

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Historical Highlights from 1887–2015



— 1887 – 1890s – 1900s – 1920s – 1930s – 1950s – 1960s – 1970s – 1980s – 1990s – 2000s – 2010s – 2014 – 2015 —

17 June 1887

Department of Agriculture established.

1887–1897

Department worked to encourage the infant dairy and cropping industries to produce food, which at that time, had to be imported.

1890s

Department helps sugar industry and conducts expeditions to Papua New Guinea to collect sugarcane types suitable for cultivation in Queensland.

1897

Department's first full time Minister, A.J. Thynne, appointed.

1897

Department expanded its focus to include pastoral industries.

1897

Queensland Agricultural College was established at Gatton.

1897

Hermitage Research Facility was opened at Warwick.

1901

Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations established.

1920s

Queensland became an important exporter of farm products including butter, cheese and sugar.

1920

The *Wheat Pool Act 1920* was the world's first legislation to set up a statutory scheme for the cooperative marketing of primary produce.

1922

Department underwent a reorganisation due to the introduction of *The Public Service Act 1922*.

1926

The Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926 enabled the setup of marketing boards and the organisation of a council of agriculture on a commodity basis.

1935

Department became involved in soil conservation when an advisor built the first contour banks in Queensland.

1938–39

A butter testing facility was built at Hamilton.

1951

Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations became a separate entity.

1955

An artificial insemination program was started to assist in controlled cattle breeding programs.

1958

Economic Research Branch was established to provide advice and training in farm business management.

1960

Food Preservation Research Laboratory was built to undertake post-harvest research and preservation work.

1961

Soil Conservation Branch was formed.

1963

Department was renamed the Department of Primary Industries.

1972

A formal system of coordinated extension was established.

1982

The Fishing Industry Organisation and Marketing Act 1982 saw the fisheries management functions move from the Department to the new Queensland Fish Management Authority.

1985

The new Agricultural Research Laboratories opened in Indooroopilly, Brisbane to house scientists working in botany, entomology, plant pathology, agricultural chemistry, agricultural standards and land resources.

1986

Agricultural Bank became part of the Queensland Agricultural Development Corporation, administered by Queensland Treasury.

1989

Forestry portfolio joined the Department.

1994

The Fisheries Act 1994 established the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority replacing fisheries management functions of the Queensland Fish Management Authority.

2001

Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 provides standards for animal care, protects animals from unjustifiable, unnecessary or unreasonable pain and ensures that the use of animals for scientific purposes is accountable, open and responsible.

2010

Coopers Plains Health and Food Sciences Precinct opened to enhance the sustainability and international competitiveness of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mining and tourism industries in Queensland.

2011

Queensland's Ecosciences Precinct opened at Boggo Road, Dutton Park and uses award-winning architecture and sustainable design to create a collaborative environment for 1000+ scientists, dedicated to solving some of Australia's biggest environmental challenges.

2012

Department was renamed the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

2013

Queensland Agriculture Strategy launched with the goal to double agriculture production in the state by 2040.

2014

Foot and Mouth Disease Preparedness Program setup to ready the state should an outbreak occur.

2014

The Biosecurity Queensland Act 2014 was enacted to cut red tape and introduce a universal biosecurity obligation on all persons to take an active role in minimising biosecurity risks.

2015

Department was renamed the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.