect diverse perspectives across

federal agencies. In 2025, along with Natural Resources Canada, the CFIA co-hosted the first annual National Inclusive Science Dialogue. The event brought together more than 1,200 senior leaders, policy makers, and researchers from across Canada, and set the stage for annual dialogues and the integration of inclusive science practices into the CFIA's operations and reporting frameworks. The new Inclusive Science Guidelines will support federal departments in applying them in their work, improving the quality and credibility of science-based decisions and helping to ensure federal policies and programs better reflect the diverse experiences of people living in Canada.

Leadership development

In response to the 2020 Call to Action on Anti-Racism, Equity, and Inclusion in the Federal Public Service and the 2023 request of the Privy Council that federal organizations go beyond mentoring and sponsor promising Indigenous, Black, or racialized employees, the CFIA developed the Sponsor Me! program, which not only focused on skills development and knowledge transfer, but on actively highlighting the good work and attributes of the sponsored employee. In 2025 to 2026, approximately 90% of participants reported a positive experience, indicating strong satisfaction with the program and its sponsorship matches. Participants also viewed the program as an effective tool for supporting career development and advancement.

The CFIA launched a targeted leadership development program for Black employees in collaboration with senior leadership, the Black Employee Network, and external experts. The program provides mentorship, coaching, sponsorship, and peer support to help address systemic barriers while promoting equitable representation in executive leadership, strengthening organizational culture, talent retention, and leadership capacity that reflects Canada's diversity.

Pay equity plan

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA progressed its draft Pay Equity Plan in support of the *Pay Equity Act*, which aims to address pay gaps between jobs predominantly held by women and those held by men when the work performed is of equal value. The agency posted its draft plan for the mandatory 60-day employee comment period, becoming the first large federal employer to do so.

2. Managing services and assets

The CFIA has a network of 13 diagnostic testing, reference, and research laboratories across Canada, with a combined expertise in animal and plant health, foreign animal diseases, and food safety. Laboratories provide the ability and scientific knowledge needed to inform our regulatory and risk-based approach to keeping Canada's plants, animals, and food safe.

Two key laboratory infrastructure projects supported under the Laboratories Canada strategy in 2025 to 2026 include the Atlantic Science Enterprise Centre (ASEC) and the Regulatory and Security Science Main (RSS Main). Construction of the RSS Main continued and is expected to conclude in 2030. The facility will support collective management of key threats and strengthen emergency preparedness. Approximately 15% of the ASEC Hub Phase I construction was

completed in 2025 to 2026, while Phase II design packages for the construction of the new science wing are nearing completion. The ASEC Hub is replacing 80-year-old laboratory infrastructure with modern facilities to better protect and sustain Canada's Atlantic freshwater and coastal ecosystems, driving long-term economic and environmental value for the region. Once complete, the hub will be equipped with modern laboratory spaces, offices, and workspaces for over 700 employees from four federal organizations. These projects support the renewal and modernization of federal science infrastructure to safeguard food, plant, and animal health, and the vitality of Canada's economy.

The CFIA is committed to innovation, environmental stewardship, and collaboration in creating facilities that support both operational excellence and sustainable practices. In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA Centre for Plant Health in North Saanich, British Columbia, became the agency's first building to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold certification, showing leadership in sustainability and environmentally responsible design. The certification reflects the successful implementation of energy-efficient systems, water management strategies, sustainable materials, and enhanced indoor environmental quality, as well as support for low-emission transportation and accessible, nature-connected site design.

Fleet electrification

The agency keeps an inventory of fleet vehicles, which help support inspection staff in delivering the CFIA's mandate. In 2025 to 2026, the agency continued advancements on the fleet electrification plan to align with the net-zero targets outlined in the federal Greening Government Strategy.

Along with strengthened governance, assessment criteria were developed on vehicle replacement to ensure future acquisitions are aligned with operational needs and zero-emission vehicle transition readiness. Ongoing monitoring of fleet use and idling data found candidates for future electrification and support rightsizing of the fleet prior to transition, and continued implementation of a fleet rationalization exercise resulted in a reduction of underutilized vehicles, contributing to lower overall emissions and operating costs.

Resources required to achieve results

Table 5: Resources required for internal services for 2025 to 2026

Table 5 provides a summary of the planned and actual spending and full-time equivalents required to achieve results.

Resource	Planned	Actual
Spending	$179,768,983	$189,229,260
Full-time equivalents	1,036	1,084

The Finances section of the Infographic for the CFIA on GC Infobase and the People section of the Infographic for the CFIA on GC Infobase provide a complete financial and human resources information related to its program inventory.

Risk and compliance process

The Risk and Compliance Process (RCP) is a self-assessment designed to help deputy heads verify that they have controls and practices in place to meet their accountabilities under legislation and Treasury Board policy, and to effectively manage risks within their departments.

In 2025 to 2026, the CFIA completed the RCP self-assessment and showed strong performance in 10 out of 11 areas of focus, which are critical to the effective administration of the CFIA, particularly in Procurement and Security. The agency did not meet the minimum requirement in one area of focus, Real Property, reflecting a known corporate risk related to aging infrastructure and ongoing challenges of securing sufficient investment to adequately maintain it. To address identified gaps, the CFIA plans to complete the Real Property framework

The agency proactively developed targeted action plans to strengthen risk management and improve effectiveness in areas where the self-assessment pointed to opportunities for enhancement. These plans include:

- improving conflict of interest tools and training
- enhancing internal communications for values and ethic
- leveraging client feedback to improve CFIA services
- increasing dedicated capacity for Occupational Health and Safety and workplace health decision making

As the first year of implementation, the RCP established the CFIA's baseline and confirmed that the CFIA has a strong foundation of controls and compliance practices to support future progress and continuous improvement.

Contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses

Government of Canada departments are required to award at least 5% of the total value of contracts to Indigenous businesses every year.

The CFIA's results for 2025 to 2026:

Table 6: Total value of contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses[1]

As shown in Table 6, The CFIA's awarded 7.37 % of the total value of all contracts to Indigenous businesses for the fiscal year.

Contracting performance indicators	2025 to 2026 Results
Total value of contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses[2] (A)	$4,105,704.54
Total value of contracts awarded to Indigenous and non-Indigenous businesses[3] (B)	$87,154,289.72
Value of exceptions approved by deputy head (C)	$31,423,268.18
Proportion of contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses [A / (B−C) × 100]	7.37%

Contracting performance indicators	2025 to 2026 Results
Notes For the purposes of the minimum 5% target, Indigenous Services Canada defines “Indigenous businesses” as: 1. businesses owned and operated by Elders, band and tribal councils 2. businesses registered in the Government of Canada’s Indigenous Business Directory 3. registered on a modern treaty beneficiary business list A “contract” is a binding agreement for the procurement of a good, service or construction and does not include real property leases. It includes contract amendments.	

In its 2025 to 2026 Departmental Plan, the CFIA estimated that it would award 7% of the total value of its contracts to Indigenous businesses by the end of 2025 to 2026. Through the continued implementation of the CFIA Procurement Strategy for Indigenous Businesses Action Plan, the agency met and surpassed this target, reaffirming its commitment to Indigenous procurement. The CFIA exceeded this target through proactive planning and the identification of set-aside opportunities throughout the year. Contracts awarded to Indigenous suppliers spanned a broad range of goods and services, including Information Management and Information Technology equipment, professional consulting services, and office furniture. Consistent with prior years, contracts associated with emergencies affecting Canada’s food, animal or plant health, were excluded. Given the time-sensitive nature of these urgent procurements, it was not operationally feasible to assess opportunities for Indigenous businesses or to conduct market analysis.

Spending and human resources

In this section

- Spending
- Funding
- Financial statement highlights
- Human resources

Spending

This section presents an overview of the department's actual and planned expenditures from 2023 to 2024 to 2028 to 2029.

Budgetary performance summary

Table 7: Actual three-year spending on core responsibilities and internal services (dollars)

Table 7 shows the money that the CFIA spent in each of the past three years on its core responsibilities and on internal services.

Core responsibilities and internal services	2025 to 2026 Main Estimates	2025 to 2026 total authorities available for use	Actual spending over three years (authorities used)
Safe food and healthy plants and animals	737,075,981	899,590,730	2023 to 2024: 877,330,418 2024 to 2025: 830,746,084 2025 to 2026: 811,649,157
Subtotal	**737,075,981**	**899,590,730**	**2023 to 2024: 877,330,418** **2024 to 2025: 830,746,084** **2025 to 2026: 811,649,157**
Internal services	179,768,983	222,359,717	2023 to 2024: 201,991,068 2024 to 2025: 209,002,886 2025 to 2026: 189,229,260
Total	**916,844,964**	**1,121,950,447**	**2023 to 2024: 1,079,321,486** **2024 to 2025: 1,039,748,970** **2025 to 2026: 1,000,878,417**

Analysis of the past three years of spending

Actual spending in 2025 to 2026 is lower compared to 2024 to 2025 and 2023 to 2024 mainly due to retroactive payments for collective bargaining agreements.

The Finances section of the Infographic for the CFIA on GC Infobase provides more financial information from previous years.

Planned spending for next three years

Table 8: Planned three-year spending on core responsibilities and internal services (dollars)

Table 8 shows the CFIA's planned spending for each of the next three years on its core responsibilities and on internal services.

Core responsibilities and internal services	2026 to 2027 planned spending	2027 to 2028 planned spending	2028 to 2029 planned spending
Safe food and healthy plant and animal	666,934,957	621,249,328	602,667,162
Subtotal	**666,934,957**	**621,249,328**	**602,667,162**

Core responsibilities and internal services	2026 to 2027 planned spending	2027 to 2028 planned spending	2028 to 2029 planned spending
Internal services	172,157,405	159,831,640	158,059,636
Total	**839,092,362**	**781,080,968**	**760,726,798**

Analysis of the next three years of planned spending

Planned spending is decreasing in 2027 to 2028 and 2028 to 2029 primarily due to the Comprehensive Expenditure Review.

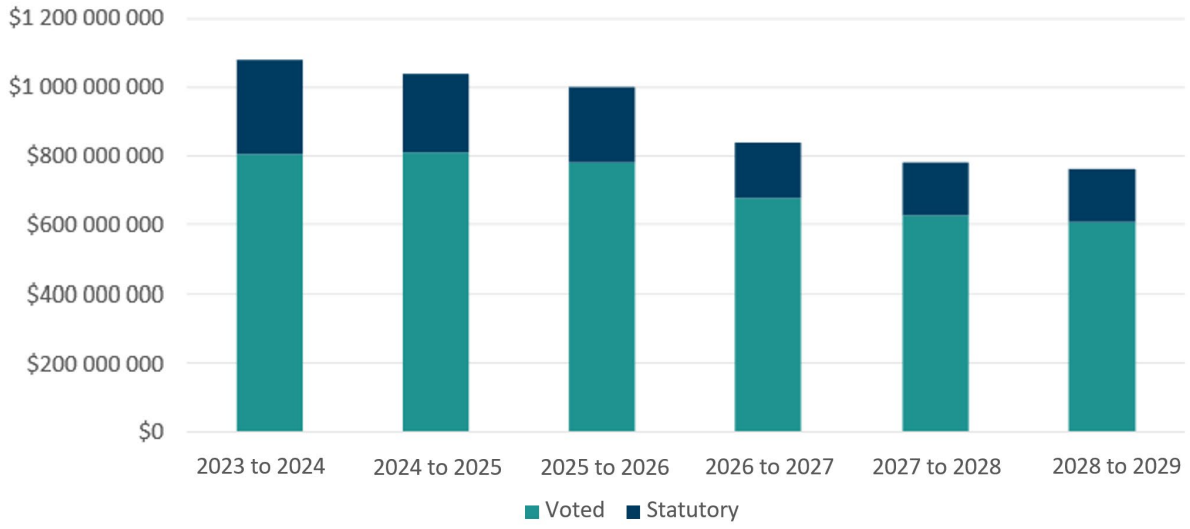
The Finances section of the Infographic for the CFIA on GC Infobase provides more detailed financial information related to future years.

Funding

This section provides an overview of the department's voted and statutory funding for its core responsibilities and for internal services.

Graph 1 summarizes the department's approved voted and statutory funding from 2023 to 2024 to 2028 to 2029.

Graph 1: Approved funding (statutory and voted) over a six-year period



Text version of Graph 1

Fiscal year	Statutory	Voted	Total
2023 to 2024	$273,347,788	$805,973,698	$1,079,321,486
2024 to 2025	$228,767,125	$810,981,845	$1,039,748,970

Fiscal year	Statutory	Voted	Total
2025 to 2026	$219,181,070	$781,697,347	$1,000,878,417
2026 to 2027	$161,864,067	$677,228,295	$839,092,362
2027 to 2028	$154,019,188	$627,061,780	$781,080,968
2028 to 2029	$152,614,875	$608,111,923	$760,726,798

Analysis of statutory and voted funding over a six-year period

Spending from 2023 to 2024 to 2025 to 2026 is higher than future years primarily due to statutory compensation payments and operating expenses related to the HPAI emergency response. Planned spending in 2026 to 2027 is less than in previous years primarily due to the sunsetting of various initiatives and is lower again in 2027 to 2028 and 2028 to 2029 largely due to the Comprehensive Expenditure Review.

Consult the Public Accounts of Canada for further information on the CFIA's departmental voted and statutory expenditures.

Financial statement highlights

This section presents the CFIA's Financial Statements (Unaudited) for the year ended March 31, 2026.

Table 9: Condensed Statement of Operations (unaudited) for the year ended March 31, 2026 (dollars)

Table 9 summarizes the expenses and revenues for 2025 to 2026, which net to the cost of operations before government funding and transfers.

Financial information	2025 to 2026 actual results	2025 to 2026 planned results	Difference (actual results minus planned)
Total expenses	1,096,027,000	1,047,423,000	48,604,000
Total revenues	58,775,000	53,000,000	5,775,000
Net cost of operations before government funding and transfers	1,037,252,000	994,423,000	42,829,000

The 2025 to 2026 planned results information is provided in the CFIA's Future-Oriented Statement of Operations and Notes 2025 to 2026.

Table 10: Condensed Statement of Operations (unaudited) for 2024 to 2025 and 2025 to 2026 (dollars)

Table 10 summarizes actual expenses and revenues and shows the net cost of operations before government funding and transfers.

Financial information	2025 to 2026 actual results	2024 to 2025 actual results	Difference (2025 to 2026 minus 2024 to 2025)
Total expenses	1,096,027,000	1,077,832,000	18,195,000
Total revenues	58,775,000	60,346,000	-1,571,000
Net cost of operations before government funding and transfers	1,037,252,000	1,017,486,000	19,766,000

Analysis of differences in expenses and revenues between 2024 to 2025 and 2025 to 2026
The CFIA's total expenses for fiscal year 2025 to 2026 totaled $1,096 million, representing an increase of $18 million compared with the previous year. Overall expenses remained relatively stable year over year as the agency continued to respond to emergencies across Canada. Higher compensation expenses associated with Avian Influenza, together with the purchase of FMD vaccines, contributed to the increase in expenses. These increases were partially offset by lower compensation expenses related to other disease response activities.

Table 11 Condensed Statement of Financial Position (unaudited) as of March 31, 2026 (dollars)
Table 11 provides a brief snapshot of the amounts the department owes or must spend (liabilities) and its available resources (assets), which helps to indicate its ability to carry out programs and services.

Financial information	Actual fiscal year (2025 to 2026)	Previous fiscal year (2024 to 2025)	Difference (2025 to 2026 minus 2024 to 2025)
Total net liabilities	190,290,000	240,211,000	-49,921,000
Total net financial assets	129,980,000	134,212,000	-4,232,000
Departmental net debt	60,310,000	105,999,000	-45,689,000
Total non-financial assets	279,729,000	280,370,000	-641,000
Departmental net financial position	219,419,000	174,371,000	45,048,000

Analysis of department’s liabilities and assets since last fiscal year
The CFIA's liabilities at the end of fiscal year 2025 to 2026 totaled $190 million, representing a decrease of $50 million compared with the previous year. This decrease is primarily attributable to the settlement of the $45 million payable recognized at the end of fiscal year 2024 to 2025 in relation to the ratified the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada collective agreement.

The CFIA's total non-financial assets remained relatively stable year over year at approximately $280 million.

Human resources

This section presents an overview of the department's actual and planned human resources from 2023 to 2024 to 2028 to 2029.

Table 12: Actual human resources for core responsibilities and internal services for the last three years

Table 12 shows a summary in full-time equivalents of human resources for the CFIA's core responsibilities and for its internal services for the previous three fiscal years.

Core responsibilities and internal services	2023 to 2024 actual full-time equivalents	2024 to 2025 actual full-time equivalents	2025 to 2026 actual full-time equivalents
Safe food and healthy plants and animals	5,602	5,416	5,152
Subtotal	**5,602**	**5,416**	**5,152**
Internal services	1,251	1,168	1,084
Total	**6,853**	**6,584**	**6,236**

Analysis of human resources for the last three years

The decrease in the CFIA's full-time equivalents in 2024 to 2025 and 2025 to 2026 is associated with the sunsetting of funds and Refocusing Government Spending.

Table 13: Human resources planning summary for core responsibilities and internal services for the next three years

Table 13 shows the planned full-time equivalents for each of the CFIA's core responsibilities and for its internal services for the next three years. Human resources for the current fiscal year are forecast based on year to date.

Core responsibilities and internal services	2026 to 2027 planned full-time equivalents	2027 to 2028 planned full-time equivalents	2028 to 2029 planned full-time equivalents
Safe food and healthy plants and animals	4,772	4,420	4,356
Subtotal	**4,772**	**4,420**	**4,356**
Internal services	996	887	870
Total	**5,768**	**5,307**	**5,226**

Analysis of human resources for the next three years

The decrease in full-time equivalents in 2027 to 2028 and 2028 to 2029 is associated with the Comprehensive Expenditure Review.

Supplementary information tables

The following supplementary information tables are available on the CFIA's website:

- Details on transfer payment programs
- Gender-based Analysis Plus
- Response to Parliamentary committees and external audits

Federal tax expenditures

The tax system can be used to achieve public policy objectives through the application of special measures such as low tax rates, exemptions, deductions, deferrals and credits. The Department of Finance Canada publishes cost estimates and projections for these measures each year in the Report on Federal Tax Expenditures. This report also provides detailed background information on tax expenditures, including descriptions, objectives, historical information and references to related federal spending programs as well as evaluations and GBA Plus of tax expenditures.

Corporate information

Departmental profile

Appropriate minister(s): The Honorable Marjorie Michel

Institutional head: Harpreet Kochhar

Ministerial portfolio: Health

Enabling instrument: *Canadian Food Inspection Agency Act*

Year of incorporation / commencement: 1997

Other assigned statutes:

- *Agriculture and Agri-Food Administrative Monetary Penalties Act*
- *Food and Drugs Act*
- *Safe Food for Canadians Act*
- *Fertilizers Act*
- *Plant Breeders' Rights Act*
- *Plant Protection Act*
- *Seeds Act*
- *Health of Animals Act*
- *Feeds Act*

Departmental contact information

Mailing address:
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
1400 Merivale Road
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0Y9
Canada

Telephone: 1-800-442-2342 / 1-613-773-2342

TTY: 1-800-465-7735

Website: inspection.canada.ca

Definitions

appropriation (crédit)

Any authority of Parliament to pay money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

budgetary expenditures (dépenses budgétaires)

Operating and capital expenditures; transfer payments to other levels of government, departments or individuals; and payments to Crown corporations.

core responsibility (responsabilité essentielle)

An enduring function or role of a department. The departmental results listed for a core responsibility reflect the outcomes that the department seeks to influence or achieve.

Departmental Plan (plan ministériel)

A report that outlines the anticipated activities and expected performance of an appropriated department over a three-year period. Departmental Plans are usually tabled in Parliament in spring.

departmental priority (priorité)

A plan, project or activity that a department focuses and reports on during a specific planning period. Priorities represent the most important things to be done or those to be addressed first to help achieve the desired departmental results.

departmental result (résultat ministériel)

A high-level outcome related to the core responsibilities of a department.

departmental result indicator (indicateur de résultat ministériel)

A quantitative or qualitative measure that assesses progress toward a departmental result.

departmental results framework (cadre ministériel des résultats)

A framework that connects the department's core responsibilities to its departmental results and departmental result indicators.

Departmental Results Report (rapport sur les résultats ministériels)

A report outlining a department's accomplishments against the plans, priorities and expected results set out in the corresponding Departmental Plan.

Full-time equivalent (équivalent temps plein)

Measures the person years in a departmental budget. An employee's scheduled hours per week divided by the employer's hours for a full-time workweek calculates a full-time equivalent. For example, an employee who works 20 hours in a 40-hour standard workweek represents a 0.5 full-time equivalent.

Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) (analyse comparative entre les sexes plus [ACS Plus])

An analytical tool that helps to understand the ways diverse individuals experience policies, programs and other initiatives. Applying GBA Plus to policies, programs and other initiatives helps to identify the different needs of the people affected, the ways to be more responsive and inclusive, and the methods to anticipate and mitigate potential barriers to accessing or benefitting from the initiative. GBA Plus goes beyond biological (sex) and socio-cultural (gender) differences to consider other factors, such as age, disability, education, ethnicity, economic status, geography (including rurality), language, race, religion, and sexual orientation.

government priorities (priorités pangouvernementales)

For the purpose of the 2025 to 2026 Departmental Results Report, government priorities are the high-level themes outlining the government's agenda as announced in the 2025 Speech from the Throne.

horizontal initiative (initiative horizontale)

A program, project or other initiative where two or more federal departments receive funding to work collaboratively on a shared outcome usually linked to a government priority, and where the ministers involved agree to designate it as horizontal. Specific reporting requirements apply, including that the lead department must report on combined expenditures and results.

Indigenous business (entreprise autochtones)

Requirements for verifying Indigenous businesses for the purposes of the departmental result report are available through the Indigenous Services Canada Mandatory minimum 5% Indigenous procurement target website.

non-budgetary expenditures (dépenses non budgétaires)

Net outlays and receipts related to loans, investments and advances, which change the composition of the financial assets of the Government of Canada.

performance (rendement)

What a department did with its resources to achieve its results, how well those results compare to what the department intended to achieve, and how well lessons learned have been identified.

performance indicator (indicateur de rendement)

A qualitative or quantitative measure that assesses progress toward a departmental-level or program-level result, or the expected outputs or outcomes of a program, policy or initiative.

plan (plan)

The articulation of strategic choices, which provides information on how a department intends to achieve its priorities and associated results. Generally, a plan will explain the logic behind the strategies chosen and tend to focus on actions that lead to the expected result.

planned spending (dépenses prévues)

For Departmental Plans and Departmental Results Reports, planned spending refers to the amounts presented in Main Estimates. Departments must determine their planned spending and be able to defend the financial numbers presented in their Departmental Plans and Departmental Results Reports.

program (programme)

An Individual, group, or combination of services and activities managed together within a department and focused on a specific set of outputs, outcomes or service levels.

program inventory (répertoire des programmes)

A listing that identifies all the department's programs and the resources that contribute to delivering on the department's core responsibilities and achieving its results.

result (résultat)

An outcome or output related to the activities of a department, policy, program or initiative.

statutory expenditures (dépenses législatives)

Spending approved through legislation passed in Parliament, other than appropriation acts. The legislation sets out the purpose and the terms and conditions of the expenditures.

target (cible)

A quantitative or qualitative, measurable goal that a department, program or initiative plans to achieve within a specified time period.

voted expenditures (dépenses votées)

Spending approved annually through an appropriation act passed in Parliament. The vote also outlines the conditions that govern the spending.