



BECOME A CERTIFIED FARM TECHNICIAN

The Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency is working in partnership with the Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University, and Farm & Workforce Development, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA) on a free program to prepare eligible candidates to challenge the certification exam for the farm technician trade. This program will allow farmers who have significant experience in the trade (trade qualifiers) to review the content of the occupational standard in preparation to challenge the certification exam. A 5-week refresher course is offered online and is self-paced for a total of up to 90 hours. Participants can choose which units to study or complete as needed. They will have access to an instructor via email for any questions or concerns along the way.

Listed below are some questions and answers that may be helpful to those who are interested in becoming certified in the farm technician trade.

Can individuals who participated in the refresher training last year (2022) but did not write the exam retake part or all of the refresher training?

Yes. They may contact the Industry Training Consultant (ITC) in their area to become reenrolled. Refresher training is available until April 30, 2023. The list of ITCs and their contact information can be found on the Agency's website by visiting: nsapprenticeship.ca/Contact

Is refresher training required before an individual can write the exam?

Those who wish to write the farm technician exam are not required to participate in the refresher training beforehand. However, refresher training is available. Those who would like to participate in refresher training must first submit an exam application.

Is there a cost to write the farm technician exam?

The Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency is waiving the Trade Qualifier fee until the end of November, 2023. However, an exam fee of \$148.18 will be required and paid online when the exam application is submitted.

What options are available for someone who wrote the farm technician exam but was unsuccessful?

Individuals are given two attempts to pass the exam. If unsuccessful after two attempts, individuals are encouraged to do some further learning to better prepare before writing the exam again.



How can someone prepare to write the farm technician exam?

The Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency is offering free refresher training which will allow participants to better prepare to write the exam. Participants may also use the Nova Scotia occupational standard to review the tasks of the trade on which the exam questions will be based. To access the Nova Scotia Occupational Standard for the farm technician trade, visit nsapprenticeship.ca/Trades, then select **Farm Technician** from the list of trades, then select **NS Occupational Standard**.

Those who need help interpreting the occupational standard are encouraged to contact an Industry Training Consultant.

How many questions are on the exam and what is the pass mark?

There are 100 multiple choice questions (with four choices per question), and the pass mark is 70 percent.

What is the first step for someone who is interested in participating in the refresher training or challenging the farm technician certification exam.

Those interested in becoming certified farm technicians may contact an Industry Training Consultant with the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency who will work with them to fill out a Trade Qualifier application. The applicant must provide documentary proof that they have acquired 5400 hours or more in the farm technician trade and have two references from qualified persons to attest to their knowledge and skills in the farm technician trade. The applicant is eligible to take refresher training and write the exam, or simply write the exam without participating in the refresher training.

For those interested in learning the Farm Technician trade as an apprentice, when and how can they register?

An individual may register as an apprentice and begin their apprenticeship journey at any time, as long as the employer employs a certified journeyman in the trade, who will serve as a mentor to the apprentice. To register, visit nsapprenticeship.ca, select the **Apprentices** tab, then **Register as an Apprentice**.



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