



Media Release

July 27, 2010

Are Nova Scotians eating local? Where is our food coming from?

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture in collaboration with Ecology Action Centre are releasing the final report of a study on food miles today. This report takes a closer look at the real cost of our food and what it might take to make a more locally based food system.

Jen Scott, co-author of *Are Nova Scotians Eating Local* says, “In 2008, we estimate that 13% of the food dollar Nova Scotians spend is being earned by Nova Scotia farmers. Over the last 11 years, this proportion has gone down. In 1997 it was 17%.”

If we are eating less local products, then where are Nova Scotians spending their food dollars, we ask? Marla MacLeod, co-author of the report and Food Action Committee Chair indicated that, “The study examined over 60 products and found that, on average, the food products were traveling nearly 4000 km from farm to plate.” “There is potential for reducing transport-related greenhouse gas emissions by switching to locally grown foods, provided that they are produced by methods of similar or increased energy efficiency compared with imports,” she adds.

At the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Richard Melvin, President is pleased with the report, “we see a great opportunity to increase local food consumption by strategically working with producers and retailers on how to increase locally grown produce in a sustainable way.”

The Federation of Agriculture has also put together a new website, being launched in conjunction with this report. The website; www.meetyourfarmer.ca is full of farm personalities from across the province, telling their own stories about what they do and how they do it. Mr. Melvin says, “This online portal will create and improve the relationship with us, Nova Scotia farmers and our consumers. Strengthening the consumer - food connection through meetyourfarmer.ca will be one more step in increasing local food consumption.”

The report, “*Is Nova Scotia Eating Local? and if not Where is our food coming from?*” will be officially released as a part of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture’s Semi Annual meeting on Tuesday evening, July 27, 2010 from 6:00 – 8:00pm. There will be a reception complete with Nova Scotia products, a short presentation, copies of the summary report and an opportunity for media interviews.

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Funding for the food miles project was provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Advancing Canadian Agriculture & Agri-Food (ACAAF) Program. In Nova Scotia the program is delivered by Agri-Futures Nova Scotia.

For further information contact:

Wanda Hamilton,

Communications Officer

Tel: (902) 893-2293/ (902) 890-1035 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.