

**Draft Response from East Hants Council for the Provincial Questionnaire Titled:**  
**Municipalities and Agricultural Planning**

Response is due on September 19, 2025

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## Municipalities and Agricultural Planning

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture is conducting a project to identify, collect, and review existing information on the current state of agricultural land in the province and explore opportunities for the agriculture sector.

As part of this project, Nova Scotia Municipal Councils are being asked to provide information on the incorporation of agriculture into their planning. The information you provide will not be shared outside of the Department of Agriculture.

1. What Municipal Council are you responding on behalf of?\*

Municipality of the District of East Hants ▼

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## Agricultural Plans

2. Do you currently have an agricultural plan for your Municipality?\*

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

3. When was your agricultural plan adopted or last significantly updated?

- ☐ Within the last 2 years  
☐ 2 - 5 years ago  
☒ 5 - 10 years ago  
☐ More than 10 years ago

4. Does your Municipality plan to review or update your agricultural plan in the near future?

Will be considered as part of plan review set to start in 2026

## Engagement

5. When you engage the community, producers, and other interested parties on agricultural planning, what are the key concerns raised?

1. Private property rights when restrictive zoning is implemented (especially the ability to build non-farm dwellings).  
2. Land use conflict with modern agricultural practices and non-farm land uses.

6. Are there particular organizations in your Municipality that you have formed partnerships with to help facilitate discussions on agricultural land? If so, could you describe if this has resulted in a best practice in planning for agriculture?

e.g. non-profit organizations, academic groups, agricultural groups, etc.

East Hants has an Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) set up to advise the Planning Advisory Committee and Municipal Council where land use matters affect agricultural land. The AAC membership includes councillors, farmers, a citizen at large and a representative from the Dept of Agriculture.

## Land Use Planning

7. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the least important land use and 10 being the most important land use, how important is the protection and preservation of agricultural land to your Municipality?

least important  4 most important

8. What are the highest priority uses of land in your Municipality?

e.g. housing, commercial infrastructure, other natural resource uses, etc.

Commercial & residential