



Media Release

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Agriculture Budget – Federation says if you can't increase it, Status Quo the only option!

Truro – “Budget cuts to agriculture programs and services are not the route to go when it comes to balancing the budget,” says Beth Densmore, President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture. Programs such as Farm Investment Fund are cost shared initiatives for agricultural innovation and environmental projects that benefit all Nova Scotians. The Farm Investment Fund provides farmers with the capacity to institute things like food traceability systems, on farm food safety programs, manure storage facilities or animal handling systems. Beth says, “Projects like these help us to be competitive with other jurisdictions.” Another vital program we need to enhance is one for new entrants, “we need new people entering the Industry to ensure long term viability of agriculture in Nova Scotia,” she adds.

The Agriculture budget of \$60M is a minute piece of the \$8B provincial budget, but a major source of economic activity. Beth says, “The benefits farmers provide, despite this fact, are incredible.” “Take a manure storage facility for example and think about all the contract labour; engineers, cement trucks and fencing needed – that is a lot of jobs and economic spinoff for one small project.”

Beth says, “We understand the campaign commitment to get back to balance, but if we don't invest in our natural capital, there won't be food, won't be environmental sustainability, and won't be fresh air, good soil or healthy water in the future.” “We expect that politicians from all parties would agree that ensuring fresh, high quality food through a sustainable agriculture industry outweighs the rush to get the books balanced.”

Tighten up some interdepartmental spending, but leave the Agriculture programs and services that benefit all Nova Scotians in tact!

What has Farm Investment Fund done for our farmers? See the attached (read to print) profiles.

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The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture represents the interests of over 2400 farm families in Nova Scotia. Founded in 1895 to provide Nova Scotia's farm community with a single voice, the NSFA is the province's only general farm organization.