



# Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

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## *Media Release*

March 15, 2010

### **Farm Safety Top of Mind for NS Farmers**

Starting today, and running through to Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> has been designated as Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW). Although safety needs to be a part of everyday life, this week serves as a reminder to put safety top of mind.

“Farmers strive to provide a safe work place for our employees, ourselves and our families,” said Richard Melvin, president of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA). “As we prepare for a busy planting season, the proclamation of Agricultural Safety Week is a very important reminder to include safe work habits in our daily practices.”

As continued support for improved awareness and education around farm safety, the NSFA has been actively developing an operational model for the Society of Farm Safety Nova Scotia, a formal safety organization that will be implemented later in 2010.

**Society of Farm Safety Nova Scotia** will assist farmers in insuring a safe work place. Funding through the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) has made it possible to develop a business model for this safety society and to dedicate resources to its implementation.

Ralph Baxter, NSFA Safety Officer is pleased to be working on such an important endeavor, he says, “this project will provide training opportunities for farmers and their employees, but most importantly provide the missing educational component to develop long term strategies for Nova Scotia Farm Health and Safety.”

Society of Farm Safety Nova Scotia will enhance the safety practices of the agricultural workforce by means of providing members with opportunities and services related to safety. This would include developing an online resource, training programs, on farm reviews, and raising awareness of health and safety.

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*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.*

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