



April 22, 2010

NSFA Calling for Nominations of Environmental Farm Stewardship Award

TRURO- The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA) is celebrating Earth Day by highlighting the contributions and achievements by Nova Scotia producers in making the province a better place to live.

Environmental farm planning is a major movement across Canada. In Nova Scotia, the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) process has evolved over the past 10 years to a unique program where producers work with an environmental consultant and agricultural engineer to analyze their operations and implement measures to reduce their environmental impact. To date, over 1,300 farms have a completed EFP in Nova Scotia, 100 of which are currently having a five year review.

Richard Melvin, President of Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture says, "Nova Scotia farmers are leaders in sustainable agricultural practices. They are participating in initiatives such as environmental farm planning because they believe it is the right thing to do."

Lynda Weatherby, EFP Coordinator says, "Our team felt it was important to recognize the efforts of Nova Scotia farmers in protecting water, soil and air as well their willingness to adopt new practices that reduce environmental risk."

This is the second year for the prestigious Environmental Farm Stewardship Award. In 2009, the award was presented to Andrew and Teressa VanOostrum. The award is worth up to \$2,000 for activities that further enhance their farm operation and include projects listed in the Farm Investment Fund Guidelines.

The federation has a long history and commitment to the environmental farm planning process and is pleased to support this stewardship award. Mr. Melvin says, "Being good stewards of the land is standard practice for Nova Scotia farmers; having an award recognizing these efforts will encourage us to continually implement management practices to better the environment."

To be eligible for the award the farm must have an environmental farm plan, be a registered farm in Nova Scotia and be a member of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

Award application forms are available at www.nsfa-fane.ca/EFP or by calling 902-893-2293. The deadline to apply is June 30, 2010.

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.



Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

For

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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.