



# News & Views

Vol. 24 No. 02

March 2012

## Bridging the Gap



*Moving forward to find solutions  
for farm succession challenges*

**Bridging the Gap is a workshop designed to bring together farmers from different generations, specifically, those who are ready to turn their businesses over to entering farmers, whether it be family succession or outside buyers.**

This workshop will give farmers a chance to share successful farm ownership transfer and business innovation ideas, as well as discuss the current challenges of succession in the agriculture community.

### Event Details:

Date: March 23-24, 2012  
Location: Debert Hospitality Centre  
Registration Fee: \$100.00  
(includes all meals and overnight accommodations)

**Register online at [www.nsfa-fane.ca](http://www.nsfa-fane.ca)**

For more information please contact the NSFA office at:

tel: (902) 893-2293  
email: [info@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:info@nsfa-fane.ca)



**Register  
online at:  
[www.nsfa-fane.ca](http://www.nsfa-fane.ca)**

Bridging the Gap workshop is brought to you in partnership with:



[www.nsfa-fane.ca](http://www.nsfa-fane.ca)



# We're number 2!

## Henry Vissers

*Executive Director, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture*

The Avis car rental company developed an ad program in the 1990's that focused on the fact that they were number two in car rentals, therefore they tried harder. That's a sentiment we need to embrace when it comes to farm safety. In Nova Scotia farming is the second most dangerous profession, we're number two! In this case it's nothing to be proud of; it's something we have to change.

To date in 2012 there have been seven workplace accidents in Nova Scotia, one of those accidents was a farm employee who died in a woods related accident, while felling a tree. Fortunately most farm workplace accidents don't end in death but work related injuries can cause hardship for the employee and their families, lost time from work etc. and in many cases the injured worker is the farmer or a family member.

One of the policy goals of The NS Federation of Agriculture has been to encourage a culture of farm safety on NS farms. To this end a few years ago we ramped up our involvement in farm safety. With support from the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association and NS Dept. of Agriculture we have received funding to develop Farm Safety Nova Scotia (FSNS).

The vision of Farm Safety Nova Scotia is a culture of health and safety within Nova Scotia Agriculture to achieve the elimination of workplace illness and injury to our farmers, their families, employees and farm visitors.

When we had our initial meeting to discuss the development of FSNS we did the usual round of table introductions, the first person that introduced themselves related a personal story of how a member of their family had permanent lung damage from a workplace environment, then others as they introduced

themselves also related farm workplace injuries, without exception everyone around the table that was from a farm or operated a farm had a workplace injury story to tell.

That tells me that we need to do better and it also tells me how important it is that we succeed, both for our families and for our employees.

One of the major focus areas of FSNS has been to bring farms in compliance with Occupation Health and Safety regulations. This is important on a number of levels, following OH&S regulations make your farm workplace a safer place to work, and farms are obligated under the legislation to be in compliance with the regulations.

To help support this focus area, FSNS has developed a workbook that a farmer can use to bring their farm up to OH&S compliance. The workbook is available for download on the website at <http://www.nsfafane.ca/farm-safety/> or farmers will receive a printed copy of the workbook by attending a 3 hour introductory workshop. Workshops are scheduled in areas of the province or can be scheduled by contacting FSNS at the NSFA office.

Farm Safety Week is March 11th to March 17th, the 2010 campaign promoted "Plan", with safety walkabouts and an emphasis on planning for safety. In 2011, the focus was on "Farm", with highlights on implementation, documentation and training.

This year's campaign is on "Safety". The focus is on the assessment, improvement and further development of safety systems.

Make a commitment to make your farm a safe work environment, make a safety week resolution to implement your safety plan. Farm Safety is no accident.

Comments?  
email: [hvissers@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:hvissers@nsfa-fane.ca)



# viewpoint

# NSFA Committee Highlights

1) **Resolutions Committee Report** - A copy of the resolutions adopted at the last AGM was printed in the NSFA News & Views. Resolutions dealing with farm programs have already been discussed at meetings with the Joint Agricultural Executives so that NSDA are aware of Federation requests prior to finalizing the programs for 2012.

2) **Lease Committee Report** - The decision has been made for the NSFA to vacate the existing office space because of the high cost of rent. The Federation is negotiating a lease of space in the Annapolis Building at AgriTECH Park, Bible Hill. The lease will become effective September 1, 2012 and is for 5 years, with the option to renew for another 5 years.

3) **Joint Agricultural Executives Committee** - At the recent joint meeting of NSDA/NSFA officers there was a lengthy discussion on the types of programs needed for farm development. A report in greater detail will be provided at the next Council meeting.

4) **Workplace Education Committee** - The Federation works with the Department of Agriculture and the NS Department of Labour & Advanced Education to arrange and finance the workplace education courses for farmers. The Federation sees one of its most important goals to be the provision of information and training to its members. The Federation wants to provide the farming community with the skills needed to operate their businesses efficiently, be more competitive in the marketplace, and be able to manage their human resource challenges more effectively. Currently there are training sessions occurring in Kentville, Windsor, and Truro. A fourth course will soon be running in Antigonish.

5) **Livestock Fencing Guidelines Committee** - The Federation has been requested to work with a committee to develop guidelines that can be used by the Municipal Fencing Committees which are required to respond to complaints about livestock running at large. The Federation would prefer a uniform approach to fencing issues across the province and thus have recommended that if fencing guidelines are to be developed, the document should be ap-

proved on a province-wide basis. Watch for more information on this in the months ahead.

6) **Joint Wildlife Committee** - A revived Joint Wildlife Committee met in January to address some of the current issues being faced by farmers. The Wildlife Compensation Program being administered by the NS Crop & Livestock Commission does not go far enough towards covering the damage caused by wildlife. Farmers are requesting additional measures, particularly in areas with extreme damage.

There is a need for more information on effective deterrent measures for various predators. DNR staff noted that there is now material available on their website in regard to the ways to control damage by various species of wildlife. The Crop Insurance Commission would like to have some printed material to leave with their clients. NSDA and NSFA will do more to advertise the availability of this information on the DNR website through their newsletters. <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/living-with-wildlife/> The Commission would like to develop feasible plans for protection which could be recommended by the various commodities.

It was noted that DNR no longer provides the service of trapping and moving problem animals. You now have to contact a Nuisance Wildlife Officer and hire their services.

7) **Agricultural Biomass Sustainable Practices Working Group** - A sub-committee was formed to prepare a draft sustainable practices framework for Nova Scotia. The draft paper will indicate whether the factors identified are currently included in an EFP or NMP. The committee was requested to work towards having a document available in February that can be used as a discussion paper beyond this committee.



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# Council of Leaders Meeting Highlights

*By Donna Langille, Operations Manager*

Dennis Boudreau, 1st Vice-President called the first meeting of the Council of Leaders for 2012 to order at 9:06 a.m. on February 8th at the Debert Hospitality Centre. This was one of our largest turn-outs ever for a meeting which featured a change in format from a two day meeting to a one day session. It made a particularly long day for those who had to travel a distance but overall this set-up seems to work well for at least one meeting a year. The April Council meeting will revert to the two day format as there will be several guest presenters and NSDA programs for 2012 will be a major focus, as well as continuing discussions on a plan to address our development goals for Outlook 2021.

Beth Densmore, President, in her opening remarks commented on the excellent attendance at recent agricultural commodity annual general meetings. The lack of an adequate budget for the NSDA programs continues to be the biggest issue which most commodity groups are focused on. The NSFA Executive is prepared to take direction from the Council as to the best way to address this.

Council members were asked to provide their feedback on what was good, and not so good, about the 2011 annual meeting of NSFA. Although the messages of the keynote speakers tended to be negative; they were realistic. NSDA programs received a lot of air time as farmers believe the few that do exist do not respond to day to day issues on the farm. There appeared to be greater participation in discussions by meeting delegates this year, which is good. Several people indicated that they would like to see the designated seating by group brought back. There was some confusion as to whether representatives of organizations were to vote as an individual farmer or as a representative of an organization. The banquet featured a wonderful meal and food is a priority!

Proposed new bylaws as drafted by the Board of Directors of the Cumberland County Federation of Agriculture were presented for Council approval. Ralph Thompson indicated that their objective is

not to impact on the integrity of the NSFA system but they want to be inclusive and welcome new entrants who may not yet be registered farms. Others expressed that they were uncomfortable with the change and feel there is more work to be done. A motion was passed to table the vote for Council approval until the April Council of Leaders meeting.

The Terms of Reference for three NSFA Committees (1. NSFA Agricultural Water Committee, 2) Agricultural Biomass Sustainable Practices Working Group, and 3) the NSFA Farm Registration Committee) were presented and approved. The third committee will address the five year review of NSFA membership fees and the administration of the Farm Registration System.

The Outlook 2021 process has been initiated by NSFA as a way to tackle the top five issues holding back the development of the agricultural industry today. Farmers and their organizations had been asked to define the five or six main impediments to development in agriculture. A copy of the responses received to date was provided to council members. The Federation will continue to compile this information until the time of the April Council meeting. Then the focus will change to the development of an Action Plan to tackle the needs identified. The Federation wants to move forward with a positive vision and approach. More information will be compiled over the next month or two and further discussions will be held at the April Council of Leaders meeting with the objective to develop a plan of action. Any group or individual who has not yet forwarded information is encouraged to do so prior to the next Council meeting.

Henry Vissers presented information through a slide presentation on the current structure of the Council of Leaders of the NSFA. After the presentation some delegates questioned if our structure needs to be reviewed, it has been suggested that the current structure is large and cumbersome and should be made smaller. It was agreed that all commodity groups need to be represented around the Council table.

# Council of Leaders Highlights continued

Discussion next centered on the county federations and their relevancy to the Federation's decision making process. The suggestion was made that the number of county federation reps could be reduced to 2 or 3 if there is need to shrink the size of the COL. In the past one of the main purposes of the county federations was to disseminate information but this need has changed with the advent of e-mail, newsletters and E-News. The county federation was also recognized for dealing with different farm issues than do the commodity groups. The apathy shown at the county federation meetings by lack of turn-out is a reflection of the apathy within the agricultural industry today. It was also noted that not all farmers are members of commodity groups. The county federations tend to hear the opinion of the farmers who are unable to travel long distances to get to provincial meetings.

The chairman concluded by thanking councilors for their active discussion but declared that no clear direction for change had been reached.

A detailed report on communications and promotion activities was given. Members should have received a copy of the new Member Benefits package enclosed with their January/February newsletter.

Reports were given on a number of other organizations/projects that the NSFA is involved with:

- 1) Canadian Federation of Agriculture – This group works on policies for trade, taxation, and other major national issues. Presentations have recently been made to all MPs. Our Director is encouraging CFA to set up a better line of communications so that farmers are more aware of their activities.
- 2) CEDIFs in Agriculture - Ann Anderson and Linda Best were welcomed to the meeting to present information on the Farm Works Investment Co-operative which was established to assist new entrants to get into the agricultural business. Linda Best presented a slide show which provided information on the investment being made in farms and food.
- 3) AAFC Top To Top Meeting - Directors of the branches of AAFC each reported on the activities in their branch. Some of the topics covered

included: 1) use of co-ops in succession planning, 2) mentoring programs, 3) Farm Debt Mediation services, 4) CFIA to be modernized, 5) two N.S. slaughter houses to become federally inspected, 6) FCC March event coming up, 7) a desire to make better use of Kentville facility, 8) Agriculture Environmental Services Branch projects were reported, 9) Communications to focus on getting research results into farmers' hands, and 10) an Ag Pal web-site has been launched. The Growing Forward consultations are to take place in the next few months. The NSFA will be requesting that CAAP funding be continued.

4) Atlantic Federations of Agriculture - Beth Densmore is the President of AFA. The group tries to meet at least quarterly. AAFC has been requested to carry out more collaboration with the Federations. Other activities of this group include: 1) East Coast Soil & Water Group, 2) Joint Ag Awareness efforts, 3) Development of a position on "fracking", and 4) Atlantic Brand wants agriculture to come on board with "Fresh" program. The next meeting is scheduled for February 20th at which time they plan to discuss BRM programs and interprovincial trade.

The President indicated that she has been hearing lots of complaints from farmers regarding the lack of funding for the Home Grown Success program (formerly known as Farm Investment Fund) and the details of the recently announced "Farm Next" program. The program is inequitable on two fronts: 1) only the NSFLB loans qualify, and 2) there are varying rates for succession versus new entrants.

Others commented on the Genetic Enhancement Program and the strings which have been attached to accessing funding from this source. It was clarified that in the sheep program the replacement ewes do not have to be registered and there are plans to revise other parts of the program (increasing the amount per ewe retained).

Comments were made about the difficulty some organizations are experiencing in accessing research program funding such as Tech Development & Innovation.

Farmers should be able to decide where they



# Council of Leaders Highlights continued

will get the best return for any investments being made and not have to meet the criteria of specific programs which might not address their needs. The speed of approvals needs to be improved. There is a need to retain traceability funding because breeders are being required to use RFID tags which will require readers and handling facilities on farms.

The NSFA needs to make use of a creative new slogan to capture this government's attention such as "1000 New Jobs in N.S." to stimulate thinking of support for agriculture in cabinet. A motion was adopted requesting that

NSFA strike a committee to meet with the Minister of Agriculture, John MacDonell to discuss the current issues in the agricultural industry that are impacting on farmers, the NSFA, and the NS Department of Agriculture. In her closing comments Beth Densmore noted that this has been a long day but one that was filled with lots of good discussion. She encouraged members and their groups to forward more information for use in compiling the Outlook 2021 plan. All groups were challenged to go back to their respective organization and encourage greater participation of farmers in Federation activities.

**PLAN. FARM. SAFETY.**  **MARCH 11-17, 2012**  
**CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL SAFETY WEEK**

**the barnders** by gord.coulthart



So-it cost \$2 for the baler part you didn't fix and \$10,000 for lost time and hospital care.

## Safety is about good practices, not good intentions

Did you know that 85 per cent of Canadian farmers believe that safety is a priority on their farms, yet only one in ten has a written safety plan? Safety is not about good intentions; it's about good practices – every day.

Canadian producers are encouraged to Plan • Farm • Safety by developing a farm safety plan during Canadian Agricultural Safety Week, March 11 - 17. For more information on this and other farm safety initiatives go to [www.planfarmsafety.ca](http://www.planfarmsafety.ca) or contact Farm Safety Nova Scotia at 902-893-2293 or [www.farmsafetyns.ca](http://www.farmsafetyns.ca)

### Renewal of Class 3R Driver's License

Farmers who have a Class 3 R driver's license must think ahead prior to going to a Registry of Motor Vehicles office for their license renewal. You must take with you a medical fitness certificate from your doctor each time you renew this class of license. The Class 3 R license is required in the event you are driving vehicles with weight totaling over 14,000 Kg. (15 tons). The Class 5 driver's license will enable the farmer to drive vehicles up to this weight.

# Membership Update

By Wanda Hamilton, Communications Officer

I hope that all of you had a chance to review your new member benefits kit that accompanied the January / February issue of News and Views. This member benefits plan is certainly a work in progress and we are continuing to make improvements for you.

I know a few farmers have gone into Kents Building Supplies and as I went through the process myself – I found out a few things that may help you make the most of this great discount.

Farmers wanting to take advantage of the Kents discounts should visit their store Contractor's Desk (or special projects desk). Kents contractor sales team will assist you with filling in either the cash or credit forms. The forms will then be sent to Kent's Head office with an expected approval in 2-5 business days. When you return to the store to make a purchase, you should go to the Contractor's or Special project desk in order to receive the appropriate discounts. It is important to note that cashiers at the front of the store cannot do a cash override to apply discounts. It is expected that this process may be temporary as Kents is looking into a simplified process of offering discount cards with a bar code that can be scanned at the front cash. If you already have a credit account with Kents, you should be able to visit the Contractors/Special Project Desk and update your file to match the NSFA member benefits program. I would suggest that you take the member benefits sheet or a print out from the website with you on your first visit so that the sales team at Kents can familiarize with this program.

If you have any questions or issues with the process at Kents, below is a list of contacts for each of the Nova Scotia Kent's locations:

Yarmouth – Darrell Pittman (902) 749-5000

Bridgewater – Ted Windsor 902-453-2277

New Minas – Janet LeBlanc (902) 681-5973

Truro – Miriam Gill (902)897-6325

Amherst – Gary Cormier (902) 861-7035

Dartmouth – Jason Drodge 902-221-6907

Lower Sackville – Tracy White (902) 864-2000

Halifax - Rebecca Dietz 902-456-0392

I hope that this helps clarify the process and you can enjoy receiving this benefit!

We are also looking into Central Supplies or Home Hardware as another member partner to address the gap in availability of Kents locations in Eastern Nova Scotia and Cape Breton.

We are continuing to work with Bell Mobility to offer a discount or member benefit – watch for details soon.

One other item on our radar is the Health and Dental benefits for NSFA members. We currently have a program through Manulife with a suite of products including health, dental and life insurance. We have researched other alternatives and are currently finalizing a new, customized plan for the farm community. Although the Manulife product is valid and will continue, we hope to source lower premiums and a broader coverage through a new plan.

We are also looking into other services and benefits and are always open to your suggestions. If you have a benefit you would like to see offered to NSFA members, please let us know. [whamilton@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:whamilton@nsfa-fane.ca) or phone Wanda 893-2293.



## KENTS SPECIAL PROMO PRICING

For the month of March, NSFA Members can enjoy the following special pricing at Kents locations:

### Windsor Safety Salt

10 kg - \$3.15 / bag

20 kg - \$5.99 / bag

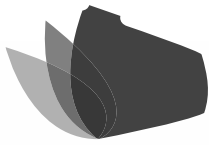
40 kg - \$9.59 / bag

### Traction Sand

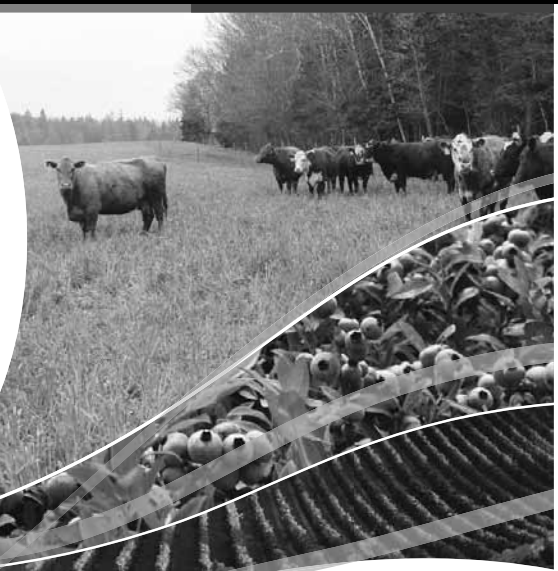
18 kg – 4.29 / bag

Please note: Pallet quantities will be charged a \$25 deposit which will be refunded upon return of the pallet.





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## Baby News



The staff of the NSFA and EFP would like to congratulate Kathryn Bremner and Donnie MacGregor on the safe arrival of their daughter Ellie. She was born on February 14, 2012 weighing in at 7lbs 3 oz. Mother and baby are doing well and enjoying getting to know each other.

## BIP Program Deadline

March 31st is the deadline and this marks the final year to claim interest paid on short term loans for 2011 to support beef production in Nova Scotia. Many applications have already been processed, but we don't want eligible farmers to miss out. If you need an application form or are hearing about this program for the first time, please go to our website [www.nsfafane.ca](http://www.nsfafane.ca) and look under member services for information on the beef interest pay down program. You may also call the Federation office at (902) 893-2293 for details.

## News & Views

**NSFA News & Views** is the Newsletter of the NS Federation of Agriculture, the United, Strong & Caring Farm Organization representing the best interest of Nova Scotia's Agricultural Industry.

**News & Views** is provided free of charge to its members. We value comments and concerns from our members, please direct them to Executive members or the Office Staff.

### 2012 Executive Members:

President:	<b>Beth Densmore</b>	Phone: 369-2876
1st Vice President:	<b>Dennis Boudreau</b>	Phone: 769-3501
2nd Vice President:	<b>David Young</b>	Phone: 543-8748
CFA Director:	<b>Dennis Boudreau</b>	Phone: 769-3501
At Large:	<b>Edna Foster</b>	Phone: 661-4366
At Large:	<b>Chris vandenHeuvel</b>	Phone: 631-1884
At Large:	<b>Charles MacDonald</b>	Phone: 564-2080
At Large:	<b>Jim Baillie</b>	Phone: 657-2256
Past President:	<b>Richard Melvin</b>	Phone: 582-7939

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