



FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

June 3rd, 2011

Media Release

Environment Week is Every week for Nova Scotia farmers

June 5 to 11th is Canadian Environment Week, a week designated to celebrate achievements and initiatives in protecting our environment. The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture has launched the **2011 Farm Environmental Stewardship Award** to recognize the contributions of farmers in providing improved water quality, healthy soils and environmental practices that benefit all Nova Scotians.

Nova Scotia has a wide variety of ecosystems present on farms, ranging from cropland to woodland, and pasture to wetlands, which support biodiversity and provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species.

“Farmers in Nova Scotia, through environmental farm plans and nutrient management are doing a lot for wildlife habitats and biodiversity,” says Beth Densmore, NSFA President. “Things like buffer areas beside watercourses, managing their farm woodlots, and rotational grazing to protect pastures are just some practices 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. Protecting forested land on their farm is an important part of their philosophy. As their farm land was developed, some of the woodlands were left untouched. The conventional thinking at that time was to clear all arable land, but the Mannings wanted to leave some natural habitat. Today, those woodlands are valuable shelterbelts, protecting pastures and croplands and providing habitat for wildlife.

Lynda Weatherby, Coordinator for the Environmental Stewardship Award, encourages the community to acknowledge farmers who are good environmental stewards.

“It is important for farmers to be stewards of the land and for the public to promote their efforts; this annual award showcases the outstanding stewardship of our farmers.” The award is worth up to \$2,000 for activities that further enhance their farm operation. The award winner is also presented with a painting of their farm by a local artist.

For more information about the Environmental Stewardship Award and the nomination process, please go to www.nsfa-fane.ca/efp. The deadline to apply is June 30, 2011.

With help from programs such as the Environmental Farm Plan, more and more Nova Scotia farmers are becoming environmental stewards. The Environmental Farm Plan Program is delivered by the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and is part of Growing Forward, a federal–provincial–territorial initiative.

-30-

For further information contact

Wanda Hamilton
Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
Tel: (902) 893-2293
whamilton@nsfa-fane.ca

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.

