



Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

Media Release

February 12, 2010

Farmers celebrate their role in providing consumers with a safe and affordable food supply

On February 12, 2010, the average Canadian will have enough income to pay his or her individual grocery bill for the entire year.

Richard Melvin, President of Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA) states that, “Farmers take great pride in providing Nova Scotians with high quality of foods produced in environmentally sustainable manner.” Melvin adds, “It is more important than ever to protect our local food supply.”

Food Freedom Day is occurring on the same day as it did in 2009, which is slightly later than in previous years, due to the effects of the recession on disposable income and an increase in the price of food. The calculation is a simple comparison of Canadian’s disposable income and the amount they spend on food.

Richard Melvin says that, “While Canadians and Nova Scotians continue to enjoy a reasonably priced food basket in comparison to other countries; farmers continue to be faced with challenges of meeting their cost of production.”

Nova Scotia producers are spending more to produce food and receiving less for their products. At the same time, consumers are experiencing increased prices in their food basket. The gap between retail and farm gate prices continues to widen. Presently, hog farmers are only receiving between 12% and 14% of the grocery store price of pork cuts, apple farmers are not doing any better. As a food becomes further processed, farmers are getting less and less share of the food dollar. The farmer who grows potatoes for french fries receives a miniscule 8% while the beef farmer only gets 7% of the price of a T-bone.

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For further information contact:

Richard Melvin
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
Tel: (902) 582-7939
or
Wanda Hamilton
Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
Tel: (902) 893-2293 ~ whamilton@nsfa-fane.ca

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture represents the interests of over 2500 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.

332 Willow Street, Truro, NS B2N 5A5
Telephone: (902) 893-2293 ~ Fax: (902) 893-7063
Email: info@nsfa-fane.ca
Our office is located in Suite 201, Covington Place