



Media Release

April 22, 2011

Earth Day is Everyday for Nova Scotia farmers

April 22nd is a day to appreciate our environment and Nova Scotia farmers have been working hard to contribute positively to the health of the land, water, air and biodiversity. With the help of programs such as the Environmental Farm Plan Program, Nova Scotia farmers invest in new technology and best management practices for everyone to benefit.

Each year, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture launches an award to recognize the tremendous efforts that go into being good environmental farm stewards. “We are pleased to launch the 2011 application process on Earth Day this year,” says Beth Densmore, NSFA President. “Things like buffer zones around watercourses and limiting erosion through a process of no-till are just some examples that contribute to being an environmental farm steward.”

Dean and Catherine Manning, winners of the 2010 NS Environmental Stewardship Award, exemplify what it is to be an environmental steward. They believe that soil and land management are the keys to good farm productivity. Dean strongly believes in the importance of Environmental Farm Plans for any producer, regardless of what they farm or how large or small their operations may be. “From a stewardship point of view, we need to look after our lands and waters so they’ll be in good shape for future generations,” he says. “From a management point of view, it’s an investment in our own futures as producers. We have to be good land managers in order to be good farmers.”

The co-ordinator for the Environmental Stewardship Award, Lynda Weatherby encourages the community to acknowledge farmers who are good environmental stewards. “It is important for farmers to be stewards of the land and for us [the public] to promote their efforts; this annual award showcases the outstanding stewardship of our farmers.”

For more information about the Environmental Stewardship Award and the nomination process, please go to www.nsfa-fane.ca/efp

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The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA) 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.