



## **Media Release**

February 11, 2011

### **Farm Community delivers an important message to Resource Committee**

**Truro – Agriculture: A wealth generator for the province of Nova Scotia.** That was the message delivered this week to the Standing Committee on Resources at the Nova Scotia Legislature.

President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Beth Densmore expressed to the committee that a healthy agriculture sector is important to all Nova Scotians. “Agriculture generates jobs, grows the economy, produces healthy, high quality food and a sustainable environment that benefits everyone in Nova Scotia,” says Densmore.

Although this committee can appreciate the tax revenues generated from our province’s natural capital, Beth mentions that, “Annual contributions of Federal and Provincial tax revenues from Agriculture exceeded \$154M in recent reports”. “An important consideration during current budget cut consultations, she adds.”

Discussion following the presentation covered the area of current programs and services under the Department of Agriculture. Beth told the group, “It is imperative to our continued success and growth that we, at the very least, maintain our current programs and services.” Funds like the Farm Investment Fund assist farmers in improving environmental and food safety/traceability aspects of our farm businesses. Beth also added, “These programs contribute to the long term stability of our Industry.”

The Resources Committee is established for the purpose of considering matters normally assigned to or within the purview of the Departments and Ministers of Agriculture and Marketing, of the Environment, of Fisheries and of Natural Resources.

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*The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture 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.*