

Sensory guide

Addressing the sensory needs of visitors to
the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum



Introduction

This museum is special because it is also a working farm! Its many different areas provide visitors with a range of sensory experiences. These experiences might be overwhelming for some.

There may be strong smells and loud sounds in the barns. The animals can be unpredictable, and tractors and other machinery are often in use. The barns have fans running, which is important for the health of the animals, but the fans can be very loud to our ears. While the barns are kept at a comfortable temperature for our animals, they might feel too cold or warm to us.

In the exhibitions, demonstration spaces, and play areas there may be bright lighting. These spaces can get crowded when the museum is busy.

The museum is home to dust, hay, plants, animals, and other possible allergens. Please take this into consideration when planning your visit.

This guide can help you plan your visit and decide which parts of the museum you might want to visit or to avoid. Please ask at the Admission Booth if you would like to borrow sensory tools when you arrive.

For more accessibility considerations, please consult the museum’s [Accessibility Site Map](#).

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------|---|--------------------------------|
|  | Bright lights |  | Seasonal temperature |
|  | Loud sounds |  | Tactile area |
|  | Strong smells |  | Narrow or crowded space |

Admission Booth

At the Admission Booth, I can . . .

Start to smell the farm, as well as see and hear some of the animals or equipment.



Heads up!

When the museum is busy, there may be crowds or line-ups. The Admission Booth has some shelter from the elements, but be prepared for any type of weather.

Horse and Cattle Barn

Outside the Horse and Cattle Barn, I can . . .

From a greater distance, see, listen to, and smell the animals enjoying time outside.



Horse and Cattle Barn

Inside the Horse and Cattle Barn, I can . . .

See, listen to, and smell the animals that live inside the barn.



Heads up!

The animals in this barn might get noisy around feeding time, between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. The loud and sudden noises may surprise you.

Horse and Cattle Barn

Inside the Horse and Cattle Barn, I can . . .

Take part in daily demonstrations involving the animals that live inside the barn. I may get to touch an animal or objects relating to it. Afterwards, I can wash my hands in the lobby.



Heads up!

When the museum is busy, demonstration spaces can get crowded.

Small Animal Barn

Inside the Small Animal Barn, I can . . .

Touch some of the animals, such as sheep and goats, that live inside the barn. Afterwards, I can wash my hands in the lobby.



Heads up!

The animals in this barn tend to get noisy around feeding time, between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. The loud and sudden noises may surprise you.

Small Animal Barn

Inside the Small Animal Barn, I can . . .

See, listen to, and smell some of the other animals, such as rabbits, quails, and pigs, that live inside the barn.



Heads up!

The animals in this barn tend to get noisy around feeding time, between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. The loud and sudden noises may surprise you.

Small Animal Barn

Inside the Small Animal Barn, I can...

Participate in daily demonstrations about the animals that live inside this barn. I may get to touch an animal or props relating to it.



Heads up!

When the museum is busy, demonstration spaces can get crowded.

Sheep and Goat Field

At the Sheep Field viewing area, I can . . .

See, listen to, and smell the sheep, goats, and alpacas enjoying time outside. If they come up to the fence, I may get to touch them. Afterwards, I can wash my hands in the Small Animal Barn lobby.



Memory Park

In Memory Park, I can . . .

Take part in daily demonstrations, look at outdoor exhibitions, and sit and have a picnic at the tables in the summer. In the winter, I might be able to skate on the ice rink.



Heads up!

The ice rink and daily demonstrations in this space are weather-dependent and subject to change.

Learning Centre

In Market Square, I can . . .

Watch and listen to a video about Indigenous foodways, view beautiful images, and take part in daily demonstrations.



Learning Centre

In Aquaculture: Farming the Waters, I can . . .

Watch and listen to videos about different types of aquaculture.



Learning Centre

In Aquaculture: Farming the Waters, I can . . .

Press buttons, light up answers, and listen to sounds in interactive activities to learn about aquaculture.



Learning Centre

In Aquaculture: Farming the Waters, I can . . .

Touch and look at accurate models of different types of fish and aquatic plants.



Soil Lab

In the Soil Lab, children can . . .

Dress up as a scientist and experiment with soil.



Soil Lab

In the Soil Lab, I can . . .

Take part in daily demonstrations, where I may get to see and touch worms or objects relating to them. I can wash my hands when I'm done.



Heads-up!

When the museum is busy, demonstration spaces can get crowded.

Soil Lab

In the Soil Lab, I can . . .

Learn through play by placing magnets on a soil mural to build an ecosystem.



Dairy Barn

Inside the Dairy Barn, I can . . .

See, listen to, and smell the dairy cows.



Heads up!

Around 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., the cows are fed using machinery that is noisy and smelly. This machinery also takes up a lot of space, and visitors may need to move into narrow spaces to get out of the way.

Dairy Barn

Inside the Dairy Barn, I can . . .

See, listen to, and smell the baby cows in the Calf Barn, as well as touch them. Afterwards, I can wash my hands.



Heads up!

The calves are very friendly and there is a good chance they will lick your body or clothes with their rough tongues if you get close to them!

Dairy Barn

Inside the Dairy Barn, I can . . .

Attend the daily milking demonstration at 4:00 p.m. I may get to touch objects relating to it.



Heads up!

When the museum is busy, this demonstration space can get crowded.

Dairy Barn

Outside, in the Dairy Barnyard, I can . . .

See farm equipment at work, smell the manure being taken out by the stable cleaner, or see animals exercising and being cared for.



Heads up!

The equipment can be running at various times throughout the day and can be noisy. For your safety, we ask that you do not to enter the Barnyard.

Canola! Seeds of Innovation

In Canola! Seeds of Innovation, children can . . .

Learn through play.



Heads up!

When the museum is busy, this demonstration space can get crowded.

Canola! Seeds of Innovation

In Canola! Seeds of Innovation, I can . . .

Listen to and watch marbles roll down the large canola bottle sculpture.



Canola! Seeds of Innovation

In Canola! Seeds of Innovation, I can . . .

Smell different plants in a smell station.



Demonstration Kitchen

In the Demonstration Kitchen, I can . . .

Take part in cooking demonstrations to learn about different ingredients and cooking techniques.



Heads up!

When the museum is busy, this demonstration space can get crowded.

Demonstration Kitchen

In the Demonstration Kitchen, I can . . .

Help measure, mix, and prepare ingredients.



Heads up!

If you are taking part in food preparation, you will first need to wash your hands.

Demonstration Kitchen

In the Demonstration Kitchen, I can . . .

Taste different foods that have been prepared. I should wash my hands before sampling any food.



Heads up!

Before tasting samples, please let a museum guide know if you have any food allergies or restrictions.

Sustainable Agriculture Gallery

In the Sustainable Agriculture Gallery, I can . . .

Drive a tractor simulator and play an interactive game.



Heads up!

When the museum is busy, there may be a line-up for this interactive experience.

Sustainable Agriculture Gallery

In the Sustainable Agriculture Gallery, I can . . .

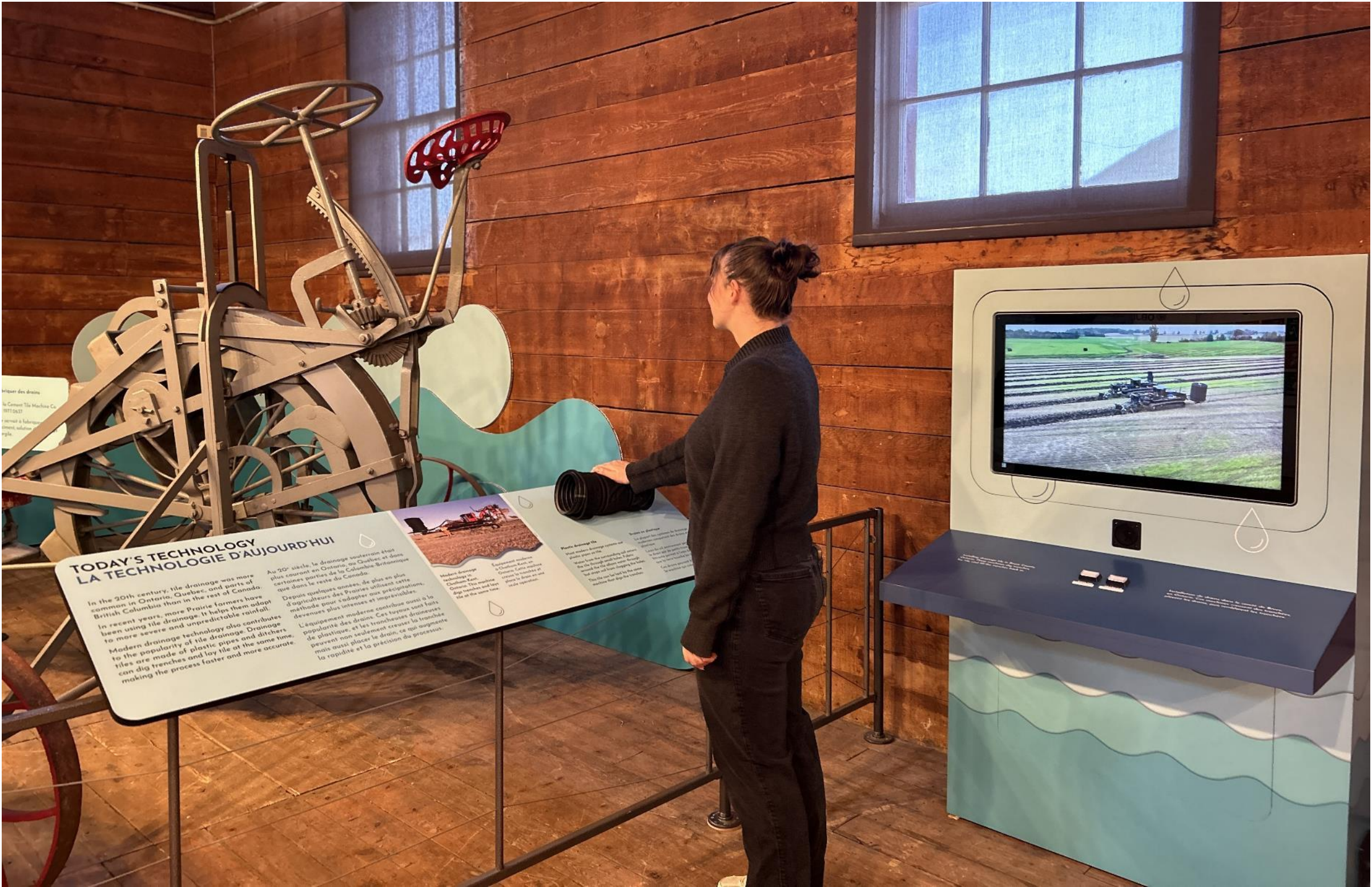
Watch a large-screen video about agriculture and the environment.



Sustainable Agriculture Gallery

In the Sustainable Agriculture Gallery, I can . . .

View a large ditching machine, watch a video showing machines installing a drainage system in a field, and touch a piece of drainage pipe.



Discovery Park

In Discovery Park, I can . . .

See, smell, and feel different plants growing in the gardens, as well as hear and see the critters and insects that visit the gardens.



Heads up!

Many pollinators, including bees and wasps that can sting, visit the gardens. Some plants may have prickly parts or pollen that could affect some visitors. In the winter, Discovery Park is closed as the pathways are not cleared of snow.

Discovery Park

In Discovery Park, I can . . .

Listen to an Algonquin language keeper and consultant share facts about their language and culture.



Heads up!

In the winter, Discovery Park is closed as the pathways are not cleared of snow.

Discovery Park

In Discovery Park, I can . . .

Sit in the gazebo and take part in daily demonstrations that may be offered here.



Heads up!

In the winter, Discovery Park is closed as the pathways are not cleared of snow.

Playground

At the Playground, children can . . .

Climb all over a farm-themed structure and play with friends.



Heads up!

During the summer months, the Playground can get very busy.

Poultry House

At the Poultry House, I can . . .

See, listen to, and smell the animals that live inside it.



Heads up!

In the winter, the Poultry House is closed to visitors.

Poultry House

At the Poultry House, I can . . .

Take part in daily demonstrations involving the animals that live here. I may get to touch an animal or objects relating to it. I can wash my hands in one of the barns when I'm done.



Heads up!

When the museum is busy, this demonstration space can get crowded. In the winter, the Poultry House is closed to visitors.